

8-15-01

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08/08/2001 08:54 AM
EDT

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cc:

Subject: Meeting Reminder

To: River Council Members

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the Great Egg Harbor River Council is scheduled for August 15th at the Fox Nature Center from 7PM to 9PM. PLEASE CALL either Rick Coe or Mary Vavra if you are unable to attend.

The following is a tentative agenda. Please let either Rick or myself know if you have any additions.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from July 18th River Council Meeting

Old Business

- 1. ■ Update on NJDEP/USCOE Consultation Day (August 22)
- 2. ■ WMA #15 Upcoming meeting 9/11, 12, 13 - Action Now Projects.

New Business

- 3. ■ Hamilton Township issues
 - 4. ■ Potential Projects for Funding - Resource ^{emp.} Mgt. Issue. p. 65-82 Summary Table
 - 5. ■ Discussion of Executive Director Position for GEHWA and River Council 83-90
 - 6. ■ NPS Fisheries Study
- Acquisition site (Byrd mentioned)*

Public Portion

Adjournment (breakout into committees)

- 1. Educational presentation materials for Towns.
- 2. Fisheries Study - User study → analysis w/ recommendations of carrying capacity + planning for towns. both upriver + downriver
- 3. Permit process review - plain language guidebook. docks, development
- 4. Riparian buffer project

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Great Egg Harbor NS&R River Council
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2001

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairperson, Rick Coe

Roll Call by the Secretary, Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Bill Christman, Rick Coe, Gregory Gregory, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Marc Thyrring, Bill Zapisek

Board Members Absent:: Dick Colby (away for the summer), Bill Egan, Eric Fooder, Robert Manzi

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: John Brudon (Alternate for Estell Manor); Ed Curry (Hamilton Township resident and GEHWA Board Member); Belinda Irizarry (Alternate from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA)); Karen Kurek (Alternate for Monroe Township); 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 July 18th.

Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes from July 18th. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mary Vavra discussed the state/federal permit consultation day scheduled for August 22nd at the Fox Nature Center from 10AM through 8PM. There will be at least 3 NJDEP staff from the Land Use Regulation Office and a representative from the US Army Corps of Engineers to work with property owners. There are about 20 people scheduled for individual sessions throughout the day.

Julie Akers provided an overview of the recent WMA #15 meeting sponsored by NJDEP and Atlantic County. There will be a series of focus group meetings conducted over three days (September 11 through 13th). These meetings are generally held at the Atlantic County VoTech School. This round of meetings is supposed to generate "Action Now" projects and a list of potential acquisition sites. Julie will present River Council recommendations for "Action Now" projects at one of these meetings. The following projects were discussed:

- Get the State to designate the Great Egg Harbor River as a "No Discharge Zone". This issue was discussed at length and it was agreed that it was one to pursue.
- Address invasive species in the watershed. Discussion about this issue ensued.
- Develop information/exhibits to educate the public and provide opportunity to access the Bay area near NJ Avenue near the marina in Somers Point. Motion to approve made by July Akers and seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried unanimously.
- Upgrade the City of Somers Point's dock facility with pumpout capabilities. Motion to approve made by Julie Akers and seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried unanimously.
- Develop a parking area in Somers Point that would contain racks for temporary storage of rowing equipment and develop an information area. This would encourage non-motorized recreational use in this portion of the corridor. Motion to approve made by Gregory Gregory and seconded by Julie Akers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Encourage the development of any type of nesting areas along watershed corridor. Motion made by Julie Akers and seconded by Gregory Gregory. Motion carried unanimously.
- Expand the use of Drag Island to include development for recreational purposes, an area for exhibits and signage and encourage the use of the area for water quality studies. Motion made by Greg Gregory and seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried unanimously.
- Identify the areas where pump out stations already exist corridor-wide and identify locations where new ones are needed. Consider the development of a pumpout station mid-river, such as Shady River Marina. And identify areas where more are needed. Motion to approve made by Marc Thyrring and seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried unanimously.
- Identify and remedy storm water runoff issues watershed-wide. A few areas identified are: Route 559 areas; Dead Horse Run; and the Gravelly Run area. Motion made by Julie Akers and seconded by Greg Gregory. Motion carried. Bill Zapisek abstained from voting.
- Define and establish a local navigational channel to promote non-motorized recreational activities. Motion made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Julie Akers. A motion to table was made by Marc Thyrring and seconded by Greg Gregory. Roll Call vote to table: Julie Akers - Yes; Bill Christman - Yes; Rick Coe - No; Greg Gregory - Yes; Creed Pogue - No; Joel Spiegel - No; Marc Thyrring - Yes;

*Carrying capacity study & remediation
invasive species*

Julie Akers discussed the invitation she received to attend a press conference in Millville to discuss GEHWA activities and the Great Egg Harbor River.

Belinda Irizarry reported that invitations to participate in a GEHWA-sponsored social event on September 23rd were mailed out to members. A suggestion was made that an invitation be extended to Congressman LoBiondo.

Public Comment

A motion was made by Creed Pogue to open the meeting to the public. Motion seconded by Julie Akers. No members of the public offered comments at this time. Motion made to close this portion of the meeting was made by Julie Akers and seconded by Joel Spiegel. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM by Rick Coe.