

The Upper Delaware

A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA

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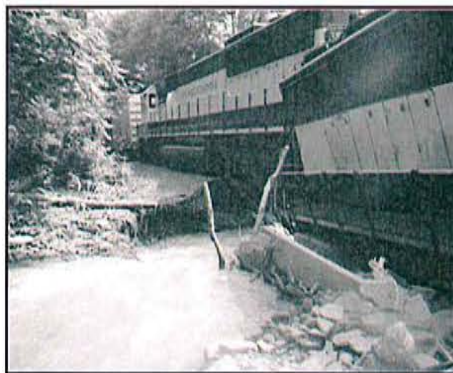
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Thank you for your interest.



RECEPTIVE RAILROAD: Among the 20 participants in an October 29 meeting organized by the UDC in Narrowsburg to discuss railroad emergency planning were, from the left, Melanie Boyer, Government and Public Affairs director for Central New York Railroad (CNYK); UDC Secretary/Treasurer Al Henry from Berlin Township, PA; National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Keith Winslow; and CNYK Chief Engineer of Track and Division Manager Brad Delamater. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

UDC Chugs Forward to Improve Railroad Emergency Response

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) took the first steps toward updating a 1997 Railroad Emergency Response Guide by facilitating an October 29 meeting between Central New York Railroad (CNYK) staff and federal, state, county, and local emergency management officials.



OFF THE RAILS: On Aug. 9, 2018, this New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway train derailed in the Town of Deposit, shown at Hungry Hollow Creek. (Contributed NPS Photo)

The operators of the 123-mile Southern Tier Line running between Binghamton and Port Jervis in New York and Pennsylvania also offered to assist with rail safety education for law enforcement professionals, first responders, and the public.

In 1997, former operator Conrail and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network collaborated with the UDC and National Park Service over a two-year period to publish a first edition "Emergency Response Guide for the Upper Delaware River Valley."

The booklet included eight fold-out maps for segments between Port Jervis and Deposit depicting the locations of mile markers, control points, signal lights, clearances, cables and locked gates, obstructions, and emergency contacts.

Five hundred copies were distributed to emergency responders in five counties, with a series of orientation sessions held in Hancock, Narrowsburg, and Shohola, followed in 1998 by a live locomotive safety

Please see RAILROAD on Page 5

Upper Delaware Profile: Keith Winslow, NPS

Having served in an Acting Chief Ranger capacity at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for nearly a year over two stints, Keith Winslow can't say he didn't know what he was getting into when he was offered the job permanently.

In fact, he had no hesitation over accepting the appointment effective August 18.

"I felt that, with all my field knowledge and experience, this was the next step in my career to take a leadership role," the 41-year-old says.

"It's a unique opportunity to work with the Upper Delaware Council and all the communities and agencies. It's bigger than the National Park Service," he says of the federal-state-local management model.

Winslow previously filled in at the Upper Delaware from December 2015 through April 2016, then was tapped again on June 9, 2019 after a series of acting appointments followed former Chief Ranger Larry D. Neal, Jr.'s Dec. 31, 2018 retirement.

Having joined the National Park Service ranks straight out of college 18 years ago, Winslow worked for the last decade downriver at the Delaware Water Gap (DEWA) National Recreation Area.

Originally from Laurens, NY in Otsego County, Winslow says he was always outdoors-oriented. His family lived on site at Gilbert Lake State Park, which his father managed and became his playground.

Winslow graduated from Laurens High School in 1996, earned an Associate's degree from SUNY Cobleskill in 1998, and studied parks and recreation to gain a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania's Slippery Rock University in 2001.

His NPS career started as a seasonal ranger at Mesa Verde National Park, which happens to be where he met his wife of 12 years, Amber, who is the Administrative Officer at DEWA.

The couple lives about equidistant from their workplaces in the Milford, PA area with their two sons, Kyler, 8, and Kayden, 5, students in the Dingman-Delaware Elementary School.

Prior to working at DEWA, Winslow provided supervision for seasonal staff at Zion National Park and served as the Acting Kolob District Ranger.

Other NPS assignments have taken him to Northern Oregon, Glacier, Saguache, Kings Canyon, and Philadelphia.

Winslow served on two All-Risk Operations Teams, first with the Intermountain Region and most recently as Assistant Team Leader of the Northeast Region and National Capital Region Special Events Tactical teams.

He has provided security assistance for Pope Francis during his Philadelphia trip,



Chief Ranger Keith Winslow

President Obama's family visit to the Grand Canyon, and President Bush's stay at Zion.

Winslow has special skills as an active shooter program and firearms instructor, and experience as a wildland firefighter and with high angle search & rescue. He is also an Emergency Medical Services provider and expert boat operator.

Since the Upper Delaware has only five law enforcement rangers on staff - two permanent, two subject to furlough, and one summer seasonal position - Winslow says that cooperation is absolutely critical.

"It requires working with local agencies, the towns and townships, mutual aid, joint training, and relying heavily on the National Canoe Safety Patrol and our interpretive staff. It's a joint effort," he says.

NPS has jurisdiction over the approximately 30 acres of property that the federal government owns out of the 55,574.5 acres that comprise the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, as well as to the high water mark on the river and at certain river accesses if that is written into co-management agreements.

His priority over the slower winter months is to continue learning and planning.

"I intend to focus on the river and its resources. I want to make sure that we're visible and out on the river. My concentration now is the staffing, budget, daily tasks, learning the state and town jurisdictions, and reading the River Management Plan. I want to use partnerships to move forward and find common ground. We all have the river as our common cause," he says.

Winslow, an Eagle Scout, involves his sons in Boy Scouts and the family attends Lutheran Trinity Church in Dingmans. They enjoy traveling and outdoor activities.

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

Phone: (845) 252-3022; FAX: 252-3359
www.UpperDelawareCouncil.org

The Upper Delaware is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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Friends of the Upper Delaware River Discuss Watershed Issues and Investment Progress

The Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) celebrated successes and continued their vigilance at the 10th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere" conference at the West Branch Angler Resort in Hale Eddy on Oct. 8.

U.S. Representative Antonio Delgado (NY-19) did double duty by attending FUDR's Oct. 7 announcement in Deposit of new Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grants (see below) that preceded a field trip to visit stream restoration projects.

"I will say to protect and invest in the Delaware River is, in essence, to protect and invest in our community. There's no real distinction there. We cannot attempt to separate preserving and protecting our environment with economic prosperity, and those two things, in my book, go hand in hand, to partner and coordinate at the state, local and federal level to make the kind of strategic investments that can strike the right balance that we know is so important. That's why the work that all of you are doing is so critical," he said.

