



Mary Vavra

05/06/2002 03:09 PM  
EDT

To: JSPIE@KIMKON.COM, rcoc@wairpartners.com,  
WEGAN10072@CS.COM, Dick.Colby@stockton.edu,  
Csp066@aol.com, AKERS@GOWEBWAY.COM,  
bchristmanriverbankstudio@worldnet.att.net, WZapisek@Plexi.com,  
MARC.THYRRING@FAA.GOV, gehwa.gehwa@verizon.net,  
gregspkor@msn.com, beavtrapper@webtv.net,  
JamesParsio@PeoplePC.com

cc:  
Subject: Meeting Reminder

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is May 15th at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park from 7-9PM. The meeting minutes from the April 17th meeting are attached for your information. The following is a draft agenda. Please contact Rick Coe or myself if you have any additions to the agenda or cannot attend the meeting.



RC.AprilMinutes.doc

Thanks,

Mary

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council  
Meeting Agenda - May 15th**

Call To Order

Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2002 meeting

1st Creed      2nd Bill

Old Business

- Bylaw revisions - *Motion Passed*
- Update on signage/River Council letterhead -
- Watershed Management Area #15 status report
- May 11th River Trip assessment
- Clean Communities Grant Update
- River Related Issues
  - Hamilton Township non-tidal area
  - Senate Bill 1214 - Bill Christman to provide information

New Business

- River Council/GEHWA Consultation Day - *Motion to Endorse + have Mary follow up.*
- River Administrator Activity Update -

Public Portion

Adjournment

*Motion Passes*      Yes      No  
7      1

*River Patrol - \$6375.00 split w/ GEHWA w/ letter concerning issues*

*Get river  
Gurr  
Gurr*

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River  
Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2002**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:15PM by Rick Coe

**Roll Call** by Belinda Irizarry

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

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Zapisek, Robert Almeda, Eric Fooder, Marc Thyrring

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Belinda Irizarry (Alternate from GEHWA), Mary Vavra (National Park Service), and Officer Guerrier (Hamilton Township Police Department)

**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**

Creed Pogue made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17th, 2002 River Council meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Hamilton Township River Patrol**

Fred Akers introduced Officer Joseph Guerrier from the Hamilton Township Police Department who provided a status report on the river patrol in the Township. Hamilton Township is requesting financial assistance (\$12,750) from the River Council to support the river patrol during the summer of 2002 to continue to provide an enforcement and education presence in the river corridor. Julie Akers made a recommendation that the River Council consider splitting the cost of this expense with GEHWA (\$6,375). A motion was made by Creed Pogue to approve \$6,375 from River Council funds contingent upon GEHWA approving \$6,375 as a match to fund the Hamilton Township River Patrol for the summer of 2003 and that a letter be sent to local officials recommending that Hamilton Township look at implementing stronger regulations for livery operations relating to over capacity and potential public safety concerns for the river. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Julie Akers, yes; Rick Coe, yes; Dick Colby, yes, Bill Christman, yes; Bill Egan, no; Greg Gregory, yes; Creed Pogue, yes; Joel Spiegel, yes. Motion passed.

## **Old Business**

**Bylaw Revision** – Rick Coe proposed language for amending the bylaws to address the issue of tenure/removal of River Council members. A motion was made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Dick Colby to mail the proposed amendment to Bylaws Section 111A to River Council members for final approval at the June meeting. The proposed amendment to Section IIIA is as follows:

Any member of the River Council may be removed as a member prior to the expiration of his or her term for cause pursuant to the local procedures in effect for each municipality for municipal appointees, and for cause pursuant to the procedures of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Board of Trustees for Watershed Association appointees. The River Council may require proof of a removal in the form of a duly certified resolution of the governing body of the municipality or the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Board of Trustees.

**River Administrator Position** – Rick Coe presented a draft Resolution to define the role of the River Administrator and documenting Fred Akers employment as the River Administrator. A final decision regarding this resolution will be made at the June River Council meeting. A suggestion was made that the River Council consider an additional component of the resolution to define the chain of command or supervision of the River Administrator. Greg Gregory suggested that this issue can be addressed in a Position Description. A suggestion was then made that goals and objectives be established for the River Administrator position. Recommendations were made for either a six-month or annual performance appraisal process. Rick Coe will add a paragraph to the Resolution that will make an evaluation of performance a mandatory part of the employment agreement and that the River Council Chair would appoint a special committee to evaluate such performance. The River Administrator will provide performance information to the River Council and a special committee to evaluate such performance. Greg Gregory stressed the importance of evaluating the performance of the River Administrator every six months so that adequate feedback on performance could be provided.

**Update on Signage and Letterhead.** Greg Gregory distributed a draft of a logo for watershed signage and letterhead for the River Council. It was agreed that for the signs the logo would say Great Egg Harbor Watershed. Names on the letterhead were updated.

### **Clean Communities Grant Update**

Fred Akers stated that he has not received significant feedback from municipalities on cleanups in the river corridor. He will be following up on the communities that have expressed interest.

### **River Related Issues**

Fred Akers showed River Council members the display he developed for GEHWA as an educational tool. The display is used at environmental exhibits and demonstrates all areas of the watershed.

Hamilton Township Zoning Variance – Fred Akers and Mary Vavra briefly updated members on the zoning variance issue in the Pinelands Preservation Area that, if approved, would allow a local livery to float more than 720 tubers per day on the weekend down a portion of the river that

is both narrow and has low water levels. The National Park Service, GEHWA, and River Council will closely monitor this variance and will argue against it due to the adverse impacts that may have already occurred as a result of the illegal clearance for unpermitted access that took place last summer and for the adverse impacts on the river itself due to the sheer number of people being placed on the river.

**Off-Road Vehicle Issues** - Fred Akers has been gathering information on the off-road vehicle tract in Egg Harbor Township and will continue to followup on this issue.

**Watershed Management Area #15** -A Watershed Management Area #15 Focus Group meeting is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Atlantic County is trying to organize small groups of people who will begin to discuss and develop an action plan for their particular issue of interest.

### **New Business**

NJDEP/USCOE Consultation Day – Mary Vavra suggested that the River Council and GEHWA once again consider the sponsorship of a NJDEP/USCOE Consultation Day similar to the one held last year. Julie Akers made a motion that the River Council endorse the consultation day and have Mary Vavra followup by contacting the USCOE and the NJDEP to determine their interest. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mary Vavra distributed a copy of a listing of properties that have either received NJDEP/USCOE permits or have been issued violations.

Dick Colby brought sample products produced by GIS students at Richard Stockton College to show River Council members the type and quality of work that can be acquired should this type of information be required.

### **Public Comment**

A motion was made by Creed Pogue to open the meeting to the public at 9:30PM. Motion was seconded by Julie Akers. No members of the public were present. A motion was made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Julie Akers to close the public portion of the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.