



Upper Delaware Council

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Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017

(October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017)



2017 Photo by David B. Soete

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*

Organizational Mission

The mission of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) is to ensure the effective implementation and administration of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania* (Final 1986), utilizing the existing authority of its members and operating under the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service.

The Council's existence evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation which designated the 73.4-mile section of the Upper Delaware River between Hancock, NY and Mill Rift, PA as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, eligible for federal protection due to its Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

Established in 1988 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, the UDC's voting membership is comprised of the two states and presently 13 out of the 15 local governments which border on the river. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is a non-voting member while the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is the federal partner.

The UDC provides the mechanism to address management actions for the river through a formal partnership of local, state, and federal interests. What sets the River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the river valley's resources, contrasted with the traditional national park model in which the federal government owns all of the land. More than 85% of the land in the Congressionally-designated, 55,574.5-acre Upper Delaware River corridor remains privately owned.

The Council fulfills the role of advocate, forum, facilitator, educator, and protector as the situations warrant. On a continuous basis, the UDC monitors proposed projects, legislation, new developments, studies, and governmental policies to assess potential impacts on the Upper Delaware's resources, protect private property rights, and uphold the far-sighted vision of the River Management Plan to conserve the river area for present and future generations.

Management Structure

UDC representatives and alternates are appointed to one-year terms by their towns, townships, and state agencies. In addition to a full Council meeting that convenes on the first Thursday of the month, three standing committees meet monthly: Water Use/Resource Management Committee on the third Tuesday; and Project Review Committee and Operations Committee, both on the fourth Tuesday. Subcommittees dedicated to such issues as Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, and Government Officials Liaisons, meet as the need arises. A full-time professional staff consisting of Executive Director Laurie Ramie (employed by the UDC since April 21, 1997), Resource Specialist Pete Golod (since April 23, 2016), and Secretary Cindy Odell (since August 29, 2011) carries out the board's directives and operates the Council's business office located at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY.

2017 Upper Delaware Council Membership Roster

Elected to serve as Upper Delaware Council officers at the annual meeting held January 5, 2017 were:

Chairperson: James A. Greier, Town of Fremont, NY

Vice-Chairperson: David M. Dean, Town of Deerpark, NY

Secretary-Treasurer: Alan F. Henry, Berlin Township, PA

Town of Fremont Supervisor George Conklin administered the oaths of office to the 2017 officers at a swearing-in ceremony held February 2, 2017.

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2017 ROSTER: Upper Delaware Council representatives and alternates gathered at the Feb. 2 meeting for a portrait. Seated from left to right are: Secretary-Treasurer Al Henry; Vice-Chairperson David Dean; and Chairperson Jim Greier. Standing from the left are Steve Tambini, Michael Barth, Jeff Dexter, Susan Sullivan, Fred Peckham, Virginia Dudko, Zoriana Gingold, Larry Richardson, Aaron Robinson, Doug Case, Jeff Haas, Harold Roeder, Jr., Bill Rudge, and Carla Hahn for the National Park Service. Delegates from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were absent. *(UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)*

As of Sept. 30, 2017, the UDC's board consisted of: (* denotes a change from Fiscal Year 2016)

<i>UDC Member</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Alternate(s)</i>
Town of Hancock	Fred Peckham	Katt Judd
Town of Fremont	James Greier	George Conklin
Town of Delaware	Harold G. Roeder, Jr.	David Peters
Town of Cochection	Larry H. Richardson	Sean Nearing
Town of Tusten	Susan Sullivan	Tony Ritter
Town of Highland	Jeff Haas	Debra Conway and Andrew Boyar
Town of Lumberland	Leigh Sherman	Zoriana Gingold
Town of Deerpark	David M. Dean	Virginia Dudko
Damascus Township	Jeffrey R. Dexter	Steven Adams, Joseph Canfield and Daniel Rutledge*
Berlin Township	Alan Henry	Paul Henry
Lackawaxen Township	Doug Case	Judy Kuhn Conklin
Shohola Township	Aaron Robinson	1 st - Patricia Jeffer; 2 nd - George J. Fluhr
Westfall Township	Michael Barth	Vacant
State of New York (NY)	William J. Rudge, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	Michael J. Flaherty, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (PA)	Timothy Dugan, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Rhonda Manning, PA Department of Environmental Protection
Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) – non-voting member	Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director	No designated alternate
National Park Service (NPS) – UDC partner	Gay Vietzke*, Northeast Regional Director	Kristina Heister, Superintendent, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

* Appointment Changes: *Damascus* – The Township appointed all three members of its Board of Supervisors to serve as Damascus UDC alternates effective January 2017. *National Park Service* – When Gay Vietzke began her position as Northeast Regional Director in September 2017 to succeed Michael Caldwell, she automatically assumed the role of NPS Representative to the UDC.

In Memoriam: During Fiscal Year 2017, the UDC marked the passing of former board members Thomas Anthony Cardinale, who represented Lackawaxen Township for six months from January-July 2016 and died on January 21, 2017 at the age of 63; and Philip Donovan Chase, who represented the Town of Deepark for 17 years from Jan. 1994-Sept. 1, 2011 and died on May 9, 2017 at the age of 85.

