# The quarterly newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River

Volume 5 Number 4

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Winter 1992-1993



### In This Issue...

Welcome to the Winter 1992-1993 issue of *The Upper Delaware*! The UDC's Annual Awards Dinner is coming up on March 20, 1993. It's always a fun evening, and you're invited. See page two of this newsletter for details.

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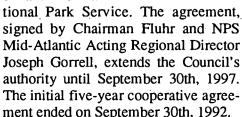
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# 5-Year Agreement Renewed

the October meeting of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent John Hutzky presented UDC Chair George Fluhr with the new five-year cooperative Delaware Council and the Na-



For those who have volunteered their time to work on the Upper Delaware Council, renewal of the cooperative agreement provided an opportunity to reflect upon past triumphs. The UDC's first Chair, Phil Fitzpatrick, recalls how far the Council has progressed since its early years, "The Council has come a long way in the last five years. In the beginning, many people doubted the Council's ability to succeed, and it really pleases me to prove them wrong. I'm proud of the Council and proud of our members. It took a lot of hard work and dedication for the Council to get where it is," Fitzpatrick said.



agreement be- NPS Superintendent John T. Hutzky presents UDC Chair George Fluhr tween the Upper with a new five year cooperative agreement. Photo by Dave Soete.

## Saving Shohola Creek

Fitzpatrick speaks proudly about one of the Council's first victories. "Even as we were beginning operations, important issues came before us. One of our first success stories was in coordinating an effort by local government agencies and groups to oppose the construction of three power dams on Shohola Creek in Shohola Township. In the end, one of the proposed projects was found to be prohibited by the Wild and Scenic designation of the Upper Delaware, another was ultimately denied because of its potential impact on a Wild and Scenic River, and the third was stopped because of its potential impact on state forest lands used for bald eagle habitat and trout spawning areas. The Council had a voice, a strong voice. The developer withdrew the applications, and we all breathed a sigh of relief."

(Please see "Agreement," page 7)

## **Special Report**

# **UDC Banquet Set for March 20, 1993**

## Wanted: Award Nominations

inter's here. That means that the days are short, driving is more hazardous, the boaters and anglers are few, the river is ice cold, and baseball is months away. Winter also means that it's time to plan for the gala UDC awards banquet. And as certain as the days will grow longer and summer will return, the awards banquet is a sure bet for a fun and rewarding evening.

The Upper Delaware Council would like to invite you to attend the awards banquet. We'd also like your help in nominating some deserving person or group for an Upper Delaware Council award to be presented at the gala event.

Every year at the banquet, the UDC presents awards to recognize those who have undertaken forward-looking programs, events and actions to conserve the Upper Delaware River and its many valuable resources. To nominate someone for an award, call or write the UDC office with the name of the nominee and the reason why that individual, group, community, company or agency deserves an award. Nominations must be received by February 14, 1993. Here is a list of the award categories for which nominations are being sought:

Distinguished Service Award: This is the Council's highest honor, given to that individual who acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan. It may be given for any of the following reasons: hard work on a successful project; acts of heroism in river or emergency rescue situations; environmentally outstanding designs for site plans within the river corridor; or for similar reasons.

Community Service: This award is for the community, civic, sportsmen's, or conservation group that has taken action during the past year to protect a section of the river corridor or one or more of its valuable resources, or to improve management of the corridor as a whole.

Recreation Achievement: This award is for the recreation provider (canoe livery, campground, etc.) that makes an outstanding effort to educate river users about water safety, conservation, litter control, river etiquette, and property rights.

Certificate of Merit: This award is for a state, regional, or federal agency that has instituted new programs or policies that protect the natural resources of the river corridor.

Cultural Achievement: This award is for the group or individual that has protected, enhanced, or interpreted cultural resources in the Upper Delaware corridor.

Volunteer: This award is for the organization or individual whose volunteer efforts have furthered the goals of the River Management Plan.

Award of Recognition: This award recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to protecting the resources of the Upper Delaware River.

UDC Best Friends Award: This award is presented for outstanding contributions to the Upper Delaware Council's "Friends of the Upper Delaware" program.

