

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Meeting Agenda
March 20, 2002**

Call To Order

Approval of Minutes from February 20th

Old Business

- 1) - Reappointment Letters - Creed ^{F D M G M} UT W SP
- 2) - River Cleanup update - dis-funding ^{How?} ~~Fred will decide~~ ^{Motion for KC + Fred to decide} river clean up criteria

New Business

- 3) - Budget (NPS funds) - ²⁰⁰¹ 44,500 = ^{Spend} 30,000 = ^{River} 14,500 ^{Coor.} ²⁰⁰² 50,000 = ^{Now} 64,000
- 4) - Funding Priorities -
- 5) - Hamilton Township river trip ^{Planning Board May Duke of Flote SAT NPS Funded}
- 6) - US Army Corps of Engineers' interest in small project(s) ^{violation mitigation}
- 7) - Hamilton Township - update on non-tidal portion issues

Reports

Public Portion

Adjournment

- 1) Robert's Rules, ^{Motion on} ^{Estell Manor vs.} Mayor Buck speaks, Creed speaks,
 motion for a committee to agree w/ Dick's view of 2 yr. term.
 motion to rise + report
 Motion to accept Creed's 2 yr. + John's next year.
 Revisit By-laws + review + date + updated.
- 2) Letters went out grants up to \$2000. 4 rec'd ^{n OT} ^{sp} ^{win.}
- 4) Motion have Fred partnership w/ UMIS on roadside signs + exhibits
- 6) Mary gave list to Army Corp. for mitigation projects thru violation
- 7) Meeting on Friday w/ Pine Islands

Reports

Rick = River Rally May 17-21
 Bill = Policing on River
 Greg = UMIS Action Now Projects
 Creed = RMP

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:15PM by Rick Coe

Roll Call by Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Christman, Greg Gregory, Bill Egan, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Marc Thyrring, and Bill Zapisek

Board Members Absent: Julie Akers, Robert Almeda, Eric Fooder

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Belinda Irizarry (Alternate from GEHWA), Jim Parsio and John Brudon (Alternates from Estell Manor) Adriana Calle (NJDEP) Mayor Buck (Estell Manor) and Mary Vavra, (National Park Service)

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.

Issue of Appointment from Estell Manor

Rick Coe informed members that the Mayor in Estell Manor indicated his desire to appoint a new representative to the River Council, although Creed Pogue's present term does not expire until January 31, 2003. Rick Coe presented a procedure from Robert's Rules of Order to resolve the dispute. It was noted that representatives from Estell Manor would not be permitted to vote on the issue. Marc Thyrring made a motion that a decision on this issue be made by a credentials committee of the whole. Bill Zapisek seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Rick Coe - yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Creed Pogue - abstained; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes; and Bill Zapisek - yes. Motion carried.

The group then entered into a committee of the whole. Rick Coe recognized Mayor Buck who made a presentation to the group. Mayor Buck stated that the City decided to appoint a new representative, namely John Brudon and Mr. Lloyd as an alternate to the River Council and explained his reasons. Rick Coe then recognized Creed Pogue who stated that he was appointed by Mayor Buck to a term of two years and that he has less than one year remaining on his term. The Bylaws were written to allow for a rolling membership to maintain the continuity of the group and Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised is the basis of operation for the River Council and the terms set forth therein.

Rick Coe mentioned that he had a discussion with the solicitor of Estell Manor who questioned whether each municipality had sufficient notice that two years was the original term for council representatives. Dick Colby referenced the Bylaws and explained the rolling process stating that the Mayor can indeed nominate a new representative but his/her term will not begin until the expiration of the incumbent's term.

Greg Gregory made a motion that the committee rise and report with a specific recommendation to accept/vote that Creed Pogue's appointment ends January 31, 2003 and a new appointment will then be honored. The motion was seconded by Bill Egan. Roll Call Vote: Rick Coe - yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes; and Bill Zapisek - yes. Creed Pogue has approximately 10 months remaining on his two-year term and John Brudon will begin his term at that time.

Motion made by Bill Egan and seconded by Marc Thyrring to accept the report of the credentials committee. Roll call Vote: Rick Coe - yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes; and Bill Zapisek - yes.

Mayor Buck stated that he will make Estell Manor Council members aware of the River Council's decisions, although he could not ascertain their willingness to accept it. The City may choose to contest the decision.

Follow-up Suggestions:

- Mary Vavra will mail minutes to mayors after they are approved.
- Bill Zapisek suggested that Council Members revisit the bylaws to address the questions raised by Estell Manor.

