

November 29th

To: River Council Members

From: Mary Vavra

Subject: Next Meeting

This is a reminder that the next River Council meeting is scheduled for **December 19th** at the Fox Nature Center from 7 – 9PM. Please call Rick Coe or myself if you are unable to attend.

The following is a tentative agenda. If you have any other items you would like to include, please let me know.

December 19th Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from October 17th

1st Julie
2nd Joel

Old Business

- 1 - Update on projects funded through River Council (any changes/concerns/questions)
- 2 - Hamilton Township issues update
- 3 - Status Report on enforcement issues in the river corridor
- 4 - Followup letters from River Council to Hamilton Twp, Egg Harbor Twp, and the Pinelands Commission

New Business

- 1 - Financial Status Report on Cooperative Agreements between NPS and municipalities (money not spent by municipalities since 1995)
- 2 - River Council Administrator applications and discussion of next steps for final selection

Public Portion

none

Adjournment

1st Creed 2nd Joel 9:05pm

PROPOSED JOB ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEWSPAPER

River Council Administrator Position Available

The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association and the Great Egg Harbor River Council are seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated individual who is both knowledgeable and interested in protecting the Great Egg Harbor River and surrounding watershed. This part-time position will require: experience in environmental studies, organizational leadership and administration; knowledge and practical understanding of watershed management and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed; good communication, writing, and computer skills; and good public presentation, negotiation, and interpersonal skills. GIS

The starting salary for this part-time position is \$15,000+ commensurate with experience and abilities. Prospective applicants should send a resume with a cover letter addressing the above qualification requirements by **November 14th** to: Mary Vavra, National Park Service; 200 Chestnut Street; 3rd Floor; Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Cover Post
AC Press

There were 8 applicants for the River Administrator position.

Fred Akers
Marshall Behr
Marie T. Braun
Anthony Grafton
Diane Hulse-Hiller
Farrell Lynch
Gregory Stevens
Barbara Allen Woolley-Dillon

Six people (3 from GEHWA and 3 from the River Council) reviewed each application

They were: Bill Christman
Dick Colby
Steve Eisenhauer
Joel Spiegel
Greg Gregory
Greg Vizzi

Each reviewer was asked to provide the names of the top 2-3 people from the list to be interviewed. Their selections are as follows:

Steve Eisenhauer	-	Diane Hulse-Hiller and Fred Akers
Dick Colby	-	Barbara Woolley-Dillon; Fred Akers and Marshall Behr
Joel Spiegel	-	Diane Hulse-Hiller and Barbara Woolley-Dillon
Greg Vizzi	-	Fred Akers; Barbara Woolley-Dillon and Greg Stevens
Gregory Gregory	-	Diane Hulse-Hiller; Barbara Woolley-Dillon; Fred Akers
Bill Christman	-	Greg Stevens and Diane Hulse-Hiller

The following individuals will be scheduled for interviews:

**Fred Akers
Marshall Behr
Barbara Allen Woolley-Dillon
Diane Hulse-Hiller
Greg Stevens**

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2001

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

Roll Call by the Secretary, Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Robert Almeda, Bill Christman, Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Gregory Gregory, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Bill Zapisek

Board Members Absent: Eric Fooder, Marc Thyrring

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: Belinda Irizarry (Alternate from GEHWA), Mary Vavra (National Park Service) and Jim Parsio (Estell Manor)

Proceedings

Rick Coe stated that the meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Notices were sent to official publications for the River Council - The Courier Post and The Press of Atlantic City. A copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Fox Nature Center and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing. An Affidavit of publication from the Courier Post was received.

Approval of Minutes for October 17th

Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes from October 19th. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

River Council Projects. Dick Colby stated that funds are available for municipalities to begin working on selected project. To document projects, Julie Akers suggested that each project should have a work plan that will be reviewed by the River Council to determine appropriateness. Greg Gregory made a motion that once the work plan is approved, funds to municipalities can be reimbursed on a contract/invoice basis less the final 15% until the project has been satisfactorily completed and approved by the River Council. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Julie Akers - yes; Robert Almeda - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Rick Coe - yes;

Dick Colby - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Gregory Gregory - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Bill Zapisek - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Julie Akers made a motion that the towns that received preliminary approvals for grants furnish a scope of work or work plan for how the money will be spent within six months. It was further recommended that there be a one-year timeframe for implementation/completion of the proposed work with the availability of extensions if appropriate. Using this timeframe, municipalities receiving grant should have an implementation plan by June 2002. Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the River Council. Joel Spiegel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The group reviewed Upper Township's proposal and agreed that their signage proposal provided adequate information to be considered a work plan. Discussion about what types of signs ensued. The general feeling was that the signs should be creative and distinctive. Greg Gregory will research the signage design issue and bring information to next meeting. Rick Coe will research NJ DOT regulations for highway signage. Bill Zapisek suggested that each member think about language for the signs and e-mail him with suggestions as soon as possible. Each member was asked to decide how many roadside signs they would need in their municipality.

Update on River-Related Issues:

Mary Vavra updated members on issues in the river corridor, specifically Mr. Norell's dock, Mr. DiNatale's wetlands issue, the motorized trail issue in Egg Harbor Township, and the issues in the non-tidal portion of the river in Hamilton Township. Mary provided Rick Coe with a copy of a research paper written by Fred Akers to Hamilton Township that provided information that should help municipal officials make decisions about the access and overuse issues in the non-tidal portion of the river. Fred Akers has also been researching the motorized trail issue and providing information to Egg Harbor Township to help them in their decision-making process. Greg Gregory mentioned that he was recently on the property being considered for motorized trail developed by Egg Harbor Township and that the site is very pristine. He also mentioned that drought conditions were very noticeable.

