

The Upper Delaware

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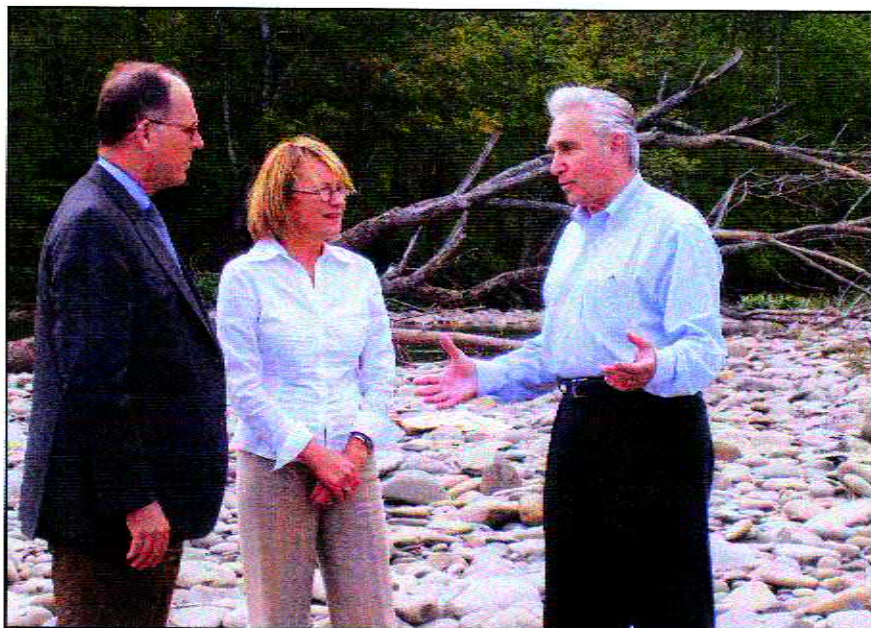
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**The Upper Delaware
welcomes submissions and
new subscribers (free)!**

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FLOOD FIX FATE: John P. Woodley, Jr., left, assistant secretary for the Army's Civil Works program, discusses flooding issues at Junction Pool in Roscoe, NY on Sept. 12 with New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (98th District) and U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr. (NY-22nd District). (UDC Photo by Bill Douglass)

Feds to Study, Re-map Flood-prone Region

A chief advisor to President Bush came to Sullivan and Delaware Counties on September 12 and 13 to see for himself the damage caused by repetitive flooding.

With stops in Hancock, Roscoe, Livingston Manor, Walton, and Delhi, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John P. Woodley, Jr., assessed what the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) can do to help.

Woodley was accompanied by representatives from the COE; Delaware River Basin Commission; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and federal, state, county, and town elected officials and agency heads.

The House of Representatives in August approved legislation sponsored by Congress Members Maurice Hinchey, John Hall and Kirsten Gillibrand for a \$700,000 preliminary study by the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers to identify causes and future flood prevention measures in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

The appropriation in the FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill awaits action by the **Senate and President**.

The region experienced three major floods in Sept. 2004, April 2005, and June 2006 that prompted federal disaster declarations, as well as a flash flood in a concentrated area of Colchester and Roscoe on June 19 this year in which the Beaverkill River, a tributary of the East Branch of the Delaware River, rose seven feet in 12 minutes and killed four people.

"We simply cannot allow for residents to be subject to a constant barrage of intense flooding that jeopardizes their property and, in some cases, their own lives. All of

Please see FLOOD on Page 4

Most land along the Upper Delaware River is privately owned. Please be considerate and don't litter or trespass. Thanks!

Upper Delaware Profile: Michael Flaherty

Family fishing trips in the upper midwest U.S. and Canada as a child, outdoor experiences with the Boy Scouts, summer jobs training dolphins at a zoo, and an inherent interest in science all helped lead Michael J. Flaherty down a natural career path.

Flaherty was promoted in June of 2006 as the Region 3 Inland Fisheries Manager for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Bureau of Fisheries, after having joined the DEC as an aquatic biologist in 1990.

