

Responsibility & Authority

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. was unique in the world of river conservation and management when established in 1988 because it represented a formal partnership of local, state, and federal governments and agencies which have joined together to manage the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a true national treasure.

The Council's existence evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation which designated the Upper Delaware River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and called for development of a management plan and a program providing for the coordinated implementation and administration of the plan. To that end, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) was formed in 1988.

What sets this River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the resources on their own private property, as opposed to federal ownership of the land in the river corridor. The Council membership operates under a long-term cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

The UDC is classified as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). It is incorporated in the Commonwealth of PA and registered to do business in NYS as well. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



A partnership for land, water, and people working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River in New York and Pennsylvania

On the cover: A bald eagle leaves its nest to take flight over the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley. The annual mid-winter count of eagles conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in January 2006 tallied 93 eagles along the main stem of the Delaware River from Port Jervis to Hancock during the survey period. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

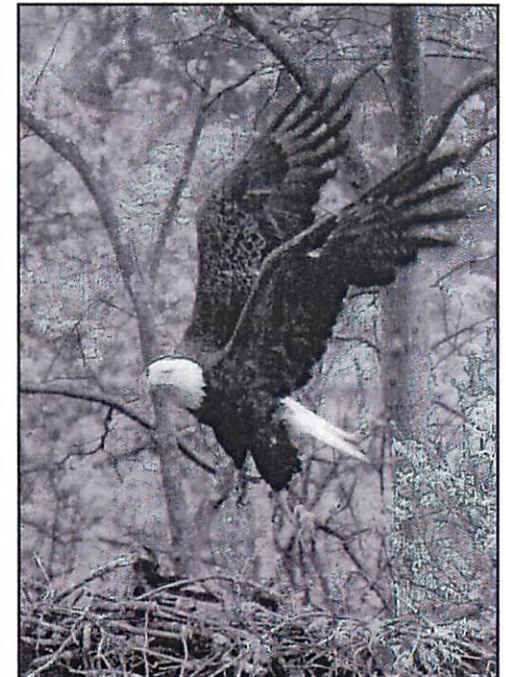
Upper Delaware Council
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192
Phone: (845) 252-3022
Fax: (845) 252-3359

E-mail (user names as noted below):
Executive Director: [udcdouglass](mailto:udcdouglass@hvc.rr.com)
Sr. Resource Specialist: [udcsoete](mailto:udcsoete@hvc.rr.com)
Public Relations: [udcramie](mailto:udcramie@hvc.rr.com)
Office Manager: [udcconey](mailto:udcconey@hvc.rr.com)
@hvc.rr.com

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Upper Delaware Council

Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2006

October 1, 2005 to
September 30, 2006

The View From the Chair ...

Charles Wieland
2006 Chairperson
Town of Tusten, NY



I feel good about completing a second term as chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council. We dealt with floods, fish, and electric lines, and are not finished. This is what we do. However, before the dinosaurs are gone, I should remind everyone where we came from.

My start with the river situation was in the 1970's when I had many debates as a business owner. When I joined the Tusten Town Board in '84, I was appointed alternate to the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) to work with the supervisor. Knowing the importance of the situation, I attended every meeting starting in Fosterdale, then to the Cohecton Town Hall, to come up with a plan. For some reason, there is no record of it, but I was there.

Through those years I became friends with the National Park Service (NPS) representative, Mike Gordon, and with Chuck Hoffman, the facilitator who kept track of things. After the meetings, we had many discussions over pizza because we all cared about the outcome. The plan arrived at by COUP caused the dissenters to increase their activity and resulted in the Revision Committee which met at the Tusten Town Hall and received verbal and written comments galore. Through the magic of Chuck Hoffman's listing of the comments, we addressed every one and this resulted in the final River Management Plan.

Then came the Upper Delaware Council, which had its growing pains in the early years but has become a very well-run Council. An important part of the success has to be given to John Hutzky, Cal Hite, and Dave Forney, NPS superintendents who showed sensitivity for the landowners, businesses and towns as they completed their official duties. I am sure that Mike and Chuck are as proud as I am of the outcome of all those meetings and discussions.

