

Meeting Called to Order: 7:06pm

Attendees:

Staff: Greg Brookins, George McDonnell.

Board Members Present: Co-Chairmen Steve Fiedler and Alex Perri, members Emma Witt, Joe Ambrose, Dan Crum, Dick Colby.

Board Members Absent: Lisa March, Belinda Chester, Velevia Bush

Commissioner Representative: Andrew Parker -absent

Guest Speaker: Fred Akers, Operations Manager of the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association.

Public Guest Attendees: Barbara Fiedler, Lee Ann Campbell, Mike Celestino, Steve Jasiocki.

Old Business: None

Guest Speaker:

Fred Akers Operations Manager for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association presented the story of the Egg Harbor River becoming a Wild and Scenic River under the National parks Service and the role of the Great Harbor Watershed Association and the role of local municipalities in the management of the river.

- The purpose of the National Wild and Scenic River (NWSR) was to protect the remaining free flowing rivers in the US.
- Defined what a watershed is, and the effect land use has on a watershed
- Provided a timeline that led to the creation of the Pine Barrens National Reserve and the Egg Harbor River becoming designated as a Wild and Scenic River.
 - 1971 NJ had a problem with trash and its landfills. NJ had 115 Superfund sites.
 - 1975 all counties had to deal with their own trash and develop a waste management plan to prevent out of state trash entering our landfills.
 - 1978 Congress created the Pinelands National Reserve
 - NJ did not want the Federal Government to run the Pinelands Reserve.
 - NJ created the Pinelands Commission to manage development.
 - 1990 Landfills were prohibited in the Pinelands, and all existing landfills were closed.
 - 1985 focus on the Egg Harbor River began.
 - Atlantic County began buying property along the river to protect the river.
 - The Egg Harbor River was the first river designated on non-Federal land.
 - A study was conducted by the National Park Service to determine if the river was eligible for Wild and Scenic River status.

- 1990 The Great Egg Harbor Watershed was incorporated.
 - Tasked with management of the river.
- 1992 The Egg Harbor River received its designation as a Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service
 - This was the first Tidal estuary river to receive this designation.
 - New Jersey now has 4 rivers which have received the Wild and Scenic River designation.
- Discussion following presentation.
 - Warren Fox played a key role in getting the Egg Harbor River designated.
 - A question on how Lake Lenape fits into the picture.
 - Fred said that Lake Lenape is not part of the Wild and Scenic designation because of the dam.
 - The entire river does not need to be free flowing to receive the designation.
 - Discussion on working with Congress to gain support for designating the Egg Harbor River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Video presentation from the Sustainable Green Margate Team

- The video focused on micro plastics entering the environment through construction practices.
 - Margate created an ordinance for the collection and containment of micro plastics at the job site and the proper disposal.
 - The harmful impact on human health.
 - Explaining how micro plastics not properly contained at the job site easily enter oceans and how the dust particles are spread through the air.
 - Other municipalities along our shores are adopting similar ordinances.

Round Table

- Presentation on the heat island effect in Egg Harbor City by Dick Colby
 - The goal of this project is to obtain street trees in areas with the highest temperatures in the study.
 - A community solar project is now in the hands of a private company
- Coastal Coalition
 - There is coastal storm flooding software available for municipalities.

Health Department

- 1 confirmed case of West Nile Virus in the county
- There were no ocean beach closures in Atlantic County this summer.

Alex Perri

- Started certification with the Morris Arboretum.
- Discussed the possibility of planting flowers and trees along the bike path in Northfield area.

Barbara Fiedler

- The Galloway Green team is hosting their 2nd annual Seed Trade event on 10/25/25 from 9-12 at the Galloway Library.
- They will focus on native seeds.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, at 7PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Richard Dase, Chairman - Board of County Commissioners
Andrew Parker, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members