Region 3 encompasses the seven counties of Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, and Rockland.

The 42-year-old oversees a staff of six full-time biologists and technicians.

"We really work for the anglers out there," Flaherty says, but he adds that the DEC's mission goes beyond recreation into conservation of fish habitat, species protection, watershed management, and any issues that impact on fishing sustainability.

"The Delaware River and its tributaries are a huge focus of our attention. We want to make sure that it remains a quality resource that benefits the people and the environment. We're cognizant of all the different uses and the complexity of managing this shared resource. It's a constant juggling act to achieve the best possible balance. There are also always changes occurring in the environment, like fish diseases or floods, that require pushing normal operations aside to go into crisis management mode," he says.

Flaherty grew up in a Chicago suburb of Illinois. He earned a 1987 Bachelor's degree in Biology from Ripon College in Wisconsin, where he also played football and met his future wife, Liss.

The couple wed in 1987 and went together to Michigan State University. After being hired by the NYS DEC through a national recruiting effort, Flaherty completed his thesis work in his spare time to obtain a Master's in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology Management from Michigan State in 1993.

"I really just came out for the interview to



Michael J. Flaherty, NYS DEC

gain the experience. But we came to New Paltz and fell in love with the area. There's such diversity for all of our interests. We've put our roots down here," he says.

Mike and Liss reside in Gardiner with their four children: Ryan, 18, a computer science student at Marist College; Jake, 17; Megan, 12; and Emily, 11.

Flaherty is involved in his children's activities, having been a cub scout leader, baseball coach, committee chair of the cub scout pack, and currently serves as vice-president of the Southeast Ulster County Branch of the YMCA. The family attends St. Joseph's Church in New Paltz and enjoys spirited paintball games.

As would be expected, Flaherty's "main hobby is fishing for everything and anything, anywhere." He's also a loyal fan of the Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs.

Professionally, Flaherty is the immediate past president of the New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and was appointed in March 2007 as New York State's alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

"The UDC has a very important role as a watchdog, a voice, and a forum for all the issues that come up in that drainage. It's helpful for the DEC to get that feedback." ♦

NY Gov. Vetoes River Greenway Bill

New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer on August 28 vetoed a bill passed by the Senate and Assembly that would have created an Upper Delaware River Greenway.

"There is no question that the Upper Delaware River Valley is one of the State's most magnificent assets. It is rich in scenic, historic, and cultural resources, and offers some of the finest recreational opportunities that our State has to offer. Unfortunately, this bill seeks to create a greenway in a manner that is inconsistent with other greenway legislation, and is contrary to the proper governance of these assets," Gov. Spitzer wrote.

The governor detailed five objections pertaining to the proposed management structure, "conflicting" provisions, appointment of voting members, an emphasis on individual municipalities vs. a regional approach, and the lack of a required plan to guide the greenway's development, in the model of the Hudson River and Niagara River Greenways.

The bill's sponsors are in the process of amending the legislation. ♦

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The Upper Delaware is a free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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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NYRI Filing Is Awaited

At press time, New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI) had not yet complied with its stated early fall intentions to re-submit its \$1.62 billion electrical transmission line application for review.

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) on July 26, 2006 rejected as incomplete the Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Need that NYRI first filed on May 31, 2006.

The private corporation proposes to build a 190-mile, High Voltage Direct Current power line through eight New York State counties. The original nominated route and an alternate route both impact the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Early this July, Environmental Design & Research (EDR) of Rochester, NY contacted municipalities along the proposed path requesting nominations of "sensitive landscape sites of historic and environmental importance, as well as sites of local significance" for their preparation of a Visual Impact Assessment analysis for NYRI.

Congressman John Hall convened a July 2 public hearing in Otisville to collect testimony on the U.S. Department of Energy's proposed designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) that would encompass the NYRI territory.

On August 14, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton introduced legislation that would curtail the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's authority, granted by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to override New York State's power line siting process and to grant projects like NYRI eminent domain authority.

"Giving unfettered power to private firms to establish power lines along any path and through any community, wherever they want and however they want, is bad public policy," Schumer said.