Rep. Delgado spoke about his push to increase funding for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, support the Delaware River Basin Commission, continue listening to "on the ground" organizations like FUDR and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), and tackle climate change from a "green" jobs creation standpoint.

The conference offered speakers on the status of the Flexible Flow Management, Stream Corridor Management, and NY/PA Joint Fisheries Investigation Plans.



Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply

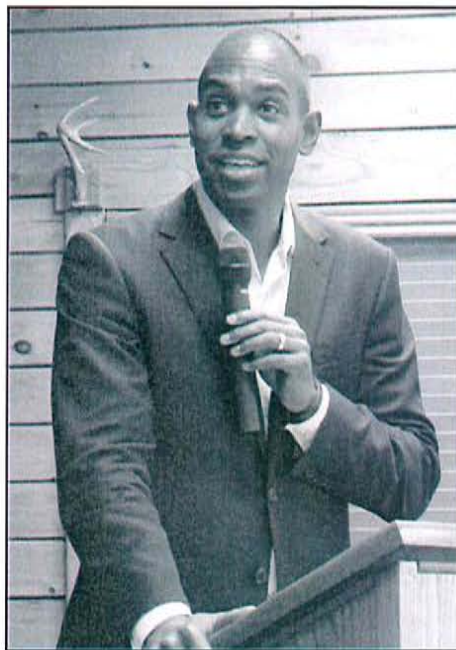
Paul Rush provided an update on New York City's Delaware Basin Water Supply System including the Delaware Aqueduct repairs, Cannonsville Hydroelectric Plant, and emergency notification improvements.

Panelists from the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the New York State Environmental Conservation Police Region 4 discussed River Rules and Enforcement, while licensed guides Ben Rinker and Joe Demalderis, wade fisherman Dick Cramer, and avid angler Dan Plummer shared their perspectives on River Etiquette.

Conservation partners representing the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, New York League of Conservation Voters, and UDC spoke about relevant legislation, programs, and pending watershed boundary signage in New York State.

A preview of a 30-minute documentary film on the Delaware River was screened ahead of its expected 2020 release.

The UDC was a conference sponsor.



U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado
(UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

The second round announcement of Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF) grants brought good news for the Upper basin and tailwaters.

The fund was launched in 2018 to support restoration and conservation projects throughout the watershed under the administration of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Twenty-eight projects totaling \$4.63 million were awarded, leveraging \$5.75 million in match from the grantees to generate a conservation impact of \$10.38 million.

The successful proposals with two years to complete the projects included:

Improving Resiliency at the Town of Highland River Access - \$250,000 to Sullivan County, NY to reconstruct the access by 2021 by installing a more gently sloping and stabilized river entry path, bioswales (rain garden and ditch combination), pervious pavement to absorb stormwater runoff, temporary boat and bicycle storage facilities, restoring native plants, and providing signage to educate visitors on best management practices.

Creating a Web-Based Habitat Model for the Upper Delaware River - \$128,750 to the Delaware River Basin Commission to enhance existing models that measure habitat changes resulting from regulated flow and temperature mitigation efforts. The new models will be expandable, accommodating new research and additional species.

Enhancing the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan - \$249,998 to Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. to integrate high definition stream survey data to improve this regional plan that will inform fisheries management decisions.

Managing Japanese Knotweed for Habitat Enhancement in the Upper Delaware River - \$249,994 to FUDR, Inc. to develop a strategic management plan to limit the further spread of this invasive plant species and restore native riparian habitat, with demonstration sites set up at the Skinners Falls Access, the Village of Hancock, and Deposit.

Improving Trout Habitat and River Access in the Upper Delaware River Watershed - \$249,998 to FUDR to implement four stream restoration and enhancement projects including the construction of a publicly accessible boat launch.

Implementing the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan: Phase II - \$249,072 to Trout Unlimited, Inc. to increase native and wild trout habitat quality and diversity, advance a fiber optics thermal technology study, and develop a management plan to address priority sites, including a survey of 541 stream crossings.

Trout Unlimited received two additional grants of \$239,509 and \$249,758 to replace failing culverts and stabilize streambanks in the Towns of Deposit, Colchester, and Delhi.

The solicitation for the next round of DWCF grants is due out in February 2020. An increased allocation to \$10 million is being considered for the federal program which has required a 1:1 local cash or services match. There have been 54 projects to date.

PA Funding Opportunity For Council



earmark for UDC: Representative Jonathan Fritz spoke at The Chamber of the Northern Poconos' Legislative Luncheon on Nov. 7 at the Settler's Inn in Hawley, which also featured PA Representatives Michael Peifer and Rosemary Brown on the legislative panel. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

The Pennsylvania delegation representing the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) constituency, with leadership from House Appropriations Committee member Rep. Jonathan Fritz (111th District), has secured an opportunity for Commonwealth funding of the non-profit organization and its five member townships.

The UDC is currently compiling an application to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for projects with demonstrable needs and benefits.

The non-operational grant can be used for initiatives relating to economic development, tourism enhancement, recreation, public safety, beautification, studies, and equipment, with no local match required.

At an August 20 special meeting of the UDC, the board voted to allocate approximately 75% of the potential \$100,000 grant to assist Damascus, Berlin, Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall Townships with grassroots projects through subcontracts that the Council will oversee.

The Council will budget 7% of the proceeds for a required Government Project Audit, and utilize an approximately 18% share for an organizational project.

Final proposal solicitation is underway.



CLOSED INDEFINITELY: The 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge closed to traffic in mid-October after an inspection identified various structural deficiencies. The posted detour of State Road 1002 to SR 1004 (Milanville Road) to SR 1008 (Plank Road) to the Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge and NYS Route 97 will be in place at least through the winter as rehabilitation engineering options are studied in coordination with state and federal agencies. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation calculates 325 vehicles per day as the average traffic on the single-lane, 470-foot, wooden planked bridge. Due to its status as one of the oldest surviving bridges built by the American Bridge Company, its rare design a multi-span, pin-connected Baltimore truss, and its remaining original features with ornate decorations, the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It had been closed in 2015 to undergo 10 months' worth of emergency repairs before reopening. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



NAMESAKE AWARD: The National Canoe Safety Patrol celebrated its 40th anniversary with a Nov. 3 dinner at the Woodloch Springs Clubhouse that paid tribute to founding Commodore Chris Nielsen, right, a former UDC Water Use/Resource Management Advisory Committee member. The 94-year-old Vestal, NY resident had the pleasure of presenting the inaugural Chris Nielsen Service Award to Bill Walters, left. In 2019, NCSP members volunteered 5,120 river patrol hours to add to 152,000 hours since 1979, which represents a \$1.9 million cumulative benefit to the National Park Service and countless lives saved. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

River Planning, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Come Before UDC

Upper Delaware Council Resource Specialist Pete Golod and National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Community and Land Use Planner Jennifer Claster spoke about "Partnering to Protect the River: A River Management Plan Overview" at the Aug. 1 UDC meeting.

