



Upper Delaware Council

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Upper Delaware Council Cooperative Agreement #P20AC00940 Fiscal Year 2022 Performance Progress Report

Project Title: **Collaborative Management through Implementation of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan**
 Reporting Period: **10/01/2021 to 9/30/2022**
 Date Submitted to NPS: **December 28, 2022**

Upper Delaware Council Representatives and Alternates as of 9/30/22:

<i>Municipality/Partner</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Town of Hancock, NY	Fred Peckham	Timothy Newman
Town of Fremont, NY	James A. Greier	Pamela Reinhardt
Town of Delaware, NY	Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (appointed 3/10/22 to succeed Thomas Dent, who served through 11/10/21)	Vacant; previously Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
Town of Cohecton, NY	Larry H. Richardson	Sean Nearing
Town of Tusten, NY	Susan Sullivan	Evan Padua
Town of Highland, NY	Andy Boyar (appointed 1/1/22 to succeed James Gutekunst, who served through 12/31/21)	Vacant; previously Andy Boyar
Town of Lumberland, NY	Nadia Rajsiz	Frank Guzman (appointed 5/11/22); previously Vacant
Town of Deerpark, NY	Virginia Dudko (appointed 1/1/22 to succeed David Dean, who served through 12/31/21)	William Dudko (appointed 1/1/22); previously Virginia Dudko
Damascus Township, PA	Jeffrey R. Dexter	Steve Adams, Joseph Canfield, and Scott Rutledge (appointed 1/1/22 to succeed Dan Rutledge)
Berlin Township, PA	Alan Henry	Paul Henry
Lackawaxen Township, PA	Doug Case	Vacant; previously Judy Kuhn Conklin through 12/31/21
Shohola Township, PA	Aaron Robinson	1 st – Roger Saumure 2 nd – Patricia Jeffer
Westfall Township, PA	Michael Barth	Vacant
State of New York	Vacant; previously William J. Rudge, Natural Resources Supervisor, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	Vacant

Working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

*Town of Hancock • Town of Fremont • Town of Delaware • Town of Cohecton • Town of Tusten • Town of Highland • Town of Lumberland
 Town of Deerpark • Damascus Township • Berlin Township • Lackawaxen Township • Shohola Township • Westfall Township
 State of New York • Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Delaware River Basin Commission • In partnership with the National Park Service*

	Region 3 (through 2/25/22)	
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Timothy Dugan, Delaware State Forest District Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)	Christine Dettore, Regional Advisor, PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation
Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting)	Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director	Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Deputy Executive Director
National Park Service (non-voting partner)	Gay Vietzke, Regional Director, NPS Region 1	Vacant; Joseph A. Salvatore, Upper Delaware S&RR Superintendent (deceased on 7/27/22)

Officers: The Election of Officers for the 2022 calendar year took place by electronic balloting at the January 6, 2022 UDC Annual Meeting, with **Andy Boyar** (Town of Highland) elected as Chairperson; **Aaron Robinson** (Shohola Township) as Vice-Chairperson; and **Alan Henry** (Berlin Township) as Secretary-Treasurer. Town of Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas administered the symbolic oaths of office at a swearing-in ceremony on March 3, 2022, when the UDC resumed in-person meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. The new executive slate succeeded as 2021 officers: Chairperson Jeffrey Dexter (Damascus); Vice-Chairperson Susan Sullivan (Tusten); and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Henry (Berlin).

UDC Staff: The UDC employed three full-time professional staff in Fiscal Year 2022 to carry out the directives and policies set by the UDC board whose members are appointed by their municipalities or agencies. Effective on 9/30/22, the positions were held by Executive Director Laurie Ramie (hired 4/21/1997); Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt, P.E. (hired 11/22/21 to succeed Shannon Cilento, whose work term was 7/15/20-10/15/21); and UDC Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas (hired 10/15/2018).

Cooperative Agreement Task 1: Review, coordinate, and provide direction for all aspects of implementation of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan, consistent with the functions and responsibilities of the UDC described in the Plan.

Financial Administration

- The Upper Delaware Council’s Operations Committee oversees financial administration, including the budget, accounting, reporting system, and insurance issues, meeting every 4th Tuesday of each month to review expenditures, approve payments summarized on an abstract of bills, receive a monthly and year-to-date financial statement, and assure compliance with all federal, state, and agency filing and reporting requirements. The UDC maintains policies for General Commercial Liability which names the National Park Service as an additional insured; Directors & Officers Liability through Travelers Casualty Insurance; Workers’ Compensation through the New York State Insurance Fund; State Disability Insurance through ShelterPoint, brokered through Mike Preis Insurance Agency, Inc. of Jeffersonville, NY; and health insurances for its employees, including medical (MVP Health Care), dental (United Concordia) and vision (VSP).

- The Executive Director oversees the development of semi-quarterly, quarterly or annual budgets as requested by the National Park Service for SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance packages and Cooperative Agreement modifications, and electronically applies each month to the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system to draw down federal funds allocated through the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service for reimbursement of the UDC's federal expenditures.
- The UDC executes independent contracts for bookkeeping services (Beck, Gogolski & Co., CPAs, Honesdale, PA); payroll preparation (Sentinel Payroll Solutions, Honesdale, PA); and fiscal year financial audits, federal, and state tax filings (Eckersley & Davis LLP, CPAs, Scranton, PA).
- The Fiscal Year 2021 Independent Accountants Financial Review Report, along with federal IRS Form 990, New York State tax filing and Charities Bureau Form 500, were presented to the UDC Operations Committee on 11/23/2021, reviewed, and finalized on 3/22/22. A contract to conduct a full audit for Fiscal Year 2022, as performed every three years, was approved with Eckersley & Davis LLP on 1/6/22 via Resolution 2022-01.
- An advertisement was placed in three newspapers starting 7/20/22 to seek a legal services consultant on an independent contractor, as-needed basis to fill the vacancy created by the death of former UDC attorney Jeffrey Clemente. A quote of \$200/hour with an explanation of service provided by Jason R. Ohliger of Zimmerman-Ohliger, Milford, PA, was reviewed and approved on 8/12/22.
- The UDC documents attendance by its town and township representatives and alternates through sign-in logs cross-referenced with approved minutes at regular and special meetings of the full Council and its three standing committees (Water Use/Resource Management, Project Review, and Operations) to provide remuneration at \$35.00 per meeting and home-to-UDC office mileage reimbursement at the IRS-established standard rate for in-person meetings as per the organizational bylaws and the UDC Representative Participation Reimbursement Policy.
- Grant programs administered by the UDC during Fiscal Year 2022 included: Technical Assistance Grants (see Cooperative Agreement Task #6 section), River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants (Resolution 2022-05 approved on 5/5/22 based on proposals submitted by the Town of Deerpark and the Town of Lumberland with actual expenses by the 9/21/22 project completion deadline of \$4,356.29, bringing the cumulative amount awarded since 2014 to \$41,363), and completion of Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development (DCED) Initiatives Program Grant Contract # C000073340, July 1, 2019-December 31, 2021 for which the UDC submitted its close-out report and project audit from Eckersley and Davis LLP on 4/21/22. The "Upper Delaware Council Townships, Technology and Sustainability" grant allocated its \$100,000.00 award as follows: Subcontracted Improvement Projects by the Five UDC Member Townships (\$72,123.09); Upper Delaware Council Fiscal Sustainability Plan (\$10,678.47); Technology and Public Presentation Upgrade (\$7,198.44); Upper Delaware Litter Clean-up Coordinator (\$3,000); and Government Project Audit Fee (\$7,000). Note: no federal funds were applied to this state grant secured for the UDC by PA Representatives Jonathan Fritz-111th District, Mike Peifer-139th District, and Senator Lisa Baker-20th District.