"NYRI's proposed route is by design inappropriate, slicing a jagged edge through too many pristine areas and vibrant communities," the senator added.

A U.S. District Court judge in Albany has reportedly scheduled a November hearing on a lawsuit filed on Feb. 1, 2007 by NYRI against various New York State top officials including Governors Pataki and Spitzer, senators and assembly members, and PSC representatives.

NYRI claims discrimination based on successful legislation introduced by NYS Senator John J. Bonacic and others that blocks the company from using eminent domain powers to seize private property for its power line project. ♦



EMERGENCY CONCERNS: Shohola Township Fire Chief Donald Wall expresses his support on August 23 for replacing the Pond Eddy Bridge, while standing before a painting, on the left, of the historic structure at the Township Municipal Building. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Pond Eddy Bridge Fate Debated

When it comes to a question of preserving history or protecting people, Shohola Fire Chief Donald Wall told agencies studying the controversial replacement of the Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA Bridge that there is no question.

"I need to preserve these people and their families. They pay taxes and should get the same services," Wall said in noting that the 7-ton weight limit posting prohibits most modern emergency and service vehicles from crossing the one-lane bridge to access the 26 homes, Game Lands, and railroad property on the Pennsylvania side.

Emergency repairs in December 2006 to replace 15 critical stringer beams haven't soothed residents' nerves about its safety.

"We open our windows and take off our seat belts when we cross that bridge," Pond Eddy, PA's George Owen confessed.

In the first official briefing on the project's status since June 29, 2005, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) met with consulting parties and the public on August 23 in Shohola.

The petit truss bridge constructed in 1904 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, necessitating an extra level of federal review.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) went on record again in a July 17 letter to PennDOT supporting the pro-replacement positions of Shohola Township and the Town of Lumberland while commenting on a Determination of Effects Report provided to consulting parties to review.

The UDC noted, "Rehabilitation of the existing timber-decked bridge is not considered feasible or prudent since the costly repairs would require a major reconfiguration that would significantly alter its historic characteristics, have a lower life expectancy, and higher annual maintenance costs."

PennDOT's consulting engineer recommends building a new four-span, concrete bridge on a parallel alignment 20 meters upstream of the existing crossing at an expected cost of \$5.1 million.

If no qualified recipient responds to PennDOT's marketing effort to transfer ownership and relocate the bridge, it would be documented and demolished.

Daria Dorosh of the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition (UDPC) objected to that mitigation plan.

"This is a very important heritage that deserves more respect than a plaque. If we have the real thing, let's keep it," she said.

"The river is really our lifeblood. We need more than an average highway overpass in this area," urged Adrienne Eisenberg.

John Tomlinson agreed, "It's possible to put up a new bridge with all the specifications it needs [to achieve the 40-ton functional standard] and still be beautiful."

In response to those suggestions, PennDOT's George Roberts proposed forming a Design Advisory Committee to help the engineers incorporate aesthetic recommendations and architectural sensitivity for the river valley into the bridge's design. ♦



MAMMALS AMONG US: One of the National Park Service's (NPS) current studies involves inventorying the mammal population of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Rarely seen are river otters. This one was spotted across the river from the NPS headquarters in Beach Lake, PA in March 2006. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

National Park Service Applies Science

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and its partners have tallied up 14 natural resource studies and projects to date in 2007, helping to fulfill Superintendent Dave Forney's goal for the park unit "to be a leader in science-based resource management."

- * NPS has been assisting local agencies, through the services of a fluvial geomorphic consultant, with Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation after the 2006 flood event.

- * For the third season, NPS released nearly 4,000 *Galerucella* beetles as a biocontrol measure over Purple Loosestrife, a non-native invasive plant in the Upper Delaware.

- * NPS is working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, PA Game Commission, and The Eagle Institute on a Bald Eagle Habitat Study.

- * The U.S. Geological Survey is assisting NPS with a Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study to determine existing water quality in Upper Delaware tributaries.

- * The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources funded a study by the Academy of Natural Sciences of PA-endangered bridle shiner fish in the Delaware River.