The Upper Delaware Council was pretty much what we had in mind.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Upper Delaware Council Staff

Full-time Employees:

Executive Director.....William E. Douglass
Senior Resource Specialist.....David B. Soete
Public Relations/Fundraising.....Laurie Ramie
Office Manager.....Carol Coney

Contractors:

Bookkeeper.....William McAllister, CPA
Auditors.....Eckersley & Ostrowski, CPAs
Attorney.....John J. Keating, Esq.

UDC Activity Highlights in FY 2006

10/3/05 - Accepts designation by NYS Senator John J. Bonacic to administer his FY 2005-2006 Community Projects State Grant program benefiting the UDC's eight New York member towns (\$60,000) and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (\$65,000).

10/13/05 - After a New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway freight train derailed near Parkers Glen in Shohola Township, requests a thorough investigation by the Federal Railroad Administration, and appeals to the railroad company to update the UDC's 1997 "Emergency Response Guide for the Upper Delaware River Valley" and offer safety training.

11/17/05 - Initiates the Substantial Conformance Review for the Town of Hancock to check the Town's land use regulations and codes against the guidelines of the River Management Plan.

12/23/05 - Outlines proposed allocations for \$100,000 state appropriations in letters sent to NY and PA elected representatives noting the River Management Plan's intended 60%-40% federal-state cost sharing ratio to fund UDC operations.

2/2/06 - Supports a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposed regulation change that would extend the open season for trout from Sept. 30 to Oct. 15 on the Main Stem and West Branch of the Delaware River, barring any adverse impact on the fall spawning of wild brown trout in the tributaries.

3/10/06 - Receives 30,000 updated "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" brochures.

3/30/06 - Learns of a proposal by a private company, New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI), to file an application by 5/31/06 with the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a \$1.62 billion High-Voltage Direct Current electric transmission line running 190 miles between Marcy and Rock Tavern, with a nominated route and alternate route that would both pass through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor. Subsequent UDC activities include: attending numerous NYRI informational meetings, strategy sessions with opposition groups, formal Senate and Assembly committee hearings, and briefings with state and federal elected officials; filing with PSC for active party status; disseminating research findings; and accepting at-large membership on the eight-

county Communities Against Regional Interconnect steering committee.
4/6/06 - Requested an expansion of the NYS DEC's spill reduction program to include New York City's Cannonsville Reservoir as a means to help reduce flooding potential during exceptionally wet periods.

4/10/06 - Expressed to the U.S. Department of Energy strong objections to NYRI's 3/6/06 request for early designation of a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) that would include the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a perceived action to supersede state authority over the power line application.

4/21-30/06 - Promoted the 11th Annual Water Snapshot by distributing water quality sampling test kits and data sheets for the basin-wide event.

4/30/06 - Welcomed 125 guests to the 18th Annual Awards Ceremony.

5/4/06 - Approved a resolution formally opposing the NYRI power line project and any NIETC designation for its proposed route as a "clear and direct threat" to the river corridor, in violation of the 1986 River Management Plan and the 1978 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

5/11/06 - Participated in a press conference by Senator Bonacic to announce his securing of a \$50,000 state grant for the UDC to study and review the impact of the NYRI project.

6/18-19/06 - Co-sponsored the first two days of paddling and programs for the 2006 Delaware River Sojourn: "A Long Drink of Water."

6/27-28/06 - Monitored mitigation efforts and supported recommendations to reduce flood vulnerability following the third, record-setting flood to devastate the Delaware River Valley in a 22-month period.

7/20/06 - Attended the annual meeting of the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting in Binghamton to review inspection reports, hear about capital plans, and provide input.

8/6/06 - Sponsored the 18th Annual Family Raft Trip from Skinners Falls to Ten Mile River Landing with 163 participants.

8/17/06 - Testified before members of the NYS Assembly's Standing Committee on Energy in opposition to the NYRI proposal.

9/7/06 - Awarded seven Technical Assistance Grants totaling \$25,000.

Ongoing - Issued comments on development projects, land use ordinances, and regulation amendments impacting the river valley.