Committees: Voted by their peers to serve as chairmen of the UDC’s standing committees in 2017 were:
Water Use/Resource Management: **Fred Peckham**, Town of Hancock, NY
Project Review: **Larry H. Richardson**, Town of Cochection, NY
Operations: **Jim Greier**, Town of Fremont, NY

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Advocacy

Flows and Releases – Negotiations to renew the Flexible Flow Management Program reservoir plan as of June 1, 2017 failed when unanimous consent could not be reached by the five parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York City). The interim plan had been subject to one-year renewals for the previous five years with no significant improvements despite pleas from the public and groups like the UDC for more consistent releases, and consideration of adopting a thermal stress relief protocol to protect the aquatic habitat and river recreation-based economy. The UDC testified at a Feb. 16 meeting of the Delaware River Basin Commission’s Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC), arranged and disseminated information from a March 21 presentation to the Council’s Water Use/Resource Management Committee by Columbia University Professor Dr. Peter Kolesar on the negative impacts that would result from reverting back to the 1983 release schedules which would kick in without a new agreement, sent letters to both the Decree Parties and RFAC on April 6 urging an end to the stalemate and more public transparency, and signed on to a May 23 letter drafted by the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed urging Decree Parties to act on the FFMP renewal. When those efforts failed and voluntary conservation releases initiated by New York City on June 1 to offset the drastic release reductions were to be discontinued as of Oct. 10, the UDC sent another series of letters on Sept. 7 urging the Decree Parties to take immediate action to finalize an agreement. At a Sept. 28 RFAC meeting attended by the UDC, it was announced that a framework agreement in two phases covering a 10-year period through May 31, 2028 was close to being signed and described the parameters of it regarding water releases, diversions, spill mitigation, a thermal bank, and greater public engagement.

Basin Restoration – The Delaware River Basin Conservation Act that was approved by Congress in the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation and signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 16, 2016 was characterized as a “game-changer” for the entire basin to bring national attention and resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is administering the non-regulatory Delaware River Basin Restoration Program to create a coordinated approach for identifying, prioritizing, and implementing restoration and protection projects throughout the Delaware watershed. The UDC had signed on to Oct. 18, 2016 informational letters penned by the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed to members of the U.S. House and Senate advising of the legislation’s components, participated in a Dec. 22 press conference in Hancock to celebrate the successful passage, joined a Jan. 13, 2017 conference call briefing by the USFWS to discuss program set-up strategies, and reported on the U.S. House of Representatives’ July 18 approval of a \$5 million Congressional appropriation to provide technical grants support for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program.

Public Safety Below Reservoirs – The Upper Delaware Council pursued its campaign to encourage the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) to improve its public early warning system for any emergencies involving its reservoirs. The UDC collected 11 letters of support from various towns, townships, counties, and New York State Senator John J. Bonacic. The Council drafted correspondence to NYC DEP on Nov. 3, 2016 summarizing the information collected from its outreach to the river valley counties, towns and townships, research into the Gilboa Dam sirens system for the Schoharie Reservoir, and justifications for requesting those improvements, such as enclosing a copy of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer’s Constituent Report of New York State Cell Phone Dead Zones. NYC DEP responded on Nov. 17 with an update on their exploration of options and news about contracting with an independent engineering company due to start work in early 2017 to recommend procedures to improve the speed of downstream emergency notifications, specifically for the Cannonsville Reservoir. Additional correspondence was sent by UDC to NYC DEP on March 2, 2017 seeking an update and noting, “The recent threat involving the Oroville Dam earthen spillway in California which led to a

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massive evacuation order for approximately 185,000 downstream individuals provides a wake-up call that these emergency risks are real.” It prompted a March 20 response describing in-house NYC DEP efforts and their rigorous dam safety inspection protocols. In response to a UDC follow-up letter on April 6 requesting a timetable for action, NYC DEP Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush agreed to appear at the June 1 UDC meeting to present on this topic. Rush stated that DEP intends to invest resources into its emergency outreach process and is actively considering the UDC’s suggestion to utilize outdoor warning sirens. Results of the analysis by Schnabel Engineering are expected by mid-2018.

Upper Delaware Bridges – Construction of a new \$18.9 million modern bridge at Pond Eddy that will include razing the 1904 historic structure continued on schedule toward a late 2018 opening. Following an 11-month closure and much uncertainty about its fate, the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge reopened to traffic on Nov. 10, 2016 after undergoing emergency repairs, which were also necessary for the 1953 Cochection, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge in November. The UDC participated in a Nov. 2 public information meeting to discuss and share rehabilitation plans for the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge anticipated to begin in Spring 2018. UDC staff attended the May 24 annual meeting of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission to hear, provide, and publicize construction and maintenance updates for the 10 Upper Delaware River bridges. Work began in the summer on the major rehabilitation of the 1953 Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge which has been reduced to a single traffic lane since August 2013 due to deterioration. The UDC sent a Sept. 7 letter to the Departments of Transportation for NY and PA supporting long-term preservation of the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge. The UDC also reported to the public that Railroad Bridge No. 2 operated by Central New York Railroad in Mill Rift, PA-Sparrowbush, NY will also receive attention thanks to infrastructure grants provided by New York State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to match the company’s investment.

Emergency Communications – Frontier Communications agreed in April to do an engineering assessment of the Upper Delaware Council’s proposal to install hard-wired call boxes in an 11-mile area along NYS Route 97 paralleling the river in the Town of Lumberland that is devoid of cellular service to summon emergency help. In a June 29 call, the company confirmed that the proposal is feasible and provided estimated costs of \$4,000 per unit and \$30 per month for service. The UDC has continued to explore alternative technologies, contact potential collaborators, and investigate funding sources.

Water Safety – Through its Spring/Summer 2017 newsletter, the UDC publicized the debut of life jacket loaner stations offered by the National Park Service at swimming trouble spots along the Upper Delaware River and updated activities of the national award-winning Water Safety Committee on which the UDC serves. Statistics and strategies related to reducing or preventing drownings were also the subject of an April 6 presentation to the full Council. On March 2 and June 1, the UDC sent letters to the Sullivan County Visitors Association (SCVA) objecting to the lack of personal flotation device usage pictured in their advertising products for water recreation as a missed opportunity for safety promotion and education. A Council Letter to the Editor of the *Sullivan County Democrat* was published on this subject on July 25. SCVA agreed that future ads will feature life jackets for those swimming, fishing, floating, or boating. The UDC hosted the April 28 Annual Water Safety Partners’ meeting at which information updates and promotional materials were provided by the National Park Service to livery businesses, law enforcement providers, and emergency management coordinators to start the 2017 recreational season. A visit by a team from the National Park Service Office of Risk Management in Washington, D.C. to assess the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s Water Safety Program included a July 20 meeting with the Upper Delaware Council to share information and review the river safety section of the Visitor Information Map and Guide as the brochure underwent an update.