- * Dwarf Wedge Mussels are the subject of three studies: A final draft of a Study to Determine Minimum Flows Required to Sustain Endangered Dwarf Wedge Mussels in the Upper Delaware River was under peer review as of July; a Study to Determine Host Fish for Endangered Dwarf Wedge Mussels in the Upper Delaware River is in progress, with one previously unknown host fish species already determined; and the Northeast Instream Habitat Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is conducting a Dwarf Wedge Mussel Habitat Study on the Upper Delaware River to determine the effect of changes in the flow regime on these populations.

- * NPS is working with East Stroudsburg University on a Targeted Mammal Inventory for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

- * The PA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy proposed a two-year planning project entitled, Prioritization of High Quality Riparian Plant Community Along the Delaware, which involves accessing private property within the 100-year floodplain on the PA side.

- * Various invasive plant species will be selected for modeling as an offshoot of the Vegetation Mapping project funded by the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program.

- * This summer found NPS and DRBC staff sampling macroinvertebrates from specific locations in the river to assess biological health and water quality, and changes over time.

- * The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area were selected to participate in a Watershed Condition Assessment Pilot Project to assess landscape health in Delaware River watersheds.

- * Partnering with the Delaware River Basin Commission, NPS monitors water quality for compliance with the DRBC's Special Protection Waters standards at 13 monitoring sites on a bi-weekly basis from May to September. ♦

FLOOD, continued from Page 1

us who helped secure this funding are extremely committed to resolving this severe flooding problem once and for all," Rep. Hinchey said.

In July, a joint U.S. House-Senate committee agreed on a final version of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act.

This bill, which must be approved by both Houses, includes \$30 million for watershed improvements along the Upper Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers.

U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton of NY announced that the bill calls for a 65/35 percent cost share between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and non-federal sponsors to tackle such projects as bank stabilization, wetland restoration, soil and water conservation, and flood mitigation.

Actively underway in Sullivan, Delaware, Orange, and seven other New York counties within the Delaware, Mohawk, and Susquehanna River Basins (a 538 river mile study area) is a \$10 million floodplain re-mapping project by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA-affiliated survey crews were due to complete field work to record stream elevations and obtain GPS coordinates by early October. Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling is targeted for completion by the end of 2007. GIS-based work maps should be drafted by February of 2008.

"The study involves developing data that can be used for post-flood mitigation and planning purposes, as well as for future updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, resulting in a more accurate depiction of flood risk to properties," said FEMA Region II Project Monitor Mary Colvin.

"At the end of the study, data collected and analysis results will be shared with the local communities to support continuing efforts in minimizing the damaging effects from flooding," she added.

On July 12, the Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force forwarded to the governors of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware an Action Agenda with 45 recommendations to reduce flood losses.

The 31-member task force began meeting in October 2006 and presented a draft plan for public review before finalization.

"The task force members, after evaluating flood prevention and mitigation options and considering public written and verbal comments, concluded that no set of mitigation measures will entirely eliminate flooding along the Delaware River," said Carol Collier, executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission. "However, they believe that a combination of measures will improve the basin's capacity to prepare for and recover from flooding in the future." ♦



Sojourn Promotes the Delaware

The 2007 Delaware River Sojourn launched with two days of paddling in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UDS&RR). Seventy-one people participated on a June 24 afternoon river trip from Ten Mile River Landing to Kittatinny Canoes' Barryville Base. A first-ever Sojourn foray onto the whitewater of the Lackawaxen River, shown to the right, attracted 78 boaters June 25.

This year's theme, Celebrating Native American Culture, was noted during a Day 1 evening program on "Primitive Skills and Technologies" by Bob Berg from Thunderbird Atlatl. Pictured above left, Berg of Candor, NY demonstrates his spear throwing technique using an atlatl he just crafted.

