

4-18-01

Date: 04/11/2001 7:32 AM

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Receipt requested

This is a reminder that the next River Council meeting is scheduled for April 18th at the Fox Nature Center at 7PM. If you are unable to attend, please let me know.

The agenda will be as follows:

Call To Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from March 21st

Old Business

- Invitation to USCOE and NJDEP to make presentation about permits

New Business

- Discussion of Cooperative Agreement between River Council and NPS
- Opportunity for wetlands mitigation
- Update on issues in the river corridor
 - Notices of Violation
 - Egg Harbor Township development in the designated river corridor
- Report from Mike Hogan on Japanese Knotweed

Review

Public Portion

Adjournment (breakout into committees)

Mary Vavra

Julie
Bill C.
John Brudon - E.M.
Bill Z.
Bill Egan
Bob Manzi

May 8th

To: Great Egg Harbor River Council Members:

For your information.....

- The next regularly scheduled River Council meeting for May 16th is **cancelled**. Rick Coe decided to cancel the meeting since there will be the May 22nd meeting jointly sponsored by GEHWA and the River Council. Remember that the **May 22nd** meeting (7 PM at the Fox Nature Center) will be attended by representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection to educate people about the permitting process on wild and scenic rivers. Hopefully you will attend the May 22nd meeting.
- Enclosed are the Minutes from the April 18th meeting.
- The next working meeting of the River Council is **June 20th** at 7PM at the Fox Nature Center
- My office went to a new e-mail system (Lotus notes) which is not yet functioning properly. Please bear with me as the kinks get worked out of the system. For the next month I will be sending everything by regular mail.
- For the month of June I will be working primarily on the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) grants program. There is a national grant competition which I have been working on and it won't be over until early July. I will do my best to attend scheduled meetings of the River Council and get follow-up information to you in a timely manner.
- It looks as though the National Park Service in Washington added another \$600,000 to its budget request for Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Northeast Region for FY2003. We'll wait to see what happens, but that is a much better scenario than in previous years. The total for the 7 rivers in our region will be about \$1 million if it goes through. I remain guardedly optimistic.

That's it for now.... See you on May 22nd.

Mary Vavra
(215) 597-9175

**Great Egg Harbor River Council
Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2001**

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM by Vice Chairperson, Dick Colby

Roll Call by the Secretary, Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, John Brudon (Alternate member for Estell Manor) Bill Christman, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Gregory Gregory, Robert Manzi, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Marc Thyrring, Bill Zapisek

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe, Eric Fooder

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: Belinda Irizarry (Alternative from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA); Michael Hogan (alternate from GEHWA); Paul Mowbray (Interested Citizen); and Mary Vavra (National Park Service)

Proceedings

Dick Colby 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 Meeting Minutes for March 21st

Julie made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Christman. Motion carried with no opposition.

Old Business

Julie Akers prepared a letter to Patti Cluelow from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Kevin Maley from the US Army Corps of Engineers inviting them to attend the May 22nd GEHWA meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to educate people about the state and federal permit requirements in the designated river corridor. Both individuals have agreed to participate in the educational session. Dick Colby agreed to sign the letter on behalf of the River Council.

A copy of the letter from Rick Coe to Commissioner Shinn on behalf of the River Council was distributed to Board Members.

Bill Christman mentioned that Hamilton Township accepted the River Council's invitation to address the Planning Board. The date suggested by the Planning Board is May 3rd. Bill suggested a basic presentation to discuss the Local River Management Plan for Hamilton Township, responsibilities, issues and opportunities in the river corridor. Julie Akers and Mary Vavra will make the presentation.

New Business

Paul Mowbray made a presentation to the Board about seeking historic status for the Warren Pony Truss bridge near Weymouth Furnace and the desire to upgrade the existing bridge to address safety concerns. The State Historic Preservation Review Board agreed that the bridge was eligible for inclusion into the historic register. The bridge is in an archeological district and in close proximity to Weymouth Furnace. Paul was seeking River Council support in restoring the bridge to make it safer as opposed to replacing the bridge which may have an adverse impact on identified resources in the river corridor. Dick Colby recommended that the Council not reach a decision at this meeting. Marc Thyrring made a motion to write to Atlantic County Department of Planning and Engineering and request that design information be provided to the River Council so that a design review of what is being proposed for the bridge can occur at

the earliest opportunity. The motion was seconded by Gregory Gregory. Motion carried. The Development Review Committee will prepare a letter to Atlantic County for signature by Rick Coe.

Mary Vavra discussed the draft Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and the River Council that was distributed prior to the meeting. It was recently learned that in order to transfer money to the River Council through a Cooperative Agreement the organization must have non-profit status from the IRS. A discussion about options ensued. A recommendation to defer making a decision on the non-profit status until next meeting was recommended. Gregory Gregory made a motion to transfer funds to GEHWA with specific language that the money is for use by the River Council. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Vavra discussed an opportunity to do wetlands mitigation in the river corridor. An individual near Beasley Point is required to do wetlands mitigation and is looking for a site to undertake this effort. The opportunity to do a project like this was discussed with a number of suggestions being offered. Mary will find out the parameters of the project; such as size, whether riverbank stabilization or invasive species controls are options. A possible project may exist in Somers Point. Mary will get more information for the next meeting.

To keep the River Council informed of what is happening in the river corridor, Mary Vavra discussed issues and distributed copies of a permit log, recent NPS letters written on permits, and copies of legal opinions regarding interpretation of Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Mary will work with the Development Review Committee and work with municipal representatives when reviewing permits in the river. Creed Pogue made a motion that in the event River Council comments are needed on a permit, Mary will forward the appropriate documents to the Development Review Committee and municipal representative and will provide a timeframe for comment. As Chair of the Development Review Committee, Creed will coordinate River Council comments and give them to Mary. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Marc Thyrring provided information on the recent meeting in Egg Harbor Township regarding the acquisition and development of approximately 500 acres near Miry Run for use as a motorized biking area. The meeting was well attended by concerned citizens and presentations were made by Julie Akers representing GEHWA and Mary Vavra from the National Park Service. Township officials decided not to pursue the construction of a motorized trail, although they did agree that acquiring the property for conservation and other recreation purposes was still important.

Michael Hogan made a presentation on Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species in the river corridor. Mike provided a handout indicating the areas in the river corridor being affected and showed slides to educate board members. Discussion ensued about the impact of ignoring the problem, as well as options for addressing the issue. Mike requested that the River Council write a letter to the Atlantic County Freeholders suggesting mowing where appropriate to reduce species impact. Mike will discuss the issue with a few landscapers to find out what options exist to control the substance and at what cost. Marc Thyrring made a motion that the River Council acknowledge the problem and draft a short Memorandum of Record about the biological problems. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mike will compose the letter and bring it to next meeting.

Julie Akers mentioned that GEHWA has about \$6,000 to \$7,000 remaining from the NJDEP grant that must be used by July 3rd. The money must be used for public education type purposes and Julie requested suggestions from Board Members about ways to use the funds available. Suggestions were made and Julie will present the ideas to NJDEP for their approval.

Julie Akers made a motion that the meeting be opened to the public. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Creed Pogue made a motion to close the public comment period and Julie Akers seconded it.

Julie mentioned that some River Council Board Members were on two committees, making it difficult to participate in each one at the end of monthly meetings. A better way to conduct committee meetings so

that all members can participate needs to be addressed. Mary Vavra will make sure that each person knows which committees they have volunteered for.

Mike Hogan invited River Council members to the Dorothy Reserve on June 2nd to participate in a day of planting.

Dick Colby announced that the NJ Water Environment Association would be conducting a workshop on May 2-3 with NJDEP and several other organizations participating.

Dick Colby adjourned the meeting at 9:00PM .