Digital Corridor Boundary – The UDC sent a letter to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Heister on Nov. 7, 2016 asking for clarity on whether the National Park Service had taken a new calculation of river corridor acreage that would potentially contradict the River Management Plan

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statement that “the total acreage within the boundary is approximately 55,574.5 acres.” (page 59). A Nov. 29, 2016 news release announcing the availability of a new Geographic Information System (GIS) digital version of the official Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River boundary stated, “In no circumstances does the digital boundary extend beyond the boundary line depicted in the 1986 River Management Plan.” The project was completed in response to a request from the Upper Delaware Council to create a modern boundary using GIS software to assist with planning and project review within the corridor. It represents the first step in a larger project being conducted in partnership with Shippensburg University to bring GIS technology to all of the towns and townships in the river corridor.

Grant Support – Upper Delaware Council support letters were provided upon request for grant applications by the Equinunk Watershed Association (Jan. 5) seeking Growing Greener program funding; Orange County (April 6) for drafting a County-wide Resiliency Plan, and Sullivan County (July 6) for the construction phase of improvements to the Highland River Access. The UDC facilitated in gathering PA and NY municipal resolutions in support of the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Initiative after offering a sample in July; and solicited its Pennsylvania counties and townships to provide statistical and anecdotal information to highlight the benefits of renewing the Commonwealth’s Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund in coordination with the National Parks Conservation Association. The Council sent a Dec. 20 letter to the Sullivan County Legislature encouraging their support to prioritize applying for available funding to develop an Upper Delaware River Valley Visitor Center.

River Height Signage – After learning from Chief Ranger Larry Neal in February of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s intentions to discontinue requesting the state Departments of Transportation to install river height signage on interstate bridges, the UDC sent a March 2 letter recommending that this program continue. NPS supplied the color-coded, metal signs that indicate average, high, or very high river levels. The NPS Management Team opined that the signs deteriorate rapidly, requiring extra labor and expense for frequent replacements. They further asserted that the signs are not a particularly effective public information tool due to their limited visibility on bridge abutments and availability of more modern, advance sources of information for river users. Most immediately, the issue impacted the Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA Bridge since the contractor building it needed a decision by March 6 on whether to mount a river height sign in a recessed space on the New York side of the bridge’s center pier. The UDC had recommended the sign installation to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation on April 2, 2015 and reaffirmed that position in the Mar. 2 letter, while also stating that educating the public about the presence and significance of the river height signage is key to the effectiveness of this simple and practical outreach approach. UDC followed up with a May 4 letter to the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission, reinforced verbally at their May 24 annual meeting, urging the Commission to assume responsibility for including river height signage in contracts for replacements, rehabilitations, and major repairs of select bridges over the Upper Delaware River as “still valuable and prudent”. Specific recommendations were offered to improve the program with the objective of promoting river safety. However, the Commission responded on July 5 agreeing with the position of the National Park Service and denying the request.

Economic Research – The National Parks Conservation Association initiated an economic study of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River as Fiscal Year 2017 came to a close with a kick-off meeting on Sept. 27 held at the UDC office. Goals of the study are to highlight the roles of the National Park Service, the Upper Delaware River Management Plan, and groups such as the Upper Delaware Council in conserving resources, promoting cross-river collaboration, and supporting economic development activities. The research project will focus on collecting data and stories from Delaware, Orange and Sullivan Counties in NY and Wayne and Pike Counties in PA. A report and other communication tools will be created over an expected 16-month period.



Letters

A sampling of Fiscal Year 2017 Upper Delaware Council correspondence included:

10/6/16 – to the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, objecting to the Narrowsburg, NY-Beach Lake, PA Bridge identification sign instead of the accurate Darbytown on the Pennsylvania side

11/8/16 – to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council expressing appreciation for their free community illegal landfill clean-up program which funded two river valley projects;

12/20/16 – to the Sullivan County Legislature to express support for an Upper Delaware River Valley Visitor Center, with visitation and economic statistics provided;

3/2/17 – to the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River with UDC recommendations for river height signage installation on bridges;

4/10/17 – to the Delaware River Basin Commission requesting clarification on the “de-facto” moratorium on natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin;

5/4/17 – to the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission requesting consideration of installing river height signage on appropriate bridges for public information;

5/17/17 – to U.S. Congressman John Faso thanking him for his May 11 position favoring a return to productive negotiations by Decree Parties in the stalled Flexible Flow Management Program renewal process

7/6/17 – to the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River with UDC comments on the Zane Grey House Cultural Landscape Restoration Plan to demolish three deteriorating structures; and

9/9/17 – to the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River inquiring about the park unit’s return of \$30,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 funds to the Northeast Region.



Public Outreach

Map & Guide Update – Thirty-five thousand copies of the “Visitor Information Map & Guide for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania” popular brochure first published by the Upper Delaware Council in 1989 were ready for free public distribution as of August 29 following extensive updates to all content. The glossy full-color brochure had last been revised in 2013. It features a 17 x 22-inch map of the federally-designated river corridor surrounded by a directory of visitor-oriented businesses in the categories of Accommodations, Bait & Tackle Shops, Liveries and Campgrounds, and Restaurants/Food. Twelve informational panels offer tips on river safety, recreation, fishing, boating, camping, eagle watching, hunting, tourism information, emergency contacts, directions, and conservation agency contacts. A chart of river accesses identifies the amenities offered at each public area. Ten local businesses that voluntarily contributed a total of \$650 to help the UDC offset its printing costs are acknowledged with asterisks in the listings.

Annual Awards – The Upper Delaware Council sponsored its 29th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 23 to pay tribute to individuals, organizations, and communities that have acted to improve the quality of life or protect the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley. There were 94 guests.

U.S. Congressman John J. Faso (NY-19) delivered the keynote address at the banquet held at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

Honored for their contributions in 2017 were:

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Distinguished Service Award ~ Ed Wesely of Damascus, PA

Upper Delaware River Valley contributions as a naturalist, educator, conservationist, monarch butterfly expert, Damascus Forest Trail designer, and advocate for the properties of the Milanville Historic District

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award ~ Michael K. Smith of Point Pleasant, NJ

July 3, 2016 rescue of a drowning swimmer at Skinners Falls during a 4th of July weekend recreational visit with friends to the Upper Delaware River

Public Service Award ~ Chris Gibson of Kinderhook, NY

Retired Member of Congress, for exemplary support of the Delaware River Basin during his 2010-2016 tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, 19th District, New York

Community Service Award (organization) ~ Pennsylvania Environmental Council Northeast Office
based in Luzerne, PA

Coordinating the locally beneficial Community Illegal Dumpsite Clean-up Program

Community Service Award (individual) ~ Vanessa DeGori of Milanville General Store, Milanville, PA

Successful petition drive to re-open the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge following emergency repairs and offering charitable aid through the Milanville General Store to those in need

Recreation Achievement Award ~ Operation Safe River by Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission

Implementing a comprehensive safety markers program for the Lackawaxen River

Partnership Award ~ Debra Conway, Dorene Warner, the Town of Highland, and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

Producing the “Revitalizing the Monarch Butterfly” brochure and starting an awareness-raising campaign about threatened pollinator species along the Flyway by the Byway

Cultural Achievement Award (individual) ~ Elaine Giguere of Lava, NY

Founding the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in 1976 and nurturing the organization in her role as its executive director from 1978 to her June 30, 2017 retirement

Cultural Achievement Award (organizational) ~ Wayne County Historical Society of Honesdale, PA
Celebrating 100th anniversary of historical preservation and promotion in 2017

Volunteer Award ~ Scott Rando of Shohola, PA

Offering services as an Upper Delaware River Valley field volunteer for the National Park Service and state natural resource agencies, and his talents as a nature photographer and columnist

Special Recognition Award ~ Grace Johansen (posthumously), her daughters LouAnn Joyce and Lauren Schlagenhaft, and Tina Spangler from the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

Authoring the 2016 book, “Tusten’s Colorful History: A Delaware River Town Comes of Age”

Special Recognition Award ~ Connie Lloyd of Beach Lake, PA

Three decades of contributions as an Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Interpretive Ranger for the National Park Service through her 2016 retirement

Oaken Gavel Award ~ Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock, NY

Leadership as the 2016 Upper Delaware Council Chairperson

Raft Trip – The Upper Delaware Council’s 29th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 6, 2017 attracted 137 guests, including 109 adults and teens, and 18 children ages 5-12. The turnout represented an increase in participation from 88 guests in 2015 and 115 guests in 2016. Kittatinny Canoes served as the host livery for the six-mile river trip from the livery’s Staircase Rapids Access in the Town of Lumberland, NY to their Matamoras Base in Westfall Township, PA. The UDC non-profit organization coordinates the public excursion at deeply discounted rates to promote stewardship and enjoyment of the nationally-designated river it works to conserve.

UDC News Releases – In addition to the publication of notices to advertise UDC meetings, the Upper Delaware Council issued the following news releases during Fiscal Year 2017:

- 10/03/16 – “The Upper Delaware” Fall/Winter 2016 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail

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- 10/07/16 – Upper Delaware Council Awards Seven Technical Assistance Grants
- 01/20/17 – 2017 UDC Officers to Take Oaths and Upper Delaware Geologic Mapping Update on Feb. 2
- 02/03/17 – Upper Delaware Council Names Roster for 2017
- 02/15/17 – Upper Delaware Council Seeks Nominations for 29th Annual Awards by March 15
- 03/01/17 – Congressman John Faso to Deliver Keynote Address at UDC Awards
- 03/21/17 – Berlin Completes 2017 UDC Grant
- 04/03/17 – “The Upper Delaware” Spring/Summer 2017 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail
- 05/08/17 – UDC Awards River Clean-up Grants
- 05/10/17 – UDC Issues FY 2016 Annual Report
- 06/12/17 – Lumberland Completes 2017 UDC Grant
- 06/12/17 – UDC Seeks River Valley Businesses for Upper Delaware Visitor Guide
- 07/14/17 – Deerpark Completes 2017 UDC Grant
- 08/07/17 – UDC Raft Trip Attracts 137
- 08/23/17 – Shohola, Highland, Tusten Wrap Up UDC 2017 Technical Assistance Grants
- 08/29/17 – UDC Updates Upper Delaware Visitor Map & Guide Brochure

“The Upper Delaware” – Since 1988, the Upper Delaware Council has published a free newsletter about the environment and the people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in New York and Pennsylvania.

“The Upper Delaware” is currently published twice a year. It is sent to a mailing list of more than 8,600 subscribers and posted on the UDC’s website for online viewing or printing.

The Spring/Summer 2017 issue released on April 3 featured articles including: “Upper Delaware Life Jacket Loaner Stations to Debut”; “Reservoir Management in Flux: Inflexible on Flexible Flow Plan?”; “Delaware River Basin Conservation Act Passes”; “UDC Holds Awards Ceremony April 23: Congressman Faso to Deliver Keynote Address”; “Fremont Representative Takes the Helm”; “Mile-a-Minute: An Unwelcome Guest”; “In Memoriam: Rep. Ben Gilman, 1922-2016; Tom Cardinale, Lackawaxen Township, 1953-2017”; “Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge Re-opens, Regional Work Set”; “Register for the UDC 29th Annual Family Raft Trip August 6”, and an Upper Delaware profile on Lackawaxen Township UDC Representative Doug Case.

Featured articles in the Fall/Winter 2017 issue, prepared during Fiscal Year 2017 and released on October 2, included: “DRBC Regulations Propose to Ban Gas Drilling in River Basin”; “UDC Honors River Valley Achievers”; “River Designation Anniversaries Abound in 2018”; “In Memoriam: Philip D. Chase (1931-2017)”; “UDC Updates Upper Delaware Visitor Map & Guide Brochure”, “Upper Delaware Study Assesses American Shad”; “Battle of Minisink Monument Unveiled”; “Douglas City Days Recall Long Eddy Founding”, “Construction Underway on Interstate Bridges”, and an Upper Delaware profile on Westfall Township UDC Representative Michael Barth.

Visit the Publications page of the UDC website to find an archive of “The Upper Delaware” past issues available to read and print.

Festivals & Events – Exhibits, literature, information, and occasional benefit river valley t-shirt sales were offered by the Upper Delaware Council at the 13th Annual Zane Grey Festival sponsored by the National Park Service and Zane Grey’s West Society in Lackawaxen, PA, on July 15, and the 27th Annual RiverFest, a Festival of Art, Music & Ecology on the Delaware River organized by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance and Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, on July 23. UDC Resource Specialist Pete Golod represented the organization at Kittatinny Canoes’ Annual On and Under the Delaware River Clean-up on July 17. Other local public events attended by the UDC included the National Park Service’s Annual Canal Days in Minisink Ford, NY and Lackawaxen, PA on May 10, the Delaware River Sojourn on June 17, Sesquicentennial Anniversary Douglas City Days in Long Eddy, NY on July 14, and the 237th

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Anniversary of the Battle of Minisink at Sullivan County's Minisink Battlefield Park on July 22. UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie joined National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister and Lander's River Trips owner Rick Lander to offer a joint presentation about the "Economic Impacts of Tourism to the Upper Delaware River Valley" to the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Leadership Sullivan Class on September 19 at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts in Bethel, NY.



Special Meetings

Fiscal Year 2017 non-UDC meetings and special events attended includes:

Oct. 4, 2016 and Feb. 8, 2017 – Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), Arkville, NY

Oct. 18 – "The Top 10 Reasons Tourism Has an Important Role in Economic Development in the Upper Delaware River Region", sponsored by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Narrowsburg, NY

Oct. 19 – 7th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere: The Future of the Upper Delaware River Conference", sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River at West Branch Angler Resort, Hale Eddy, NY

Oct. 20 – New York City Department of Environmental Protection public hearing on plans to repair leaks in the Catskill and Delaware Aqueducts, Ellenville, NY

Oct. 27 – Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council meeting, Newton, NJ

Nov. 3 – Common Waters Partnership quarterly meeting, Stroudsburg, PA

Dec. 14 – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts on Drinking Water Resources, final assessment webinar

March 4-5, 2017 – "Bringing Communities Together" 2017 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations, State College, PA

May 9 – 2017 American Planning Association Regional Transect Mobile Workshop from New York City to Narrowsburg Union with Upper Delaware presentations

May 18 – "Unlock the Power of the Arts, Culture & Creativity: Placemaking and Rural Brownfields Redevelopment Boot Camp", Bushkill, PA

June 7 – "Building Watershed Resiliency in the Upper Delaware Region", Monticello, NY with a field visit to the Neversink Preserve

Aug. 4 – National Environmental Policy Act overview for the UDC Executive Director and Resource Specialist by the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent

Sept. 14 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Drought and Invasive Species webinar

Additional meetings in which the Upper Delaware Council participated included the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council and Marketing Committee, Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Management Advisory Committee, Upper Delaware River Roundtable, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Water Safety Committee, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Steering Committee, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, and Wayne-Pike Local History Roundtable.



Water Use/Resource Management Issues

Natural Gas – By a vote of three (New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) in favor, one opposed (federal government), and one abstaining (New Jersey), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) adopted a resolution on Sept. 13 directing preparation of a revised set of draft regulations to address natural gas development activities within the Delaware River Basin. The draft rulemaking is targeted for release by Nov. 30, 2017 and will be subject to public input with hearings and written comments. The regulations will: include prohibitions related to the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing; address storage, treatment, disposal or discharge of production-related wastewater where permitted; and regulate inter-basin transfers of water and wastewater for these purposes. On April 10, the UDC had written a letter to the DRBC asking how any applications for proposed natural gas exploration or drilling projects had been handled since the initial regulations were published on Dec. 9, 2010, which prompted the submission of nearly 69,000 comments and the issuance of revised rules on Nov. 8, 2011. The DRBC responded on May 1 with a confirmation that the Commission had neither received nor processed any such applications, adding, “The effect has been a de facto moratorium on unconventional shale gas drilling within the Delaware River Basin.” Subsequently, New York State implemented a state-wide ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing on June 29, 2015. The revival of activity came as the DRBC faced a legal challenge filed by the Wayne Land and Mineral Group, LLC to the agency’s authority to review natural gas facilities on its private land holdings. While the U.S. District Court granted the DRBC’s motion to dismiss the case on March 23, the plaintiff has appealed that ruling. Locally, the Millennium Pipeline Co. continued its pursuit of permits through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to advance its Eastern System Upgrade Project which includes construction of a new 22,400 horsepower compressor station in the Town of Highland and expansion of the existing station in the Town of Hancock. In Pennsylvania, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. began work in January 2017 on its \$143 million Orion Project to place a 36-inch diameter natural gas pipeline parallel to the existing 300 Line through 13 miles of Wayne and Pike Counties.

River Access Improvements – The UDC serves on a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program advisory committee led by the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management to improve the user functionality and aesthetics of the Highland River Access located on New York State Route 97 and co-managed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, National Park Service and NYS Department of Transportation. Meetings with engineering consultants from Haas Landscape Architects of Binghamton took place on March 29, June 2, and Sept. 19 to develop and refine construction documents, pursue the required permits and environmental reviews, and seek funding to implement the plans. Public meetings will follow when the final design drawings are available.

Stream Corridor Plan – The first-time creation of a multi-jurisdictional, non-regulatory blueprint for waterways below New York City’s Delaware Basin Reservoirs was initiated during FY 2017 with UDC participation on the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan Project Advisory Committee. The document will address such items as flood mitigation, early warnings for emergencies, resiliency to changing weather patterns, improving river flows and consistent water temperatures, infrastructure needs, enhancing recreational opportunities, and prioritizing protection and restoration projects. Meetings took place on Oct. 26, Dec. 15, April 5, and May 3, with the grant-funded project due for completion in December 2017.

Commercial Use and Glass Prohibition – National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister presented information at the Dec. 20, 2016 Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM) Committee meeting on the proposed implementation of changes to the Commercial Use Authorization fee structure in order to solicit UDC comments and input. There had

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been no revisions to the program since 2009 prior to this analysis conducted to assure that the NPS was recovering an adequate share of its monitoring costs. A five-tiered structure was floated, along with changes to the application fees and time periods covered. The increases would be phased in over six years. It was noted that the Upper Delaware has the second largest CUA program in the entire Northeast Region, with 81 commercial entities (61 fishing guides, 14 boat liveries, 4 camps, 1 dive school, and 1 river guide) authorized to conduct business in the park unit as of Fiscal Year 2016. Between 2013 and 2015, CUA holders reportedly provided services for over 358,000 visitors. The UDC provided the space for a subsequent Feb. 22 meeting between the NPS and CUA holders, with the Council called in by the business representatives to participate in that further discussion out of respect for the UDC's liaison role between the federal government and river valley interests, and the history of how the River Management Plan was cooperatively developed. Superintendent Heister provided a briefing at the Mar. 21 WU/RM Committee to summarize the compromises that had been reached. In other action on NPS proposals, members of the WU/RM Committee on Feb. 2 approved a resolution supporting the addition of language to the Superintendent's Compendium prohibiting the possession of glass containers on the river and to the ordinary high water mark.

Zane Grey House Cultural Landscape – Following June 20 WU/RM Committee review of a proposal by the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to demolish and remove three structures at the Zane Grey House property in Lackawaxen, PA, the full Council approved a July 6 comment letter. The UDC agreed that the three properties identified as the Cottage Kitchen, Moran House, and Ida & Josephine Grey House are not historically authentic to provide meaningful site interpretation context, and that addressing their deteriorated condition from age and weather damage would be a drain on the limited resources of the Maintenance Division. Furthermore, when a new visitor center is established at the museum, guests will be reoriented to enter from the current back of the property, where those structures that could be characterized as eyesores would be removed to make way for needed public restrooms. The UDC asked that if the buildings have sufficient structural integrity and contain any elements of architectural or historic interest, the public should be allowed an opportunity to inspect them before demolition occurs to make acquisition requests in accordance with NPS protocols. Finally, the Council encouraged offering local companies the opportunity to bid on providing the demolition services if that action ultimately occurs.



Project Review Issues

Renewable Energy Systems – The UDC conceptually adopted a position paper on “Select Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Systems: Solar, Wind, Geothermal, and Hydropower” on August 3, 2017 which concludes that commercial solar projects are appropriate as a conditional use (in PA) and special use (in NY), to be determined by the local town or township, while the other utility-scale developments are considered incompatible in the river corridor. The approval came after multiple drafts of the document that had originally addressed only large-scale solar arrays, the solicitation of comments from UDC member municipalities, and establishment of a Renewable Energies Subcommittee which conducted research from September 2016 through July 2017 to evaluate where these renewable energy enterprises would fall on the Schedule of Compatible, Conditional, and Incompatible Land Uses in the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

New Land Use – Similar to the renewable energy systems issue, the advent of hard cider manufacturing businesses as a proposed agricultural-related land use in the Upper Delaware River prompted the development starting in June 2017 of a position paper to guide substantial conformance reviews of these projects that are not specifically addressed in the Land and Water Use Guidelines of the River

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Management Plan. The “Evaluation of Cideries in the Upper Delaware Corridor” position paper was introduced at the Aug. 22, 2017 Project Review Committee with a recommendation made for conceptual approval by the full Council, which was pending at the end of FY 2017. It concludes that, through conditional use/special use permit review and associated permit criteria for “on-farm” cidery projects, towns, townships, and the UDC will have the ability to provide appropriate protections for the resources of the corridor.

Review of Projects – Among the proposed zoning changes and land use development projects that the Upper Delaware Council reviewed or discussed this fiscal year were:

- Town of Delaware: Hearings on Local Laws Codification and Amending Zoning Laws for Solar Energy Systems to lift a moratorium
- Town of Cochection: Moratorium established for large-scale solar energy generation systems or power plants
- Town of Tusten: Moratorium on large-scale solar energy projects extended
- Damascus Township: Zoning ordinance for alternate energy systems drafted
- Town of Highland: Limited commercial solar moratorium imposed
- Town of Delaware: Special Use of Wineries, Cideries, Microbreweries and Distilleries added to the Callicoon Business District
- Town of Delaware: Approval given for a 2 megawatt solar array on 10 acres along Baer Road in Callicoon, which was relocated out of the designated river corridor
- Town of Tusten: Conditional site plan approval given for a new Sunoco gas station at Pete’s Market on Kirk Road in Narrowsburg
- Town of Lumberland: Two letters were sent to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation requesting information on the commercial sewage discharge upgrade of the wastewater treatment facility at Camp Simcha
- Town of Tusten: 3-month moratorium on all major subdivisions approved
- Berlin Township: Stourbridge Energy to construct a small-scale distributed generation plant
- Damascus Township: UDC letters issued on an at-grade picnic patio in flood plain, recreational cabin construction, and single-family dwelling building permit
- Town of Cochection: Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Renewable Energy Systems drafted
- Town of Hancock: Investigation of complaint for Lordville construction that was not submitted to the UDC for review
- Town of Highland: Scope of work by the New York State Department of Transportation to repair concrete deteriorating on the Halfway Brook Bridge along NYS Route 97
- Town of Delaware: Site check of berm constructed across Callicoon Creek diversion channel, done without permits
- Town of Highland: Special use permit application submitted by Datys/Lander’s River Trips for a new river landing in Barryville, which was denied by the town
- Town of Delaware: Special use permit application submitted for Seminary Hill Cidery in the hamlet of Callicoon, which was approved by the town
- Town of Highland: Draft Zoning Law update to be prepared
- Town of Tusten: Subdivision Law Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Conservation Subdivision Law Zoning Ordinance Amendment, and Multiple Family Dwellings Zoning Ordinance reviewed;
- Town of Tusten: Local Law to Establish Regulations for Development of Solar Energy Systems

Project Review Workbook – An in-house update of the “Project Review Workbook: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River” (Version 1.0, dated Jan. 28, 1988) - utilized by the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service to guide reviews of all significant projects, variances, challenges, zoning ordinance amendments, and zoning map changes proposed in the designated river corridor for their conformance to the River Management Plan and Land and Water Use Guidelines – continued. The

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Workbook is being divided into two streamlined guides for reviewers and municipalities with new flow charts and checklists to facilitate its use by towns, townships, and regional governments/agencies. Once the content is finalized, the graphic design phase will begin.

Substantial Conformance Report – To fulfill its Cooperative Agreement reporting responsibility to the National Park Service to annually review its municipal members’ enforcement programs, the UDC in January requested each town and township to submit all building permits issued, variances granted, and land use projects approved within the river corridor boundaries for the 2016 calendar year. The Resource Specialist finalized and submitted the 2016 Enforcement Program Report on August 31.

Staff Training – UDC Resource Specialist Pete Golod obtained tuition approval to enroll in the Penn State World Campus on-line certification course, “The Nature of Geographic Information”, which started on Jan. 4, and “Problem Solving with GIS”, which started on Aug. 16 for 10 weeks each. Additional educational sessions included the New York State Zoning Board of Appeals Overview webinar on Jan. 10, and a National Environmental Policy Act briefing on Aug. 4.



Presentations

Upper Delaware Council delegates heard from speakers on a wide variety of informational topics throughout FY 2017. The following presentations were made:

October 6, 2016 – “National Historic Landmark Roebbling’s Delaware Aqueduct Rehabilitation Project” by Loren Goering, chief of Facility Management for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

November 3, 2016 – “Baseline Assessment of Groundwater Quality in Wayne County, PA” by Jamie Knecht, watershed specialist, Wayne Conservation District

January 5, 2017 – “Development of a Modern Map of the Upper Delaware Corridor” by Dr. Claire Jantz, director, Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability

March 2, 2017 – “Upper Delaware Region Geologic Resources Mapping Inventory Progress Report” by James Leone, project geologist, New York State Geological Survey

April 6, 2017 – “Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s Drowning Statistics and Prevention Campaign” by Water Safety Program Manager Kevin Reish and Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

May 4, 2017 – “Update on the Development of a Stream Corridor Management Plan for Waterways Below the NYC Delaware River Basin Reservoirs in Delaware County, NY” by Jeff Skelding, executive director, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.

June 1, 2017 – “Improving Emergency Communication Systems Below the New York City Reservoirs” by Paul Rush, deputy commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection

July 6, 2017 – “New York State Trout Fishing Regulatory Objectives” by Chris VanMaaren, fisheries manager, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4

August 3, 2017 – “History of the Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad” by Cliff Robinson, Jr., chairman, D&H Transportation Heritage Council

September 7, 2017 – “Sparrowbush Early Warning System” by Jack Flynn, director, Town of Deepark Emergency Management



UDC Grant Programs

Technical Assistance Grants – The Upper Delaware Council offers Technical Assistance Grants for research, planning, educational projects, and studies conducted by its member municipalities and the five river valley county governments in Orange, Sullivan, Delaware (NY), Wayne and Pike (PA).

Combined requests for applications submitted by the Aug. 29, 2016 deadline totaled \$65,935.70. A special meeting of the Project Review Committee took place on Sept. 13 to review the applications and make recommendations to the full Council.

The UDC voted on Oct. 6, 2016 to award \$36,280 in competitive Fiscal Year 2017 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) for seven projects that help fulfill goals of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The final amount of payments was \$33,537 following adjustments of reimbursable expenditures and the Town of Hancock’s July 11 withdrawal of its approved \$2,500 project to develop an environmental assessment of impacts to communities below the New York City reservoirs due to constraints on securing additional funding and partners.

Fiscal Year 2017 TAG projects accomplished by the Aug.18, 2017 deadline were:

- **Town of Highland** - \$10,000 to update and replace the Town Zoning Law;
- **Town of Tusten** - \$8,000 to codify Town Laws and Ordinances, phase one;
- **Berlin Township** - \$5,000 to inventory its stormwater culverts and add them as a layer to the base township map;
- **Shohola Township** - \$4,675 to create and print the book, “Shohola Boarding Houses: Postcards from the Past”;
- **Town of Lumberland** - \$3,105 to purchase, install, and obtain training on Town Highway Department software and develop a 10-year plan for road maintenance; and
- **Town of Deerpark** - \$2,757 to create and print a “Historic Markers of the Town of Deerpark” brochure.

The FY 2017 round brought the 1988 to 2017 cumulative amount to \$845,605 that the UDC has provided through the Technical Assistance Grant program to fund 247 projects.

River Clean-up Grants – In the fourth year of its River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants Program, the Upper Delaware Council disbursed \$3,975 to help subsidize four beautification projects. The environmental project started after the National Park Service discontinued its municipal trash contracts.

Solicitation memos were sent to all UDC municipalities on March 1 and four applications were received by the April 17 deadline. The Council approved the grant awards at the May 4 monthly meeting.

- **Damascus Township** (\$750) collaborated with youth from the Damascus United Methodist Charge’s Helping Hearts and Hands Youth Mission Camp and the Calkins Ag 4-H Club for river clean-ups from Callicoon, PA to Skinners Falls, NY.
- The **Town of Deerpark** (\$1,250) collected and disposed of more than 30 bags of garbage along the shore of the New York State Route 97 Hawk’s Nest over two days.
- The **Town of Highland** (\$1,200) contracted with J.P. Lang to clean up refuse by foot patrol and canoe along the river and at the Eagle Observatory access in the town.

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- The **Town of Lumberland** (\$775) contracted with Ann Steimle to conduct its river and shoreline clean-up within town boundaries.



Directory of UDC Approved Resolutions

- 2016-10: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2017, 10/6/16
- 2016-11: Granting Permanent Employee Status to Resource Specialist Pete Golod, 11/3/16
- 2016-12: Awarding the Printing of “The Upper Delaware” Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for FY 2017, 11/3/16
- 2017-01: Enter into a Contract with Eckersley and Ostrowski, L.L.P. for the Upper Delaware Council’s Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Review, 1/5/17
- 2017-02: Authorizing Signatories for Council’s Bank Accounts in 2017, 1/5/17
- 2017-03: Approving 2017 River Clean-up Grant Applications, 5/4/17
- 2017-04: Adopting a Revised FY 2017 Budget and Work Plan, 7/6/17
- 2017-05: Accepting a Quote for Brochure Printing Services, 7/6/17
- 2017-06: Accepting a Revised Quote for Brochure Printing, 8/3/17
- 2017-07: Adopting a UDC Member Participation Policy, 8/3/17
- 2017-10: Awarding the Printing of “The Upper Delaware” Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for FY 2018, 9/7/17
- 2017-11: Adopting a Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, Narrative and Work Plan, 9/7/17

Note: Draft Resolution 2017-08: Guiding Substantial Conformance Review of Renewable Energy Projects, and Draft Resolution 2017-09: Guiding Substantial Conformance Review of “On-Farm” Cideries, were introduced on 9/7/17 and each referred back to the Project Review Committee for further deliberation.



Administration

UDC Funding – The Upper Delaware Council narrowly avoided having to shut down and lay off staff after the \$127,890 balance of its FY 2017 federal funding was frozen when newly-appointed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke ordered a review of all National Park Service Cooperative Agreements valued at \$100,000 or more in mid-April. Without any other income source or carry-over options, the UDC’s federal dollars were depleted by May 24. Only its Unrestricted Fund enabled operations to continue until access to the account from which the UDC applies monthly for reimbursement of its expenses was restored on July 20. Changes implemented at the NPS Northeast Region Contracting Division also required the UDC to extensively revise its financial forms, budget, work plan, and reporting procedures eight months into the fiscal year. Support for the UDC in the form of requests for an expedited review was independently expressed by numerous elected officials, member municipalities, and conservation organizations during the funding crisis. The UDC sent letters to Secretary Zinke and the National Park Service Acting Regional Director on June 1, and to the Financial Assistance Program staff of the NPS Northeast Region on June 20, describing the impacts that the additional level of Department-wide review and the indefinite timing regionally to process the revised documents were having on the non-profit organization’s sustainability.

Based on the cost-sharing scenario outlined in the Final 1986 River Management Plan that the State of New York and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would each contribute 20% (\$100,000) of the UDC’s

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operating aid to supplement the 60% (\$300,000) federal share, the UDC also reached out to PA Governor Tom Wolf and NY Governor Andrew Cuomo on July 6 to advise them of the current hardship exacerbated by the states' failures to ever provide that anticipated funding.

An Aug. 10 response from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos stating that the UDC's request would be taken into consideration as the agency developed its State fiscal year 2018-19 budget motivated the UDC to submit on Sept. 7, 2017 a \$50,000 application for two initiatives to benefit the eight NYS member towns.

The projects are \$26,000 to conduct substantial conformance reviews of land use ordinances and zoning plans and \$24,000 to supplement the UDC's Technical Assistance Grants program. "The \$50,000 allocation from New York State would provide an introductory vehicle for the State to directly benefit the local towns and citizens which provide the stewardship that helps protect the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's ecosystem, exceptional water quality, its world-class cold water trout fishery, wildlife, geology, culture, scenic vistas, and contributes to the recreational tourism industry that is so vital to the Southern Tier region's economic stability," the Sept. 7 letter to Commissioner Seggos states.

Member Participation – A UDC Member Participation Policy was developed to define and describe the responsibilities of the municipally-appointed Upper Delaware Council representatives and alternate representatives to the not-for-profit organization. The positions require a core understanding of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* and the *Land and Water Use Guidelines* which provide the directives for cooperative management and the basis for administering land and water use control measures to implement the legislation which created the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Representatives and alternates must also participate in 14 general functions outlined in the policy. Approved on Aug. 3, 2017, the policy specifies a participation reimbursement remuneration of \$35.00 per official meeting attended, directly payable to the individual rather than to the local governments following a National Park Service review of the previous practice. Reimbursement for meeting travel expenses remains allowable. It would be implemented effective Oct. 1, 2017.

Bylaw Amendments – The Operations Committee initiated a review of UDC bylaws in August 2017 in consultation with legal counsel. Amendments to the bylaws have been proposed to the sections pertaining to Membership, Government, Voting Rights, Quorum, Duties of Representatives, Committees, and Dissolution & Disposal of Assets. A third draft version was approved at the Sept. 26 Operations Committee for distribution to the entire membership, with a vote pending in Fiscal Year 2018. The bylaws were most recently revised and adopted effective July 11, 2013.

Records Management – The UDC had contracted with Iron Mountain Document Capture Services in August 2016 to digitize the organization's meeting minutes from 1997 to 2008 and 140 issues of "The Upper Delaware" newsletter from 1988 to 2009, and received a flash drive with these electronic files in October 2016. A database spreadsheet tracking system to monitor the status of UDC correspondence and requested actions to and from the National Park Service was initiated in late October 2016 and expanded in scope by December to include correspondence with the 13 UDC member municipalities, primarily for project review activities. Staff investigated technological options, costs, and methodology to develop a website portal which would members to access digital documents. They also continued to work on documenting and organizing the contents of paper files and documents in storage dating back to the 1960s as time permitted.

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Fiscal Year 2017 financial data for the Upper Delaware Council is available by contacting:

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