

7-17-02

Great Egg Harbor NS&R River Council  
July 17th Meeting  
Agenda

Approval of minutes from May and June River Council Meetings

Old Business

- Resolution #5 (Appointment of River Administrator)
- Resolution #6 (Hamilton Twp. River Patrol)
- River Council bylaw amendment
- Signage and logo update
- Watershed Management Area #15 Update
- Hamilton Township Issue Update

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

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

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2002

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05PM by Rick Coe

Roll Call by Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Evelyn Braeunig (Alternate for Hamilton Township), Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Greg Gregory, Keith Kendrex, Andrew Mair, Joel Spiegel, Creed Pogue

Board Members Absent: Robert Almeda, Bill Christman, Marc Thyrring, Bill Zapisek, (Note: Robert Almeda, Marc Thyrring, and Bill Christman provided advance notice of their inability to attend.)

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Marc Demetroff (GEHWA Board Member) Amy Elder, (Americorps Watershed Ambassador), Belinda Irizarry (GEHWA Alternate), Mary Vavra (National Park Service), Ed Kenney (Corbin City)

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 minutes from the May 15th and June 19th River Council meetings. Motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. Motion carried.

Old Business

Resolution 05-2002 confirms action taken at the February River Council regarding the hiring of a River Administrator and creating an employment agreement for the River Administrator. A motion was made by Creed Pogue to approve the Resolution and Employment Agreement. The motion was seconded by Joel Spiegel. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers, abstained; Evelyn Braeunig, yes; Rick Coe, yes; Dick Colby, yes; Bill Egan, yes; Greg Gregory, yes; Keith Kendrex, abstained; Andrew Mair, yes; Joel Spiegel, yes; Creed Pogue, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 06-2002 confirms approval received during the May 15th meeting of the River Council authorizing expenditures of funds for the Hamilton Township River Patrol. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Dick Colby and was seconded by Creed Pogue. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers, yes; Evelyn Braeunig, yes; Rick Coe, yes; Dick Colby, yes; Bill Egan, No; Greg Gregory, yes; Keith Kendrex, abstained; Andrew Mair, yes; Joel Spiegel, yes; Creed Pogue, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 07-2002 - This Resolution supports Senate Bill No. 1214 authorizing local review of dock construction or alteration. The Resolution was prepared in response to action taken at the June 19th

River Council meeting. A motion to table for consideration at the August meeting was made by Bill Egan and seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried. Creed Pogue suggested that if the River Council acts favorably on this Resolution at the next meeting, then letter of support should also be distributed to state legislators.

River Council Bylaw Amendment - Rick Coe explained the purpose of the amendment stating that a clarification was needed in the bylaws regarding removal of members from the River Council prior to term expiration. A motion to approve the proposed amendment was made by Creed Pogue and was seconded by Greg Gregory. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers, yes; Evelyn Braeunig, yes; Rick Coe, yes; Dick Colby, yes; Bill Egan, No; Greg Gregory, yes; Keith Kendrex, abstained; Andrew Mair, yes; Joel Spiegel, yes; Creed Pogue, yes. Motion carried.

Signage and Logo Update - Greg Gregory provided updated information to members on the potential logo for the river and watershed signs and letterhead. Greg indicated that signage for WMA #15 have already been prepared by NJDEP and are presently being installed throughout the watershed. Greg worked with Adrianna Calle, NJDEP, on the interior watershed signs and showed a sample to the group. A motion was made by Creed Pogue to approve the design shown at the meeting as well as the River Council logo and letterhead. The motion was seconded by Bill Egan. Motion carried. Amy Elder will check on the status and location of WMA #15 signs generated by NJDEP. Mary Vavra mentioned that Atlantic County's educational exhibits for the river have been finalized. A copy of the exhibit along with a listing of places where the exhibits will be located was provided to members. Mary will check with George Flicker, Atlantic County Park Superintendent, about adapting the signs for other areas.

