

Great Egg Harbor River Council  
Meeting Agenda  
June 20, 2001

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from April 18<sup>th</sup>

Old Business

- Report on NJDEP/River Council-sponsored educational session with the USCOE & NJDEP
- Update on historic status for the Warren Pony Truss bridge at Weymouth Furnace - National too No response yet
- Wetlands Mitigation Project in Somers Point - shot down - another shot

New Business

- Discussion about seeking nonprofit status for the River Council What 501 c 3?
- \* - Uses for River Council funding meeting w/ board & sub. com. Other groups needs - wish list
- Motion Creed Gregg → Aug 22 8:30 Opportunity for River Council/GEHWA to sponsor a one-day consultation session for individuals to meet w/NJDEP on an individual basis to discuss permits, projects and ask questions - Aug one on one meeting w/ DEP Sent Flyer
- Report on First Steering Committee Meeting of the Watershed Mgt. Area #15 study. - See Dick's attachments
- \* \* - Discuss Michael Hogan's concerns regarding River Council financial management - GEHWA Board concerns - ~~ST~~
- Update on issues/permits in the river corridor
  - Hamilton Township River Watch
  - Denial Letters to Mr. Fiamingo, Mr. Mick, Mr. Norell

Public Portion

Adjournment (breakout into committees)

\* \$ 30,000 River Council \$ in GEHWA account  
Exe. Director?

Mike Send letter to First Lady on invay. species

\* \* ~~Exe. members to be board~~

~~Motion for removal of~~ Motion for removal of Barge  
Motion to table Julie, Dick & Yes

Motion - send letter for Area 15 in other areas  
~~Fred~~ Mike notice of meeting  
Joel

Richard Colby  
<Dick.Colby@stockton.edu>

To: Mary Vavra/PHILADELPHIA/NPS  
cc:  
Subject: RE: Next Meeting

05/31/2001 12:06 PM  
MDT

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Consider adding to agenda: report on first Steering Committee meeting of the Watershed #15 study. I'll attach my written report and Julie has additional material from Bob Ludlaw (sp!).

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1. I crunched the numbers and came up with a current GEHWA balance of \$7408.35.

2. Greg Vizzi and I attended. Bob Lindaw introduced Scoop Kay, newly hired Coordinator of the Watershed 15 project. He works for Kline Construction in Brigantine. He handed out copies of all names (and addresses) of people interested in each of the "focus" groups: Infrastructure; Technical (includes Fred Akers); Education & Outreach (includes Irizarry and Vizzi); Government Interface (includes Coe, Pogue and Vavra); Envl Planning (includes Bizub, Colby); and Users (includes Curry, Egan, Tartala).

Lindaw's powerpoint presentation also laid out all the components of the study, with timetable: (a) Set up Public Advisory Committees (done), (b) Vision Statement by 17 July (we saw Area 12's bland vision statement: "Sustain and improve the quality of life by ensuring a safe, healthy and economically viable environment; restore, maintain and enhance the integrity of the quantity and quality of water resources; protect natural features, habitats and systems; preserve aesthetic values and unique identities of each community." [Ours should please say something about Wildness and Scenicness in an area of development pressure and high-speed recreation pressure; not to mention that for watersheds to continue to spawn fish they must be kept pristine.]

(c) By October (end of year 1) must come the list of issues, real and perceived, appropriate for scientific study in year 2.

(d) Education and Outreach is to continue through all four years. Joe Maher interrupted frequently, for example to ask Greg Vizzi to describe his education initiative.

(e) Action projects (for SHORT TERM action) to be identified by October and completed within the time-span of the study (4 years).

(f) Areas to be designated for aquisition: to be identified by October.

(g) Water quality study to be completed in first two years: baseline data and target levels; TMDLs; water budget.

(h) Watershed Management Plan to be completed by the end of year 4.

On deck: Next Steering Committee meeting: 11 July, 7pm, location tba. Scoop will start calling Committee meetings, mostly at 6, 7 or 8pm, at the Vo-Tech School. Scoop wasted MANY minutes telling us why he DOESN'T have e-mail, but his phone numbers are (work) 652-3000. (home) 266-3330. home fax: 266-8448. cell phone 703-8319.

