

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 28, 2017

Committee Present: Jim Greier, Alan Henry, Fred Peckham, Jeff Dexter, Aaron Robinson, David Dean, Harold Roeder, Jr., Larry Richardson
Committee Absent: None
NPS Partner: None
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Pete Golod
Guests: None

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Greier called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m.

Approval of February 28 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Roeder to approve the February 28 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Executive Director's Report: Ramie referred members to her written report provided in their packets. She reported that a funding drawdown request to cover the March abstract of bills was made on March 27th. The current Continuing Resolution for operation of the federal government expires on April 28th, she noted. Ramie stated that President Trump's draft 2018 budget as published on March 16 calls for an approximately 12% spending cut to the Department of Interior from 2017 levels. Heister said we have no idea what it going to happen, but she has been advised to anticipate a 3 or 3 ½% cut for this fiscal year.

Ramie noted that the UDC office was closed under the hazardous weather administrative leave policy on March 14 and 15 due to the State of Emergency in effect from Blizzard Stella. The office did reopen at 10 a.m. on March 16 as per the National Park Service schedule.

Ramie noted that UDC bookkeeper Mike Poska discovered that board members did not receive mileage reimbursement for attendance at the December 1 full Council meeting. That mileage reimbursement is included in the February reimbursement checks this month, she added.

In regards to the recommendations of the Personnel Subcommittee, as verified by the full Council at the March 2 meeting, Ramie noted that the policies were implemented with memos written and documentation added to official UDC records.

Ramie reported that she invested 49.5 hours over an 11-day period to research, layout, interviews, photo selections, composition, and editing of the Spring/Summer issue of "The Upper Delaware" newsletter. It was sent to the printer on March 13 in advance of the March 15 deadline due to the blizzard warnings. Ramie said the blueline proof was returned to her on March 23 to sign off on the printing phase. Delivery of the newsletter is scheduled for April 3 and if it is received past that date, the late fee penalty will be imposed as set forth in the contract.

Ramie said there has been a flurry of activity regarding the April 23 Awards Ceremony. The award recipients have been selected and notified and she will now turn her attention to doing the necessary research to prepare the presentations and design the illustrated awards program booklet. Peckham asked if Chris Gibson, the recipient of the Public Service Award, would be attending the banquet. Ramie said she received preliminary information that he will not be attending, but his former aide Paula Brown will attend with Congressman Faso.

Ramie noted that three news releases were issued in the past month. Those were, "Congressman Faso to Deliver Keynote Address at UDC Awards" with a photo on March 1; "Berlin Completes 2017 UDC Grant" on March 21; and "UDC Announces Honorees for Awards Ceremony on April 23" on March 27. Ramie said there has been a lot of activity following Dr. Peter Kolesar's presentation on the expiration of the Flexible Flow Management Program at the March 21 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. The committee decided it would like to be a catalyst to inform people about the possible expiration of the Flexible Flow Management Program. They would like to share the consequences of the expiration with all those that care about the health of the river and the economy. Ramie said she shared an alert with over 100 people in her contacts list along with a copy of Dr. Kolesar's PowerPoint presentation, contacts for the Decree Party members and talking points that had been suggested by the Friends of the Upper Delaware River. The UDC is writing two letters for action at the April full Council meeting. One

directed to the DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee will ask them to hold a public meeting and the second one will be directed to the Governors of the basin states and the Mayor of NYC to advise them what would happen to the Upper Delaware should the plan revert back to the 1983 version which would be very detrimental to the flows.

Ramie asked members to please remember that the applications for the River Clean-up Grants are due by April 17 for review at the April 25th Operations Committee meeting for recommendations at the May 4th UDC meeting.

Ramie referred members to the April calendar of UDC Meetings, Activities and Deadlines noting that it is a very busy month. She stated that April 5th is the deadline for the second round of comments on the Draft Solar Position Paper. Heister reported that she would be attending the March 29th meeting on the Delaware River Basin Conservation Program in Philadelphia.

New Business

Awards Banquet Update: Ramie referred to the press release titled “UDC Announces Honorees for Awards Ceremony on April 23” that was sent out on March 27th provided in members’ packets. She said that all the honorees have been notified and a large mailing of invitations has been sent out. Reservations are due by April 14.

Summary of Pending Bills 3-28-17/Financial Statements: The committee was provided with the abstract of bills dated March 28 to review. A motion by Peckham, seconded by Henry to pay the bills listed on the abstract was carried unanimously. Financial Statements as of March 31, 2017 were provided for individual review. Ramie noted that partial payout of the accumulated uncompensated vacation leave is reflected in the abstract of bills as is the newsletter charges and postage.

Other: None

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Odell, 4/3/17