They shared a version of the training sessions they have been delivering to river valley county planning departments.

It also offered an orientation to place the pending update of the UDC and NPS 1988 Project Review Workbook into context.

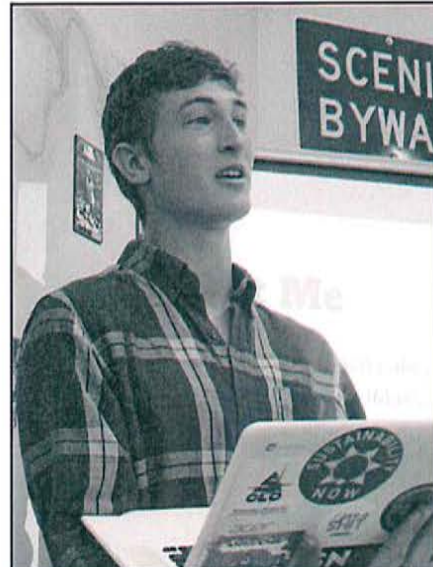
They explained the legislation and Outstandingly Remarkable Values that qualified the Upper Delaware for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, adoption of the Secretary's 1981 Land and Water Use Guidelines, the lengthy development of the 1986 River Management Plan, and cooperative partnership roles.

Just prior to his Sept. 10 appointment as UDC Town of Tusten 2nd Alternate Representative, Dan Paparella gave a Sept. 5 presentation on "The Upper Delaware Recreation Project: Building a Community Around Recreation."

Paparella, a 23-year-old Beach Lake, PA native, founded the non-profit initiative to help improve the quantity, quality, and accessibility of recreational opportunities in the Upper Delaware region.

His local and collegiate education, outdoor interests, and club leadership experience inspired him to search for like-minded people with an interest in organizing activities and facilities that promote wellness, camaraderie, and positive lifestyle choices, particularly by the region's youth.

Sullivan County has consistently ranked second to last out of all of New York's 62 counties for health, with obesity and physical inactivity cited as contributing factors.



UDC PRESENTERS:
Shannon N. Cilento, left
Dan Paparella, above
(UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Paparella is working on recreation enrichment plans with the Sullivan West School District, Delaware Valley Job Corps Center, ENGN, and Catskill Regional Medical Center's Callicoon Division.

His group received permission to open Damascus Park in PA for mountain biking after clearing trails and mapping them on the AllTrails website and app, with future plans for installing trailhead signage, a bike fix-it station, and climbing boulder features.

They hosted a Callicoon Creek Park field day and a hike to Jensen's Ledges.

To get involved, like the Upper Delaware Recreation Project on Facebook or email paparelladan15@gmail.com.

At the Oct. 3 UDC meeting, Community Development & Grants Planner for the Sullivan County Division of Planning Shannon Cilento presented on the topic of

"Keeping Current with the Past: Implementing Preservation into Upper Delaware Communities."

Cilento referenced the River Management Plan's Cultural Resources section while discussing how grassroots preservation efforts can impact local economies, the environment, and community character.

She outlined tools such as comprehensive plans, preservation ordinances, Certificates of Appropriateness, Architectural Review Boards, Historic Overlay Districts, Certified Local Governments, and National Register of Historic Places listings.

Cilento offered to provide training and tips on available financial resources. Contact her at shannon.cilento@co.sullivan.ny.us or (845) 807-0529.

See the UDC's meeting minutes posted online for presentation links or synopses.

RAILROAD, continued from Page 1

demonstration in Sparrowbush.

The Aug. 9, 2018 derailment of 15 cars of a New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway (NYSW) freight train on a flood-eroded section of tracks near Hale Eddy in the Town of Deposit, which resulted in a diesel fuel spill into the West Branch of the Delaware River, prompted the UDC to renew its long-term efforts to update the guide based on the communication challenges experienced in that incident.

Participating in the preliminary session were representatives from CNYK, the National Park Service (NPS), Delaware River Basin Commission, New York State Police, NYS Environmental Conservation Police, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, Broome County Office of Emergency

Services, Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Town of Deerpark Emergency Management Agency, and UDC members, with a larger list of interested parties requesting follow-ups.

With collective agreement that digital and print versions of an updated guide with GIS mapping would be a helpful resource, the next step will be researching contents, formatting, and funding options.

The NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River plans to submit a proposal to the Department of the Interior in December to hire a consultant or cover staff time to develop a comprehensive emergency planning guide that could incorporate railroad-specific protocols.

"That would be wonderful if we could

find a contractor to handle this," said Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety Richard Sauer.

Melanie Boyer, CNYK Government and Public Affairs director, was optimistic that the project will attract outside funding.

"This just screams opportunity and has all the bells and whistles. This is something that is unique and crosses counties," she said.

NYSW CNYK took over the line's operation in 2004, under lease from Norfolk Southern Corporation.

Its toll-free emergency hotline to report any issues is: 1-800-366-6979, ext. 8.

Information on railroad safety classes and presentations offered by the non-profit Operation Lifesaver programs in NY and PA can be found at www.oli.org.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from late July to mid-November 2019, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

UDC FUNDING

The UDC was awaiting at press time the release of a 12.5% share (\$37,500) of its annual \$300,000 allocation, corresponding to the Oct. 1-Nov. 21 first Fiscal Year 2020 Continuing Resolution approved to keep the federal government in operation. A second extension to Dec. 20 was before Congress, which will require compiling another Application for Federal Assistance.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Town of Highland - The UDC voted on Nov. 7 to recommend to the National Park Service (NPS), for its final determination, that the town's adopted 2019 Zoning Law does not substantially conform to the Land and Water Use Guidelines, after attempting negotiations since January 2019.

Town of Lumberland - Recommendation to designate two parcels into the River Hamlet District, upheld by NPS on Aug. 14.

Town of Highland - NYS Rt. 97 Parcel #27.-9-1 does not require a Class II review.