- The UDC continued to pursue the 40% cost-share ratio by the State of New York and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for UDC operational aid as anticipated in the Cost and Phasing section of the 1986 *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*. Outreach to elected officials included: a 10/4/21 UDC on-site meeting with Thomas Caffrey, regional director for the Northeast Office of PA Governor Tom Wolf; a 1/25/22 letter to appointed NYS Governor Kathy Hochul outlining the situation; distribution of updated State Operational Funding Briefing Reports and fact sheets to Executive Branch officials and state-level legislators in PA and NY; a 3/11/22 appreciation letter to NYS Senator Mike Martucci (42nd District) for his 3/7/22 correspondence to the State leadership stating that “without the appropriated \$100,000 budget line, the valuable work of the Council is threatened”; and a 6/17/22 speech by Chairperson Andy Boyar during a press conference by Friends of the Upper Delaware River with NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (100th District) celebrating a \$300,000 line item addition in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund for the Upper Delaware River Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. On 3/23/22, the UDC provided sample resolutions of support seeking to establish permanent NYS and PA budget lines for Council operational funding. All 13 local government member municipalities approved the resolutions, which were sent by certified mail to Governors Hochul and Wolf on 6/6 for their consideration. The Sullivan County Legislature provided a resolution of support on 7/8/22. Interviews were granted for a publicity campaign which led to articles including “UDC is on the Cusp of Financial Atrophy” by Delaware Currents published on 3/15/22 and “Upper Delaware Council to PA, NY Governors: Meet Your Funding Obligations” by the Tri-County Independent on 6/15/22. National Parks Conservation Association Delaware River Program Manager Sharon Davis met with UDC staff on 12/15 to pledge support for the state funding campaign through ongoing efforts.
- The static nature of the UDC’s 60% federal cost-share through its Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service since 1988 was addressed in a 2/22/22 meeting with presumptive U.S. Congress candidate, Rep. Mondaire Jones (NY-17th District) prior to a redistricting change and with PA 8th District Congressman Matt Cartwright’s Director of Economic Development Dr. April Niver on 8/24/22; a series of letters on 3/3/22 regarding “Administration of River Management Plan Threatened by Funding Crisis” which referenced the UDC’s fiscal sustainability report results directed to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the river valley’s Congressional delegation, and NY-PA elected leaders; and ongoing correspondence with federal elected officials to inform them of the lack of any allocation adjustments or inflationary increases over a 34-year period, absent of any lobbying.

- “Building a Sustainable Business Model for the Upper Delaware Council”, an in-depth report prepared by environmental economist Michael Crane, was formally presented to the UDC board on 12/2/21 after the UDC had retained Crane Associates Inc. of Burlington, VT under a \$17,930 contract (offset by the \$10,678.47 allocation from the PA DCED grant) on 7/1/21. The consultant quantified that if it had been adjusted for inflation, the \$300,000 federal share of UDC funding would be worth \$717,000 today but instead shrunk to the equivalent of \$123,458. The report projects that the UDC will be forced to eliminate another full-time position within 7-8 years if significant actions aren’t taken to increase revenue. The six-month independent analysis offers an explanation of impacts, and makes recommendations for potential savings, external funding sources, and mitigation of “operational dissonance” through structural reorganization. The UDC board met in a Saturday workshop format on 2/5/22 to focus on the recommendations, which have been incorporated into ongoing discussions by the relevant committees.

Reporting

- The UDC prepared Fiscal Year 2022 SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance packages for funding advances if available or various allocation periods with budget files, narrative reports, work plans, and additional required documents for Fiscal Year 2022 as follows: 1st Quarter, 10/1/21-12/31/21 submitted 4/14/21 for \$75,000; 2nd Quarter, 1/1-3/31/22 submitted 12/22/21 for \$75,000; and 3rd & 4th Quarters, 4/1-9/30/22 submitted on 4/5/22 for \$150,000. The applications are provided for National Park Service review and approval at the park unit and Region 1 levels through the Grant Solutions online federal financial award management system.
- The UDC’s Federal Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2021 (10/1/20-9/30/21) was uploaded for the National Park Service through Grant Solutions on 12/10/21, while a 24-page FY 2021 Performance Progress Report was submitted on 12/28/21 for approval. The deadlines for the two Fiscal Year 2022 annual reports are 12/29/22.
- Implementation of the areas of focus and tasks outlined in the latest UDC Five-Year Operating Program covering October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025 which had been adopted on 1/7/21 (pandemic delay to convene for strategic planning) continues.
- The UDC publishes advance notice of all its Council and committee meetings on a pre-planned schedule in the form of news releases submitted to the NY and PA newspapers serving the Upper Delaware River Valley, and via online postings including the UDC website and social media. All regular UDC meetings are open to a general audience, with public comment opportunities provided on each agenda.

Personnel and Training

- Under the directive to maintain adequate personnel levels sufficient to perform productively and carry out requirements of the NPS Cooperative Agreement, the UDC workload description for its current three full-time staff members includes, but is not limited to: Executive Director – responsible for the non-profit organization’s administration, implementation of River Management Plan objectives, intergovernmental relations, grant program oversight, strategic planning, personnel supervision, budgeting, financial reporting, monthly activity reporting, contract management, monitoring of resource management issues, drafting documents, fundraising, special events planning including the annual awards ceremony, and public outreach including written communications and serving as editor of the tri-annual newsletter; Resources and Land Use Specialist – provides the primary technical support and coordination on land and resource management activities, performing reviews regarding the substantial conformance of developments, zoning changes, and proposals with the Land and Water Use Guidelines, preparing draft comments and monthly reports, monitoring activities with potential impacts on the river corridor’s resources, and managing the Technical Assistance Grants program; and Secretary – provides a wide range of office administrative and clerical support, including meeting preparations, taking minutes, receptionist duties, managing records and databases, stocking supplies, maintaining equipment, and coordinating the annual raft trip. All staff engage in responding to information requests from the Council membership, public education through such means as festival attendance and social media, website and literature maintenance, and serving as working members of relevant external committees and complementary mission organizations.
- A vacancy in the Resources and Land Use Specialist position occurred with the resignation of Shannon Cilento who had held the position from 7/15/20 to 10/15/21. Following an advertised search process and contracting for interim Project Review and Substantial Conformance Services with Shepstone Management Co., the UDC hired Kerry Engelhardt, P.E. of Lackawaxen Township, PA on 11/22/21. A positive six-month probationary period ended with a 6/2/22 resolution granting permanent employee status to Ms. Engelhardt, who also fulfilled the terms of a Training Agreement.
- A Personnel Subcommittee oversees annual job performance appraisals, handles any complaints or inquiries regarding employment, conducts interviews and makes recommendations in the event of vacancies, and monitors adherence to the Upper Delaware Council Inc. Employment Practices and Staff Code of Conduct Policy.
- The staff convenes regular 3rd Monday monthly team meetings to review calendar entries of meetings, activities, and deadlines; develop the agendas for the four monthly meetings; and discuss issues. Meeting preparations include copying, collating and scanning reports and handouts to distribute meeting packets to all members. After each Council and committee meeting, the Executive Director distributes a Summary of Action Items with assigned responsibilities for staff or UDC membership. Minutes are drafted, approved, and distributed after every meeting.

