

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2017

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

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. In Chairperson Greier's absence, a motion to appoint David Dean as temporary chairperson for the meeting was made by Richardson, seconded by Roeder and carried. Dean called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

Members asked that the issue of the toilet seat not staying up in the rear bathroom be addressed. Staff said they would look into having that taken care of.

Approval of March 28 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Roeder seconded by Henry to approve the March 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 she made the funding drawdown request to reimburse the UDC for the amount of the April abstract and provided the balance in the federal account. The current Continuing Resolution for operation of the federal government expires on Friday, April 28th, she added.

Ramie stated that based on the UDC's April 6th letter to NYC DEP Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush, we received a response dated April 18 in which Mr. Rush offered to come speak with the Council directly on the topic of emergency public communications. A copy of Rush's letter was provided in members' packets. That presentation has been arranged for the June 1st UDC meeting. Ramie noted that NYC DEP Director of Public Affairs Adam Bosch will also attend.

Ramie said that a letter was sent after the last full Council meeting to DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini inquiring about the status of DRBC regulations for natural gas development. No reply has been received yet, but we've been advised that one is pending by the May 4th date of our next meeting. DRBC Director of Science and Water Quality Management Tom Fikslin is due to represent the DRBC at that May meeting, she added. A brief discussion about the difference between drilling and fracking took place and Henry suggested that the DRBC be asked for their definition on "drilling" in the Marcellus. Ramie said we will await the DRBC reply before we take any further action.

Ramie reported that Golod has been with the UDC for one year. His employment agreement states that a particular salary increase will be enacted on or about his one-year hiring anniversary date of April 23, 2017 "upon a satisfactory performance evaluation by the Executive Director and the Personnel Subcommittee and dependent upon the completion or scheduling of appropriate training in zoning and land use planning review as per standards set by the Personnel Subcommittee." Ramie said her written performance evaluation is pending. A motion for the Personnel Subcommittee to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director's evaluation of Golod was made by Henry, seconded by Robinson and carried. A motion to implement the terms of Golod's contract upon a satisfactory performance evaluation was made by Peckham, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Ramie noted that upon cancellation of the April 18 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting due to lack of a quorum when only three voting members out of seven were present, a question was raised about adding WU/RM to an already established meeting night. Ramie said that staff discussed that proposal afterwards and determined that it would be a burden to them and provided several reasons why. Ramie said the suggestion is to keep the WU/RM meeting as scheduled and encourage the members to show up or let staff know if they can't make it in advance so that the meeting can be cancelled. Richardson asked how many members that committee currently has. Ramie told him seven and that four is required for a quorum. A discussion took place about contacting the current members and inquiring about

their intentions of continuing to serve on the committee. Henry said it is frustrating to get to the office and learn the meeting cannot be held. Richardson suggested speaking to committee members who are not showing up on a monthly basis to see what their reasoning is. Henry asked the Executive Director to contact WU/RM Committee members who are consistently not showing up to find out about their intentions of staying on the committee as it does affect the quorum.

Ramie referred to a copy of the thank you letter sent to Congressman Faso for serving as the keynote speaker at our Awards Banquet. She wrote in part, "The Upper Delaware Council looks forward to working with you on issues impacting this region and stands ready to assist you with your welcome plans to invite Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to visit this special place that Congress deemed worthy of national recognition and protection in 1978." Richardson said he had an opportunity to speak with the Congressman and express the Council's desire to meet and discuss issues with him. Richardson said he was receptive to having a meeting. Ramie said she appreciated that the Congressman took a genuine interest in the UDC's positions on various issues. Ramie spoke about the steps taken prior to the event to address security concerns over potential protests of our keynote speaker. Ramie noted that the response from the Pennsylvania State Police was excellent and professional that day and she was grateful for that. Henry asked that a letter be sent to the Pennsylvania State Police expressing our appreciation for their response. Members agreed. Ramie said she would do that.

Henry referred to page 4 of Golod's Project Review Discussion Items Report reading in part, "On 1/5 the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania denied a motion filed by three Pennsylvania senators to intervene in a lawsuit challenging the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) ban on hydraulic fracturing in the mile watershed." He asked Golod to check on the accuracy of that statement. Golod said he would.

Ramie reported that two press releases were issued this month. "The Upper Delaware Spring/Summer 2017 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail" on April 5 and "UDC 2017 Awards" with photo and caption on April 25th. Ramie said she provided background information on repairs to the Narrowsburg-Darbytown Bridge to Dave Mazzenga for a *News Eagle* article.

Ramie said she read in a special section of the *Sullivan County Democrat* that the Leadership Sullivan Class of 2017 had selected Ride2Survive as its Community Service Impact Service Project. The UDC had submitted an application for a Phase 2 NPS Corwin Farm Clean-up on 8/31/16 and never received a decision on what proposal was selected, she added.