Damascus Township - No review needed for Short-Term Rentals zoning amendment; Joint Comprehensive Plan substantial conformance recommendation made.

Work continued on the Project Review Guide update and exploring methods to add definitions to the RMP and Guidelines.

UDC GRANTS

The deadline to complete Fiscal Year 2019 UDC Technical Assistance Grants



UDC RAFTERS: The Upper Delaware Council's 31st Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 4 attracted 91 guests (76 adults and 15 children) to enjoy a scenic paddle from Kittatinny Canoes' Luke's Landing base in Barryville, NY to Pond Eddy, NY. Lisa (waving) and Anthony Frost, and Tyler and Karina Herdeg, in back, were with a party of nine from the Port Jervis area who have participated for six years and say their group keeps growing larger. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

(TAG) projects awarded on Oct. 4, 2018 and valued at \$11,387 was Aug. 30, 2019.

Reimbursement payments were made to the Town of Lumberland (\$787 for a Guide to Permits brochure); Town of Tusten (\$5,000 for new municipal organizer/planner software installation and training); and Berlin Township (\$600 for a township infor-

mational brochure); with \$5,000 reserved for Shohola Township upon satisfactory substantial conformance Project Review of its updated Zoning Ordinance #79.

Three UDC member towns that were awarded 2019 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants on May 2 completed their projects by the Sept. 16 deadline.

Tusten (\$900), Lumberland (\$1,100), and Deerpark (\$3,303.78) participated. Accomplishments are posted under News Releases on the UDC website.

This year's awards bring the cumulative total since the UDC began in 2014 allocating a portion of its federal operating funds for the cleanups to \$26,934.34.

WU/RM ISSUES

Water Use/Resource Management issues included mitigation ideas for excessively muddy conditions at the Ten Mile River Access owned by the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America and co-managed by NPS, regarded as a natural occurrence from back eddy silt deposits; FERC relicensing of the Mongaup River Hydroelectric Projects; and research on river flows and temperature targets.

UDC LETTERS

7/23/19 - Support for three NYS grant applications for the Callicoon Riverside Park, Highland River Access Improvements, and Upper Delaware Visitor Center at the Callicoon Depot Marketing Program

7/23/19 - Support for Equinunk Historical Society's records care grant from the PA Historical and Museum Commission

8/27/19 - Support for D&H Canal Corridor Trail Work in Orange County, NY

9/9/19 - Status of Railroad Emergency Response Guide Update to Central New York Railroad

11/19/19 - Sign-on letter to NYS Governor Cuomo regarding
Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7



HIGH POINT: The New York State Department of Transportation has installed signage in the vicinity of Klondike and Neering Roads in the Town of Hancock to mark the Highest Elevation point along the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway from the Village of Hancock to City of Port Jervis. (Contributed Photo by Kristin Barron and John Ogozalek)

ing an Environmental Protection Fund investment for the Delaware River Watershed in the 2020 State budget.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Besides participating as members of various organizations and committees including the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee, Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council, and the D&H Transportation Heritage Council, activities included:

7/28, Narrowsburg RiverFest booth

8/13, New York League of Conservation Voters Environmental Evening with NYS Senator Jen Metzger

9/11, UDC presentation to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Council Steering Committee, hosted in Upper Delaware

9/18, Sullivan County Planning's River Accesses Implementation Update

10/9, Upper Delaware River Partners for NYS funding strategies

10/11, NPS Shad Seining and Sampling

10/15-16, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's 7th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

10/30, 11/6 & 11/13 - Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute's Course in Zoning

9/18 and 11/17 - UDC/NPS River Management Plan & Land and Water Use Guidelines trainings for planning staff from Wayne & Pike Counties, respectively

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2019-09: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for FY 2020; 2019-10, Awarding a FY 2019 Contract for Records Management Services; 2020-01: Awarding the Printing of "The Upper Delaware" Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for FY 2020; and 2020-02: Adopting a Combating Sexual Harassment Policy (all on 10/3/19).

DELAWARE CORRIDOR SWEEP

On July 30, the UDC facilitated the first two Roundtable discussions to help organize a 2020 land-based litter cleanup in the Upper Delaware River Corridor.

The NY & PA event is targeted to begin on April 22, the date which will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

A leadership group is being assembled to focus on the cleanup's logistics, scope, sponsorship, publicity, and educational outreach efforts. Contact (845) 252-3022 or info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org to offer assistance.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The UDC has embarked on a major records management project, hiring the Schenectady, NY firm of K Sickler-Murphy in a two-phase bid of \$26,750 to inventory paper and electronic records, develop a Records Retention Schedule and Policy & Procedures Manual, and offer training.



MARRIED TO THE WORK: The 8th Annual Big Eddy Film Festival hosted by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance included a panel discussion on the theme of "Married to the Work: Partners in Filmmaking and Life" on Sept. 22 in Narrowsburg that featured the acting, producing, and directing team of Timothy Busfield ("The West Wing") and Melissa Gilbert ("Little House on the Prairie"), above. The couple, who premiered their film "Guest Artist" starring Jeff Daniels, have a home in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Another highlight of the film festival was the debut of the opening documentary "Narrowsburg", directed by Martha Shane with local interviews and footage, which tells the story of Richard and Jocelyne Castellano and their criminally unscrupulous attempts to turn the Sullivan County hamlet into "the Sundance of the East" 20 years ago. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

UDC Awards Technical Assistance Grants

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) awarded \$23,777 to fund four projects through its Fiscal Year 2020 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program.

That brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has provided to its member municipalities and counties to \$891,952 since 1988 for 257 projects.

Competitive applications approved were:

- **Town of Tusten:** \$10,000 for a Phase I update of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan;

- **Town of Tusten:** \$7,250 to finalize an update of the town's Zoning Ordinance which has been underway by a Zoning Rewrite Committee for two years;

- **Town of Hancock:** \$5,000 to hire a consultant to conduct a Recreational Access Study along the Delaware River from the Village of Hancock in Delaware County to Long Eddy in Sullivan County to assess the feasibility of developing a walking trail and improving access to the river for fishing and boating; and

- **Town of Delaware:** \$1,127 to create and print 1,000 copies of a tri-fold "Guide to Permits" brochure to provide information to the public on the town's building permit requirements and to answer frequently asked questions.

Mid-term progress reports will be due by Feb. 28 and the deadline to complete the reimbursable projects is Aug. 28, 2020.