- In compliance with New York State Department of Labor requirements for employers, the UDC reaffirmed its Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy by a 1/6/22 resolution and participated in a video training session on 2/3/22 for all staff and board members. The UDC also requires completion of Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements by its voting members each calendar year.
- UDC representative and alternate appointments are confirmed annually as well as noting any interim changes to enable updates to written and electronic directories, distribution of orientation folders including the UDC Representative Participation Reimbursement Policy to outline expectations, the offer of training materials and foundational documents such as the River Management Plan and Project Review Workbook, and acknowledgement of service terms for departing delegates. Representatives and alternates are offered the opportunity to participate in relevant seminars and conferences.
- Under the goal of working with the National Park Service to help inform seasonal rangers, new employees, and volunteers about their role in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and orient them to the unique circumstances of the cooperative management approach, the UDC Executive Director was invited to make a presentation at the 5/9/22 orientation session for NPS seasonal staff and interns. The UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist and NPS Community and Land Use Planner share information and engage in collaborative project reviews when possible. The UDC secretary is a contributing member of the NPS Water Safety Committee to assist with fostering partnerships and public education.
- After the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River leadership vacancy created by the 7/27/22 passing of NPS Superintendent Joseph A. Salvatore who had entered on duty 12/20/20, the UDC worked with acting superintendents in-house and on detail to maintain the workflow and relations. The Council sent a 9/1 letter to National Park Service Director Chuck Sams describing optimum qualities for a permanent superintendent “to embrace the non-traditional federal-states-local joint management model.”

Educational Outreach

- The UDC crafted a new Public Outreach Statement that was adopted on 6/2/22, as follows: “The Upper Delaware Council was created and mandated in 1988 by an Act of Congress. It oversees a partnership of Federal, two States, and local governments to manage the 73.4-mile designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The UDC fills a vital role in the relationship between the National Park Service and the local communities, protecting home rule authority, safeguarding private property rights, and advising towns/townships on meeting the River Management Plan Land and Water Use Guidelines. The organization has been funded through a federal allocation, flat since its inception, with neither the State of New York nor the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contributing their shares. Despite the funding challenges, the UDC has fulfilled its core responsibilities set out in the federal legislation for the benefit of the approximately 250,000 visitors each year and all those fortunate enough to live in the Upper Delaware River Valley.”

- Power Point presentations and videos of recorded meetings are posted online when available for the benefit of absent UDC members, media, and the public. The UDC began regularly offering Zoom videoconferencing link options for those who need or prefer to participate remotely after the lifting of the coronavirus pandemic gathering restrictions. As of 9/20/22, the time for the monthly Water Use/Resource Management Committee meetings was advanced from 7:00 p.m. to a 6:30 p.m. start.
- To raise awareness of the need to protect the scenic, recreational, cultural, and natural qualities of the Upper Delaware, the UDC regularly distributes a Visitor Information Map & Guide and other brochures; participates in events to interact with the public (5/4 Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Literature Exchange, 5/21 Festival of the Founding Fish: 1st Annual Upper Delaware Shadfest; 6/16-18 Delaware River Sojourn; 7/16 NPS Zane Grey Festival, 7/24 Delaware Valley Arts Alliance Riverfest; and 7/29 Environmental Resources Fair for New Residents at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center); maintains an active website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org and social media presence through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Vimeo platforms; and responds to media requests such as a 1/11 interview for National Parks Traveler, 3/7 interview by Delaware Currents, and quotes requested for regional newspaper coverage or public radio station.
- “The Upper Delaware”, a 12-page newsletter composed and designed in-house by the UDC about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA, was issued during Fiscal Year 2022 on 12/6/21 (Fall/Winter), 4/4/22 (Spring), and 8/1/22 (Summer). The Council approved a contract on 9/2/21 with Courier Printing of Deposit, NY for printing, labeling, pre-sorting and mailing services for the 10,000-copy order, with bulk mail distribution through the Callicoon, NY Post Office. The secretary maintains the mailing database and each issue is also posted on the UDC website for online viewing. An index of articles and archives is maintained to utilize as a historic reference.

- When possible, the UDC arranges monthly informative presentations on topics relevant to the Upper Delaware River Valley to start each full Council meeting or occasionally its committees. Fiscal Year 2022 programs were: 10/7/21, “Highland River Access Update” by Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development; 11/16/21 at the Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting, “Conservation Initiatives and Funding Gaps: How the American Rescue Plan Act Can Help” by Kaylan Hubbard and Steve Schwartz, Delaware Highlands Conservancy; 12/2/21, “Northern Snakehead Invasive Fish Threat” by Daryl Pierce, PA Fish and Boat Commission; 1/6/22, “DRBC Microplastics Study” by Jacob Bransky, Delaware River Basin Commission; 2/3/22, “Crash Course in Workplace Sexual Harassment” training video by Michael P. Haynes; 3/3/22, “Status Update on Modernization of Decision Support System for Habitat Evaluations in the Upper Delaware” by John Yagecic, DRBC; 4/7/22, “Delaware Aqueduct Repair Shutdown Impacts” by Jeff Skelding, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.; 5/5/22, “The Founding Fish: American Shad on the Delaware River” by Don Hamilton, National Park Service UPDE, and “Upper Delaware Shadfest 2022” by John Pizzolato, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.; 6/2/22, “The History of the Lenape in the Upper Delaware River Valley” by Frank Salvati of Port Jervis, NY; 7/7/22, “Mission and Values of the National Canoe Safety Patrol” by NCPS Training Director Heather Cichowic; 8/4/22, “Sullivan County Wireless Broadband Network Initiative” by Sullivan County Broadband Local Development Corp. Chairman and Legislator Michael Brooks; and 9/1/22, “New York City Delaware Aqueduct Shutdown Postponement Considerations” by Jennifer Garigliano, NYC Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply.
- UDC staff serves on numerous liaison groups and steering committees to obtain and share informational resources including the National Park Service Water Safety Partners, Delaware River Sojourn, Delaware River Basin Commission’s Water Management Advisory Committee, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan for the Upper Delaware River Corridor, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Committee, Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership, Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership, and Local History Roundtable.
- The 34th Annual UDC Family Raft Trip held on 8/7/22 to promote stewardship of the Upper Delaware River through a recreational activity open to the public attracted 51 guests for a scenic five-mile float with Lander’s River Trips from Skinners Falls Campground to the Narrowsburg Access. The UDC charges the discounted group rate per person offered by the host livery with no profit or federal expense involved.