National Park Service UDS&RR Superintendent Dave Forney, far right at top, presents the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition with a "Lord High Admiral" award for their anti-power line efforts. UDPC members and Sojourn safety officers Troy Bystrom and Dejay Branch accept. Also recognized as an Admiral was retired NPS UDS&RR Resource Management Chief Mike Reuber. ❖



(All UDC photos, this page, by Laurie Ramie)



Fall 2007

Battle of Minisink Recalled

The 228th anniversary of the July 22, 1779 Battle of Minisink was commemorated with a colonial encampment, historical programs, and military salute at Sullivan County's Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY.

Pictured at left, Navasling Long Rifles re-enactors Kai Moessle of Cairo, NY and Kevin Williams of Greentown, PA tend to the fire cooking their chickens.

Below, Mary Curtis of Callicoon, NY portrays her Colonial ancestor, Hannah Thomas Calkins Jones, and Peter Osborne of Port Jervis, NY represents Martinus Decker, for a pre-ceremony presentation on women's roles during

the Revolutionary War era.

Members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution join re-enactors in laying wreaths on the Battle of Minisink monument during the traditional observance coordinated by the Sullivan County Historical Society, below.

A gun salute fired and the Declaration of Independence was read aloud. ❖



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The Upper Delaware

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activities from late June to mid-September 2007, include:

FLEXIBLE FLOWS

In preparation for the Delaware River Basin Commission's Sept. 26 hearing on its Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) proposal to operate the New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs, the UDC approved a Sept. 6 letter supporting an option to implement the consensus FFMP on an interim basis, to adjust releases from the Cannonsville Reservoir that would improve flows for the West Branch and Main Stem of the Delaware River, and to indefinitely continue use of a river temperature gage at Hankins, NY to help measure the effectiveness of the FFMP.

AGRICULTURAL ADVOCACY

The UDC went on record opposing closure of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's New York State Farm Service Agency office in Liberty (Sullivan County) under a restructuring proposal.

Cited in an Aug. 24 letter was the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan's support for agriculture as an existing, traditional land use.

"Making services more difficult for farmers to obtain may only serve to expedite the closure of even more farms in this already challenged industry," the letter stated. "If the farms are lost, they are lost forever, affecting a vital aspect of our local economy and rural heritage."

PROJECT REVIEWS

The Council's Project Review Committee on Aug. 28 discussed a conceptual sketch plan for a development in the Town of Tusten that could include 100 two-story buildings with four condominium units each on approximately 58 acres, with over 300 acres preserved for open space.

On June 29, the UDC issued a comment letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation supporting the replacement of the Rt. 1018 bridge over Little Equinunk Creek in Stalker (Manchester Township), located within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

7/11 - Tourism Public Forum by the NYS Assembly Republican Agriculture, Tourism, & Outdoor Recreation Task Force, chaired by Assemblyman Cliff Crouch

7/11 - Upper Delaware Valley Orientation Tour for NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 3 Director Willie Janaway, hosted by NPS and UDC

7/27 - Pike Conservation Partnership's Legislator Breakfast

8/2 - Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan meeting



HELLO DOWN THERE: A little girl contemplates the long legs of this stiltwalker from the North American Cultural Laboratory Theatre, based in Highland Lake, at the 17th Annual RiverFest held in Narrowsburg, NY on July 22. The UDC was an exhibitor at this celebration of art, music and ecology presented by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

8/22 - Penn State Cooperative Extension's Landowners Natural Gas Exploration and Leasing Informational Seminar

8/29 - PA State Water Plan Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee

8/29 - Sullivan County, NY Open Space Summit

9/5-6 - Interstate Coordination Forum Addressing Consequences of Rapid Growth on Land and Water Resources in the Delaware Highlands

9/7 - Catskills-Hudson Valley NYS DEC Region 3 Environmental Roundtable with

DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis

CONGRATULATIONS

The UDC recognized with congratulatory letters the recent appointments of Leroy Young as Director of the Bureau of Fisheries for the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Gene Kelly as Region 4 Director for the NYS DEC.

RAFT TRIP

The UDC's 19th Annual Family Raft Trip attracted 131 people, including 27 children ages 11 and under, to float from Pond Eddy, NY to Matamoras, PA on Aug. 5. ♦

UDC Awards 2007 Technical Assistance Grants

The Upper Delaware Council approved eight Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) totaling \$25,400 on Sept. 6.