The UDC board approved a resolution at the Oct. 3 UDC monthly meeting to award the grants. 2019 Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. signed it "under protest as NPS would not fund Berlin Township's grant".

His statement referred to a \$710 grant for a website update project by Berlin Township that the Project Review Committee favored approving but the National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Region rejected, contending that it did not conform to the goals and objectives of the 1986 *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* to justify an allowable use of federal funds.

The decision came despite a Sept. 25 appeal filed by the UDC stating, "Our research reveals that, with active NPS participation in the TAG review process, the UDC has assisted in funding the development and updating of member municipality websites 10 times since 2001, at a total cost of \$22,745 over that 18-year span."

The letter cited two Plan goals and a relevant Land and Water Use Guidelines Principle, but the NPS denial was upheld.

The Science of NYC Watershed Management

The Sullivan County Audubon Society has a vested interest in the county's water sources that flow into the Delaware River.

"We birders can appreciate clean water for the numerous birds and wildlife that we encounter, and bringing this to public attention is a small part of being Audubon," said Co-President Kate Hyden.

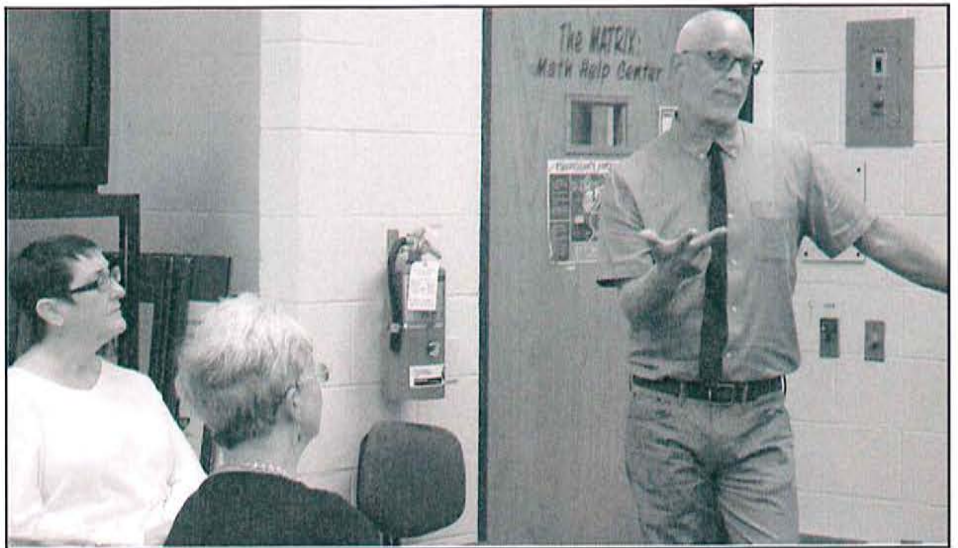
They invited Deputy Director of Research Application Ira Stern on Sept. 19 to address how the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) handles the delicate balance of rural and urban stewardship of the watershed.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of NYC to develop a water supply from Delaware River headwaters in 1931.

The five reservoirs in the Delaware System were completed from 1944-1964.

Stern joined DEP in 1995 and served on the team which negotiated the 1997 NYC Watershed Agreement with 60 signatories on the federal, state, local, and special interest level after some 250 sessions.

"It's important for us to develop common understanding and consensus. It's very difficult. The science is complicated. There is a lot of history and distrust," Stern said.



DEFEND THE DELAWARE: Ira Stern, Deputy Director of Research Application for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), addressed the Sullivan County Audubon Society, including Maura Muller of Rock Hill, left, and Chapter Secretary Pat Cocot, at a SUNY Sullivan classroom in Loch Sheldrake on Sept. 19. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

The agreement outlines plans for willing seller land acquisition (unlike the eminent domain process used to create the reservoirs), land use regulations, and partnership programs to protect the resource.

It prioritized purchasing floodplains, streams, and wetlands. As of October 2018, NYC DEP owned 163,835 acres of land (39%) West and East of the Hudson, most of it forested with hunting allowed.

"We really need to manage our forests actively or they won't be able to regenerate or sustain into the future. We need diversity of species and trees that can

withstand more extreme events. We're very mindful of our neighbors. We operate recreational lands open to the public. NYC lands and reservoirs provide optimal habitat for bald eagles due to relatively low disturbance and open waters. We know where all the nests are and set up buffer zones around them," he said.

Stern said NYC DEP constantly works on improving water quality, best management practices for farms and septic systems, flows and releases, system repairs, and climate change resiliency.

"Our goals are to have intact forests and protected wetlands. It's logical to assume we need nature to produce clean water," he said of their ecosystem approach.



REHABILITATED: Bill Streeter, director of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center in Milford, PA, introduced Lizzie at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Harvest Festival on Sept. 29. At just four weeks of age, the eagle was admitted to the non-profit rehabilitation facility on May 16, 2018 after a fierce storm toppled her nest to the ground. She was rescued on River Road in Pennsylvania 2.5 miles from the Narrowsburg Bridge along with four other baby birds that day. After fracturing bones in her right wing, surgery and physical therapy could not fully restore her ability to fly. The now 1-1/2 year old eagle has been trained to serve as an education bird. Visit www.dvrconline.org or call (570) 296-6025 to find out more about this publicly-supported membership organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and conservation of birds of prey. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

New York State Proposes Changes to Endangered and Threatened Species

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is considering the removal of 19 species from its Endangered and Threatened Species list, including the bald eagle and peregrine falcon which have experienced significant growth in their populations and range.

There are now 390 pairs of breeding bald eagles in NY, compared to one pair when they were on the brink of extinction in 1973. The bald eagle was delisted as a federal endangered species in 2007, though it remains protected under the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Conversely, the agency proposes to add 18 species as threatened or endangered, including several types of freshwater mussels and the eastern hellbender salamander.

When a species is listed, it becomes a priority for DEC monitoring and management programs, including requiring permits for projects that could cause the species harm.

The full list of draft changes can be found at www.dec.ny.gov under New York Environmental Conservation Law, Article 11-0535. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 24, 2019 by email to: wildliferegs@dec.ny.gov (use "Endangered Species List" in subject line) or mail to: Joe Racette, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754.

Muralist Sweetens Honeybee Festival

The fifth year of the Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival left a permanent mark on the community thanks to a new mural that puts the artist closer to his goal of painting 50,000 honeybees wherever the wind blows him to raise awareness of the pollinator bee population's importance.

