

Great Egg Harbor River Council
January 17th Meeting

1-17-01

Agenda

Call To Order

Old Business

New Business

1. Nomination of attendee at Partnership River Workshop in Washington (Feb. 11-12)
2. Further define role of River Council and its relationship with GEHWA and other groups
3. Basic budget needs for River Council in FY2001
4. Define issues, possible subcommittees, and methods of action

Handwritten notes:
Dich. Julie
Creech Bill E. Marc
Dich. Bill E. Marc
Greg. Bill E. Marc
Julie Dich.
Kris Creech Julie Greg.

- A Development review (specific permits, as well as general guidelines for docks, uses such as communication towers, golf courses, bridges...
 - B Recreational uses (river access, dredging, boat and livery operations, enforcement, and personal watercraft issues...
 - C Resource Protection (water supply, point and nonpoint sources of pollution, invasive species, historic...
 - D Promotion and review of potential projects, including grant requests (stream monitoring, remediation, public outreach, needed research
5. Determine "education" needs for members to help make recommendations to river municipalities and agencies and where to get that information/education
 - Participation from representatives of counties, DEP, USCOE...
 - Other River Field Trips

Adjournment

1-17-01

**Great Egg Harbor River Council
Meeting Minutes for January 17th**

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM by Chairperson, Rick Coe.

Roll Call by the Secretary, Belinda Irizarry.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Bill Christman, Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Gregory Gregory, Creed Pogue, Marc Thyrring.

Board Members Absent: Eric Fooder, Michael Hozik, Robert Manzi, Joel Spiegel, and Bill Zapisek. Joel Spiegel and Robert Manzi informed members ahead of time that they would not be able to attend the meeting.

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: Belinda Irizarry, Alternate member from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association; Mary Vavra, National Park Service

Proceedings

Old Business

Rick Coe discussed the Bylaws and passed out copies with signatures. Mary Vavra from the National Park Service mentioned that a note went out to River Council members from Corbin City, Hammonton, and Folsom informing them that the Bylaws were approved with minor revisions and signed by those members in attendance at the December 20, 2000 meeting. The note also requested the endorsement of the three remaining River Council members who have not yet signed the Bylaws.

Rick Coe stated that the next meeting is scheduled for February 21, which is the third Wednesday and the official River Council organization meeting. Organization documents will be prepared, and a bank account will be set up. The Third Wednesday of each month was discussed and accepted as the regularly scheduled meeting.

Rick Coe mentioned that Mary Vavra sent out individual letters to each Mayor requesting that two ranked alternates be appointed to the River Council. Rick asked members to check on the status of those appointments. Marc Thyrring from Egg Harbor Township stated that his municipality opted to not appoint alternates. Other appointments are forthcoming.

New Business

River Council will accept the donation/loan of a tape recorder by the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA). Motion made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.

Dick Colby stated that a tax identification number was needed for the River Council to set up bank account. Discussion ensued about whether there is a problem with the River Council being a subsidiary of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA). Rick Coe will talk to Monroe Township chief financial officer to get questions answered and will get back to members. Discussion of concerns about how money will be transferred took place. Julie Akers and Dick Colby explained GEHWA's financial management process to answer questions and concerns.

Rick Coe presented a letter he received from Dennis Levinson in Atlantic County regarding participation at a public advisory committee meeting to discuss the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Initiative in Atlantic County. The meeting is scheduled for February 8th at the Vo Tech school at 7PM. The county is setting up a kick off meeting. Creed Pogue asked whether the meeting was open to anyone. Discussion ensued about River Council members attending. It was suggested that members of the River Council should attend if their schedules allow.

Mary Vavra informed members about an upcoming workshop sponsored by the National Park Service and American Rivers which is scheduled for February 11-12, 2001 in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting is to bring key individuals from each of the partnership wild and scenic rivers in the Northeast Region together to discuss issues, meet one another, and provide information that will help in long term protection of these rivers. A member from GEHWA (Julie Akers) will be attending and a nomination was needed from the River Council. A \$500 stipend is provided by American Rivers/NPS for attendees to cover expenses. Julie Akers and Bill Christman discussed their experience last year when they attended the workshop. Julie Akers discussed the planned agenda, part of which is educating legislators in Washington about issues and progress made on the Great Egg Harbor River. Gregory Gregory mentioned that the Great Egg Harbor River Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS was signed by all communities and that this is an important point to be made to legislators. Gregory Gregory made a motion that Rick Coe as President should go for the River Council with Bill Christman as a second because of his experience. Marc Thyrring seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Julie Akers discussed the need to further define the role of the River Council and its relationship with GEHWA. It was agreed that the subsections listed on the agenda (listed below) assisted in defining the role of the River Council

- A. Development review (permits, general guidelines for docks, towers, etc.)
- B. Recreational uses (river access, dredging, boat and livery operations, etc.)
- C. Resource Protection (water supply point & nonpoint sources of pollution, etc.)
- D. Promotion, Education and review of potential projects (including grant requests (stream monitoring, remediation, public outreach, determining education needs for members, etc.)

Rick Coe discussed the need for subcommittees. Gregory Gregory talked about promotion and education and the need to get speakers to organizations and local elected officials to educate them about the river. Creed Pogue made a motion to adopt the items (A through D listed above) as subcommittees and the motion was seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.

Attendees then made decisions about which subcommittees they would like to be involved in.

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|-----------------|---------|
| Marc Thyrring | - A&B |
| Bill Christman | - A&B |
| Gregory Gregory | - B&D |
| Julie Akers | - D&A&C |
| Bill Egan | - A&B |
| Dick Colby | - C&A |
| Creed Pogue | - A&D |
| Rick Coe | - A&D |

Mary Vavra will let absentee members know about the subcommittees and ask for their participation.

Mary Vavra mentioned that \$30,000 will be made available to the River Council for use this fiscal year. A discussion ensued regarding its use. Dick Colby suggested that each subcommittee consider its needs. Creed Pogue discussed the need to address a number of issues. Marc Thyrring talked about line item projects and the need to establish criteria for decision making. Julie Akers pointed out that subcommittee D can include determination of criteria for project selection as part of their responsibilities. Julie Akers also mentioned the need to use the CMP/EIS when determining criteria. Belinda Irizarry asked who will make budget allocation decisions. Rick Coe stated that decisions will be made by the River Council as a whole. Rick also suggested that the Executive Committee meet and lay the foundation for the council. Julie Akers mentioned that the next GEHWA meeting is scheduled for January 23rd and a discussion of GEHWA budget will take place prior to that meeting at 5:30PM. She encouraged River Council members to participate in the next GEHWA meeting.

Marc Thyrring mentioned his opposition to providing additional funding to support Hamilton Township's request to continue the River Patrol. A discussion about the need for river police ensued as well as how to entertain future requests for financial assistance.

Julie discussed educational needs for members. We still have little help from NJDEP regarding information/education about permits and other issues. There is still a need to understand the permitting process. We need to decide what education instruction/material is needed by members. Creed Pogue recommended that minutes of River Council meetings be mailed to a list of appropriate agencies and governments for their education and information. Mary Vavra will prepare a list of possible recipients of the minutes and will gather budgets from other river councils, if available.

Rick recommended that "Determining education needs for members" on the agenda be incorporated into Subcommittee D (Promotion and Review of Potential Projects).

Creed Pogue made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Bill Christman seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Creed Pogue made a motion to close the public comment period and Gregory Gregory seconded it.

Rick Coe adjourned the meeting at 8:53PM