

July 9, 2002

To: River Council Members

From: Mary Vavra

Attached are the meeting minutes from the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and a copy of the River Administrator Activity Report for June. This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is set for **Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Last meeting we did not have a quorum which hampered the group's ability to make decisions on issues. To assure that we have a quorum at the July meeting, please be kind enough to call me at (215) 597-9175 or send me an e-mail message (mary\_vavra@nps.gov) informing me about your inability to attend by **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have anything to add to the agenda, please let me know by Monday, 7/15, so that I can prepare a revised agenda for the meeting.

**Great Egg Harbor NS&R River Council  
July 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Agenda**

**Approval of minutes from May and June River Council Meetings**

**Old Business**

- Resolution #5 (Appointment of River Administrator) *Approved*
- Resolution #6 (Hamilton Twp. River Patrol) *Approved*
- River Council bylaw amendment *Approved*
- Signage and logo update *2 color / week fish / Sep. ind. signs Approved*
- Watershed Management Area #15 Update - *letter to planning on accounting motion*
- Hamilton Township Issue Update - *Sub committee of planning board,*

**New Business**

- Report on briefing of Pinelands Commission staff
- Report on meeting with USCOE, NJDEP and EPA staff re: permits on non tidal portion of the river.
- River Administrator's Activity Report

**Public Portion**

**Adjournment**

*Resolution # 7 Tabled*

*Motion for cleanup paid after finish*

*Rick, Creed, Dick + Mary = financial Report*

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River  
Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2002**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:10PM by Rick Coe

**Roll Call** by Mary Vavra

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

**Board Members Absent:** Robert Almeda, Bill Egan, Greg Gregory, Keith Kendrix, Andrew Mair, Marc Thyrring, Bill Zapisek, (Note: Bill Egan, Robert Almeda and Greg Gregory provided advance notice of their inability to attend.)

**Quorum Present:** No

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Mary Vavra (National Park Service), Chris Bonsall (Trail group)

**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.

**Due to a lack of a quorum, the following issues were deferred until the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**  
**Approval of May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes; Action on Resolution #5 and #6 and River Council Bylaws.**

**Old Business**

**Status Report on GEHWA Review of Hamilton Township River Patrol**

Julie reported that the GEHWA Board approved funding to support the Hamilton Township River Patrol. GEHWA funding, in combination with River Council funding, will provide \$12,750 to Hamilton Township to continue enforcement and education activities in the river corridor.

**Signage for River Council**

Since Greg Gregory was unable to attend the June meeting, he will make a presentation regarding signage and logos at the July River Council meeting. Dick Colby suggested that the draft logo needed some refinement. River Council members should get their comments regarding the logo to Greg Gregory as soon as possible.

### ***Watershed Management Area #15 Activities***

Fred Akers provided an update on WMA #15 activities and mentioned that the County recently mailed information from the recently established task forces. A discussion about activities in the watershed ensued. Fred Akers will be applying for 319 grant funds for the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed.

### ***NJDEP/USCOE Consultation Day***

Mary Vavra mentioned that NJDEP and USCOE were enthusiastic about scheduling another Consultation Day. It was recommended that September be a target time. Mary Vavra will follow-up on scheduling the Consultation Day for September with both the USCOE and NJDEP. Dick suggested that a workshop for homeowners be established similar to the one sponsored in the Mullica River Watershed where Best Management Practices (BMPs) and environmentally friendly landscaping options were discussed. Julie Akers stated that this type of workshop could be sponsored by GEHWA and be held during a bi-monthly meeting.

### ***Hamilton Township***

Bill Christman provided updated information about the issues in the Township. The Township decided to form a sub committee of the Planning Board to collect information from all sources and put ordinances in place that protect the river. Bill was designated the chairman of the subcommittee. GEHWA provided a letter of support, both technical and financial, to the Township to study the issues and make decisions regarding long-term protection. The Township's Local River Management Plan will be revised and appropriate ordinances will be established. The Township is committed to addressing the issues and finding long-term solutions. Fred Akers suggested that the River Council consider funding a portion of the study of the non-tidal portion of the river. Rick Coe recommended that the Township prepare a proposal and submit it to the River Council for consideration. Julie mentioned that the GEHWA board is considering sponsoring a scientific study of the fisheries of the non-tidal portion of the river, as well.