The 2007 grant round brings the cumulative amount to \$609,692 that the UDC has awarded to its member municipalities since 1988 to fund 173 TAG projects.

TAGs are available for non-construction projects that further goals and address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Combined requests this year totaled \$41,297. The program is open to the UDC's eight member New York towns, three Pennsylvania townships, and the encompassing river corridor counties.

Wayne County, PA's four townships of Berlin, Buckingham, Manchester, and Damascus would be eligible to participate if they opted to join the Council.

The 2007 recipients are:

Town of Lumberland - \$6,500 to review and update the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law to address recent growth while protecting and identifying critical areas of the town;

Town of Hancock - \$5,000 to revise the 1986 Town Subdivision Law and to develop driveway and road standards, to ensure the proper construction of infrastructure and encourage better control over development;

Town of Tusten - \$4,500 to convert Town laws, ordinances, and archival records into an electronic format and make these documents publicly available on the Town's website;

Town of Lumberland - \$2,500 to prepare a written and pictorial document chronicling over 100 years of history of the Eldred Central School District located in the Towns of Lumberland and Highland;

Town of Delaware - \$2,200 to purchase, install, and conduct training on new Building and Codes Enforcement Software to facilitate a more efficient and modern management system;

Town of Cochection - \$2,000 to survey



UDC STRATEGIZES: The Upper Delaware Council held a Strategic Planning Workshop on Aug. 11 at its Narrowsburg office to assist in developing the Fiscal Year 2008-2012 Operating Program. This fifth consecutive Five-Year Plan, adopted on Sept. 6, affirms the UDC's long-range vision and sets priorities for implementation tasks from the River Management Plan. Alan J. Sorensen of Planit Main Street, standing, facilitated the workshop. These key issues were identified: 1. Operational Funding; 2. Visitor Facilities; 3. Public Outreach, Education and Citizen Participation; 4. Viewshed Protection, Ridgeline Development, Aesthetics, and NYRI; 5. Planning for Growth; 6. Recreation Management; 7. Supplement Technical Assistance Grants Funding; 8. Upper Delaware Flows; 9. River Management Plan and Land & Water Use Guidelines Review; 10. Interagency & Intergovernmental Relations and Information Sharing; 11. Floodplain Management and Flood Mitigation; 12. Wayne County Townships' Memberships in the UDC; and 13. Upper Delaware River Greenway Role. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

and map the boundary lines of the Town Hall property in order to situate the Town Highway Department operations in such a manner as to prevent potential pollutants from entering the watershed;

Shohola Township - \$1,700 to identify potential, safe, and convenient public access areas along the Delaware River within the township for boating, fishing, swimming, and emergency situations;

Town of Fremont - \$1,000 to print 750 copies of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Administers NYS Grants

The UDC is also pleased to administer grants for its New York member towns as secured by Senator John J. Bonacic through legislative member items.

A \$60,000 grant program (\$6,250 per town and \$10,000 administrative fee) was

completed by the Aug. 31 deadline for the following projects:

Cochection: set up and furnish a Code Enforcement office; Deerpark: construct a pavilion and walking trail at the Sparrowbush Firemen's Park; Delaware: install rip-rap on the North Branch of the Callicoon Creek to help alleviate flooding in Hortonville; Fremont: solicit architectural design plans for a new municipal building; Hancock: purchase a community message board, waste receptacles, and computer equipment; Highland: install a video security system at Rts. 97 & 55 in Barryville; Lumberland: make repairs at three town buildings; and Tusten: upgrade Town Hall furnishings, purchase a sound system for public meetings, and repair the Tusten Theater concrete entranceway. ♦

New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com.

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Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Drives Forward

Information on New York State Route 97's Upper Delaware Scenic Byway may now be obtained through an interactive website at www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org and a toll-free hotline at 1-866-511-8372 (UDSB).

Callers to the new, toll-free number may request copies of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Travel Guide, a 20-page color brochure that offers maps of the state-designated byway route, historical overviews of the byway communities, and a description of amenities.