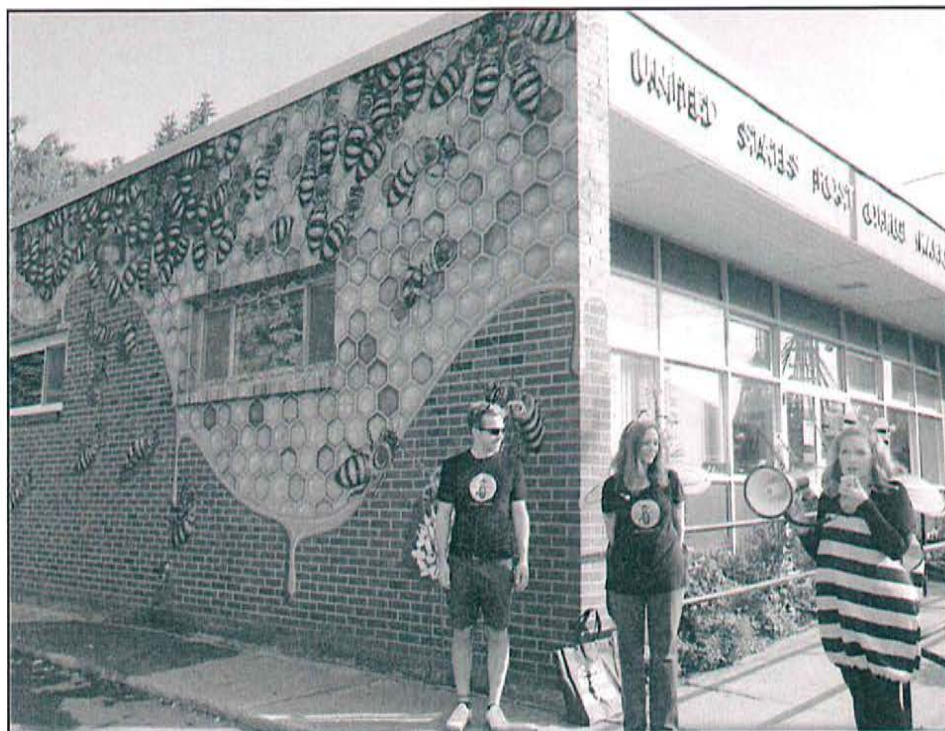
Matthew Willey of Asheville, NC labored for six weeks on the left side of the brick-walled Narrowsburg Post Office to complete the mural commissioned by the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, with fundraising spearheaded by Joan Santo, Charles Wilkin, and Martin Higgins.

Willey's project, *The Good of the Hive*, manifests his commitment to paint 50,000 honeybees as the number that is necessary to maintain a healthy, thriving hive.

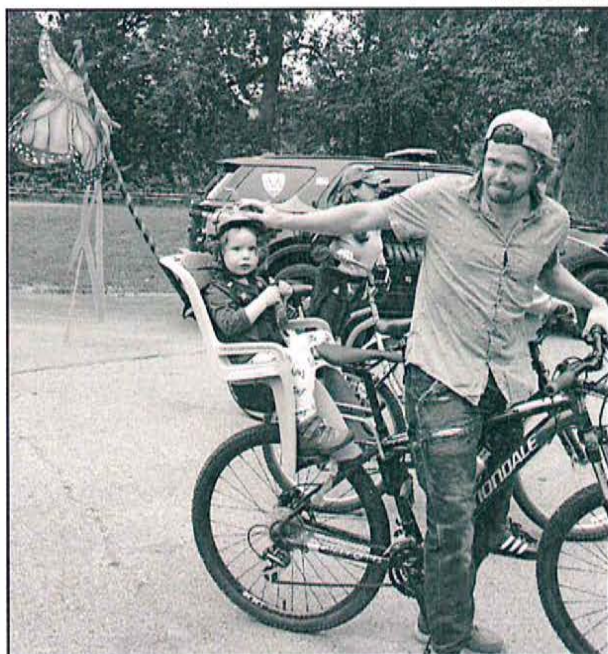
In a program that preceded the official dedication of his mural on Sept. 28, Willey said he was inspired after taking a close look at a bee that landed on the floor of his New York City apartment one day in 2008.

"That was like a lightning bolt moment for me," he said of the curiosity it raised.

He began reading about how the bees are hard-wired to understand that their immune system is collective, with altruistic suicide committed by a sick bee to pre-



ALL ABUZZ: The bee mural painted by artist Matthew Willey, left, on the side of the Narrowsburg Post Office was officially dedicated during the 5th Annual Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival on Sept. 28 by Town of Tusten Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, center, and Joan Santo, right, from the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



POLLINATOR POWER: Three-year-old Ella and her dad, Chris Palumbo of Glen Spey, took part in the Sept. 14 Butterfly Bike Ride sponsored by the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce. Bicyclists pedaled 4.6 miles from Lackawaxen, PA to the Barryville Farmers' Market, tossing milkweed seeds to support pollinator habitat. Beekeeper Bob Hoshour and Rainbow Caterpillar Roswell Hamrick also got into the spirit. (Contributed Photos)



serve the health of the hive. Indiscriminate pesticide use and colony collapse disorder due to having fewer bees to support a hive are among the factors affecting their sustainability.

"They literally created the world, this marriage between bees and pollinators. We owe them so much. Every problem bees have is man-made but this is not an overwhelming issue. By doing your little piece, that can be a huge activist move by a regular person," Willey said.

Willey has now painted 25 murals with 5,200+ individual honeybees and spoken across the country at events and institutions including the Burning Man Festival, Smithsonian National Zoo, and the United Nations.

"Painting outside in all conditions is pretty hardcore," Willey acknowledged. "I found that people of all persuasions come together to watch me and start talking to each other. This shows what can happen when we slow down. People have found a compassion of uniting around the honeybee. It's this one creature that is all of ours."

Willey was presented with a "Key to Narrowsburg" crafted by artist Brandi Merolla to express the hamlet's appreciation. Local resident Bernie Creamer shared his poetry before Willey showed a short film depicting his artistic works around the country and answered questions about tools (water-based paint), timing (each bee takes about two hours to paint), and tenacity of the murals ("It should last as long as nature allows").

"It's been an incredible run and I plan on continuing this work for a long time. Smaller towns have a way of embracing this project. I'm dripping with gratitude for Narrowsburg. This job was pivotal for me. I like to stay about 4-8 weeks in a community to get to know the place. I really connected with the people in this town. This whole festival is amazing," he said.