- The 34th Annual River Valley Awards sponsored by the UDC took place on 9/18/22 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA with 91 guests and a keynote address by U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-8). The 2022 recipients were: Distinguished Service Award – William J. Rudge (NYS DEC and UDC Representative-retired); Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award – Sam Macri, age 11, of Ramsey, NJ; Community Service Award – John Pizzolato of the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce; Cultural Achievement Award – Cochection Pump House owners David Lieber and Jin Zhang; Cultural Achievement Award – Juan and Carmen Rigal of the Nutshell Arts Center; Recreation Achievement Award – Corrine Hinton of Easton, PA for NPS UPDE water safety posters; Recreation Achievement Award – Dan Santoro of Hawley, PA for river and highway clean-ups in northeast PA; Volunteer Award – Cameron Forehand of Avondale, PA for NPS UPDE natural resource web pages; Special Recognition Award – Liam Mayo of the River Reporter; and Oaken Gavel Award – Jeffrey R. Dexter, 2021 UDC chairperson from Damascus Township. A commemorative program was produced in-house to pay tribute through illustrated narratives to the 10 honorees, which is posted online and shared through social media.
- In addition to subscribing to six newspapers, three conservation-oriented magazines, and numerous newsletters to scour for relevant articles, events, and legal notices, the UDC circulates information and grant opportunities to fellow conservation organizations, municipal members, and the public. Press releases issued by the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are posted under “Partner News” on the UDC website.

- The UDC issued the following news releases during Fiscal Year 2022, beyond its routine advance meeting date notices: “Two Towns Complete UDC 2021 River & Shoreline Clean-ups”, 10/7; “Upper Delaware Council Awards 2022 Technical Assistance Grant”, 10/26; “American Rescue Plan Act Conservation Funding Public Presentation at Nov. 16 UDC Meeting”, 11/5; “UDC Welcomes Kerry Engelhardt as Resources and Land Use Specialist”, 11/19; “UDC PA Grant Helps with Expanded Damascus Township Park Playground”, 12/17; “Upper Delaware Council Elects 2022 Officers”, 1/04; “Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge Purpose and Need Document” guest editorial for the River Reporter, 1/14; “Volunteers Needed for April 22-30 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep”, 1/19; “2022 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Shirt Sponsors Needed by March 18”, 2/17; “UDC Board Membership and 2022 Officer Oaths”, 3/7; “UDC Seeks Municipal Proposals for River & Shoreline Clean-ups”, 3/21; “The Upper Delaware Spring 2022 Newsletter Out”, 4/1; “37 Sponsors Support Litter Sweep; Clean-ups to Begin on April 22”, 4/13; “Reserve by July 29 for Upper Delaware Council’s Family Raft Trip on August 7” (for Hancock Gateway Summer magazine), 4/18; “UDC will Present ‘The Founding Fish: American Shad on the Delaware River’ May 5”, 4/22; “Upper Delaware Litter Leaders Make Haste with Waste”, 5/3; “UDC Awards Grants to Two Towns to Clean Up River and its Banks”, 5/6; “UDC to Host History of the Lenape in the Upper Delaware River Valley”, 5/27; “NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Funds Plans for 10 Delaware River Crossings”, 5/31; “UDC Technical Assistance Grant Applications due by Aug. 19”, 6/2; “Reserve by July 29 for Upper Delaware Council’s Family Raft Trip on August 7” (updated), 6/8; “UDC Seeks Nominations for 34th Annual River Valley Awards by July 29”, 6/13; “UDC will Present on Mission and Values of the National Canoe Safety Patrol July 7”, 6/30; “Upper Delaware Council 34th Annual Family Raft Trip” listing for Scenic Wild Delaware River Nat Geo website, 7/16; “Reserve by Friday for UDC 34th Annual Family Raft Trip”, 7/28; “The Upper Delaware Summer 2022 Newsletter Out”, 7/28; “UDC 34th Annual Family Raft Trip Results”, 8/8; “UDC Announces Honorees for 34th Annual River Valley Awards”, 8/12; “Congressman Cartwright to Give Keynote Address at Sept. 18 Upper Delaware Council Awards Ceremony”, 8/29; “UDC Will Present Update on the Delaware Aqueduct Shutdown Postponement Sept. 1”, 8/29; “UDC Presents 2022 River Valley Awards”, coverage of ceremony, 9/20; “Earn Shirt, Get Supplies from UDC for Sullivan County Fall Litter Pluck”, 9/21; and “Two Towns Complete UDC 2022 River & Shoreline Clean-ups”, 9/30.

- The UDC’s Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee is tasked with keeping local, state and federal legislators and officials informed of river valley issues through correspondence, meetings, and events. Outreach to supplement explanations of funding issues included the 10/4/21 visit by PA Governor Northeast Representative Thomas Caffrey; signing on to a 12/2 letter supporting the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed’s campaign for a \$1 million budget line in the New York State Environmental Protection Fund; a 1/24 letter to NYS Governor Hochul of considerations for the 30-day Executive Budget amendment; 2/1 letters encouraging use of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program to invest in the rehabilitation of the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge; the 2/22 visit by Congressman Mondaire Jones (NY-17); a 2/23 letter to NYS Senator Mike Martucci advising him on potential impacts to the Upper Delaware from the Statewide Zoning Reform Senate Bill; a 5/9 congratulatory letter to newly appointed NYS Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, the former Congress member for the 19th Congressional District; participation in the 6/17 Friends of the Upper Delaware River press conference in Livingston Manor to celebrate the \$300,000 budget line in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund; an 8/24 meeting with Rep. Cartwright’s (PA-8) aide Dr. April Niver to discuss river valley issues in advance of his keynote address at the UDC awards banquet; and participation in a 9/21 NYS Environmental Bond Act public education event to learn about the 2022 vote’s implications.

General Operations

- Resolutions approved by the UDC board between 10/1/21 and 9/30/22 were: 2021-16 on 10/7/21, Approving Technical Assistance Grant for Fiscal Year 2022; 2022-01 on 1/6, Enter into Contract with Eckersley & Davis for UDC’s Fiscal Year 2022 Audit; 2022-02 on 1/6, Authorizing Signatories for Council’s Bank Accounts in 2022; 2022-03 on 1/6, Reaffirming Sexual Harassment Policy; 2022-04 on 2/3, Commendation for William J. Rudge, NYS DEC; 2022-05 on 5/5, Approving 2022 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grant Applications; and 2022-06 on 6/2, Granting Permanent Employee Status to Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt.
- The UDC chairperson appoints a Nominating Committee in November to develop a slate of candidates for the positions of chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary-treasurer, which is announced at the December meeting, with the election taking place in January. A swearing-in ceremony is arranged for the February meeting when viable.
- Due to the passing of the UDC’s prior Information Technology services consultant, the Council sought quotes and retained Marshall’s Consulting and Lakeside Region Computers of Hawley, PA effective 7/6 to assist with hardware and software computer system needs, repairs, registrations, and license agreements.
- Relationships are maintained with citizens and groups within the two UDC non-participating townships of Buckingham and Manchester, with an open line of communication to their Board of Supervisors, seeking reconsideration of their opting out of membership to date.

Building Maintenance

- The Operations Committee and staff oversees all necessary maintenance, repairs, and renovations to the UDC office building at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY. An unexpected \$7,105.00 expense was incurred in December 2021 when two 275-gallon heating oil tanks were discovered to be in an advanced state of deterioration, which led to their replacement with one 500-gallon, double-walled, 12 gauge steel tank surrounded by concrete barriers as installed by Bluestone Environmental Inc. of Honesdale, PA.
- Invasive plants and weeds on UDC property were removed and a perennial garden designed through a landscaping project completed in August 2022 by Leons Freddie from the Sullivan Renaissance Narrowsburg Beautification Group.
- The building was pressure washed by Dan Wagner Window Cleaning, Inc. on 9/10, and floor refinishing, carpet cleaning, new window treatments to replace broken rods and pulleys, and flag pole repair were provided by Cellex Building Services by the end of Fiscal Year 2022.
- The UDC contracts with Constable's Custodial Service for office cleaning every other week; general contractor Tom Coacci for garbage and recycling collection once per month and plumbing services as needed; Bill's HVAC for repairs and maintenance of the oil-fired furnace and heat/air pump; and snow plowing and sanding as needed by Floyd Campfield Landscaping. Routine safety inspections occur for the boiler operation, fire extinguishers, and illuminated exit signage.

Resource Advocacy, Protection and Coordination: Recreation Issues; Water Resources Management, Natural and Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Unique Land Resources, Threatened and Endangered Species, Economic Development and Tourism, Pollution Control and Abatement

- Consistent with the River Management Plan's assigned function to the UDC to assist the National Park Service in implementing Water Use Program Principle E to "prevent river recreational accidents and minimize hazards" through Objective 2 to "provide better emergency communications and better river information", a UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee was established on 7/7 with the first of monthly meetings held 8/4 on the first Thursdays for the balance of the fiscal year with information sharing and research proceeding in the interim periods. The approved goal is: "Prepare a thorough review to determine the appropriate use of telecommunications towers in the river corridor in accordance with the River Management Plan and Land and Water Use Guidelines." Specific objectives are to: "Evaluate the viability of better emergency communications within the river corridor" and "Develop a position paper for the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service to guide the review of wireless telecommunication proposed projects and ordinances within the designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River."
- The NOAA National Weather Service in Binghamton on 3/15/22 approved the UDC's request to add flood stage and prediction data to the USGS Delaware River gage at Lordville, which was formally implemented on 9/12 to improve forecasting and flooding impact descriptions to benefit residents and visitors upstream of the USGS gages at Barryville and Callicoon.

- The UDC regularly comments on and attends meetings regarding federal, state, county, and local resource management plans and policies that may affect recreational uses, habitat protection, and conservation of river corridor resources. A 12/10 letter was approved to support the Trust for Public Land's application to the Land Trust Alliance for development of the Callicoon Riverside Park. After attending a 1/19 Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan Strategy Workshop for Municipalities, the UDC submitted comments on the plan on 6/1. Staff participated in a 3/1 virtual presentation on "Delaware River and the Catskill Mountain Streams" by Glenn Pontier on behalf of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum and a 4/20 "Our Shared Waters" webinar by the National Parks Conservation Association. The 10-year update of the New York State Forest Management Strategic Plan was subject of a UDC letter on 3/3. A 3/3 meeting in Hancock was held to gather input on Friends of the Upper Delaware River's Recreational Plan Study for the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters.
- As a member of the National Park Service Water Safety Committee, the UDC actively assists in strategizing to create an effective river user education program, provides guidance to support safety standards and training for river use, commented on new safety message slogans developed for a poster series, attended the 4/12 annual meeting for fishing guides in Hancock and hosted the 4/29 Water Safety Partners meeting at the UDC office, promoted National Canoe Safety Patrol spring training on 4/30-5/1 to help recruit volunteers for the safety and rescue services as well as providing the forum for a NCSP public presentation on its mission and values at the 7/7 UDC meeting, hung a large banner at the office and distributed lawn signs to encourage life jacket wear while swimming, floating, fishing, and boating, and did a social media campaign around the 5/20 "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work" day. The UDC reported on the 77 drownings that have been recorded on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since 1980 including three during the summer of 2022, with the one common theme that none of the victims were wearing properly fitted personal flotation devices.
- Resource protection and beautification efforts are at the core mission of the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep that the UDC sponsored from 4/22-30, with 20 land-based clean-ups organized throughout all 15 New York towns and Pennsylvania townships surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and its roadways. Nearly 350 volunteers picked up trash, wearing neon t-shirts emblazoned with the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep logo and listing the names of 37 sponsors in three categories of contributions (Litter Slayers at \$500, Litter Avengers at \$250, and Litter Enemies at \$100-\$249), who contributed \$6,250 in donations along with goods and in-kind services to help purchase supplies, provide equipment, and publicize the events. Designated Litter Leaders stepped up to captain teams for each river valley municipality and arrange for outreach, registration, assignment of locations, safety briefings, disposal and recycling of the collected waste. The UDC continues to offer Litter Clean-up Kits year-round for anyone to borrow for free.

- To expand upon the Financial Administration of the UDC's 2022 River and Shorelines Clean-up Grants Program, specific accomplishments by the Town of Deerpark were to focus on the Hawk's Nest area of the New York State Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, with the Town Highway Department conducting three multi-day sweeps after the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holidays to pick up debris along a 2.9-mile section. The Town of Lumberland hired a contractor to collect trash every other week along the town's river banks from Camp Tel-Yehudah to the Mongaup River Access. The UDC also participated in the Pig Farm Ink Lackawaxen River Clean-up on 5/11, contributed \$500 to actively sponsor the 6th Annual "Get Trashed" Clean-up Battle on the West Branch Delaware River on 8/13, and participated in the Lackawaxen River Conservancy's 15th Annual Clean-up along the riverbanks and D&H Canal bed on 10/15.
- The UDC is a founding, non-voting member of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. non-profit organization which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022, offering its Narrowsburg office as meeting space and records storage for the volunteer committee which convenes monthly to discuss issues of relevance to the NYS Route 97 communities, highway safety needs, road and bridge repairs, tourism, and administers grants for Scenic Vista Enhancements, Signage, Culture & History, and Butterfly Habitat Promotion. Beautification initiatives in 2022 included cosponsoring the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, installation of Please Keep the Byway Clean signs in eight communities, and purchase and distribution of 5,000 biodegradable ragbags with a cleanliness message.
- Promotion of eagle viewing etiquette, monitoring, and habitat protection for this iconic species that thrives in the Upper Delaware River Valley occurs through participation on the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Eagle Conservation Committee and providing resource conservation recommendations to agencies.