Statement of Fund Balances

	Year Ending 9/30/06	Year Ending 9/30/05
REVENUES		
NPS Cooperative Agreement	\$300,000	\$300,000
Restricted Grants	60,000	40,000
Contributions	3,200	2,050
Interest Income	6,355	3,764
Other Income	100	0
Total Revenues	\$369,655	\$345,814
EXPENSES		
Personnel	\$221,572	\$226,980
Special Projects/Program Services	109,955	91,393
Operations	62,816	57,371
Interest Refund-NPS	2,090	1,280
Total Expenses	\$396,433	\$377,024
Change in Net Assets	(26,778)	(31,210)
TRANSFER		
Capital Expenditures	\$4,478	0
Capital Expenditures Capitalized	\$4,478	0
Change in Net Assets	(26,778)	(31,210)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$158,007	\$189,217
Net Assets - End of Year	\$131,229	\$158,007

UDC Membership (as of Sept. 30, 2006)

2006 Officers: Chairperson Charles Wieland; Vice-Chair Alan Bowers; Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot

MEMBER

Town of Hancock
 Town of Fremont
 Town of Delaware
 Town of Cochection
 Town of Tusten
 Town of Highland
 Town of Lumberland
 Town of Deerpark
 Lackawaxen Township
 Shohola Township
 Westfall Township
 State of New York
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Delaware River Basin Commission
 National Park Service (partner)

REPRESENTATIVE / ALTERNATE(S)

F. Gerald Mackin / vacant
 John B. Niflot / Jim Rodgers
 Harold G. Roeder, Jr. / Eric J. Nystrom
 Larry H. Richardson / John Reggero
 Charles Wieland / Ben Johnson
 Lew Schmalzle / Stephen Barnes, 1st Alt. / Robert Burrow, 2nd
 Nadia Rajsz / John LiGreci
 Philip D. Chase / Melvin Decker
 John S. McKay / Brian Stuart
 Nelia Wall / George J. Fluhr
 Alan Bowers / George R. Jerus
 William J. Rudge / vacant
 Dennis DeMara / vacant
 Carol R. Collier / vacant
 Mary A. Bomar / David C. Forney

FY 2006 Changes: In the Town of Highland, Stephen Barnes replaced Allan Schadt as UDC 1st alternate as of January 2006. Shohola Township elevated former Alternate Nelia Wall to serve as UDC representative in January 2006, replacing Bruce Selneck. Former State of New York UDC Alternate Wayne Elliot retired on April 28, 2006.

FY 2006 Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES (Cash Basis)

NPS Cooperative Agreement.....	\$300,000
Restricted Grants.....	60,000
Contributions.....	3,200
Interest Income.....	6,355
Other Income.....	100
Total Revenues	\$369,655

EXPENDITURES (Functional Allocations)

	Personnel	Special Projects/Program Services	Operations	GPRA Reallocation	Capital Expenditures	Total
Public Affairs	48,428	19,983	13,757	21,130	0	103,298
Water Use/Resource Management	62,953	5,887	17,840	22,258	0	108,938
Project Review	47,406	4,436	13,443	16,833	0	82,118
Technical Assistance Grants	7,556	24,489	2,136	8,804	0	42,985
Substantial Conformance	291	21	63	70	0	445
Fundraising	515	41	126	141	0	823
Administration	51,137	4,787	14,509	(70,433)	0	0
Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0	4,478	4,478
Grant Administration	3,286	311	942	1,197	0	5,736
Combined Total	221,572	59,955	62,816	0	4,478	\$348,821

Technical Assistance Grants

Since 1988, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded \$584,292 in Technical Assistance Grants funding for 165 projects by member towns and townships or their counties. Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) are available for research, planning, and studies. The UDC approved seven grants totaling \$25,000 on Sept. 7, 2006, as follows:

Town of Fremont, NY - \$5,000 to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan to outline parameters for future town growth and conservation.

Shohola Township and Lackawaxen Township, PA (individually) - \$5,000 each to implement an automated municipal permit tracking system that will be cross-linked with Pike County's ArInfo database programs through the county's new Community Planning Initiative.