Ramie referred members to the May calendar of UDC Meetings, Activities and Deadlines. She stated that she awaits the due date for Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plans and Budget to be submitted to the NPS for Cooperative Agreement execution, but anticipates those items will be presented at the May committee meetings. She reminded members that the next meeting of the Renewable Energies Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. in advance of the Full Council meeting. Attached to the calendar was a flyer with information on a day-long workshop by the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Initiative, the N.J. Institute of Technology's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program (NJIT TAB) and the Center for Creative Placemaking on May 18 at the Bushkill Meeting Center in Bushkill, PA. The workshop is designed to help prepare leaders for Creative Placemaking planning and execution, and encourage cross-sector regional collaboration to support success. The cost for the workshop is \$30. Registration is due by May 15th and can be done at <https://creativeplacemakingbootcamp.eventbrite.com>. Dean asked if this workshop is something the UDC should attend. After a brief discussion, a motion approving Ramie's attendance and fee involved at the May 18 workshop was made by Roeder, seconded by Peckham and carried.

New Business

River Clean-up Grant Applications: Ramie referred to the 2017 UDC River Clean-up Grant Applications provided in members' packets. She noted that four applications were received with the total amount of requests being \$5,225. The UDC had originally allocated \$3,000 under the 2017 Technical Assistance Grants budget line of \$38,000 for this program; however, the \$36,280 approved for TAGS left a balance of \$1,720. If the committee chooses to fully fund the clean-ups, we would need to re-allocate \$3,505 from a different budget line, Ramie said. She reminded members that last year we paid out \$5,472.98 for the program. A motion to fund the program was made by Robinson and seconded by Henry. Richardson said he does not think we should spend more than was allocated due to financial uncertainties. After a brief

discussion, a motion to recommend to the full Council River Clean-up funding as follows: Town of Deerpark: \$1,250; Town of Lumberland: \$775; Town of Highland: \$1,200; and Damascus Township: \$750 was made by Henry, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Penn State On-line GIS Course Tuition Request: Golod referred to the information on the second course of the Penn State World Campus GIS Certificate Program provided in members' packets. A description of the course and tuition costs for the fall semester are listed. Golod said he learned from the bursar's office that tuition may increase for the winter semester. Richardson questioned if tuition would come out of this year's budget or next. He was told this budget. Golod explained the certification process, the benefits of him learning GIS and the many facets of GIS itself, referring to it as more than a "mapping tool." Richardson asked Golod if he can expand on how he would use the GIS certification to benefit the Council or enhance his position with the Council. Robinson stated that an example would be that with GIS one could identify what areas in the designated corridor would be advantageous for commercial solar. Hahn expanded on the use of GIS, noting that Golod needs to know basic skills. Golod stated that each course in the certificate program builds upon the last. Henry asked if the information he will learn in this program is something he could learn by "shadowing" someone or if it's something he can only get reliably by taking this course. Golod said that for him, it is something that needs to be learned in a "classroom setting" and with a formalized lesson plan. He asked him if the course is something that he can apply to his work with the Council. Golod told him "absolutely." A motion to approve the course upon completion of a budget analysis and confirmation that funding is available was made by Henry, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Resolutions in Support of Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Initiative by Municipal Members:

Ramie referred to the sample proposed resolution in support of the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Initiative provided in members' packets. She said it is the same as a letter of support, but in resolution form. The Geotourism Stewardship Council would like to collect municipal resolutions because they will be approaching the nine counties the initiative encompasses with modest funding requests and the support will also be highlighted when seeking grant funding. Ramie said if the committee approves, she will act as a facilitator and send the resolutions out to our participating municipalities with a cover letter explaining the point of it and other information on the MapGuide. She would ask that they return them to us and then collectively submit them to the Stewardship Council. After a brief discussion, a motion allowing the UDC to act as a facilitator was made by Richardson, seconded by Henry and carried.

Summary of Pending Bills 4-25-17/Financial Statements: The committee was provided with the abstract of bills dated April 25 to review. A motion by Henry, seconded by Dexter to pay the bills listed on the abstract was carried unanimously. Financial Statements as of April 30, 2017 were provided for individual review.

Other: Richardson stated that the Council needs to start looking at the staff's health insurance policy and associated costs. Ramie said the current policy renews on December 1. Richardson stated that the Council used to have a health insurance line in the budget to offset employee's deductibles. He explained the program and the advantages of having it. He suggested that by implementing this line in the budget again, it may allow the Council to stay with the same provider, but in a more affordable manner. Henry suggested ensuring that this practice would be approved by the Park Service and noted that any money not spent within the fiscal year would have to be re-allocated. Hahn asked if the line was dropped from the budget because someone objected to the practice. Richardson said it was dropped because those funds were never used for their intended purpose.

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Robinson, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. was carried unanimously.