- Public river access developments during Fiscal Year 2022 focused on: Ten Mile River in the Town of Tusten, with the UDC reviewing the subdivision of approximately 7,500 acres of property by the Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America for sale to The Conservation Fund to eventually turn over to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) to manage as state forestland. The existing trail that includes the Ten Mile River Stone Arch Bridge and a popular river access frontage will remain open to the public through a co-management agreement with the National Park Service that was reaffirmed in May 2022 in time for Memorial Day launch of the summer recreational season. Efforts to improve the options for trailered boat launching at Ten Mile River continue to be explored by the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee. The UDC provided feedback on 3/25 as requested by the NYS DEC to the Phase 1 improvements at the Mongaup River Access in the Town of Lumberland which expanded the parking lot capacity by 70% through a redesign, recommending that the agency hold off on potential Phase 2 plans to develop additional parking and a special boat livery lane to assess whether the additional space suffices. The UDC sent letters to the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund to support applications by Hancock Partners, Inc. to upgrade the Hancock Junction Pool in the Town of Hancock on 3/22 and by Sullivan County to create a new access within the Town of Delaware on 3/29. The NYS DEC's conceptual site plan for improvements at the river access on Ferry Road in Long Eddy (Town of Fremont) were reviewed by the UDC on 5/5 with a slide presentation to show the existing conditions. UDC staff attended several on-site meetings to inspect construction work on an engineered redesign of the Highland River Access coordinated by Sullivan County with \$350,000 in grants or funding and pledges for a near equivalent amount of in-kind services that got underway in September to replace the existing gravel parking with pervious pavement, install bioswales, restore native plants, regrade the access down to the river with a gentler slope and stabilized path, and install new signage.
- The UDC approved a 3/29 letter of support for the Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Security for Humans and Habitat Study to the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund and sent a 5/20 UDC letter to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection which Chief of Staff Jennifer Garigliano answered inquiring about calculations for diversions from the Delaware River Basin reservoirs to track the effectiveness of the Flexible Flow Management Plan operating system regime and application of the thermal stress relief protocols during prolonged high temperatures for habitat protection.
- Meetings of the DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee, on which the UDC occupies the designated Watershed Organization member seat, took place on 10/21/21, 2/17/22 and 6/16/22, with UDC staff reporting back to the Water Use/Resource Management Committee on highlights. Also attended were meetings of the Regulated Flows Advisory Committee on 3/23 and 6/29.
- Legal decisions and regulations pertaining to private property land use or environmental impacts are reviewed regularly, including proposed legislation involving natural gas developments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after New York State banned drilling in 2015.

- On 1/6, the UDC submitted comments to the Delaware River Basin Commission on its draft rulemaking to amend its Water Code for water importations, exportations, and discharge of wastewater associated with High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, stating after a 9 ye, 1 nay, and 1 abstention vote, “We agree that basin waters have limited capacity to assimilate potential pollutants from chemicals used in ‘frack water’ without threatening the health and safety of people and the aquatic ecosystem. We support the DRBC’s policy to discourage, limit, or place conditions on exportations of water from the Delaware River Basin on the basis that water must be available to meet in-basin needs, especially during periods of low flow and drought conditions.”
- In order to track water quality, flow, flood and drought issues, the UDC participated in a series of US Geological Survey hosted webinars on drought prediction data and Delaware Basin Water Study Stakeholders Updates held on 2/9, 5/5 and 7/14.
- The UDC is a consulting party to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s relicensing process for the Mongaup Hydropower system by Eagle Creek Renewable, for which negotiations proceeded.
- The annual meeting of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission took place virtually on 5/25, with the UDC asking questions and issuing a news release to summarize capital construction contracts, inspection reports, and maintenance plans. The UDC Executive Director sits on the Project Advisory Committee for the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study underway since October 2020 for the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville PA Bridge which has been closed since 2019 after failing an emergency inspection. On 1/6, the UDC sent a letter commenting on perceived deficiencies with the Purpose and Need document produced for that study, while encouraging the use of the federal Infrastructure Bill funding for its repair in a 2/1 letter to the Bridge Commission membership. The Council alerted the board and public to intermittent traffic restrictions for the ongoing \$7,067,088 contracted rehabilitation work at the 1953 Cochection-Damascus Bridge which was due to wrap up by 10/31/22, and reported on the 2023 schedules for the \$18.04 million major rehabilitation of the 1961 Callicoon-Damascus Bridge, \$1,993,982 painting of the 1937 Hancock-Buckingham Bridge, and \$400,000 open-grid deck system alternatives study for the 1939 Port Jervis-Matamoras Bridge. A joint application by the Departments of Transportation for New York and Pennsylvania to seek funding to rehabilitate and preserve four Upper Delaware River bridge crossings at Hancock, Callicoon, Cochection, and Port Jervis received full endorsement by the UDC on 9/1, directed to U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg.
- As part of its review of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s Fiscal Year 2022 Workplan (10/1/21-9/30/22) which was presented to the UDC on 5/27, the UDC reviewed the proposed activities of the Natural and Cultural Resources Management Division to ask questions of and make comments to the superintendent. NPS personnel sit on each of the UDC’s committees as well as the full Council to share ongoing information and initiatives.

- The UDC participates in opportunities to learn and distribute information from programs that address the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Upper Delaware River, raise awareness of its diverse uses, and enlighten on risks or threatened and endangered species, such as attending the 9/29-10/1/21 Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's 9th Annual Delaware River Forum, the 12th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere" virtual conference on 10/12 and 10/14 sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc., a 12/7 webinar on Invasive Jumping Worms, 1/19-20 Invasive Species Research Institute's Climate Change Symposium, and 6/15 webinars by Sullivan Renaissance titled "Putting Trash in its Place" and on the Spotted Lanternfly invasive insect.
- In its Cultural Resources role, the UDC participates as a voting member in quarterly meetings of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council to promote awareness and protection of the Delaware & Hudson Canal historic remnants in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Those meetings were held on 10/25/21, 1/26, 4/27, and 7/27, with the Executive Director serving as the elected secretary. The NPS Upper Delaware staff resumed their D&H Canal Days for regional fourth grade students this summer centered around Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct which UDC representatives observed.
- The UDC Summer 2022 newsletter featured a profile on new NPS Upper Delaware Cultural Resources Program Manager Alejandro Garcia-Maldonado after he joined the staff on 5/13, with encouragement for NPS to update its oral history program, expand the National Register of Historic Places program nominations, and preserve cultural and archeological resources.
- Every four years, the Lenape Nation of PA embarks on a Rising Nation Journey to bring attention to the Indigenous people who occupied this land. The UDC promoted the 20th anniversary of the 7/30-8/20 paddling of the full length of the "Lenape Sipu" from Hancock, NY to Cape May, NJ. 2022 UDC Chairperson Andy Boyar pledged the UDC's partnership in telling the Lenape story (such as through local historian Frank Salvati's 6/2 presentation to the Council) during the Treaty of Renewed Friendship ceremony 8/2 at the Zane Grey Museum grounds which followed that day's launch from Narrowsburg that the UDC documented with photos and a video of the blessings.
- The UDC reviews fish and wildlife management activities by commenting on draft plans and noting developments such as New York State enacting a new catch-and-release trout stream season as of 10/1/21 to last through 3/31 based on the completion of the new Statewide Trout Stream Management Plan. NPS Upper Delaware Ecologist Andy Weber provided an update on the "Freshwater Snails Abundance, Density, and Environmental DNA Study" by the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Division with Drexel University for the Fall/Winter 2021 UDC newsletter.
- Unique land resources are largely addressed through the Geologic Resource Mapping Inventory Project for the Upper Delaware River that the New York State Museum and Geological Society conducted through multiple phases, with the Ten Mile River Scout Museum in the Town of Tusten opening an exhibit in the Summer of 2022 that displays over 300 artifacts professionally excavated on the TMR property in 2018 to offer a representative river valley sampling dating back to the 1800s.