#### Come Join Us!

This year's banquet will be held at the Settlers Inn on Route 6 in Hawley, Pennsylvania. All are invited to this celebration, which has grown into a major valley-wide annual event. To make your reservations, please call or write the UDC at P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, New York, 12764; telephone (914) 252-3022, FAX (914) 252-3359.

## Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

P. O. Box 217 Narrowsburg, NY 12764 Telephone: (914) 252-3022 FAX: (914) 252-3359

The Upper Delaware is the free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the management plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Contact the UDC for more information.

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## **River History**

# Citizens Organize to Save Cochecton Station

he 140 year-old Cochecton Railroad Station, one of many historic structures in the river corridor, is the focus of a grassroots preservation effort being led by the newly formed Cochecton Preservation Society.

"It's believed to be the oldest surviving railroad station on the old Erie Line, and it may be the oldest surviving station in the state," says Deborah Butler, Chairwoman of the Society. "The station needs to be moved, and moved pronto. The Nearings (who own Cochecton Mills and the station) have been very patient and cooperative, but they need to expand their operations as soon as possible and they need the land under the station to do it."

The group is looking for ways to preserve the station by moving it to a new, permanent home in the river valley. It is possible that federal funds made available under the most recent transportation bill (known as ISTEA for the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) can be used for this purpose.

The station is a Greek Revival-style building built around 1850, with the frieze bands and returned cornices characteristic of that architectural style. It is a wood frame and clapboard structure, with intact "nine-over-nine" windows and panel doors. It is listed on the State Register of Historic Places and had been determined to be eligible for the Federal Register. During the early 1900s, the station served as the jumping-off point for the resorts at Lake Huntington, where urban dwellers could retreat to pastoral splendor and ballroom dancing for about \$10 per week.

Cochecton Station is one of the original structures built when the Erie Railroad arrived in the area. The Erie's decision to place the railroad and its station near the river profoundly affected the future growth and development of Cochecton. Basically, it shifted the commercial center of the town from the place known as Old Cochecton (which sat astride the Cochecton-Newburgh Turnpike, an important "road west" that opened in 1810) to the river. Old Cochecton became, and remains, a quiet residential area.

## A Short History of the Erie

The story of the Erie Railroad begins with the Erie Canal. When the canal proved a huge success, New York politicians came under pressure to provide a transportation corridor across the southern part of the state. In April, 1832 the

New York and Erie Railroad was chartered and on November 7, 1835, ground was broken near Deposit, New York.

Very soon, though, things went wrong. A huge fire in New York City ruined some of the railroad's financial backers. Then came a business crisis known as the "Panic of 1837" that occurred when it looked like many states were headed for bankruptcy under a burden of debt incurred by a public works building binge in the 1820s and 1830s. (This crisis resulted in many of the balanced budget amendments now in effect in a number of states.)

Bad decisions were made about the design of the railroad. Rather than being placed on the ground, the first segment of the railroad (opened in 1841) was built on a low trestle so costly to maintain that the railroad went bankrupt. The railroad was reorganized and rebuilt, but a nonstandard gauge was used as required by the original charter—something that would come back to haunt the railroad in later years.

The rails finally reached Port Jervis on December 31, 1847. A year later they were in Binghamton. And on May 14 and 15, 1851, the official inaugural train made its 446-mile trip from Piermont (on the Hudson River) to Dunkirk (on

Lake Erie), with President Millard Fillmore on board and (according to legend) Secretary of State Daniel Webster in a rocking chair strapped to a flat car and drinking a lot of wine.

The Erie Railroad was a nationally important railroad that boasted many firsts. It was the first railroad in the U.S. over 400 miles in length, the first to link the Atlantic seaboard to the Great Lakes, the first to transport California fresh fruit to New York markets (1887), the first to



A passenger train rolling into Cochecton Station circa 1937. Photo courtesy Lillian Krauss.

#### **UDC News**

# NPS Signs Off On Sign Add-Ons

his past summer the National Park Service erected three signs at the southern and northern ends of the river corridor on NY Route 97 and PA Route 191. The signs read "Welcome to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" and show the UDC and NPS logos.