Telephone answering services are being provided by the Village of Hancock, the UDSB Northern Gateway member municipality, through an agreement with the non-profit Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. organization responsible for the enhancement and promotion of the byway corridor.

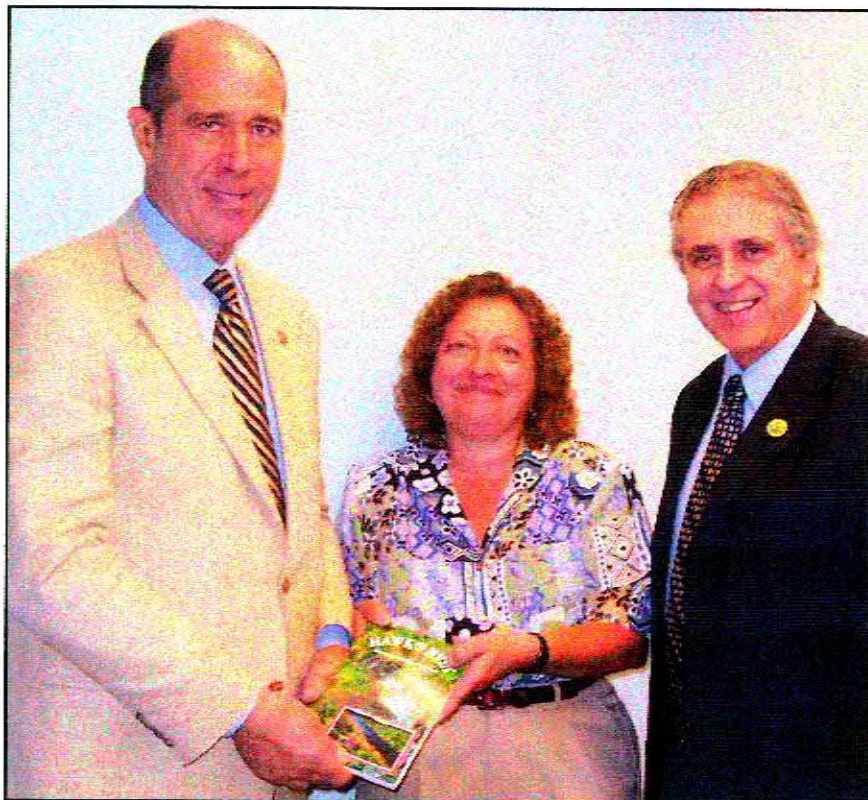
The hotline is staffed during normal weekday business hours; messages may be recorded at all other times.

The website, officially launched in July after a year of planning and design, was funded through a marketing grant from the Federal Highway Administration, administered through the NYS Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways Program.

W Design of Barryville, NY designed and maintains the website, which opens with a pictorial introduction inviting viewers to "Come enjoy a slow ride through our charming, historic and natural river towns."

A comprehensive, clickable map leads visitors along the length of the byway in Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties.

Interactive features include e-Postcards and an invitation to submit favorite byway images for exhibit in the Photo Gallery.



READING PLEASURE: Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland representative to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), and UDC Executive Director William E. Douglass, right, presented U.S. Congressman John Hall (NY-19th District) with a copy of "Hawk's Nest: Newspaper History of the Road", a benefit book for UDSB, during an Aug. 16 meeting of the UDC's Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee in Representative Hall's Goshen office. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway also offers two, grant-sponsored books to help support its mission. "Hawk's Nest: Newspaper History of the Road", by Town of Deerpark Historian Norma Schadt, is available for a \$15 donation. "Perseverance & Vigilance: A History of Fort Decker", by Minisink Valley Historical Society Executive Director Peter Osborne, is available for a \$19.95 donation. E-mail info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org or call (845) 252-3022 for ordering information.

Additional public outreach efforts are underway with federal and state grant support, including the 2008-09 construction of an Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center in Cochection in partnership with the County of Sullivan and Cochection Preservation Society; production of a copyrighted byway map that will be printed on placemats for local distribution; and a print, broadcast, and Internet marketing campaign. ♦

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

Upper Delaware Council
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