

April 4, 2003

To: River Council Members

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 16<sup>th</sup>**, at 7PM at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park.

Attached are: the meeting agenda, minutes from the March meeting, and a copy of a permit application that will be discussed at length at the April meeting. If you have any additions to the agenda, please let me know as soon as possible.

Also...if you are unable to come to this meeting, please contact the alternate for your municipality and also let Rick or myself know.

Thanks,

Mary Vavra

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**April 16, 2003**

Call To Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Public Portion

Old Business

- Status Report on projects funded by the River Council
  - Streambank project in Egg Harbor Township
  - ORV issue in Egg Harbor Township
- Cell Tower Issue in Estell Manor
- Personnel Evaluation Committee
- River Administrator's Report
  - Partnership River Meeting with Fran Mainella, NPS Director
  - Hamilton Township
  - Update on how to put signage up
- Update on GEHWA activities

New Business

- Permit Review for Thomas Byrd property in Egg Harbor Township
- Financial Management
  - Discussion of potential projects to be funded by River Council

Adjournment

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**April 16, 2003**

4/16/03

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:15PM by Dick Colby, Vice Chair of the River Council

**Roll Call** by Fred Akers

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Township), John Brudon (Estell Manor), Bill Christman (Hamilton Township), Bill Egan (Weymouth Township), Greg Gregory (Somers Point), Andrew Mair (Winslow Township), Joel Spiegel (Borough of Folsom), Marc Thyrring (Egg Harbor Township), Bill McDermott (Upper Township), and Dick Colby (Alternate GEHWA representative). Creed Pogue (GEHWA) arrived late and did not vote on motions

**Board Members Absent:** Rick Coe (Monroe Township) and Gene Betz (Corbin City) - both provided prior notice. Keith Kendrix (Town of Hammonton)

**Quorum Present?** - Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Mary Vavra (National Park Service), Mr. and Mrs. Byrd and Thomas Byrd, Jr., Marianne Risley (Consultant for Thomas Byrd from Adams, Rehmann and Heggan Associates, Inc.) and John Carman (Egg Harbor Township)

**Proceedings**

Dick Colby 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**

A motion was made by Bill Christman to approve the March 20, 2003 minutes. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Portion**

Meeting was opened to the public. Members of the public deferred their comments to the portion of the agenda dealing with the permit listed under "New Business".

**Old Business**

**Status Report on projects/issues -**

- **Streambank project in Egg Harbor Township.** Marc Thyrring provided an update on this project and received a preliminary cost estimate of \$13,550 to just undertake the paperwork. Marc stated that the proposed restoration area in the Township is a small section (800') along private property that has serious erosion issues. This project was selected to serve as a prototype for other areas. A discussion ensued about the possibility of securing additional funding and the concern that funds would be used to enhance the value of private property. Julie Akers suggested that the River Council explore whether using federal funds for private property is an issue. Mary Vavra will investigate this question.
- **ORV Issue in Egg Harbor Township** - Marc Thyrring provided a status report on the desire for an ORV facility by the Police Athletic League (PAL) in the Township. Mr. Carman stated that he

recently received a new plan from PAL but has not had an opportunity to review it. A discussion of the appropriateness of ORVs in the river corridor ensued. Marc Thyrring made a motion to authorize Fred Akers to work with Atlantic County and Egg Harbor Township to see if they could find an alternative to the Betsy Scull site/PAL property. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- *Cell Tower Issue in Estell Manor:* John Brudon provided updated information on the AT&T communication tower that was proposed for Estell Manor along Route 50 within the ¼ mile federal boundary. AT&T is exploring the option to work with Sprint to co-locate along the approved site at a landfill in the City. John will continue to track this issue to make sure that there is no additional need for input from either the National Park Service or River Council.

#### ***Personnel Evaluation Committee***

Dick Colby suggested that the evaluation of the River Administrator be postponed. The subcommittee will meet with Rick Coe and Mary Vavra prior to the GEHWA meeting on 4/22.

#### ***River Administrator's Report***

- *Signage:* Fred Akers updated the group on signage responsibilities. The State and Atlantic County would like to have a letter from the River Council with as much information as possible on proposed sign locations for their review. Fred suggested drawing up mini site plans and submitting them to both the State and County. Fred will coordinate with each River Council member to determine the best locations for the signs and then submit a sample of the sign to the County. Fred will work with the County to determine their willingness to install the signs.
- *Meeting with Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service* – Fred and Julie Akers went to Washington, DC with other river representatives throughout the Northeast Region to promote the funding of the partnership river program with Director Mainella. Fred stated that the meeting with Director Mainella was beneficial in that it provided her with information on the activities and issues occurring within each river corridor.
- *Water Quality* – Fred Akers has been promoting water quality in the river corridor and will continue to work with NJDEP and the Pinelands Commission on this issue.
- *Hamilton Township* – Members of the River Council and GEHWA spoke before the Town Committee on the pending ordinance regulating commercial liveries. The Township is in the process of deciding on the best approach to resolving the overuse issue.
- *Osprey Platforms* - Fred reported that he dropped off two osprey platforms at English Creek Marina. Fred is looking for volunteers to help install the platforms.
- *Stormwater Management* - Fred discussed the stormwater management requirements by NJDEP and stated that Folsom Borough received a grant from NJDEP to assist them in their stormwater management efforts.

#### ***GEHWA Activities***

Julie Akers updated members on activities of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. GEHWA has undertaken several educational and research initiatives and will be moving forward on updating the web page.

## **New Business**

**Thomas Byrd Permit** - Mary Vavra provided an overview of the Public Notice received from the US Army Corps of Engineers for Mr. Byrd's property in Egg Harbor Township. The Public Notice stated that the purpose of the permit application was to: legalize the enlargement and stabilization of a 1,200 foot roadway that existed in 1972 but reverted to wetlands prior to being re-filled and widened in the mid-to-late 1990s; to legalize a beach created in wetlands; to legalize a pond in wetlands; to legalize a small fixed wooden dock over wetlands and to construct a 109' dock in the river. This property is located within the scenic section of the Great Egg Harbor River. Mrs. Byrd provided information about the property and supplemented the claims contained in the USCOE's Public Notice. A discussion about the application ensued. A motion was made by Marc Thyrring suggesting that the River Council not respond to the Public Notice. This motion was seconded by John Brudon. **Roll Call Vote:** Julie Akers - No; Bill Christman - No; Dick Colby - No; Bill Egan - yes; Greg Gregory - No; Andrew Mair - No; John Brudon - Yes; Joel Spiegel - No; Marc Thyrring - yes; Bill McDermott - abstain. Motion failed 3:6:1.

Julie Akers made a motion to write a letter to the USCOE from the River Council noting the fact that the Byrd family came to the meeting to provide additional information that disputes some claims in the Public Notice. The Byrd family stated that the information they provided was true and accurate. Bill Egan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Creed made a motion recommending that Fred contact the USCOE to request additional time to comment. Fred will then organize a special meeting at the applicant's site. The meeting will be advertised as necessary. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Reappointment subcommittee** - The need to reappoint River Council subcommittees, including a Project Review subcommittee, will be an agenda item for the May meeting of the River Council.

River Council meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM