



Upper Delaware Council

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Upper Delaware Council Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014

(Covering the period of October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014)

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Working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

*Town of Hancock • Town of Fremont • Town of Delaware • Town of Cochecton • 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*

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

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, 55,575.5-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 Travis O'Dell (since October 9, 2012), 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.

2014 Upper Delaware Council Membership Roster

Elected to serve as Upper Delaware Council officers at the annual meeting held January 9, 2014 were:

Chairperson: Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland, NY

Vice-Chairperson: Patricia Jeffer, Shohola Township, PA

Secretary-Treasurer: Alan Henry, Berlin Township, PA

Paula Brown, Constituent Services Representative for U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19), administered the oaths of office to the 2014 officers at a swearing-in ceremony held February 6, 2014.

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Providing leadership for the UDC's standing committees in 2014 as voted by their peers were chairmen:

Water Use/Resource Management: Tony Ritter, Town of Tusten, NY
Project Review: Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochection, NY
Operations: Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland, NY

As of Sept. 30, 2014, the UDC's delegation consisted of: (* denotes a change from Fiscal Year 2013)

<i>UDC Member</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Alternate(s)</i>
Town of Hancock	Fred Peckham	Samuel N. Rowe, Jr.
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	Andrew Boyar	Debra Conway
Town of Lumberland	Nadia Rajsaz	Jenny Mellan *
Town of Deerpark	David M. Dean	Virginia Dudko
Damascus Township	Jeffrey R. Dexter	Steven Adams *
Berlin Township	Alan Henry	Paul Henry
Lackawaxen Township	John S. McKay	1 st - Brian Stuart; 2 nd - Camille James *
Shohola Township	Patricia Jeffer	1 st - George J. Fluhr; 2 nd - Aaron Robinson
Westfall Township	Chuck Pranski *	Michael Barth *
State of New York (NY)	William J. Rudge, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	Michael J. Flaherty, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
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 *	Vacant
National Park Service (NPS) – UDC partner	Michael Caldwell, Northeast Regional Director *	Kristina Heister, Superintendent, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River *

* Appointment Changes: *Cochection* – Alternate Sean Nearing replaced Edwin Grund, who served on the board from Jan. 2010-2014; *Lumberland* – Jenny Mellan was appointed Alternate in Jan. 2014 to fill a vacancy in place since 2013; *Damascus* – Alternate Steven Adams replaced Joseph Canfield, who served from Jan. 2012-2014; *Lackawaxen* – Camille James was appointed to a new 2nd Alternate position on July 21, 2014; *Westfall* – Joe Demalderis served as Representative from Feb. 11, 2014 to Aug. 4, 2014, then was replaced by Chuck Pranski, while Michael Barth was appointed Alternate on Aug. 4, 2014 to fulfill a vacancy that existed since 2009; *Pennsylvania* – Former Representative Dennis J. DeMara retired on Oct. 4, 2013 and was succeeded by Timothy Dugan. Rhonda Manning became Alternate on the same effective date of Feb. 20, 2014, filling a vacancy in place since 2005. *DRBC* – Following the Mar. 12, 2014 retirement of Carol R. Collier, Rich Gore filled in as Acting Executive Director and UDC Representative until the hiring of Steven J. Tambini as Executive Director effective Aug. 1, 2014. *NPS* – Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach retired Jan. 1, 2014 and was succeeded in that role by Michael Caldwell on Feb. 11, 2014. Former Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean J. McGuinness retired on Jan. 24, 2014. Malcolm Wilbur served as Acting Superintendent from Jan. 27-July 13, 2014. Kristina Heister was assigned as the new Superintendent effective July 14, 2014.

Fiscal Year 2014 Activity Highlights

Operations

Superintendent Vacancy – Fiscal Year 2014 brought about a change in leadership for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River when Superintendent Sean McGuinness retired on Jan. 24, 2014 after a 37-year career with the National Park Service (NPS), culminating with his final local assignment that had begun on Feb. 4, 2010. The Upper Delaware Council urged the NPS Northeast Region in a Jan. 3 letter and during Feb. 19 Transitional Management Assistance Program interviews that it was critical to maintain the Upper Delaware’s autonomy as a unit of the National Parks System, and to hire an individual that would be sensitive to the cooperative management model that lies at the core of this bi-state river corridor in which the vast majority of the acreage is privately owned and NPS jurisdiction is limited. Malcolm Wilbur, who had been the Administrative Officer at Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area since 2002, served as Acting Superintendent from Jan. 27 to July 13, earning praise from the UDC for his innovative ideas and professionalism. NPS Northeast Regional Director Michael Caldwell announced the hiring of Kristina Heister as Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River superintendent effective July 14. Heister, a Pennsylvania native who had served as Chief of Natural Resources for the Northeast Region for the last two of her 22-year NPS tenure, became the sixth superintendent since the Upper Delaware’s Congressional designation in 1978.

Government Shutdown – When Congress failed to reach a budget agreement for Fiscal Year 2014, the federal government was shut down on Oct. 1, 2013 for 17 days. The UDC received a suspension of work notice which cautioned that costs incurred for activities performed under its federal Cooperative Agreement contract during the shutdown were at risk of not being reimbursed. After analyzing the Council’s financial position, the board opted to implement an office closure plan effective Oct. 25 if necessary. The UDC sent letters on Oct. 7 to President Barack Obama, Speaker of the House John Boehner, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid describing the impact that these federal impasses and sequester cuts have on programs, resources, economies, and individuals at the grassroots level. No replies were received.

Federal Funding – An 8% sequester cut (\$24,000) was initially applied to the UDC’s Fiscal Year 2014 federal funding allocation, decreasing that primary revenue source to \$276,000. The UDC had revised its budget to decrease Technical Assistance Grants by \$5,000, Outside Consulting Services by \$13,835, and Capital Expenditures by \$5,165. Continuing Resolution limitations resulted in no payments being available from Sept. through mid-November 2013, then a rationing out of monthly payments from Jan. 15 to Mar. 15, 2014. A special allocation of \$3,000 was authorized on April 17, 2014 as pass-through funds from the National Park Service to the UDC to subsidize a river clean-up program for member municipalities. A modification to the Cooperative Agreement executed May 15 restored 7% (\$21,000) of the sequester cut. The UDC amended its budget to allocate \$15,000 to Capital Expenditures and \$6,000 to Outside Consulting Services. These mid-fiscal year adjustments brought the total federal appropriation for FY 2014 back to \$300,000. The Application for Federal Assistance package for Fiscal Year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015) was due by June 6, 2014, requiring drafting, reviews, and approvals of a new projected budget and committee work plans.

River Management Plan Review – The Upper Delaware Council issued a Request for Proposals seeking an outside consultant to facilitate and prepare a technical review of the 1986 River Management Plan (RMP) for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The goal was to lay the groundwork for a future, formal update process by assessing any inconsistencies among relevant documents, laws, and policies; identifying typographical errors; and highlighting issues that are absent or warrant re-examination. On Aug. 7, the Council approved a \$9,900 contract with Environmental Planning & Design,

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LLC of Pittsburgh, PA to undertake the review which included examination of documents, interviews with stakeholders familiar with the RMP, and the preparation and public presentation of a final report.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades – In an effort to improve energy efficiency for the Narrowsburg business office and realize long-term cost savings, the UDC had a Small Commercial Energy Assessment done on April 16 by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The resulting comprehensive report prompted the UDC to invest the majority of its sequester-restored funding in projects to insulate the attic and exposed piping, replace the air conditioning unit with a heat/air pump, replace the drafty glass front door, weather-strip the windows, and install four ceiling fans.

UDC Resolutions

- 2013-15: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2014, 10/3/13
- 2013-16: Appreciation to Dennis J. DeMara (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania UDC representative), 10/3/13
- 2013-17: Award the Printing of “The Upper Delaware” Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for FY 2014, 11/7/13
- 2014-01: Signature of Corporate Resolutions and Bank Cards, 1/9/14
- 2014-02: Agreement with Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP for Audit and Accounting Services for FY 2014, 1/9/14
- 2014-03: Appreciation to Sean McGuinness Upon Retirement from the National Park Service, 1/9/14
- 2014-04: Adopting Policies for Conflict of Interest and Employment Practices & Staff Code of Conduct, 1/9/14
- 2014-05: Appreciation to Carol R. Collier (Delaware River Basin Commission UDC representative), 2/6/14
- 2014-06: Enact a Member Participation Policy, 5/1/14
- 2014-07: Adopting the UDC Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, 6/5/14
- 2014-08: Adopting the Water Use/Resource Management Committee Work Plan for FY 2015, 6/5/14
- 2014-09: Adopting the Project Review Committee Work Plan for FY 2015, 6/5/14
- 2014-10: Adopting the Operations Committee Work Plan for FY 2015, 6/5/14
- 2014-11: Hiring a Consultant For Preliminary Review of the 1986 Final River Management Plan, 8/7/14

Advocacy

Flexible Flows – Executive Director Laurie Ramie and Resource Specialist Travis O’Dell delivered position statements on the UDC’s behalf at two unprecedented Flexible Flow Management Plan Input Listening Sessions convened on Oct. 1, 2013 at SUNY Sullivan by the Parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree (States of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and the City of New York). The UDC advocated for decision-making which leads to a more equitable, balanced regime of Delaware River flows and releases to protect the local fishery and river recreation industry. Specific recommendations were to increase minimum conservation release levels, provide flood mitigation, determine New York City estimated actual consumption, require repairs of leaks in the aqueduct system, install a targeted upper river gage, and establish a protocol to proactively and systematically provide thermal stress relief during high water temperature events to protect habitat. On Dec. 5, the UDC directed a letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission recommending that the agency thoroughly evaluate the Equitable Apportionment Plan for the New York City Delaware Water Supply System as championed by the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition. The Council also reached out to New York City directly, sending a letter to Mayor Bill deBlasio on May 1, 2014 encouraging his administration to adopt an open,

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collaborative and transparent process for Delaware River Basin reservoir management decisions that impact downstream communities.

Oversized Vehicles – A request by New York State Troopers to have the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) designate the river valley's main thoroughfare, NYS Route 97, as an access highway for special dimension vehicles motivated a response from the UDC. An Oct. 3 letter to DOT expressed that state decisions in the river corridor should be reviewed by the Council as per the Executive Order; consideration should be given to the real potential for hazardous conflicts with cyclists due to the road width, contours, and lack of bicycle lanes; and there should be a sunset clause to expire in one year to allow for analysis. Approval for the designation was ultimately given.

GIS Mapping – The UDC made a technical assistance request of the National Park Service Feb. 25 to prepare and provide a modern map of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology with data layers depicting the federally-designated corridor boundaries, each municipality's zoning districts, tax parcel data, hamlets, floodplains, waterways, roadways, elevations, and similar information to facilitate the Council's review of proposed development projects. Under the administration of Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur, several meetings followed to refine the contents and discuss applications, then training was provided in the use of a Park Atlas mapping tool that evolved from the request.

Eel Fishery – A looming Dec. 31, 2014 regulatory expiration date for the commercial silver eel fishery which operates only on the New York State portion of the Delaware River and its tributaries led the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to draft an addendum to the Fishery Management Plan outlining a variety of options to reduce overall mortality and increase conservation of American eel stock. The NYS DEC hosted a June 30 meeting at the UDC office to inform eel anglers and interested citizens about the proposal that could affect the 10 permits then in effect. The UDC sent a letter to ASMFC on July 3 strongly supporting the continuation of the local eel fishery based on its significance to the regional culture and economy, and due to the very minor impact that this specialized harvesting industry has on the Atlantic Coast eel population. The UDC also reviewed and commented on the NYS DEC's proposed rulemaking for Aquatic Invasive Species Control in a Feb. 21 letter.

Economic Studies – Through its 2014 Technical Assistance Grant program, the UDC provided seed money for the compilation of two studies quantifying the economic importance of the Upper Delaware River Valley. One study, commissioned by the Delaware County Department of Economic Development and Friends of the Upper Delaware River, determined that the net value of the cold water fishing and boating industry is \$414 million and further estimated that it could be enhanced by \$274 million if there were more consistent cold water releases. Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (NYS Route 97) was the subject of a study conducted by Fairweather Consulting. It found that 283,000 to 341,000 visitors come to the byway annually for outdoor recreation-related activities and identified currently unrealized economic opportunities that could be met as a result of this research. The UDC also publicized a peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis from the National Park Service released in July 2014 which showed that 228,464 visitors to NPS-managed sites at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River spent \$9,287,000 in communities near the park unit in 2013. That spending supported 95 local jobs. The Council hosted an Aug. 31 focus group meeting sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association to assist with that non-profit organization's issuance of a Delaware River National Parks Business Survey designed to collect information about the economic connections between the Upper Delaware and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and their surrounding communities.

Natural Gas – Preparing for the potential implementation of Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction activities in the Upper Delaware River Valley, the UDC continued to monitor the ongoing development of regulations by New York State and the Delaware River Basin Commission, scientific studies of impacts,

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and relevant court decisions. A Mar. 6 letter to the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board offered UDC comments on proposed changes to PA Code Chapter 78 regulations as they pertain to gas wells which may affect public resources. The UDC participates in monthly meetings of the Eastern Shale Group of federal agencies and partners who share the status of new developments, regulatory updates, and discuss industrial technologies. On Sept. 15-18, the National Park Service organized a Natural Gas Summit which included an orientation to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for the agency participants assembled from across the country, a visit to Millennium Pipeline Company's Hancock Compressor Station, expert speakers, and bus tours of active gas operations in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties, PA. Several UDC board and staff members participated in portions of the summit. Other educational outlets include topical teleconferences and webinars.

Grant Support – Support letters for grant applications by the Town of Tusten to the Federal Transportation Alternative Program for a Pedestrian Links and Sidewalk Improvement Project and by the Common Waters Partnership to the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for professional planning assistance to explore the implications of seeking National Water Trail designation for the Delaware River were approved by the UDC on May 1 and Aug. 28, respectively.

Project Reviews

The UDC continuously researches and reviews draft ordinances, zoning amendments, and development projects for conformance with the River Management Plan; attends meetings and public hearings as warranted; and issues comment letters on proposals with potential impact on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

A special accomplishment of FY 2014 was contracting with W Design of Barryville, NY on Aug. 7 to graphically update the “Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Design Handbook”. Originally published in 1990, the handbook provides guidance for building and development projects that occur within the federally-designated river corridor to proceed in ways that ensure harmony with the existing river landscape. The UDC retained the core summary of the technical aspects of the Land and Water Use Guidelines while seeking a more contemporary layout with new photos, colorized illustrations, and updated information where necessary. A digital format version was completed on Sept. 23 and posted to the UDC's website.

During FY 2014, other project review actions included:

October 2013 – Completed the “Substantial Conformance Review for the Town of Hancock”, a 28-page report which provides guidance on the town's zoning conformance status with the Land and Water Use Guidelines associated with the River Management Plan.

November 2013 – Participated in a public hearing on an application by Verizon Wireless to install two broadband towers in Damascus Township within the river corridor boundaries.

January 2014 – Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell was the opening speaker at the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act Revisions Training Conference sponsored by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development on Jan. 15; Reviewed and commented on a conditional use application in Lackawaxen Township.

February 2014 – Reviewed and commented on a side yard variance request in the Town of Delaware.

March 2014 – Received notice from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation of the granting of a five-year permit with conditions to the Little Joseph Realty, LLC Sand and Gravel Mine in the Town of Cocheton; Reviewed and commented on the increased height of a proposed emergency communications tower in the Town of Tusten, NY for the Sullivan County 911 System.

April 2014 – Approved sending a letter to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources requesting a thorough review of the Verizon Wireless broadband tower proposals in Damascus Township as potentially intrusive to the river corridor's scenic values.

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May 2014 – Gave a presentation on the UDC’s project review procedure to the Lumberland Planning Board on May 6; Received notice from Berlin Township of a six-month moratorium set on sign installations pending adoption of a new sign ordinance.

June 2014 – Gave a presentation on the UDC’s project review procedure to the Highland Planning Board on June 4; Reviewed and commented on plans to develop a helipad landing at the Hermann Division of Catskill Regional Medical Center in the Town of Delaware.

July 2014 – Gave a presentation on the UDC’s project review procedure to the Shohola Planning Commission on July 17; Reviewed and commented on an application before Damascus Township for a Special Exception Use under Floodplain Development Standards to construct a two-car garage.

August 2014 – Consulted on an application before the Tusten Planning Board for an area variance and special use permit for a sawmill operation within the town’s recreational river zone; Reviewed and commented on a special use application to place a pre-fabricated shed at Knights Eddy Campsites in the Town of Lumberland.

September 2014 – O’Dell was a speaker at “Tips & Tools to Preserve Scenic Views”, a seminar sponsored by Sullivan Renaissance Sept. 3 at the Cochection Town Hall, sharing information on a National Park Service methodology to objectively inventory and evaluate scenic views.

In addition, the Project Review Committee continued its chapter-by-chapter reading, as time at each monthly meeting permitted, of the “UDC Project Review Workbook” from 1988 to refresh the familiarity of committee members and collectively ascertain the need for any updates to this document which codifies the procedure for examining significant projects, variances, and challenges for consistency with the River Management Plan.

Presentations

Upper Delaware Council representatives and alternates sought to expand their knowledge base on a number of topics throughout FY 2014 by inviting expert speakers to offer the following presentations:

Oct. 3, 2013 – “Adapting to Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Upper Delaware Region” by Susan Beecher, Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Nov. 7, 2013 – “Getting Our Fair Share of Water: An Equitable Apportionment Plan for the New York City Delaware Water Supply System” by Garth Pettinger, Trout Unlimited

Feb. 6, 2014 – “Upper Delaware River Coldwater Fishing and Boating Economic Impact Study Preview” by Tom Shepstone, Shepstone Consulting; Bill Willis, Delaware County Office of Economic Development; and Jeff Skelding, Friends of the Upper Delaware River

Mar. 6, 2014 – “National Park Service 2016 Centennial Roll-Out” by Karen Henry, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Apr. 3, 2014 – “William Penn Foundation’s Delaware Watershed Protection Program” by Ralph Bud Cook, The Nature Conservancy

May 1, 2014 – “Blight of the Japanese Knotweed Invasive Plant Species” by Jamie Myers, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

July 3, 2014 – “Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Update” by Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management

Aug. 7, 2014 – “Water Safety and River Valley Emergency Management Briefing” by Joe Hinkes, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Sept. 4, 2014 – “Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition” by Dean Frazier, Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs, and Sherri Resti, Friends of the Upper Delaware River

Grants Administration

Technical Assistance Grants – The Upper Delaware Council annually offers Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) to its member municipalities and river valley counties to provide competitive funding for non-construction projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan.

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From the organization's inception in 1988 through the 2014 TAG round, the UDC awarded a cumulative total of \$745,394 to help subsidize 219 projects.

Member municipalities submitted projects requesting a combined \$37,156.99 by an Aug. 30, 2013 deadline. Total funding available was \$25,000. A special meeting of the Project Review Committee took place on Sept. 10 to deliberate over the applications.

Nine TAGs totaling \$25,000 were awarded in the Fiscal Year 2014 program on Oct. 3, 2013:

- TAG 2014-01: **Town of Highland**, Purchase topographic maps as a planning and development tool, \$492
- TAG 2014-02: **Town of Delaware**, Update the town's assessment records, \$3,000
- TAG 2014-03: **Town of Tusten**, Create a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Tusten, \$3,500
- TAG 2014-04: **Town of Cochection**, Purchase topographic and soil maps for use by the town's assessor and building department, \$656
- TAG 2014-05: **Town of Lumberland**, Create a master map of the Glen Spey Cemetery which will be available to the public in brochure and on-line format, \$1,500
- TAG 2014-06: **Town of Lumberland**, Hire Fairweather Consulting to provide an estimate of tourism visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in order to identify potential economic opportunities, \$5,000
- TAG 2014-07: **Shohola Township**, Produce a DVD and indexed pictorial library catalogue to help preserve the history of Shohola Township, \$5,000
- TAG 2014-08: **Berlin Township**, Purchase tax maps from the Wayne County Assessment Office and obtain a hanging file system for their display, \$683.99
- TAG 2014-09: **Town of Hancock**, Complete Economic Study on Improved Releases from New York City Water Supply System, \$5,168.01

All projects were successfully completed by the Aug. 22, 2014 deadline.

Applications for the Fiscal Year 2015 Technical Assistance Grant program were due by Aug. 22, 2014. Combined requests by 13 applicants totaled \$49,438 competing for a budgeted funding pool of \$30,000. A special meeting of the Project Review Committee took place on Sept. 9 to assess and rank the applications. The recommended FY 2015 TAG awards were due to be voted on at the Oct. 2, 2014 UDC meeting.

River Clean-up Grants: Thanks to a \$3,000 special allocation awarded to the UDC by National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur in April 2014, the Council was able to offer a pilot project to encourage volunteer-based, sustainable river and shoreline clean-up programs by member municipalities. The UDC had written a June 18 letter questioning the Park Service's action of removing trash receptacles from river access sites.

Allowable costs included the purchase or rental of materials and equipment to aid in clean-up efforts, contracting for services, trash disposal at lawful sites, and publicity to recruit volunteers.

Four applications were received by the UDC's May 30 deadline and the projects had to be completed by Aug. 4.

Participants reimbursed for their river and shoreline clean-up expenses were Damascus Township (\$500), Lackawaxen Township (\$736), Town of Highland (\$882) and Town of Lumberland (\$882).

Special Meetings and Events

The Upper Delaware Council was represented at a variety of meetings, training sessions, and special events. Some notable examples included:

10/15/13 – "Water, Water Everywhere: The Future of the Upper Delaware River" conference sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River at West Branch Angler Resort in Hale Eddy, NY

2/15/14 – "Visions for a Sustainable Future: Climate Change Symposium" sponsored by Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development in partnership with NACL Theatre's The Weather Project and the Town of Highland, at the Highland Senior Center in Eldred, NY

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3/27-28 – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program River Accesses Design Workshop, at the Cochection Town Hall in Lake Huntington, NY

4/2 – Hosted an Archives Survey Team from the National Park Service to do an inventory of the UDC's records as a partner organization and make recommendations on their preservation, from which a 63-page Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Archives Survey Report was generated in August 2014

4/7-8 – First Annual Green Tourism Conference for the Catskills and Poconos at the Villa Roma Hotel and Resort in Callicoon, NY

4/8 – “Stop Eurasian Boar and Early Detection of Invasive Species” by Delaware County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Hancock, NY

4/10-11 – Northeast Region Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Gathering at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA

4/18 – Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 2014 Water Safety Campaign Kick-off at Konrad's Kitchen in Yulan, NY

5/14 – New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Annual Meeting at NYS Department of Transportation Region 9 offices in Binghamton, NY

5/15 – Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Seasonal Staff Orientation at NPS Headquarters in Beach Lake, PA

5/19-21 – NPS Viewshed Analysis Training at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, PA

8/13 – Constituent Meeting with U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, 19th District, Ferndale, NY

9/12 – Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition Conference at the West Branch Angler Resort, Hale Eddy, NY

9/18 – Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge Rehabilitation Plans Open House by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at the Narrowsburg Firehouse

9/22 – “Estimate of Tourism Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway” presentation by consultant Peter Fairweather at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY

Public Outreach

Communication Towers Workshop: The UDC organized a free, three-hour workshop on “Siting Telecommunication Towers in the Scenic Upper Delaware River Valley” March 29 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg which brought out 40 participants to hear from three expert speakers about telecommunications trends and techniques for NY and PA municipalities to deal with that industry. Educational credits were offered to planning and zoning board members who attended.

Newsletter: “The Upper Delaware”, a free newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley, is published twice-annually by the UDC. It is mailed to approximately 9,500 subscribers and is posted in full color on the UDC's website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

The Fall/Winter 2013 issue, released in early October, featured articles on “Sequester Cuts Hit Home”, “UDC Marks 25 Years of Awards”, “Developments in Natural Gas Issues”, “Love Blooms in the Upper Delaware”, and “Strides Across the Delaware Sponsors”, among others.

The Spring/Summer 2014 issue, released in early April, featured articles on “Harnessing the Power of Science, Art & Community”, “National Park Service Has Leadership Change”, “UDC Discusses Climate, Water Shares, and Economic Impacts of Recreation”, “Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby Helps Celebrate Pike County's Bicentennial”, “20th Delaware River Sojourn Set”, and more.

Fishing Derby: The 200th anniversary of Pike County, PA motivated a year-long series of celebratory events, which included the UDC helping to plan and promote the first-ever Zane Grey Fishing Derby in honor of the world renowned record-holding angler. Winners in youth and adult categories who caught and released rainbow, brook and brown trout and smallmouth bass on the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers and their tributaries from April 12 to July 6 were announced at the 10th Annual Zane

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Grey Festival on July 12 sponsored by NPS at the western author's beloved 1905-1918 home in Lackawaxen, PA.

Raft Trip: The UDC's 26th Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 3, 2014 attracted 80 guests, including 16 children from ages 5-12, to paddle a 10-mile section of the Upper Delaware River from Skinners Falls in the Town of Cochecton to Ten Mile River Access in the Town of Tusten. Lander's River Trips provided the rafts, paddles, life vests, and shuttle transportation. The Council aims to promote stewardship of the river through this fun activity open to the public.

Informational Booths: The "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania" brochure produced by the UDC since 1989, other literature, and information about the river valley was shared with the public at the Sullivan County Visitors Association's May 8 Annual Literature Exchange at Holiday Mountain Fun Park in Bridgeville, NY; and booths at the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware BioBlitz on June 29 at Ten Mile River Scout Camp property in the Town of Tusten; the 24th Annual Narrowsburg RiverFest on July 27; and NACL Theatre's The Weather Project Community Pageant and Expo on Aug. 9 in Yulan, NY.

News Releases

Issued during FY 2014 on behalf of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. in addition to a regular publication of meeting notices were the following releases:

- 10/1/13 – 84 Make Strides Across the Delaware 5K Successful UDC 25th Anniversary Race
- 10/4/13 – "The Upper Delaware" Fall/Winter 2013 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail
- 10/7/13 – Upper Delaware Council Awards 2014 Technical Assistance Grants
- 10/11/13 – Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Offers History Books, Placemats
- 10/31/13 – Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Decals and Magnets Available
- 11/22/13 – UDC Issues FY 2013 Annual Report
- 11/22/13 – Upper Delaware River T-shirts Make Great Gifts, Benefit UDC
- 12/23/13 – Berlin Township Completes UDC Grant
- 1/10/14 – UDC Expresses Appreciation to Retiring Park Service Official
- 1/10/14 – UDC Elects 2014 Officers
- 2/3/14 – Upper Delaware Council Seeks Nominations for 26th Annual Awards by Mar. 10
- 2/7/14 – Upper Delaware Council Names Roster for 2014
- 2/28/14 – UDC Announces New Appointments
- 2/28/14 – Highland and Cochecton Complete UDC Grants
- 3/3/14 – Deadline Approaches for UDC Award Nominations
- 3/6/14 – Zane Grey Fishing Derby to Celebrate Pike Bicentennial
- 3/10/14 – UDC Hosts Mar. 29 Free Workshop on Communication Towers in River Valley
- 3/12/14 – Congressman Chris Gibson to Speak at Upper Delaware Council Awards April 27
- 3/24/14 – UDC Announces Honorees for Awards Ceremony on April 27
- 3/31/14 – UDC Communication Towers Workshop Offers Tips and Trends to Municipalities
- 4/2/14 – "The Upper Delaware" Spring/Summer 2014 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail
- 4/3/14 – Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby Opens April 12
- 4/7/14 – Reserve for UDC Awards by April 18
- 4/10/14 – Upper Delaware Brochures Available
- 4/28/14 – UDC 2014 Honorees
- 5/7/14 – Judges Announced for Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby
- 5/12/14 – Join UDC for 26th Annual Raft Trip
- 5/15/14 – Replacement of Pond Eddy Bridge Projected Two Years from Starting
- 5/29/14 – Zane Grey Fishing Derby Offers Chance to Win a Canoe and Prizes

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- 6/11/14 – UDC Technical Assistance Grant Applications Due by Aug. 29
- 7/7/14 – Calendar of Events listing for UDC Raft Trip with 7/25/ reservation deadline
- 7/15/14 – Zane Grey Fishing Derby Results In
- 7/15/14 – Upper Delaware Council Requests Extension of Local Silver Eel Fishery
- 7/24/14 – UDC Grants Fund Cemetery Mapping & Assessment Records Update by Towns
- 8/4/14 – UDC Raft Trip Attracts 80
- 8/12/14 – UDC Funds River Clean-ups
- 8/18/14 – Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Tourism Study Results to be Revealed Sept. 22
- 8/27/14 – UDC Grant Funds Economic Studies, Emergency Plan, and History DVD

26th Annual Awards

The Upper Delaware Council held its 26th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 27, 2014 at Henning's Local in Eldred, NY with 81 guests present. U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19) delivered the keynote address. Honored for their contributions to the Upper Delaware River Valley were:

Distinguished Service Award ~ Don Hamilton

(Chief of Resource Management, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Milanville, PA, for ongoing professionalism, career accomplishments, and commitment since 1993)

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award ~ Rayna, Connor & Madison Maguire, Raymond Nelson and Melissa Browning of Staten Island, NY

(Collective efforts in the July 20, 2013 rescue of Paul Maguire following a medical mishap during a canoe trip on the Upper Delaware River)

Partnership Award ~ Upper Delaware BioBlitz

(June 28-29, 2013 event coordinated by Steven Schwartz and fiscal sponsor Delaware Highlands Conservancy to scientifically document the biodiversity of a 63.5-acre site located at the confluence of the Delaware River's East and West Branches in Starlight, PA over a 24-hour period)

Community Service Award ~ Lee Hartman

(Dedicated conservationist and pioneer flyfishing guide from Equinunk, PA)

Cultural Achievement Award ~ The Delaware Company

(Historic support non-profit organization founded by John and Debra Conway of Barryville, NY)

Recreation Achievement Award ~ Susie Kaspar and Peter Brandon Diefenbach

(NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 2013 Water Safety School Outreach Campaign)

Volunteer Award ~ Isaac Green Diebboll

(Founding of the Callicoon, NY-based North School Studio's "Access Government" online film archive project in 2013)

Special Recognition Award ~ John B. Niflot

(Posthumously, for his contributions to the Upper Delaware Council as a representative for 19 years and its secretary-treasurer for 10 terms, to the Town of Fremont as a councilman from 1994-2013, and to the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley as its 1980 founder and president)

Oaken Gavel Award – Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA

(Leadership and service as Upper Delaware Council chairperson in 2013)

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Conclusion

The Upper Delaware Council is responsible for over 60 responsibilities assigned to it in the River Management Plan, as well as the tasks outlined in work plans that are approved each fiscal year to provide direction to the Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review Committees.

In FY 2014, staff also participated in meetings of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River & Upper Delaware Council Issues Team, NPS Viewshed Analysis Team, Common Waters Partnership, Upper DelAWARE River Roundtable, Federal Eastern Shale Group, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Steering Committee, NPS Water Safety Committee, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, and Delaware River Basin Water Census Stakeholder Updates, among others.

The activities in which the Upper Delaware Council engages are designed to ensure that the river valley's collective voice is heard, its rural character is preserved, incompatible land uses are prevented, private property rights are protected, and the pristine water quality is maintained.

For more information on the UDC and its activities, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org; stop by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg; write P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022.

Prepared by Executive Director Laurie Ramie, posted 12/5/14