Other activities at the Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival included offering two active observation hives on Main Street and the Maison Bergogne shop, a honey extraction demonstration by operators of the Cackletown Honey Farm, a Monarch Butterfly Migration presentation by Ed Wesely, a short film, "Bee Dance: Steps to a New Future in Beekeeping" by Dr. Petrusia G. Kotlar, a performance by the bee-costumed Wallenpaupack High School Marching Band, and a vendor's market.

Discovering Lost Settlement of Stockport

Researchers are using state-of-the-art laser mapping technology to quite literally uncover the first settlement in Buckingham Township, PA.

While virtually no trace remains today of the one-time bustling, prosperous community of Stockport other than a cemetery and some ruins in the woods, two professors from Shippensburg University have teamed up to dig under the surface.

Equinunk Historical Society member Steven Schwartz had read about the use of high-tech aerial imagery to discover Guatemalan civilizations and wondered about applying that science to find out more about historic accounts of Stockport.

He approached Dr. Claire Jantz, who has an ongoing project with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to develop a GIS-based tool to support resource management and land use project reviews.

"This is really all Steve's fault," Dr. Jantz joked as she talked about getting Dr. Paul Marr involved from Shippensburg's Geography-Earth Science Department.

They developed a Fall 2018 course titled "Stockport, PA: A History and Modern Assessment", which attracted students Jenna Smith, Jacob Knouse, and Nicole Hallahan to work on the case-study.

Drs. Jantz and Marr will be co-authoring a paper when their research is finalized.

Stockport was founded in 1790 by Samuel Preston, who purchased 190 acres of land from Josiah Parks with intentions of cutting a road between Harmony on the Susquehanna and Stockport on the Delaware to ship timber to Philadelphia markets.

"Like many of these towns in the Upper Delaware, it was based on an economy of agriculture and logging. The first two buildings constructed were a sawmill and a gristmill," Dr. Jantz said.

But those hills and valleys that were once covered with timber, hemlocks in particular, were eventually stripped bare. A population decline followed.

"By 1855, one-third of the lumber in the Upper Delaware was harvested. By the 1900s, it was just about all gone in a boom and bust cycle. Today, Stockport is really ruins in the middle of forests," she said.

That's where the project began.

The researchers were able to consult a conceptual map hand-drawn by Elizabeth Stephens Lotterer (see photo below) which meticulously detailed her memory of the location and purpose of every structure, both past and present as of 1962, that existed in the "Stockport of Yesteryear".

Utilizing another old drawing attributed to A.P. Vail, the sites of such buildings as the Preston Mansion, blacksmith shop, ice-house, sawmill, barns, and the cemetery were identified and cross-referenced.

LiDAR technology, in which a laser beam from a plane fires up to 150,000 harmless, invisible pulses per second at the ground while the aircraft flies a precise grid guided by Global Positioning System and an inertial navigation system, was employed to create an accurate representation of Stockport's surface topography.

Dr. Marr explained that a detector



DIGGING DEEP: Shippensburg University Professors Dr. Claire Jantz and Dr. Paul Marr discussed their Stockport findings on July 7 at the Equinunk Historical Society's Calder House Museum. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

records the time that it takes for the pulses to bounce back. "Soft" objects (like trees) will produce multiple returns per light pulse, whereas "hard" object (like buildings) will produce only one.

The signals are filtered and mapped, revealing geomorphic features down to a level of approximately one square meter.

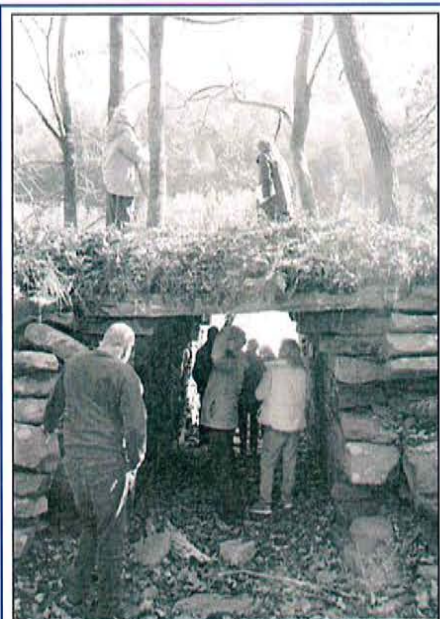
"Archaeologists want a deposition environment. It's easier to determine features. LiDAR helps to interpret what's on the ground," Dr. Marr said.

"Stockport, although it's only been abandoned for a couple generations, is being rapidly buried," he observed.

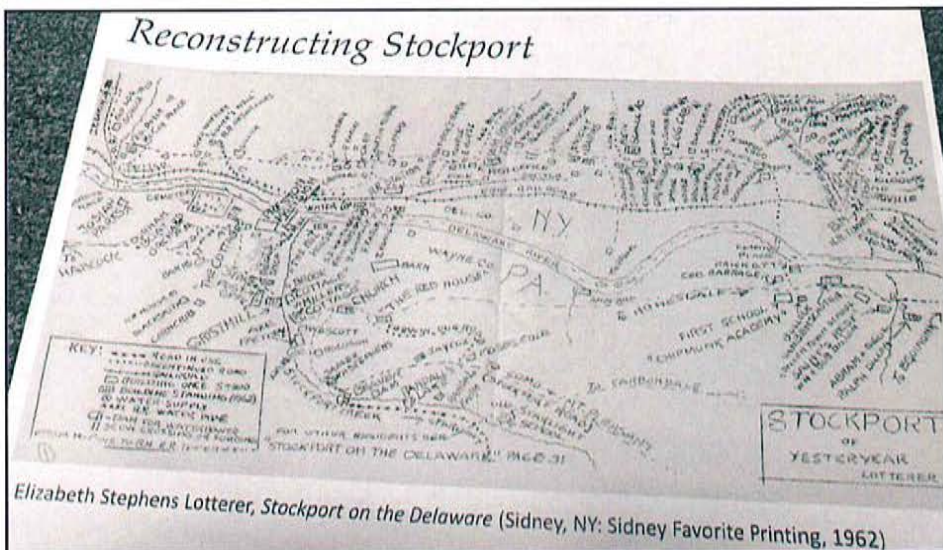
The USGS federal agency coordinates the acquisition of LiDAR data and cost-shares with counties for topographic objectives such as flood-mapping.

Dr. Marr said that Wayne County is slated to acquire a new generation of LiDAR data at the end of 2019 or early 2020 that will help this project, along with their collection of more accurate GPS field data.