Although these signs were among the more than 150 signs in the NPS Sign Plan that was reviewed by the UDC in 1990, after the three signs were in place concern was voiced that they could be misinterpreted. It was believed that visitors to the area, unfamiliar with the Upper Delaware, might get the mistaken impression that all property in the river

corridor is open to use by the general public. This could possibly lead to an increase in unintentional trespass.

As our readers know, the majority of the land in the Upper Delaware river corridor is privately owned. The Upper Delaware, although a part of the National Park System, is *not* a national park. The Upper Delaware is a scenic and recreational river, one component in a national system of 153 protected rivers that are administered by a variety of federal, state, and local agencies. The Upper Delaware is managed through a cooperative effort by private landowners, the affected towns and townships, New York, Pennsylvania, the

Delaware River Basin Commission, the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, and NPS. Management efforts are coordinated through the Upper Delaware Council.

The UDC's Project Review Committee discussed the matter with NPS officials and is pleased to report that the Council has been successful in its efforts to have the National Park Service attach smaller signs, beneath the larger welcome signs, which will read "please respect private property rights."

Both visitors and residents need to be aware that permission from private landowners needs to be obtained before using private land.

# **Russian Park Director Visits UDC**

On July 31, Oleg Chervyakov, a park director from Russia, met with Council Chair George Fluhr and UDC staff. Chervyakov visited the region as part of a foreign exchange program between park professionals begun in 1991. His Upper Delaware visit was hosted by the National Park Service.

Chervyakov is director of the newly established Vodlozero National Park near the Russian-Finnish border. The huge park encompasses more than a million acres including vast expanses of virgin forest, and 150,000 acres of lakes and rivers. Vodlozero is an ancient cultural region of the Russian North, and is the largest national park in

continental Europe: According to scientists within the region and abroad, the territory of the park is a unique piece of



An international group of experts on parks and planning who visited the Upper Delaware Council. Shown left to right are: Sandy Speers Schultz and Beth Johnson, NPS; Barbara Yeaman, Citizens Advisory Council; Oleg Chervyakov, Vodlozero National Park, Russia; George Fluhr, Chair of the Upper Delaware Council; Jeannine Paca, U. of Arizona; Natalia Vasilieva, interpreter from Moscow; Roy Given and John Hutzky, National Park Service. Photo by Bill Douglass.

untouched wilderness of great scale. The park was formed with the goals of preserving the unique natural complex of the watershed of Vodlozero Lake, revitalizing the cultural and historical heritage of the Russian North, and organizing educational tourism. The park is funded minimally by the government budget, however. Chervyakov hopes that tourism will provide additional funds for the park.

UDC Chair Fluhr spoke to Chervyakov at length and answered questions, communicating through translators. Using a huge wall map of the river corridor, Fluhr explained the River Management Plan, the UDC, and the role of local citizens and governments in protecting and preserving the river.

Chervyakov was surprised that the people who live here have so much say in caring for the river. Souvenir pins and well-wishes were

exchanged, and Chervyakov was presented with a large package of material about the UDC and the river.

# Marian Hrubovcak Represents PA

The Upper Delaware Council is pleased to introduce Marian Hrubovcak to its readers. Hrubovcak represents the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Council, attending on behalf of DER Secretary Art Davis. Hrubovcak was re-

Marian Hrubovcak, Pennsylvania's representative to the Upper Delaware Council. Photo by Dave Soete.

cently appointed to manage Pennsylvania's Scenic Rivers program. She replaces Roger Fickes, who now heads Pennsylvania's state parks agency.

Hrubovcak has actually been representing Pennsylvania at meetings of the Upper Delaware Council since April, 1992. From her office in Harrisburg,

Hrubovcak says she is looking forward to working with the Council and continuing the cooperative working relationship between the DER and UDC.

"I've always believed that the best way to deal with conflicts is to sit down

> and discuss them, face to face," Hrubovcak says. "That is why I am excited to be Pennsylvania's delegate to the Council: I like the arena the Council provides for resolving conflicts. The Executive Order signed by Governor Casey in February of 1989 attests to the DER's commitment to the successful implementation and administration of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River," Hrubovcak added. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has been designated by the Governor as the State's lead agency for all aspects of the Upper Delaware, David Lamereaux, Assistant Regional Director from the DER's Wilkes-Barre office.

serves as Pennsylvania's alternate representative.

Hrubovcak and her husband are both avid canoeists, and she is looking forward to visiting the Upper Delaware for pleasure trips, as well as on business.

# **UDC Receives Norcross Grant**

The Council has received an \$8,000 grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc., to help fund badly needed renovations of the Council's newly purchased Narrowsburg office building.

"The Council is very pleased that a conservation-minded organization such as the Norcross Foundation has determined that the UDC is worthy of receiving a grant. This money will help us to improve the work place and our productivity," said UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass upon learning about the grant.

The UDC wishes to thank the Norcross Foundation for its generous gift.

## Fickes Played Key Role

From the early planning days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, through the River Management Plan writing and re-writing under the Council of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) in the mid-1980s, through the first four years of the UDC's existence, Pennsylvania's representative to the Upper Delaware has been Roger Fickes. Fickes, a long-time friend of the Upper Delaware, has been promoted to the new position of Director of the Bureau of State Parks.

Fickes was formerly chief of the state's Scenic Rivers Division. In that position, he did much to ensure strong participation by Pennsylvania in the Upper Delaware Council. One of his most important contributions was his help in obtaining an Executive Order from the Governor in support of the River Management Plan. Fickes was intricately involved in developing the River Management Plan, which was written through a massive committee process that took place between 1984 and 1986 and involved dozens of local citizens and local public officials.

While heading up Pennsylvania's scenic rivers program, Fickes built an innovative state river program considered by experts to be one of the nation's best. One of the program's greatest strengths is that it requires all state agencies to make decisions that are consistent with scenic river protection. While the Upper Delaware is not a designated state scenic river, the PA Executive Order has much the same effect, requiring state agencies to act in a manner consistent with the River Management Plan.

Roger will be missed by the UDC, but we heartily congratulate him for receiving this promotion and wish him well on his new responsibilities.

#### **River News**

# Friends Adopt Streams

n September of 1992, the UDC awarded a grant of \$3,786 to the Town of Highland to educate and train volunteers who participate in the Friends of the Upper Delaware Adopt-A-Stream program. The program will be administered by New York Audubon, which maintains an office in the Town of Highland at the Eldred Preserve in Eldred, NY.

Lori McKean, Director of Resource Conservation for NY Audubon will be project manager. Lori has received training in water quality monitoring and volunteer training. "I think a citizen-based water quality program is very exciting. The best part of our program is that you don't need a degree in chemistry or environmental science to get involved. Average citizens, including youngsters, can become an important part of our program," McKean said.

"The Upper Delaware is the lifeblood of our communities and environmental protection is everybody's business. Government agencies conduct some water quality testing, but there is ample opportunity and need for citizens to contribute," McKean added.

The program, scheduled to get underway early in the spring of 1993, will provide workshops for volunteers in which the nuts and bolts of water quality testing will be taught. Volunteers can opt for something as simple as a visual inspection of their favorite waterway, to more involved macroinvertebrate testing for water quality. (This sounds hard, but it's not—if you don't mind getting your feet wet. It's a matter of collecting and identifying bugs from the stream bottom. As it turns out, they tell us much about water quality.)

Topics to be discussed at the workshops include: erosion control; habitat improvement; litter and debris pickups; visual inspection; chemical and macroinvertebrate testing; watershed surveys and water resource walks; record keeping; and training volunteers.

Kathy Johnson, Friends of the Upper Delaware coordinator for the UDC, says the program will fill a real need. "There are lots of people out there who are very concerned with their environment, but are at a loss as to what specifically they can do to become involved. This new water quality monitoring program really fits the bill. The interest expressed in our Adopt-A Stream program attests to the interest that citizens have in protecting their streams, lakes and ponds. The extent of commitment is up to the individual."

The Upper Delaware will continue to keep you up to date on the citizen-based water quality program. Please remember that workshops are scheduled to begin in early spring. In the meantime, anyone interested in learning more about the program can call Lori McKean of NY Audubon at (914) 557-8025 or write to P.O. Box 111, Eldred, NY 12732, or contact Kathy Johnson at the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or call (914) 252-3022.

# Zebra Invasion Likely!

The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymor-pha*) is quickly becoming part of the ecology of New York and Pennsylvania. Experts believe that it is only a matter of time before this small, "incredible inedible" shellfish invades the Upper Delaware River. The rapid spread of this exotic bivalve mollusk has raised numerous concerns about the possible impacts the organism may have on aquatic ecosystems and water users.

The zebra mussel is native to freshwater rivers in the region of the Caspian and Black seas and was first discovered in North America in June 1988 in the Great Lakes. Due to the relative ease with which zebra mussels spread, experts believe that they will clog nearly every waterway in North America within 20 years. Waters that are either deficient in calcium, low in pH, or too

salty are not suitable for the mussels.

Zebra mussels spread in many ways. They can be dispersed by water currents, by hitching a ride on boats and trailers, in water droplets carried in the fur and feathers of wildlife, and in other ways.

Adults have dark brown stripes on their light tan shells, as their name suggests. They grow up to two inches in length during their six year life span.

## \$5 Billion in Damage

The mussels can clog intakes for water and power plants, damage boat hulls, cause overheating of outboard engines, and sink navigational buoys by the sheer weight of their numbers. Experts predict that the pests could cause as much as five billion dollars in damage to the nation's waterways.

How, or to what extent, the zebra mussel will impact the Upper Delaware ecosystem is not known. The most damaging impact of the mussels here may be their effect on aquatic food chains. Zebra mussels consume large quantities of microscopic plants (called phytoplankton) and organic material particles (called detritus) by filtering them from the water, and may out-compete other plankton-feeding species which are necessary for the survival of fish and wildlife. On the average, one adult zebra mussel siphons one liter (about a quart) of water per day. Because zebra mussels filter and actually remove harmful metals, PCBs, and pesticides from the water, another problem is created: fish and wildlife species that eat these mussels accumulate even higher concentrations of the contaminants in their bodies.

People who consume any of these species could then have the contaminants passed on to them. While not poisonous, you would not want to serve zebra mussels at your next clam bake due to their poor taste.

Also, some fish populations could be hurt because of mussel colonization of important spawning areas. The mussels like to live where many species of popular game fish like to spawn.

Large-scale control of the zebra mussel is not feasible at this time. Because they spread and reproduce so profi-("Agreement," from page 1)

The Council has enjoyed many successes during its formative years. Another one which stands out is the prominent role the Council played in working with different groups and governments in the fight to replace the Lordville Bridge that links Equinunk (PA) and Lordville (NY). That effort was a huge success and new bridge was formally opened to traffic last July.

## **Progress Continues**

The Council's publications program continues to grow. The Upper Delaware, Local Government Directory, Design Guide for Development and River User Guide are all popular publications. Last year the Council developed the Friends of the Upper Delaware, a project designed to allow landowners and visitors the opportunity to become involved in environmental improvement projects in the river valley. Response to the program has been overwhelming.

ciently, natural predators are unable to control zebra mussel populations. People are asked to take extra care not to transport water in their boats or baitfish buckets when moving from areas infested with zebra mussels to uninfested areas. Adult mussels can attach themselves to the hulls of boats, and even to the intakes, exhaust ports, and the exposed portions of outboard motors.

As part of a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources program, zebra mussel detection traps have been placed at several locations along

Council members worked diligently during the past summer to develop a new five year operating program which became part of the new cooperative agreement. The program details the projects, causes and concerns the UDC will tackle during the next five years. "A new five-year operating program gives the Council the opportunity to focus attention on different issues and problems," says current Chairman George Fluhr. Over forty different tasks are assigned to the UDC in the River Management Plan. Much of the "housekeeping" areas are up and running, and running well. Water quality, hazardous materials, a more aggressive educational program, and sustainable growth are areas which will be given more attention by the Council in the next five years. Fluhr says, "These areas of increased attention are a natural part of the Council's evolution. We are fortunate that we have the flexibility not to be tied into any specific area, and can react to the issues that are

the Upper Delaware as part of the cooperative Delaware River Basin Commission/National Park Service water quality monitoring program. To date, there have been no confirmed reports of zebra mussels in the watershed. But it seems certain that they will eventually appear in the valley. They will have impacts on water ecosystems, public water supplies, and water users. Only time will tell the full effects, both good and bad, that these tiny new creatures will have on our lives. Who knows, someday we may even become attached to them, or vice-versa.

deemed most important. The Council is unique in river management and protection, and our ability to 'get things done' is something I am very proud of," Fluhr adds. "We are able to bring together the major players of the different state and federal agencies, along with the local citizens we represent, to discuss different views, and reach conclusions based on cooperative give and take."

The Council has been a major voice on issues and conflicts that affect the river valley. The Council's comments on such diverse issues as Fishery Man-. agement, Water Quality Standards, Landfill Controls, the Toxic Information and Control Campaign, conferences on the NYS Water Supply and eco-tourism are just a few of the important issues the Council has addressed.

The UDC is a formal partnership of federal, state, and local governments brought about by the local communities' intense desire and need to directly participate in the management of the river.

# Do We Have Your Correct Address?

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the accuracy of our records. Fill in your new ad this part of the page to the: Upper Delaware Cou		
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construct a telegraph line along its right-of-way (1850), and the first line to use the ticket punch for passenger travel.

Much of the history of the Erie Railroad is a story of business—acquisition, many bankruptcies and reorganizations, and corporate maneuvers, takeovers, and mergers too numerous to discuss here. One event that many valley residents may remember is the October 17, 1960 merger of the Erie with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. Both railroads were running deficits when they merged, and this pattern continued thereafter with the Erie-Lackawanna (E-L). On November 28, 1966 Train #22 ran the last passenger service through the area. In 1972, damage by hurricane Agnes dealt a crippling blow to E-L and it filed for bankruptcy. Conrail took over in 1976. During the 1980s substantial improvements were made in the line's equipment and track. Although the line sees less traffic than it used to (and has only one track now instead of two), the rail line is in better physical condition

now than it has been in decades.

Through all the changes, adventures, corporate mergers, bankruptcies, and urban dwellers gliding to mountain resorts, Cochecton Station has witnessed it all, little changed. And with the help of concerned local citizens, it may remain a piece of valley history for centuries to come, a reminder of the many changes that the Erie wrought in the valley.

We would like to thank Mary Curtis, Deborah Butler, Lillian Krauss, and Aline Palmer for providing information for this article. Those interested in helping the Cochecton Preservation Society to save Cochecton Station should contact Deborah Butler at (914) 932-8176. Donations can be made c/o Deborah Butler, FBO the Cochecton Preservation Society, PO Box 242, Cochecton, NY 12726. The Society is applying for tax deductible status, but at this time donations to the society are not tax deductible.

# Calendar of Upper Delaware Events

January 1993				February 1993							March 1993									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri 1	Sat 2	Sun	Mon 1.	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu <sup>4</sup> UD	Fri 5	Sat 6	Sun	Mon 1	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4 UD	Fri 5	Sat 6
3	4	5	6	7 UD	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12 '	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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24 ·	25	26 OP PR	27	28	29	30	28							28.	29	30	31			
31																				

#### Legend

Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY

RM Water Use/Resource Management Committee, 7:00 pm, Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY

Operations Committee, 6:30 pm, UDC office, Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY

PR Project Review Committee, 7:00 pm, UDC office (Upon adjournment of the Operations Committee)

UDC annual awards banquet at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, Pennsylvania. Call the Council at (914) 252-3022 for further information.

Upper Delaware Council P.O. Box 217 Narrowsburg, NY 12764

OP

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