



Mary Vavra

09/07/2001 10:31 AM  
EDT

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cc:  
Subject: Meeting Minutes and Tentative Schedule

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is Wednesday, September 19t, at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park. Please call Mary Vavra or Rick Coe if you **will not** be able to attend. Attached are the meeting minutes from the August meeting.

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

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from August meeting of the River Council

Old Business

- August 22nd consultation update
- River Council recommendations for "Action Now" items for WMA #15
- Hamilton Township Issues  
(NPS letter to the Pinelands Commission)  
(Newspaper articles)
- Executive Director Position

New Business

- WMA #15 update from focus group meetings
- Potential Projects for Funding
- NJ Executive Order for Wild and Scenic Rivers in NJ
- NPS letter to the US Coast Guard regarding abandoned barge

Public Portion

Adjournment (breakout into committees)



AugustRiverCouncil.minutes.doc

25 people for permit sessions

September 25, 2001

Memorandum

To: Great Egg Harbor River Council Representatives and Alternatives  
From: Rick Coe, Chairperson  
Subject: Potential Projects for Funding and September Meeting Minutes

Attached are the meeting minutes from the September meeting for your review and information. At the next meeting of the Great Egg Harbor River Council, scheduled for Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, we will select projects for funding. The River Council received approximately \$30,000 from the National Park Service to address issues and opportunities in the designated Great Egg Harbor River Corridor.

Each municipality is requested to identify up to two projects. The project(s) can address a river-wide issue or be one that addresses a local issue or opportunity. The project(s) should be approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 in range. To maximize funding, municipalities are encouraged to consider joint projects. Some suggested project ideas are: signage, water quality testing, streambank stabilization, plantings of natural vegetation, and the purchase of easements along the river.

Please send in your two suggested projects by **October 8<sup>th</sup>** to Mary Vavra at the National Park Service whose address is below. Your proposal(s) should include a brief description of the project, projected costs, and the name of a contact person who will be responsible for completing the project. Send this information to:

Mary Vavra, Manager  
Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River  
National Park Service, Philadelphia Support Office  
200 Chestnut Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Any proposal received after **October 8<sup>th</sup>** will not be considered for this round of funding. Once all proposals are received, Mary will make copies and distribute them to River Council Members before the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting so that there is ample time to become familiar with them.

All River Council members are strongly encouraged to attend the Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park from 7PM to 9PM to participate in project selection.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Vavra at (215) 597-9175 who is coordinating this process.

Rick Coe, Chairperson

Attachments

(Note: Copies of this memo were also distributed to Mayors in Hammonton, Winslow Twp, and Corbin City)



**Great Egg Harbor NS&R River Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2001**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00PM 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, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Bill Zapisek

**Board Members Absent:** Gregory Gregory, Marc Thyrring, Bob Alameda (called to report absence), Eric Fooder

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Others Present:** Belinda Irizarry, Alternate from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) and Mary Vavra from the 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 August 15, 2001**

Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes from August 15<sup>th</sup>. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**NJDEP Consultation Day** – Mary Vavra reported that approximately 25 people participated in the NJDEP/USCOE consultation day on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Comments received were overwhelmingly positive with requests for a sequel next spring.

**Action Now Recommendations** – Rick Coe prepared a draft Resolution #R:06-2001 which listed the recommendations for Action Now projects that were discussed at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were a number of revisions recommended, including the following additional “Action Now” projects:

- A suggestion was made to include the removal of the abandoned barge in the Great Egg Harbor River (Hamilton Township) as an Action Now item to address floatable contamination and hazards to navigation. Motion to approve was made by Julie Akers and seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried unanimously. Mary Vavra provided a copy of a letter she prepared to the US Coast Guard, which brought the barge issue to their attention.



- Installation of a short tower with a closed circuit TV monitor to track usage of the river above Lake Lenape was recommended. It was suggested that this concept be considered during the planning process for addressing the carrying capacity issue already listed in the Resolution.
- Establish a weekly patrol in the summer to remove trash and assess damage to the banks of the river was suggested as an "Action Now" item. This work would be best accomplished by hiring a River Keeper/Advocate. A motion was made by Bill Egan to recommend the hiring of a River Keeper/Advocate and was seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.
- A suggestion that the septic system problem in Collings Lake in Williamstown and storm water runoff areas should also be included as an "Action Now" item. A motion was made by Julie Akers to identify and remediate substandard septic systems/sewage that are impacting the watershed. The motion was seconded by Dick Colby. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Julie Akers to expand the language in the Resolution under "identify and remedy stormwater runoff issues..." include the restoration of failing stormwater retention basins. Bill Egan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve changes to Resolution R:06-2001 was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Joel Spiegel. Motion carried.

**Hamilton Township Issues** - Mary Vavra and Julie Akers made a presentation about the issues surrounding the non-tidal portion of the river and the meetings that were held with residents by Township officials. Recent newspaper articles were referenced, as well as a letter from the National Park Service to Annette Barbaccia of the Pinelands Commission which raised the issue of the need to provide long-term protection of the river corridor's resources. Julie received a letter from the subcommittee appointed by the Mayor which was organized to address "access" issues informing her of a Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting at 7PM in the Hamilton Township hall. The meeting is open to the public.

**Executive Director Position** - Rick Coe prepared Resolution #R:07-2001 which incorporated the recommendations made at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. A suggestion was made to change the title to River Council Administrator. A discussion about the need for a River Keeper was once again discussed with the realization that two positions are probably needed: one for the administrative side of both the River Council and GEHWA, and another for a river keeper/advocate to address issues on the river. Julie stated that the salary for this part-time position would be approximately \$25,000 with an additional \$15,000 in expenses. The \$15,000 in expenses was reduced to approximately \$2,400. The River Council's share in this position would involve approximately \$12,500 for salary and \$1,200 for expenses for a total of \$13,700. The Job Description provided by

input. This Progress Report will be distributed throughout the National Park Service in Washington to highlight both accomplishments and issues affecting long-term protection. Verbal comments were provided and those recommended changes will be incorporated into a final report.

**Public Comment** – Dick Colby made a motion which was seconded by Julie Akers to open the meeting to the public. No members of the public were in attendance. Dick Colby made a motion to close this portion of the meeting which was seconded by Julie Akers.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM by Rick Coe.