The professors will return with a research update to the Equinunk Historical Society, which offers Stockport books and items.



EXPLORING HISTORY: The D&H Transportation Heritage Council sponsored a Nov. 2 Bus Tour from Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct to Port Jervis, including this stop to explore Canal Lock 58 remnants near the Mongaup River Access. A new DVD chronicles that segment. Email laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org for information. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



Elizabeth Stephens Lotterer, *Stockport on the Delaware* (Sidney, NY: Sidney Favorite Printing, 1962)

Senator Schumer Advocates for Audible Flood Warning System in Delaware County

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer held a press conference at the Sidney Municipal Airport Oct. 3 to launch a push to secure a \$150,000 grant for Delaware County from the Appalachian Regional Commission to install an audible alert notification system.

"Even though Delaware County maintains a unique risk and painful history of flash and major flooding, and the Delaware River Basin has a bustling tourism industry that must be protected from harm, the area is lacking an effective audible warning system for imminent flooding and

other conditions such as extreme water temperatures. We're allowing residents, business owners and tourists to fly blind into the eye of the storm...literally," he said.

Sen. Schumer quantified that there are over 730 businesses, a \$400 million tourism economy, and thousands of permanent residents who live below the New York City Water Supply reservoirs at risk.

Delaware County has developed a comprehensive plan for the installation and management of the new emergency notification system with sirens in Cooks Falls, Downsville, Stilesville, and Sanford, which is expected to cost a total of \$330,000. It includes matched contributions from local and state governments and businesses.

Schumer said that Delaware County has attempted to seek more traditional means of flood mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the past, but is routinely denied because the county fails to meet FEMA's Benefit Cost Analysis, due to low property values and per capita damage calculations.

Recalling the tragic 2007 flash flood in Colchester which resulted in the loss of life and wreaked havoc on public and private property and infrastructure, Schumer said, "We know all too well that Delaware County has an elevated flood risk. For communities like Deposit, Downsville, and others located here in the western portion of the county, that threat is compounded by factors beyond Mother Nature, including the presence of reservoirs that collectively hold back 236 billion gallons of water, and are routinely at 80% capacity."

Schumer also cited Delaware County's sprawling size, and the lack of access to cellular service and broadband internet.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments that focuses on 420 counties across the Appalachian region.

The UDC has long advocated for flood warning sirens below the NYC reservoirs.



RETIRED LIFE: Upper Delaware Council Project Review Committee Chairperson Larry H. Richardson (Town of Cochection) presented Carla Hauser Hahn with a UDC Resolution of Appreciation at her October 19 retirement gala at The Inn at Lackawaxen. The Callicoon resident officially retired on August 3, 2019 after a 39-year career with the National Park Service, lastly as Management Assistant in the Superintendent's Office for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

Cell Service Expands

The Upper Delaware Council applauded news that Sullivan County has approved a contract with Verizon Wireless for the 40-year lease of cell tower antenna space on county-owned communication towers in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware.

"This is a tremendously welcome development and a win-win situation by improving cellular service in these underserved areas of the Upper Delaware River Valley while providing a revenue stream for the county to reinvest in its emergency communications system," UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie wrote in a letter to Sullivan County E-911 Coordinator Alex Rau on Oct. 10.

"Far more than providing convenience to residents and visitors, adequate cellular service can be the difference between life and death when emergencies occur on the roadway or the Upper Delaware River, and people are unable to summon help," she continued.

The Council continues to advocate for any co-location opportunities in the Town of Lumberland's 11-mile cell signal dead zone region, which Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety Rick Sauer acknowledged is desirable to the county as well but is a "business-based decision that comes down to a return on investment" for the telecommunications companies.

Watershed Signs On Way for NYS

The New York State Department of Transportation on Sept. 27 approved the proposal for 14 "Entering the Delaware River Watershed" signs to be fabricated and installed at major intersections to mark the watershed's boundaries in New York.

The request with mapping and graphics was submitted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on behalf of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and stakeholders including the Upper Delaware Council.

The new signage will promote public awareness of the watershed's extent.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

Zane Grey Museum Temporarily Closed

The Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA shut down early this season on Sept. 8 for a much-needed "facelift".

NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River received funding to repaint the exterior of the building and to replace deteriorating woodwork.

Simultaneously, the original wood floors are being refurbished. All of the exhibits as well as the sales outlet needed to be temporarily removed to allow access.

The rehabilitation work was expected to take two months to complete.

The museum will reopen for the winter eagle viewing season.

Volunteers from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy will staff the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays beginning Jan. 4 through Feb. 23.

Visitors can learn not only about Zane Grey but also the river valley's vibrant and thriving eagle population. It's free to visit.

The rehabilitation work is designed to bring the building back to its original glory when famed western writer Zane Grey

called this place home from 1912 to 1918.

Eagle Watchers Needed

New volunteers for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Eagle Watch program will meet for orientation on Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Inn at Lackawaxen.

Returning volunteers will join at 10:30 a.m. for a continental breakfast and annual training, then everyone will visit eagle viewing areas from 12-1.

Eagle Watch volunteers cover morning or afternoon shifts on weekends in January and February at several NY and PA monitoring areas to collect data on wintering eagles and resident pairs, and educate the public in "eagle etiquette".

Help is also needed to staff the weekend field office and assist with booths, workshops, and eagle-related events.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will offer Eagle Watch Bus Tours for the public on Jan. 11 & 18, and Feb. 1 & 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seated is limited and the cost is \$15 for DHC members or \$25 for non-members.

Take a scenic drive on the heated bus to learn about and search for eagles, dress warmly in layers and wear waterproof

booths, and bring binoculars, snacks, and a camera.

Visit www.delawarehighlands.org for required pre-registration information.

Kittatinny Tallies Cleanup

The 30th Annual Kittatinny Canoes' "On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup" removed close to 5-1/2 tons of trash from the river on July 15-16, 2019.

Over 70 miles of the river and shorelines in NY and PA, volunteers collected 5.47 tons of garbage, including 60 lbs. of aluminum cans and 119 tires.

That compares to the 2018 total of 3.1 tons, down after Day 2 of the cleanup had to be postponed due to a severe storm and fewer volunteers were able to take part.

State of the Basin Out

The Delaware River Basin Commission's 2019 State of the Basin report provides a technical-focused snapshot of 31 indicators for watersheds and landscapes, water quantity, water quality, and living resources, with a rating and directional trend for each.

Find it online at: www.nj.gov/drbc/about-public/SOTB2019.html.