Rick Coe had written a letter to Annette Barbaccia at the Pinelands Commission on behalf of the River Council and received a response regarding the update of the Pinelands Comprehensive

Management Plan. Rick will keep people informed of the process for updating the Pinelands CMP.

Bill Christman updated people on the abandoned barges since there are now 3 in the river corridor. There is the large barge in Hamilton Township that has been there for more than 40 years, a recent one that was abandoned around Thanksgiving and tied to a dilapidated dock at Sunshine Park and the third barge is tied at Beasley Point on the Somers Point side that recently appeared. The Coast Guard and Marine Police have been notified. The search for who is responsible for the Sunshine Park and Beasley Point barges continues.

New Business:

Mary Vavra provided members with a Financial Status Report indicating which municipalities had funds remaining in their Cooperative Agreements with the National Park Service. Several letters have been sent to Hammonton (\$2,000) and Winslow Township (\$4,500) informing them that the proposed work must be completed or the funds will be deobligated. The money was appropriated to these two municipalities in 1995 and has not been spent. Mary Vavra will begin the deobligation procedures on these two accounts since there has been no activity or response to previous letters. Funds will continue to remain available for those Cooperative Agreements that have not expired or have had financial activity.

Mary Vavra discussed the potential FY-02 budget for the Great Egg Harbor River. It is anticipated that there will be about \$50,000 available for priority projects in the river corridor. Mary suggested that the River Council work with GEHWA to decide river-wide priority projects for funding to maximize available funds.

Rick Coe will send a letter to the Town of Hammonton and Winslow Township asking them to appoint members to the River Council since there has been no representation from these municipalities for quite some time. A letter will be prepared to Suzanne Oddo, Municipal Clerk in Hammonton and Mayor Sue Ann Metzner in Winslow Township.

Members discussed the need to encourage Egg Harbor Township to finalize their draft Local River Management Plan. It was decided that Rick Coe would send a letter to the Mayor requesting a meeting to discuss the Local River Management Plan to get their cooperation in planning for the designated river corridor.

River Administrator

A six-member committee (3 from the River Council and 3 from GEHWA) reviewed 8 resumes from applicants for the River Administrator position. The group narrowed the applicant pool to 5 individuals who will receive interviews. Julie Akers recused herself from any discussion on this issue since Fred Akers (her husband) is a candidate. Rick suggested that a joint committee of the River Council and GEHWA conduct interviews as opposed to the entire River Council. Creed Pogue made a motion that a committee of 5 from the River Council be appointed by the Chair to interview jointly with the GEHWA. The motion was seconded by Gregory Gregory. Motion carried unanimously. Rick will work with GEHWA to get their nominations for participation on the interview committee and will meet with the entire interview committee to decide on the interview process. A decision was made that Creed Pogue, Dick Colby, Greg Gregory, Rick Coe, and Bill Zapisek will be members of the interview committee.

Rick will talk with GEHWA regarding their selection for the interview committee. Letters will be sent to applicants regarding interviews and asking them for reference letters in advance of the interviews. One-half hour will be allotted for each interview with all 5 interviews occurring on one night. Mary Vavra will mail out a package of resumes to everyone on the interview committee.

Public Comment

A motion was made by Creed Pogue to open the meeting to the public. Bob Almeda seconded the motion. No members of the public offered comments at this time. A motion to close the public portion of the meeting was made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM by Rick Coe.

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic
And Recreational River Council**

c/o Richard P. Coe, Jr.

194 Dundee Drive

Williamstown, NJ 08094

(856) 728-3696

Fax (856) 728-2696

November 7, 2001

Honorable John Sacchinelli
Mayor of Hamilton Township
6101 Thirteenth Street
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Dear Mayor Sacchinelli:

At a recent meeting of the Great Egg Harbor River Council, we were provided with a status report on the Township's efforts to address the access and other related issues on the non-tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. We understand and appreciate the steps you have taken to resolve these issues, yet we also recognize that there is still quite a bit of work to do.

One of the River Council's responsibilities is to review permits for waterfront development and provide input into the National Park Service's response to these permits. In addition, members carefully follow zoning issues and other activities that may adversely affect the designated river and its resources.

We understand that Mike Cokenakas is presently conducting an unauthorized commercial business on a portion of the river zoned as FA-70. It has been reported that Mr. Cokenakas is also doing similar unauthorized commercial business in an area in the Borough of Folsom. A cease and desist order was given to Mr. Cokenakas in Hamilton Township with a 30-day grace period. That grace period was extended through several months which allowed continued use during the busy summer season. This particular area was specifically identified in the NJ Natural Diversity index as containing threatened and endangered species and a letter to that effect was sent by the National Park Service to Hamilton Township and the Pinelands Commission.

We understand that there are access issues in this portion of the river. However, allowing the continuation of an unauthorized activity or granting a zoning variance to continue the activity does not resolve the access and overuse issues in the Township, nor does it provide true "public" access. We believe that allowing Mike Cokenakas to continue to disregard the zoning ordinances that protect the river without analyzing the environmental effects, impact to other residents and resources that enabled designation of the river is not an option that should be either encouraged or permitted.

There are many issues that need to be addressed. Providing "public" access as opposed to just commercial access is only one facet of this multi-faceted problem. We believe that a study of the river area which provides recommendations on carrying capacity, access points, vegetation removal, liability,

Honorable John Sacchinelli
Mayor of Hamilton Township
November 7, 2001
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emergency management procedures, policing and other related issues is paramount if these issues are to be resolved.

We offer to you the resources available to the River Council to help address these issues. You are invited to attend any of our River Council meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. We would welcome your participation and involvement. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Coe, Chairman
Great Egg Harbor National Scenic
And Recreational River

cc: Pinelands Commission
Julie Akers, GEHWA
Mary Vavra, NPS (Via Telecopy)