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CC:
Subject: Meeting Minutes and Draft Agenda

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th, at 7PM at the Fox Nature Center. Please let me know if you will be unable to attend (215) 597-9175.

Attached are the minutes from the August 21st meeting. If you have anything to add to the following agenda for the September 18th meeting, please let me or Rick Coe know.

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council Meeting Agenda September 18, 2002

Call To Order

Approval of Minutes

1st Dick 2nd Creed

Old Business

- Hamilton Township River Patrol Status Report/Update - 14 calls 11 rescues 1 TV spot
- Signage and logo update - Change Bill 2. 30 signs 150 tubers 2 arrests
- Enforcement Issues -
 - Meeting w/state and federal agencies set for 10/2 Estell Manor
 - Canoe Trip 9/21 Faber PC PPA DEP Sent to 29 hrs of 9/18
 - Judge's decision re: Mr. DiNatale's property 90 days or \$1000 per day fine photos needed
- Hamilton Twp. issue update - \$250,000 left
- WMA #15 Update - Maybe ...
- Exhibit Panel followup -

New Business

- River Administrator's Report (Water Quality, Work with PPA, etc)

Public Portion

Osprey Platforms Project AC + ACUA 200,000 mregals when Borgia opens
Canoe Cleanup 90 people 30 canoes 11 boats
motion 1st Creed 2nd Greg.

Adjournment

Weymouth Twp. extension for projects \$400 Tree planting grant \$300 Estell Manor
Permit Day 10/15 9:30am to 8pm Warren Fox Nature Center

RC.AugustMinutes.do

Bill Zapisek resigned - Upper Twp.

12 videos 1 for each committee.

Barge - Letters will be sent

Letter to Malitta to explain his patrolling project

Motion for checks \$4000.00

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2002**

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

Roll Call by Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Rick Coe, Bill Christman, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Greg Gregory, Keith Kendrix, Andrew Mair, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel,

Board Members Absent: Bob Almeda, Marc Thyrring, Bill Zapisek

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Belinda Irizarry (Secretary), Mary Vavra (National Park Service), Officer Glenn Hausman (Hamilton Township Police Dept.), Adam Barker (Linwood), John Kenney (Audubon Society)

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.

Note:

Bill Zapisek has moved from the area and will no longer be participating in the River Council. The mayor indicated that he would be finding a replacement.

Approval of minutes

Dick Colby suggested a correction on page 2 of the August 21st minutes under WMA #15 Update. Dick corrected the last sentence changing Mare Run to Miry Run. Creed Pogue seconded the correction. Minutes were approved. Bill Christman abstained from voting.

Old Business

Hamilton Township River Patrol Update

Officer Glenn Hausman from the Hamilton Township River Patrol gave members an update on river patrol activities this last summer. Officers boarded 31 boats for safety issues. No tickets were issued, just warnings. Police used the opportunity to educate rather than punish. There were 150 one-on-one contacts with tubers over the summer. Contacts with recreators ranged from speaking and educating to noise control. Two arrests were made for inappropriate behavior on the river. There were no trespassing complaints. The most important issue was that the River Patrol made 11 rescues and assists that helped recreationists in difficult situations.

Signage and Logo Update

Greg Gregory provided updated information on signage. He asked the individual doing the design for an estimate for 50 signs. In addition, Greg will be receiving an e-mail with the River Council logo and will forward that logo to members so that it can be used.

Enforcement Issues

- Mary Vavra updated members on the status of the enforcement issues in Folsom Borough. A meeting is set for October 2nd where NJDEP, USCOE, EPA, NPS, and the Pinelands Commission will discuss enforcement issues and a process for permit reviews in areas under the jurisdiction of the Pinelands Commission.
- A canoe trip of the river from 54th Street to Penny Pot County Park is being organized for 9/27. Representatives from federal, state, local and nonprofit organizations were invited. The purpose of the trip is to educate everyone about the enforcement issues in Folsom Borough.
- Mary Vavra mentioned that a NJ Superior Court Judge ruled against a Hamilton Township property owner who illegally dredged and filled in wetlands. The decision was that the property owner must comply with the USCOE's restoration plan within 90 days of the decision. Failure to comply with this order will result in a \$1,000/day fine. This decision is a major success story that can be used to further deter illegal construction activity within the river corridor.

WMA #15 Update

Fred Akers stated that the watershed planning effort for WMA #15 is on hold. There is concern that the lack of movement may result in a diminished interest by Stockton College to complete the additional scientific work in the watershed. Fred stated that there is an educational component of the WMA #15 area and that this focus group is considering a follow-up on some of the ideas generated during the planning process. Fred also updated members on water quality issues in the watershed.

New Business

Osprey Platforms

Fred discussed the possibility of establishing a pilot program for constructing osprey platforms in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. Creed suggested using the volunteer services of a technical school in constructing the platforms. Fred will follow-up on this issue.

Ground Water Supply

Fred Akers updated river council members on the article in the 9/15 issue of The Press of Atlantic City regarding water supply issues. The ACMUA is considering the storage of water under the island during off-season to make additional water available during the summer. Andrew Mair also provided information on this issue and the need to address long-term implications of this approach to addressing water supply issues in Atlantic City.

Tuckahoe River Cleanup

There were 38 canoes and kayaks and 11 motorboats with 90 people that came from two Boy Scout troops that cleaned the Tuckahoe River on Saturday. It was a very successful effort.

Weymouth Township Grant Extensions

Weymouth Township requested an extension on their tree-planting grant. Creed Pogue made a motion to also include Estell Manor in this request. The tree planting was delayed due to drought conditions. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. Roll Call: Julie Akers, yes; Rick Coe – yes; Bill Christman – yes; Dick Colby – yes; Bill Egan – yes; Greg Gregory – yes; Keith Kendrick – yes; Andrew Mair – yes; Creed Pogue – yes; Joel Spiegel – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit Consultation Day

Mary Vavra mentioned that there is another Permit Consultation Day scheduled for October 15th at the Fox Nature Center. Mary has a listing of waterfront property owners that is several years old and will use that list to mail the flyer to residents. A notice will also be placed in The Press of Atlantic City and in the next issue of *RiverCurrents*.

Video

Julie Akers brought 12 copies of the video about the Great Egg Harbor River for council members to use within their municipalities. The video produced by Greg Vizzi with National Park Service funding, will be premiered at the bi-monthly GEHWA meeting on September 24th. Council members should let Julie know if additional copies of the video are needed.

Barge Issue

Julie Akers mentioned that Weymouth Township sent a letter to Commissioner Bradley Campbell about the abandoned barge along the Great Egg Harbor River. The barge has become a safety hazard and its removal has become an issue. It was suggested that Bill Egan try to get an estimate for removal of the barge so that GEHWA and the River Council can take appropriate action.

NJ Naval Militia

The NJ Naval Militia was re-created by Governor Whitman several years ago. GEHWA received a letter from the Militia looking for interest and possible funding sources to support their activities. Their interest is in patrolling the river and in learning what the River Council and GEHWA are involved in. A motion was made by Creed Pogue to extend an invitation to the Militia to address the River Council in October to educate members about the NJ Naval Militia and their activities. Greg Gregory seconded the motion.

Financial Matters

A motion was made by Greg Gregory to reimburse the Boy Scout cleanup in Upper Township and Corbin City. The cost is \$4,000. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Roll Call: Julie Akers, yes; Riek Coe – yes; Bill Christman – yes; Dick Colby – yes; Bill Egan – yes; Greg Gregory – yes; Keith Kendrix – yes; Andrew Mair – yes; Creed Pogue – yes; Joel Spiegel – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Portion

A motion was made by Creed Pogue and seconded by Greg Gregory to open the meeting to the public. Since there were no members of the public present, the public portion was closed at 8:45PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.