The River Council will discuss the bylaws at the next monthly meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Greg Gregory made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20th meeting. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Reappointment Update

Mary Vavra reported that six municipalities responded to the letters requesting reappointment of River Council Members.

River Cleanup - Rick stated that letters were mailed to Mayors of the twelve municipalities within the designated river corridor with copies to Business Administrators informing them about the River Council's willingness to provide financial support for cleanups in coordination with the Clean Communities Program. Fred Akers was listed as the contact for this project. Fred stated that Monroe Twp., Winslow Twp., Somers Point and Buena Vista have already indicated their interest. Fred also mentioned that Winslow Township already provided a detailed plan for their river cleanup. Greg Gregory made a motion that each individual River Council member work with Fred on his or her municipality's cleanup project. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Budget - Mary Vavra stated that \$50,000 (available from the FY-02 appropriation) has been transferred into the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service for use by the River Council. By the time the river cleanups are completed and the River Administrator's salary is considered, there will be approximately \$11,000 remaining for special initiatives.

Reports

Greg Gregory stated that he took Bob Lindaw, Atlantic County's coordinator for Watershed Management Area #15, out on the river to educate him about the river and its resources. Greg showed Bob a number of potential WMA #15 Action Now projects.

Signage - Adriana Calle stated that NJDEP has 5 signs available for WMA #15; however, site locations need to be identified. Since there are several discussions about signage occurring simultaneously, Adriana suggested that a focus group be formed

to decide the signage issue. Greg Gregory will continue to work on the signage issue; however, this issue will be coordinated with Atlantic County and WMA #15 coordinators. This may provide an opportunity for the county to reach out to some of the other municipalities outside of the designated river corridor. Creed Pogue made a motion that the River Council recommend a partnership on the road sign project as a WMA #15 Action Now project. The motion was seconded by Bill Egan. Motion carried.

Educational Exhibits - Fred Akers will look into educational exhibits for the river corridor. Mary Vavra mentioned that Atlantic County has completed the educational exhibits for the river and perhaps they may be used as prototypes for other areas. A motion was made by Creed Pogue that the River Council partner with Atlantic County to produce exhibits. Marc Thyrring seconded the motion. Motion carried. Fred Akers was directed to offer as an Action Now project the need to partner on exhibits.

Projects - Marc Thyrring distributed copies of Egg Harbor Township's plan to further promote the adopt-a-stream program using River Council funds. Funds have already been approved for this project.

River Trips - Mary Vavra mentioned that she will be organizing a river trip for Hamilton Township officials to provide them with an opportunity to see the river and the impact of the decisions that have been made. Bill Christman will check with Planning Board members to determine which dates are acceptable and Mary Vavra will begin to work with Brooke Koneke to see when the Duke-o-Fluke would be available. Suggestions were made to extend an invitation to Frank LoBiondo, Rob Andrews and Senators Torricelli and Corzine.

Fred Akers will be organizing a canoe trip down the non-tidal portion of the river and Rick Coe will investigate the possibility of Monroe Township hosting a special initiative.

US Army Corps of Engineers projects - Mary Vavra received a message from the USCOE indicating their interest in knowing of any potential projects in the river corridor that could be undertaken as mitigation for a wetlands violation in the river. A number of river council members responded and Mary provided a list to the USCOE. That list will be made available to River Council members.

Zoning Variances - Mary Vavra updated members on the zoning variance being requested from Hamilton Township and the Pinelands Commission by a commercial livery. Mary recently received a number of telephone calls complaining that the livery owner was clearing portions of his 3.2-acre property so that he could continue to use it as a drop-off point for his livery business. The area is zoned FA-70 and 50-acre minimum for low-intensity recreational purposes. The 3.2 acre property was used illegally last summer despite a cease and desist notice from the Hamilton Township Zoning Officer. The Township later allowed the illegal use to continue throughout the summer months. The Pinelands Commission staff as well as the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) have been alerted to the issues surrounding this property and are aware of the National Park Service's concerns. This zoning variance request will be tracked very closely.

River Rally

A discussion about the benefits of a River Council member attending the River Rally in Asheville, North Carolina resulted in the decision that no one would be attending. It was decided that the cost of the trip far exceeded the benefits.

Hamilton Township River Patrol - Bill Egan stated that he did not endorse providing financial support to Hamilton Township's river patrol. Fred provided an update on this issue. Hamilton Township is requesting funding to support staff for the river patrol with the amount requested decreasing each year. This issue will be brought before the GEHWA Board for consideration.

Public Comment

A motion was made by Greg Gregory to open the meeting to the public. Motion was seconded by Marc Thyrring. No comments were received. A motion was made by Greg Gregory and seconded by Marc Thyrring to close the public portion.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM