

**Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2019**

Committee Members Present: Harold Roeder Jr., Aaron Robinson, Fred Peckham, Larry Richardson, Jim Greier, David Dean, Al Henry, Jeff Dexter
Committee Members Absent: None
Staff : Laurie Ramie, Pete Golod, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner: Carla Hauser-Hahn
Guests: Roger Saumure (Shohola alternate)

The UDC's Operations Committee held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Roeder called the meeting to order at 8:55 p.m.

Approval of March 26nd Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Robinson to approve the March 26th meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Executive Director's Report and Monthly Calendar:

Financial Status:

FY 2018 Federal Funding: Ramie said of today UDC still doesn't have any funding. We are waiting for the Department of the Interior to sign off on the NPS Operating Plan service-wide so that it can trickle down to make the budget not provisional so UDC can access our funds. Ramie had inquired about the status of that and Hauser-Hahn, as Acting Superintendent, had advised that it hasn't happened yet. UDC has a little over \$64,000 left in our account that would take us until May or June. UDC has an option of applying for a lesser share of what's left for 2019. Ramie said she's trying to avoid having to prepare that package because she said the minute she does it the next day it will pass and then it will have proved unnecessary. UDC's original request has been in since 3/4 for the balance that is due. Ramie will keep the committee updated on the funding status. Ramie did contact our three congressional officials about this matter to see if they had any suggestions. Congressman Cartwright's aide April Niver has been particularly helpful. Niver has called UDC a few times to get more information on the subject. Niver has a contact within the NPS who she has told UDC needs a specific time table for when will this action occur. That contact hasn't gotten back to Niver but they are advocating on UDC's behalf.

Bank Balance: As of 4/22, the UDC has \$64,793.49 in its Jeff Bank accounts. UDC is retroactively owed since January, \$82,546.69. That's the equivalent of the expenditures that we have paid to keep the doors open. Henry spoke with Sue Sullivan on her way out and she think UDC should file a formal grievance to the Federal Government over not getting paid and try to get our representatives behind us. Ramie asked to whom she would send it?

State Funding: On 4/2 Ramie sent a memo to our six NY and PA representatives at the Assembly, Senate and House giving them an update on the fact that UDC completed our visits to the state legislators and what had been pledged or what was happening. Today Ramie reached out to the two elected officials who had introduced \$100,000 appropriations for UDC. She did not hear back from Assemblywoman Gunther, but Ramie said she thinks we can safely say that ship has sailed with New York because the budget came into play on 4/1 and nobody told us that there was any funding for the UDC. However, this morning, Representative Jonathan Fritz did write Ramie back and said: "Good morning! I do not have any official update on that \$100,000 funding request with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I can assure you that the request has been formally submitted through Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee, the Speaker's office, and the Leader's office. I am hopeful but do not want to convey an unsubstantiated optimism." Ramie told Fritz that "hopeful but cautious" is always UDC's attitude. Ramie said that's great momentum. As Ramie has said to both sides of the river, if we got this \$100,000 on the first request after 31 years of no state funding, that would be a miracle.

The Chamber of the Northern Poconos is holding a "Breakfast with State Legislators" on 5/9 in Hawley at Lukan's Family Resort. Ramie would like UDC to be more visible on that front to support our legislators as they have done

for UDC. A motion by Henry, seconded by Robinson to approve Ramie attending the Breakfast with State Legislators was carried.

Administration:

Building/Equipment: Lattice work to screen the building mechanicals on the side of the office is broken. Al Henry has a repair plan and seeks authorization to purchase the materials. Henry said there is potential for it to be damaged again because that is where they stockpile the snow after plowing. A motion by Robinson, seconded by Richardson to approve the repair plan for the replacement to lattice work was carried.

Personnel Issues: There is one outstanding review left for Ramie. Henry requested a reminder to all members of the Personnel Subcommittee that he would like them to complete a written evaluation, submit that to Henry prior to 5/2, and he will compile results.

Audit: UDC received a \$1,000 donation from Eckersley & Ostrowski LLP to offset the UDC's expenditure for FY 2018 Financial Review. This money will be deposited into the Unrestricted Fund. Ramie will send an appreciation letter.

Public Relations:

Publicity: The UDC issued four news releases regarding: river cleanups, the awards banquet honorees, the Spring newsletter and a reservation date reminder for the banquet.

"The Upper Delaware": UDC received the Spring 2019 issue from Courier Printing on time (4/1). The only snafu was that the US Postal Service failed to notify us that our bulk mailing permit had expired. When they got our shipment of 9,000 newsletters to mail out, they held it until Ramie showed up with a check. They hadn't informed us of the date or the amount. This happened in a previous year as well. It's not the local post office that's responsible, said Ramie. Henry asked how much that cost. Ramie said the fee is \$235.

Referring to the calendar, Ramie and Roeder have been invited to present to the NPS seasonal staff and interns on 5/13. The invitation came from Ingrid Peterec. As Acting Superintendent, Carla Hauser-Hahn will be giving a history lesson. Roeder and Ramie will go over at 9:00 a.m. to hear what Hauser-Hahn says so that they don't duplicate information. Then they can segue into what is the UDC, what do we do, private property rights, etc.

Peckham reviewed the calendar and asked if Tom Shepstone is doing a presentation on the Land and Water Use Guidelines? Ramie said yes, on 5/2. If you look at the RMP, he was on three different committees responsible for developing that document. Ramie said it's so that UDC can question Shepstone on what the intentions were behind the way it was written and also to see if he has any insight into how it can be applied. UDC did specifically mention that we have new land uses and we're trying to figure out the best way to incorporate these into the guidelines.

Old Business

Awards Banquet Update: As of today there are 94 confirmed guests. Ramie said her main focus has been putting together the souvenir booklet. It's the equivalent of doing 10 feature articles on each of the award winners. Ramie interviewed them, researched it, solicited photos, and sometimes took photos herself. Ramie completed that program on 4/22. This year we decided to outsource the printing of the souvenir booklet. Ramie said UDC used to do it in house and it took a lot of time, it also bogged down our machine because of the color photos. UDC found out last year that we have a quota on that copier and we got charged extra because we exceeded it. Spencer Printing is doing the copying part for UDC. We do the certificates. Golod printed them and he is framing them. We get the plaques done by J&C Award Plus of Tyler Hill, PA. Ramie writes the inscriptions for all of those. We also provided talking points at his request to Congressman Cartwright. On Friday on WDNH-FM and all Bold Gold radio stations they had a news story about the reservation deadline for the UDC banquet. Then Congressman Cartwright talked about the importance of the UDC and what this dinner means, advocating for people to support it.

Other: None.

New Business

Draft Resolution 2019-04: Permanent Employee Status: Ramie said the Draft Resolution 2019-04 is in the meeting packet. The action would be to send this to full council on 5/2 for ratification. A motion by Peckham, seconded by Henry to approve Draft Resolution 2019-04 and send to UDC was carried.

Review Applications for River & Shoreline Cleanup Grants: Ramie said 4/19 was the deadline to receive these proposals. They came in from three of our member municipalities. That's a lesser amount than we normally have, but the money turned out to be the same because some of their requests were larger. UDC has budgeted \$5,000. The request totals \$5,303.78. Ramie said the committee's option is to either willfully go over what we have budgeted, assuming that we'll have \$300 we can spare at the end of the fiscal year, or cut it back. Ramie wanted to set a payment request deadline of 8/16 so she can make sure it's done by the fiscal year and the payment goes into the bookkeeper so the check is written. We have been requested by the Town of Deerpark to make an exception to that. They would like to do a seasonal cleanup as late in the fall as possible, once the summer visitors are gone. They do a sweep of the Hawks Nest. Ramie said that's not a problem because they are very reliable in getting us their bills and invoices. The Town of Lumberland has a contract that allows a local person to do every other week cleanups. They start 5/15. Grants will be authorized as of May 2nd and their contract goes until September 30th which technically exceeds our time period. If you figure out their contract, they're basically paying \$100 per cleanup for 11 weeks. UDC could say we would do three weeks less and then we'll be within our budget. Ramie said it's up to the committee. Ramie suggests making the same deadline as the Town of Deerpark, 9/16. Henry thinks there should be some kind of report back from the people that are doing the trash cleanup project, like photographs. Ramie said that is already a condition on the payment request form she gives them. Henry said regarding Tusten's application, Skinners Falls is actually in the Town of Cochection. If they go up to Skinners and actually clean it up, that will be better than a point somewhere near Skinners Falls. That needs to be clarified. Are they going to start in the Town of Cochection or the Cochection/Tusten line or are they actually going to clean up Skinners Falls? Henry said if UDC is going to pay \$900 he would recommend if it's ok with the representative for Cochection for them to go up to Skinners Falls because that's where most of the garbage is. Henry moved to approve \$5,303.78 for River & Shoreline Cleanup Grants, setting a 9/16 deadline seconded by Greier, which carried.

Summary of Pending Bills 4-23-19: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Henry to approve the bills was carried.

Financial Statement 4-30-19: Roeder said the financial statement is offered for individual review.

Other: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Henry seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 5/1/19