- Threatened and endangered species, and mitigation of invasive species, are reported on regularly, with Knotweed plants, Northern Snakehead fish, and Spotted Lanternfly insects being of particular relevance during Fiscal Year 2022.
- Results of the biannual 2021 Upper Delaware BioBlitz that took place on private property in Damascus Township, PA with teams of scientists collecting samples of all life forms throughout the prior summer were compiled, analyzed and released in the UDC Spring 2022 newsletter, announcing a discovery of 18 new species never previously recorded in Wayne County and documenting a total of 727 species in the categories of birds, botany, bryology, fish, fungi, herps, invertebrates, and mammals.
- The UDC contributed to the National Parks Conservation Association’s publication, “Sustaining and Growing Delaware River Communities: A Sourcebook of Tools and Tips for Protecting Nature and History” intended to assist gateway communities to preserve community character, promote pride and community health, and stimulate local economies; remains a member of the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Council since 2016 to promote small businesses and unique attractions; and advances its conservation sustainability projects.
- Through its membership in the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed, the UDC co-sponsored a petition drive seeking signatures by 11/19 to support the addition of a budget line for the 2,390 square miles of the Upper Delaware River Watershed that is home to 125,000 people in the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and signed on to support letters directed to Governor Kathy Hochul, attended a 2/10 webinar titled “Taking Advantage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Full Funding for the Delaware River Watershed”, and hosted a brief 9/1/22 presentation by Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed’s State Policy Advocate High Garst and Friends of the Upper Delaware River’s Executive Director Jeff Skelding on the NYS Environmental Bond Act to explain the referendum’s format, provisions, and objectives.
- Each year, the UDC seeks the latest Visitor Spending Effects Report produced by the National Park Service and USGS to update the statistics to quantify the economic value of the river valley. The 2021 report found that 269,810 visitors spent \$13,286,000 through recreational pursuits which supported 128 jobs in the tourism sector and generated labor income of \$6,859,000. Accounting for \$11,135,000 worth of value-added income, the total economic input contributed to Upper Delaware gateway economies was \$16,802,000.
- UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt is an active member of the Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee and an Upper Delaware day planner who assisted with the logistics of the 6/18-25 paddling, programs, and camping experience to promote stewardship under the theme of “The River Rocks”. She provided an informational program on the Council to the Sojourners as well. UDC Town of Lumberland Representative and Sullivan County Legislator Nadia Rajsz was honored as a High Admiral on 6/19 for her contributions to protect the beauty and integrity of the Upper Delaware River Corridor.

- In terms of pollution control and abatement, the UDC participated remotely in two tabletop exercises coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Oil Spill Preparedness federally-funded project along with response agencies for a Delaware River emergency scenario on 12/15/21 and 5/11/22 involving a hazardous oil spill from a train derailment and explosion at the Sparrowbush Access; reviewed the US EPA's release of a 5th Five-Year Report for 2016-2021 on remediation of the Cortese Landfill Superfund site in the Town of Tusten which noted a dramatic decrease in groundwater contamination since the dump was capped in 1998; and continued to support a potential partnership by Sullivan County and the NYS DEC to develop a remediation plan for the Barnes Landfill in the Town of Highland that has no responsible owner so the property may be returned to the tax rolls for re-use.
- The UDC contacted the Federal Railroad Administration on 11/4/21 to alert the agency to a potential safety issue with what appeared to be a damaged culvert pipe running under the railroad tracks operated by Central New York Railroad in Hankins, NY (Town of Fremont), while also inquiring about policies to replace creosote-treated railroad ties. The FRA sent an inspector on 12/10 and provided information relevant to the temporary storage of railroad crossties, which Central New York Railroad removed for proper disposal later in December under a state grant funded project.
- A pilot project to create River Litter Bag Stations remains under discussion to install self-serve boxes to dispense reusable bags for recreationists to gather their belongings, collect any litter they find, and keep their own trash out the river. After consulting with the National Park Service and river access managers in both states, the two accesses that are proposed to implement the stations are Ten Mile River (NY) and Darbytown (PA). Maintenance and funding issues are being explored.

Cooperative Agreement Task #2: Review all relevant local plans, laws, and ordinances for the purpose of recommending to the Secretary of the Interior whether such local plans, laws, and ordinances substantially conform to the Plan. There are five parts to this review process: a) The determination of substantial conformance; b) The review of ordinance amendments; c) The review of significant projects; d) The review of challenges and variances; and e) The review of enforcement programs.

- The UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist (RLUS) and the Project Review Committee conduct timely reviews of all relevant local plans, laws, and ordinances; ordinance amendments, challenges and variances; and significant projects within the river corridor by a 45-day clock to vote on recommendations that are in turn presented to the full Council for whether they substantially conform to the Land and Water Use Guidelines of the River Management Plan. When the staff position was vacant, the UDC executed a Consulting Services Agreement for Project Review and Substantial Conformance with Thomas J. Shepstone from 10/7-11/22/21 at a rate of \$150/hour.

- The RLUS prepares a monthly Discussion Items Report tracking land use development projects; any significant water withdrawals or discharges requiring Delaware River Basin Commission docket approvals; transportation proposals for highways, the railroad, and bridges; and related updates, which is presented at the 4th Tuesday monthly Project Review Committee meetings. Research involves requesting voluntary submissions of reviewable projects in the river corridor; scanning through legal notices and project articles in newspapers; attending meetings and public hearings; requesting additional documentation; and making field visits when necessary.
- Project review activity included: Tusten – Feagles Lake Subdivision, Bar Veloce rooftop construction, 2nd Street Art Shop studios; Big Eddy Brewing; Ten Mile River Scout Camp property subdivision. Cohecton – Site plan to build Cohecton Cottages; home occupation in a recreational segment. Damascus – Heron Hill Hunt Club variance. Highland – Rent My Escape landscaping plan reviewed at the request of Sullivan Renaissance. Hancock – minor subdivision on NYS Rt. 97 and Hesse Road. Lumberland – Camp Simcha wastewater discharge renewal notice.
- A particularly time-consuming review during Fiscal Year 2022 was a Special Use Permit application by Northgate Resorts to redevelop the Kittatinny Canoes Campground approximately 250-acre property in Barryville (Town of Highland) into Camp Fimfo Catskills through a \$44.9 million proposal. The Cedar Rapids Bar and Restaurant was also acquired by the private company. While planning got underway in earnest in May 2022, the UDC’s formal review began in July with the provision of a site plan that the Highland Planning Board deemed to be complete. The plan calls for the creation of 89 full-time jobs by full build-out in 2024, an occupancy of 2,346 people (an expected 17.34% decrease due to allowing fewer individuals per campsite), 16 septic systems to go along with six existing wells, 34,000 gallons per day of water to be generated, 300 RV Park Model units, a variety of cabins, tents, pods and Airstream trailers for accommodations, new bathhouses, a pool, water playground, miniature golf, sport courts, a jump pillow, renovated restaurant and store. Boat livery and zip-lining activities will continue. Numerous monthly planning board meetings, site tours, public presentations, hearings, correspondence, comments, calls, videoconferences, and media coverage took place to gather and review information and revisions. A Substantial Conformance Review Report compared against the workbook checklist was presented to the Project Review Committee on 8/23. Ultimately by a vote of 6 aye, 4 nay and 1 abstention, the UDC approved forwarding a substantial conformance recommendation to NPS on 9/1 to take action on a final determination.
- Land Use Complaints are also investigated by the RLUS in accordance with a policy and form adopted by the UDC on 12/5/20. These included: Tusten – Cackletown Road wetlands disturbance; and Westfall – illegal damming of a tributary in Mill Rift.
- Training opportunities are taken to keep up to date with zoning issues, such as a monthly series of webinars held from 1/19 to 11/6 in Pennsylvania Land Use Decision Making offered by Penn State Extension; as well as external technical assistance being offered through the distribution of Project Review Workbooks at planning and zoning meetings; and presentations to municipalities about the roles and responsibilities assigned to them in the River Management Plan.