### ***New Business***

#### ***Atlantic County Cooperative Agreement***

There is about \$6,000 remaining in the Cooperative Agreement between Atlantic County and the National Park Service. Mary Vavra suggested an update to the dock study that was prepared by the County that compared 1983 and 1995 aerial photographs to determine dock development in the tidal portion of the river. The update to the dock study was supported and Mary will pursue this option with the County.

#### ***Senate Bill 1214***

Bill Christman updated members on Senate Bill 1214 which would authorize local municipalities to be officially included in the permitting process of waterfront construction projects. This will enable townships to oversee projects and make sure that construction is occurring according to code. Rick Coe will prepare a Resolution in support of the Bill which will then be forwarded to Trenton.

Resolution  
07-2002

**River Administrator Activity Report**

Fred Akers provided a written report regarding his activities. Rick Coe mentioned that the report was very comprehensive and substantive.

**Public Portion**

Chris Bonsall discussed a potential walking/biking trail project below Weymouth Furnace. He also briefed river council members about a bike path project that he has been involved with in Estell Manor Park which is a 6-mile bike loop, a portion of which is already finished. Chris wanted to inform River Council members of his organization's activities. It was suggested that Chris contact Atlantic County to discuss his new trail project to determine their interest and support.

**River Council Member List**

Mary provided a listing of River Council members and their addresses and requested that each member review the information for its accuracy. Members should notify Mary if there are any changes.

Motion to adjourn by Dick Colby and seconded by Joel Spiegel. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

*Handwritten notes:*  
K. Spiegel  
12/22/83



Fred & Julie Akers  
<akers@gowebway.com>  
m>

07/09/2002 10:39 AM  
AST

To: JSPIE@KIMKON.COM, rcoe@weirpartners.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, Hoganpho@Conectiv.net,  
SirSnowy1@msn.com, <gregspkor@msn.com>, "GEHWA Trustees,  
officers";;

cc: mary\_vavra@nps.gov, <fvavra@voicenet.com>

Subject: River Administrator June 2002 report.

## **River Administrator Activity Report June 2002**

### **1. Coordinate management of the river corridor with responsible agencies.**

- a. We continue to work with Atlantic County in the ongoing WMA-15 planning process, with follow ups on Action Now projects and Open Space Acquisitions. We are also supporting NJ Council of Watershed Associations (NJCWA) in their formal assessment of the WMA process and the resulting recommendations to strengthen the state program and maintain the funding.
- b. The Stockton Water Quality Characterization Study is moving along with the sampling and collection of macroinvertebrates and fishes from many of the river tributaries. The first phase should be completed in July, and so far we have contributed 57 hrs of labor to the effort.
- c. We are working with the Pinelands Commission to increase their awareness of the recreational pressures on our river, and the need for strict zoning compliance to help us protect the river resources. We are attending some of their many meetings, and have scheduled a special meeting with them on 7/10 to discuss the issues in detail. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is partnering with us to educate the PC about the Great Egg and its CMP.
- d. We are participating in the Endangered and Nongame Species (ENSP) Public Advisory Committee to advise the NJDEP to strengthen law enforcement and best management practices in controlling and locating motorized recreation. In particular, we want the state to deobligate the Federal funding currently obligated to purchase land in the Betsy Scull area and cancel the motorized trail project there. Also, this committee is a forum to promote species protection and habitat enhancement in our river corridor.

### **2. Assist local municipalities in implementing zoning and other land protection methods.**

a. River Council Clean Communities (CC) grant checks for \$1,000 each went out to Hamilton and Winslow this month. A big Boy Scout river clean up event for Upper and Corbin City is in the works, and should be up for approval at the July River Council meeting.

b. The joint Grant funding for \$12,750 went out this month to the Hamilton Twp. Police for the River Patrol, and it looks like there is an ever increasing need for their presence on the river.

c. Hamilton Twp. has organized a special River Committee under their Planning Board to address Commercial river use and design amendments to their local river management plan. They have requested funding and other support to assist them in developing more rules and regulations to better control the summertime recreational overuse of the river. We are working closely with them to identify and eliminate illegal land use in the river corridor, as well as to enforce strict zoning compliance when confronted with requests for zoning variances. The River Council is looking at requests for proposals to fund the professional administration expenses of amending their Local River Management Plan, and GEHWA is actively pursuing RFPs for environmental impact assessments to document the negative impacts of overuse and to assist with use limit justifications.

d. Folsom is also having a commercial livery illegally launching renters from an unapproved location in the Penny Pot area, and we are beginning to work with Folsom to implement zoning enforcement against this inappropriate land use.

### **3. Public outreach and education.**

a. A Girl Scout Water Drop Patch event was organized by Belinda, and we demonstrated the Groundwater model and ran the puppet show in partnership with the DEP.

b. We attended the annual Waterfest event in Gloucester County and demonstrated the water model there.

c. A column and some articles for the GEHWA Newsletter are now being written by the River Administrator.

d. Many of the emails sent out to the River Councilors and Trustees are intended to keep them informed and educated about the many evolving issues of managing

and protecting the designated river corridor.

Fred Akers, River Administrator (RA)

### Meetings List

- 5/29--7hrs--WMA-14 Recreation Focus Group and Pinelands Commission.
- 5/30--7hrs--Stockton field sampling at Hospitality Branch and Deep Run.
- 6/01--2hrs--Tour of Cedar Lake with South Jersey Lands Trust.
- 6/01--4hrs--Girl Scout Water Drop Patch event with watershed model demo.
- 6/01--2hrs--Survey Deep Run for Stockton sampling sites.
- 6/02--2hrs--Survey Hospitality Branch below Collings Lakes for sampling sites.
- 6/05--4hrs--Fish sampling with Rudy Arndt in Maurice River Watershed.
- 6/07--4hrs--Stockton field sampling at Penny Pot Branch.
- 6/09--7hrs--Waterfest table with Belinda and watershed model demonstration.
- 6/11--2hrs--Survey South River and Mare Run for sampling sites.
- 6/12--3hrs--Stockton field collection at Rte 559 and Deep Run.
- 6/12--3hrs--Survey South and Tuckahoe Rivers for sampling sites.
- 6/17--3hrs--Hamilton Township Committee Meeting about LRMP funding.
- 6/19--9hrs--ENSP ATV Subcommittee meeting in Trenton. (Betsy Scull)
- 6/19--4hrs--River Council meeting and premeeting.
- 6/20--8hrs--Stockton field sampling at Mare Run, Deep Run, and South River.
- 6/25--4hrs--GEHWA meeting and premeeting.

75hrs total

### Office Schedule

- 5/28--5hrs--General Administration (GA), prepare for Pinelands and Trenton meetings.
- 6/04--4hrs--GA, Upper Twp CC grant, Telephone Call (TC) Mary Vavra, comments to NJCWA.
- 6/05--5hrs--Article for Newsletter, CC grants, contact PPA.
- 6/06--5hrs--TC Upper Twp, send CC checks to Winslow and Hamilton, write 2 articles for Newsletter, TC Bob Lindaw, misc. emails.
- 6/07--4hrs--RA report for May, TC to Upper Twp, GA.
- 6/08--2hrs--GA.
- 6/09--1hrs--Hamilton Twp. communications.
- 6/10--1hrs--Hamilton Twp. communications, GA.
- 6/11--3hrs--TC J. Cromartie, Mary, Pinelands Commission, email PPA, MV.

- 6/12--2hrs--GA.
- 6/13--3hrs--GA.
- 6/14--2hrs--GA.
- 6/15--3hrs--Letter to Hamilton Twp.
- 6/16--4hrs--TC Bill Christman., Elmer Ripley, Sue Lazarchick, misc emails.
- 6/17--2hrs--GA.
- 6/18--4hrs--GA, RA reports.
- 6/21--2hrs--GA.
- 6/24--2hrs--GA.
- 6/25--2hrs--GA.
- 6/26--2hrs--GA.
- 6/27--2hrs--GA.
- 6/28--2hrs--GA.
- 6/30--8hrs--TC Elmer, Mary, Bill C., 6 pg. letter to Hamilton Twp.

70 hrs total