Town of Tusten, NY - \$4,100 to network town offices through a central server to improve accessibility of information by the Records Management Officer, and to purchase Integrated Property System software for use by the Building and Code Enforcement Department.

Town of Cochecton, NY - \$2,250 to create an Emergency Master Plan that will guide the actions of municipal officials, volunteer organizations, and others during any disasters in the Town of Cochecton.

County of Pike, PA - \$1,900 to publish a map/brochure describing and depicting the benefits of best planning practices as a means to promote the implementation of Pike County's updated Comprehensive Plan and its Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan.

Town of Lumberland NY - \$1,750 to establish a water quality monitoring program for 32 tributary streams in the Town and compilation of a baseline database by the Environmental Management Council.

2006 Annual Awards Ceremony

The Upper Delaware Council's 18th Annual Awards Ceremony was held on April 30, 2006 at Flo-Jean Restaurant in Port Jervis with 125 guests in attendance. U.S. Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly (NY-19th District) served as keynote speaker. Awards were presented in the following categories to:

Distinguished Service Award.....**Wayne Elliot**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 3 Fisheries Manager and UDC Alternate Representative, retired
Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Awards (2)...**Rangers Vince Pareago and Kevin Reish**, National Park Service (Aug. 14, 2005 rescue); **Charles Hallock, Jr. and John Von Steenburgh**, Highland Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. (Oct. 13, 2005 rescue)
Outstanding Community Achievement Award.....**Town of Deerpark, NY**
Partnership Award.....**Japanese Knotweed Initiative**
Volunteer Award.....**National Canoe Safety Patrol**
Recreation Achievement Award.....**Town of Lumberland Circle Park**
Cultural Achievement Award.....**Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance**
Community Service Awards (2).....**Allan Schadt**, former Town of Highland supervisor; **Charles E. Knapp**, former Town of Tusten councilman
Special Recognition Award.....**Debra J. Reimer and Linda Slocum**, Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance
Oaken Gavel Award.....**John S. McKay**, 2005 UDC Chairperson, Lackawaxen Township, PA

Upper Delaware Council Objectives for Fiscal Year 2007

- ◆ Continue fact-finding and opposition efforts against New York Regional Interconnect, Inc.'s proposed development of a High-Voltage, Direct Current electrical transmission line that would cross the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.
- ◆ Develop the next Five-Year Operating Program for FY 2008-2012 by 10/1/07.
- ◆ Assess the outcome of New York State's Three-Year Interim Fishery Management Program, as approved by the Delaware River Basin Commission for experimental conservation releases from the three New York City Delaware River Basin reservoirs, that is due to expire on 5/31/07, and comment appropriately.
- ◆ Seek operational funding contributions from New York State and Pennsylvania.
- ◆ Co-sponsor a conference to raise awareness of the diverse uses of the Delaware River, and advocate for a better balance of flows and releases.
- ◆ Complete by 8/31/07 administration of the FY 2005-06 Community Projects State Grants secured by Sen. John Bonacic for the UDC's eight NYS town members.
- ◆ Serve on the planning team for the proposed NPS Mongaup Interpretive Center.

- ◆ Monitor the status of the Upper Delaware River Greenway legislation and determine the UDC's potential role in its implementation.
- ◆ Finalize the Town of Hancock's Substantial Conformance Review.
- ◆ Maintain vigilance in reviewing local projects, ordinances, variances, and zoning appeals, as well as federal and state permit and license applications, to determine any potentially adverse environmental impacts on the river corridor.
- ◆ Regularly inform local, state, and federal legislators about Upper Delaware issues through the UDC's Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee and staff efforts.
- ◆ Work with the states and National Park Service to develop new public accesses, fishing accesses, and river rest stops at appropriate locations, such as at the Barryville-Shohola and Pond Eddy bridge crossings, in accordance with the Management Plan.
- ◆ Encourage the four non-participating Wayne County townships to join the UDC.
- ◆ Provide staff support to the non-profit Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.
- ◆ Utilize publication of "The Upper Delaware" quarterly newsletter as an educational outreach tool to its approximately 11,000 subscribers and readers.