I pointed out that the map shows Area 15 as including not only the Great Egg, but also Absecon Creek (which includes a reservoir), other minor streams, and the entire Atlantic County Ocean Front. The DEP people said they didn't know whether we were supposed to also consider ocean water.

In haste/

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Received: from pollux.stockton.edu ([134.210.1.202]) by ccmil.itd.nps.gov with SMTP

(IMA Internet Exchange 3.13) id 0003427F; Thu, 31 May 2001 12:09:12 -0400

Received: from al.pollux.stockton.edu by pollux.stockton.edu

(PMDF V5.2-33 #46863) id <01K47OORB8MI8WW4U7@pollux.stockton.edu> for

Mary\_Vavra@nps.gov; Thu, 31 May 2001 12:07:55 EDT

Alternate-recipient: prohibited

Date: Thu, 31 May 2001 11:57:58 -0400 (EDT)

From: Richard Colby <Dick.Colby@stockton.edu>

Subject: RE: Next Meeting

In-reply-to: <OF5239CDA2.A97E3446-ON85256A5D.004A6994@nps.gov>

To: Mary\_Vavra <Mary\_Vavra@nps.gov>

Message-id: <C287IAI2M0N6\*/R=CASTORA1/R=POLLUX/U=COLBYR/@MHS>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: multipart/mixed; boundary="Boundary\_(ID\_slgjRxK1DeKtEib7E7Puug)"

Posting-date: Thu, 31 May 2001 12:07:45 -0400 (EDT)

Importance: normal

Priority: normal

UA-content-id: C287IAI2M0N6

Al-format: WPSPLUS

Al-type: MAIL

**Great Egg Harbor River Council  
Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2001**

*Meeting called to order* at 7:15 PM 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, Joel Spiegel

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

*Quorum Present?* Yes

*Others Present:* Michael Hogan (Alternate from Weymouth Twp), Belinda Irizarry (Alternative from GEHWA); 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.

***Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 18<sup>th</sup>***

Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Old Business***

Rick Coe stated that he attended the Great Egg Harbor Watershed meeting in May where representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection made a presentation on the permitting process in the Great Egg Harbor River. The meeting was well attended. Rick stated that he asked both the NJDEP and USCOE to add the River Council to their mailing list. Discussion centered around the need for River Council review of permits and the importance of this responsibility was reinforced. A question was raised about which federal agency has jurisdiction over enforcement. Mary Vavra will call the Department of Justice to find the answer to the question over jurisdiction. Creed Pogue discussed the concept of a local navigable channel as a way to review permits in the river corridor. This concept was used by Patti Cluelow at the May GEHWA meeting. Mary will find out more about this term and determine how this may, or may not, be used in the Great Egg Harbor River.

Julie Akers stated that State Historic Preservation Officer in NJ accepted the nomination of the Warren Pony Truss bridge near Weymouth Furnace into the State Historic Register. National Register status of the bridge will also be sought. Questions regarding the safety of the bridge were raised. Julie provided an update of the proposed bridge

replacement project. It was stated that Atlantic County will probably continue to pursue replacement and/or upgrade the bridge under all circumstances.

Greg Gregory updated members on the wetlands mitigation project in Somers Point. Things were going good until the USCOE decided that the site proposed for mitigation was not appropriate. Greg will work with Somers Point to pursue another option to take advantage of this mitigation opportunity.

### **New Business**

Rick discussed the question of seeking non-profit status for the River Council to have a direct relationship with NPS or an indirect relationship through GEHWA. Creed Pogue suggested that Rick research the issue to determine options for the River Council organization. Mary will look into the Upper Delaware River Advisory Council and the Niobrara River Council to determine the structure of their organizations. Bill Egan suggested that the River Council stay autonomous as a group. Rick will explore legal options and Mary will look into other similar organizations.

Discussion took place regarding the issue of uses for River Council funding. Creed suggested that each sub committee develop a wish list to be brought to the Executive Committee for prioritization and discussion at the next meeting. Mary will remind members to bring their wish list items to the next meeting of the River Council.