- The ongoing work of the UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee is aimed at developing a position paper to provide guidance for the reviews of any cell towers and their infrastructure in the river corridor since these land uses are not specifically addressed in the 1986 River Management Plan.
- The UDC reviews each issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin, New York’s Environmental Notice Bulletin, local newspapers, and other information sources to keep abreast of projects being reviewed by state and federal agencies and local governments.

Cooperative Agreement Task #3: Provide recommendations to the NPS for the purpose of making a final determination regarding whether local plans, laws, and ordinances, ordinance amendments, challenges and variances, and significant projects substantially conform to the Land and Water Use Guidelines and Plan. Recommendations will include town and township compliance, noncompliance, or compliance with modifications recommended by the UDC. Recommendations as provided for in the Plan will also be provided to the NPS regarding enforcement if the UDC finds that a substantially conforming ordinance is not being adequately enforced and is unable to effectively resolve the problem. If the UDC finds that a substantially confirming ordinance is not being adequately enforced, it shall notify the town and make appropriate recommendations for correction of the problems which have occurred. It shall also offer to provide the town such legal and technical assistance as may be required to effectively resolve the problem. No later than six months following any such notification (but not before the town has had sufficient opportunity to respond), the UDC shall make a follow-up evaluation to ascertain if the situation has been corrected.

- Recommendations of substantial conformance are duly provided to the National Park Service to make the final determination. The UDC responded on 12/2 to a letter that Superintendent Joe Salvatore sent on 11/3 with questions regarding the Council’s position on the definition of “substantial conformance” which had been outlined through a 4/1/21 adoption of a position paper. The UDC noted that it resulted from a need identified during the Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Five-Year Operating Program strategic planning process to clarify that the term was chosen deliberately to provide flexibility in how towns and townships can meet the principles and objectives of the non-regulatory Land and Water Use Guidelines.
- The NPS concurred with UDC substantial conformance recommendations for: Narrowsburg Union Signage Plan (Tusten); Great Pine LLC (Tusten); Cochection Cottages (Cochection); Heron Hill Hunt Club (Damascus); Big Eddy Brewing (Tusten); 90 Main Street retail-office-apartments (Tusten); Weiden Daycare (Tusten); and Town of Tusten Zoning Update (Tusten).

Cooperative Agreement Task #4: Make an annual review of the adequacy of each town’s enforcement program within the river corridor area, by examining building permits issued, variances granted, and any patterns of ordinances, amendments or project approvals which may have a bearing on the purpose for which the Upper Delaware was designated a Scenic and Recreational River. Most importantly, the UDC will examine the pattern of actual land use changes which have occurred as compared to the Land and Water Use Guidelines and the towns’ ordinances, subject to the availability of funding.

- Each UDC member municipality was requested to provide all zoning activity which occurred within the river corridor boundaries during the 2021 calendar year of Jan. 1-Dec. 31 to produce the Upper Delaware Council Annual Code Enforcement Report that was presented on 5/24 then revised on 6/27 to add subsequently received information.
- The report documented a total of 126 permits and 6 ordinances or zoning amendments issued in 2021 among the 13 member municipalities, for a total of 132. This compares to totals of 84 in 2020 and 85 in 2019. The number of building permits in Lackawaxen Township doubled from 2020 to 2021. There were also increases witnessed in Damascus and Tusten in 2021 over 2020. There were four Class II Special Use Permit reviews, all of them located in Narrowsburg (Town of Tusten). The Town of Highland passed significant changes to their zoning law and the Town of Tusten adopted a new Comprehensive Plan.
- The Annual Enforcement Report with a chart breakdown per municipality and summary of data was submitted to the National Park Service on 7/7 following its approval by the full Council to satisfy this task. The report is posted under Publications on the UDC website.
- The UDC issues written advisory comments on projects or regulatory changes proposed for or affecting the river corridor, including the 2/23 letter to NYS Senator Mike Martucci describing the local impacts that a State-wide Zoning Reform Bill in the Senate would have, without any attempt to influence the legislation.

Cooperative Agreement Task #5: Maintain all permanent and current records of the Plan including development approvals, letters of interpretation, meeting records, transcripts, minutes, substantial conformance and project review documentation, and other information related to Plan preparation and implementation.

- The UDC Secretary maintains a database of electronic and paper files stored on UDC hard drives, external storage, and a professionally assembled records management system in the UDC attic, with ongoing filing to take place under the Records Management Needs Assessment Final Report and Policy & Procedures Manual.
- Minutes for all regular and specially called meetings of the Upper Delaware Council and its three standing committees are produced, with copies distributed electronically, posted on the UDC website with presentation links, and made available as audio or video files when available.
- NPS Upper Delaware staff requested a meeting with UDC staff on 2/2 to tour the UDC records management system and develop a plan to obtain needed UDC records to be transferred digitally on a yearly basis to meet a Park Service-wide requirement to transition to all-electronic permanent records by December of 2022.
- The UDC provided corrections to a 1988-2013 NPS-produced report of UDC records, and Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas was provided with a flash drive to transfer the permanent records from 2014 to present date by an initial 7/30 deadline which was subsequently extended to December 2022.

Cooperative Agreement Task #6: Provide Technical Assistance Grants to UDC member municipalities, subject to the availability of funds, for the purposes described in the statement of work.

- The Resources and Land Use Specialist administered the Fiscal Year 2022 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program, which was open to all member municipalities and the five river valley counties competitively through an application process. Applications were due in the prior fiscal year, followed by a special meeting of the Project Review Committee on 9/13/21.
- One grant was awarded via Resolution 2021-06 approved on 10/7/21 in the amount of \$4,700 to the Town of Tusten for a Zoning Updates and Open Space Planning project.
- The Town of Tusten submitted its Mid-Term Progress Report on 2/9 and completed its project by the 8/19 deadline, the date by which applications were due for the Fiscal Year 2023 TAG round as well. The UDC reviewed the resulting project for substantial conformance starting 4/16 and made a substantial conformance recommendation to NPS on 7/14, which concurred on 8/31.
- Since 1988, the UDC has awarded \$921,652 to fund 261 projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan and the Land and Water Use Guidelines. The comprehensive directory of past TAG projects is updated on the UDC website annually and news releases are issued to announce each project's accomplishments.
- The UDC offers an instructional video to orient users of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Project Review Workbook Version 2.0 on its You Tube and Vimeo channels and works with Shippensburg University's Center for Land Use and Sustainability and the National Parks Conservation Association on the roll-out of Geographic Information Systems mapping tools.
- Member municipalities, conservation organizations, and individual property owners approach the UDC regularly to request information, with the UDC particularly encouraging local governments to involve the Council early in the development of new or amended ordinances to facilitate their reviews.
- A series of large-scale maps depicting the Congressionally designated boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in each UDC member municipality were printed with assistance from the National Park Service and county GIS departments, framed, and began to be presented to each town and township as a tool to physically visualize the parcels within the corridor.