WMA #15 Update - Fred Akers reported that in the Fall of 2000 the NJDEP started the WMA #15 planning process with a \$600,000 grant to the Atlantic County which is the lead agency in the watershed planning process. NJDEP is now considering rescinding the balance of \$200,000 remaining on the contract and re-evaluating the watershed planning process, although there is nothing definitive at this point. The WMA #15 characterization study with Stockton College will be completed and Fred will find out if "Action Now" projects are still a possibility. A motion was made by Julie Akers recommending that a letter be sent to Atlantic County Planning to ascertain the current status of the funds already appropriated (\$400,000) and to also request that money be made available for signs and other "Action Now" projects as identified by the River Council and GEHWA. The motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. Motion carried. Fred Akers and Rick Coe will draft a letter.

Hamilton Township Issue Update - Fred Akers updated the group on the establishment of a subcommittee of the Hamilton Township Planning Board to explore options to resolve issues about overuse in the nontidal portion of the river. Mary Vavra provided information on a meeting she and Fred attended with Pinelands Commission staff regarding a proposed zoning variance that is being considered by the Planning Board for a 3.2 acre parcel owned by Michael Cokenakas which has been used illegally as a commercial access point to the river. Attendance at the July 22 Hamilton Township meeting at 7PM was encouraged.

Clean Communities Grants - Winslow and Hamilton Township will be undertaking River cleanups with River Council funding assistance. Fred Akers presented information on a Tuckahoe River cleanup proposal from Upper Township using Boy Scouts troops. Mr. Kenney provided additional

details indicating that the proposed work is to clean up both sides of the river using two Boy Scout troops and cleaning the Tuckahoe River in both Upper Township and Corbin City. The estimated cost is \$4,000 which includes canoe/kayak rentals, equipment, removal of trash and rental of 10 powerboats. The scheduled cleanup is September 14th. Upper Township has endorsed the application. A motion was made by Creed Pogue to approve the appropriation of \$4,000 to Upper Township to undertake the Tuckahoe River cleanup project. Motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. Greg suggested that the River Council use this event for photographs/publicity as a public relations tool. Motion carried. Fred Akers will be working with Mr. Kenney to educate the cleanup crew about the river and its environs as well as secure news coverage. A friendly amendment was made by Dick Colby that payment would be provided to Upper Township upon completion of the project. Motion was seconded by Creed Pogue. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers, yes; Evelyn Braeunig, yes; Rick Coe, yes; Dick Colby, yes; Bill Egan, yes; Greg Gregory, yes; Keith Kendrex, yes; Andrew Mair, yes; Joel Spiegel, yes; Creed Pogue, yes. Motion carried.

#### New Business

##### Enforcement Issues

Mary Vavra and Fred Akers met with John Stokes and Chuck Horner of the Pinelands Commission to discuss possible violations on the non-tidal portion of the river. Photographs were provided to the Commission indicating some serious impacts to the river in Folsom and Hamilton Township. Fred and Belinda met with the Folsom Zoning Officer to request his assistance in finding out the legality of the development. Mary Vavra also met with NJDEP, US Army Corps of Engineers, and US EPA staff to discuss permitting issues and enforcement on the river. Mary will be sending a letter from the National Park Service to NJDEP enforcement, along with photographs, indicating the need for significant enforcement action. In addition, there will be a follow-up meeting among NJDEP, Pinelands Commission, NPS, USCOE, and US EPA to promote better coordination when development occurs on any of the three designated river in New Jersey and one presently being studied.

##### Newsletter

Mary Vavra provided members with a copy of a newsletter produced by the National Park Service in Washington. The newsletter showcases special programs and features of the partnership rivers in the Northeast. Mary will distribute copies of the newsletter to counties and municipalities, as well as libraries, GEHWA trustees, and Watershed Ambassadors with a cover letter from the River Council. Mary will prepare a draft letter for Rick Coe's signature.

Financial Update - Creed Pogue mentioned that the River Council needs to organize a committee to look at financial requirements and commitments. A committee composed of Dick Colby, Creed Pogue, Rick Coe and Mary Vavra was formed to undertake this task.

##### Public Comment

A motion was made by Creed Pogue to open the meeting to the public at 9:10PM. The motion was seconded by Dick Colby. No members of the public offered comment. A motion was made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Dick Colby to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.