Mary Vavra mentioned the offer by NJDEP to sponsor ½ hour permit sessions on a Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> to work with property owners to discuss their individual permit issues. Mary will notify NJDEP and accept their offer, set up an acceptable date, mail out notices, and arrange the schedule. A notice will be mailed to waterfront property owners and newspapers and also provide them with the Great Egg Harbor NS&RR brochures. Mary will draft the notice to waterfront property owners for Rick Coe's signature and include the River Council's mission statement. Creed made a motion that Mary Vavra will follow through on the August 22<sup>nd</sup> date (date preferred) and notify NJDEP. Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dick Colby provided written information on the first steering committee meeting held for the WMA #15 planning effort. Questions were raised as to what the county's outreach initiatives have been to date in terms of other counties besides Atlantic County. Dick stated that the steering committee consists primarily of Atlantic County representatives. Creed Pogue made a motion that the River Council send a letter to other County Freeholders to mention that WMA#15 planning process is moving along and that the participation of other counties might assure a better planning effort. Dick stated that the steering committee is set, but meetings are open to the public. Department heads of county planning agencies have been notified by Atlantic County regarding watershed meetings. Atlantic County is using their web site as a method of communication. Mike Hogan suggested reaching out to other counties in the watershed and suggesting that Atlantic County conduct meetings in areas outside of Atlantic County to promote a more inclusive process. Creed Pogue suggested that Mary draft a letter for Rick Coe's signature to elected officials in Camden and Gloucester Counties who are involved with

the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. Joel seconded the motion. Bill Egan stated that this was not necessary. Roll call vote: Julie Akers – yes; Bill Christman - yes; Rick Coe – yes; Dick Colby – yes; Bill Egan – No; Gregory Gregory – yes; Creed Pogue – yes; Joel Spiegel – yes. Motion carried.

Dick announced that since the initial WMA #15 meeting there have been a series of focus groups which were being held in June at the technical school. Creed commented on the action project component of the WMA #15 planning effort and suggested that members consider projects that can be done under this initiative. Julie stated that if the River Council is looking for projects in general, then members should develop a list as suggested above.

Mike Hogan discussed concerns regarding financial management issues with GEHWA. Rick Coe stated that River Council did not have oversight responsibilities over GEHWA. Rick stated that River Council will ensure that appropriate procedures are followed and documentation is appropriate from GEHWA. Creed stated that any further discussion of this issue should remain within GEHWA and that river council should not get involved in this matter. Mike Hogan expressed his concern about IRS retribution regarding GEHWA procedures. It was stated that as long as River Council money is properly issued by NPS and managed by GEHWA, then that is GEHWA's responsibility. Dick Colby asked questions regarding bonding responsibilities for signatories and if that was necessary. The decision about bonding will be deferred until the issue of nonprofit status is resolved.

Hamilton Township River Watch – Township Police hosted a meeting with residents and discussed issues associated with river-related activities. A discussion concerning the need for Hamilton Township to address these issues ensued.

A discussion took place regarding a potential permit application for a boat dock in the area of Gravelly Run. Questions were raised regarding appropriateness of a dock on this section of the River. River Council members expressed serious concerns about dock placement on the Norell property due to wetlands impact and anadromous fish habitat.

Mike Hogan stated that the peninsula on the South River NJ Fish and Game area is still being trashed. He is working to resolve this issue with appropriate organizations.

Mike Hogan received a call from Millie Messina regarding the barge in the river that is disintegrating and wanted to know what could be done about it. The barge is huge and has been in the river for more than 40 years. It will be extremely difficult to remove. Creed Pogue made a motion that an action item for WMA #15 be the removal of the barge. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. Julie made a motion to table this issue based on the need for more information. Dick Colby seconded Julie's motion. Roll Call regarding motion to table: Julie Akers – yes; Rick Coe – yes; Dick Colby – yes; Bill Egan – yes; Greg Gregory – yes; Creed Pogue – yes; Joel Spiegel – yes

Creed made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion seconded by Dick Colby. No members of the public in attendance. Motion to close public portion made by Creed and seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 by Rick Coe.