

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2016

(Annual Meeting)

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly (annual) meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Al Henry called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont-Jim Greier, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cochecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten-Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland-Debra Conway, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township-Jeffrey Dexter, Berlin Township-Al Henry, Lackawaxen Township-John McKay, Shohola Township-Aaron Robinson, Westfall Township-Michael Barth, National Park Service-Kris Heister. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist-Travis O'Dell, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Also in attendance: Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark alternate, and Tony Ritter, Town of Tusten alternate. Absent: Town of Lumberland, State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Delaware River Basin Commission.

Election of 2016 UDC Officers: Henry asked for a motion to open the floor for the election of 2016 officers. The motion was made by Roeder and seconded by Richardson. Henry referenced the ballot included in members' packets. The Nominating Committee's slate of officers was presented. Candidates were: Chairperson – Fred Peckham (Town of Hancock); Vice-Chairperson – Jeffrey Dexter (Damascus Township); and Secretary/Treasurer – Alan Henry (Berlin Township). Henry asked if there were any other nominees. None were presented. Votes were cast and ballots were collected and presented to Ramie for tallying. Ramie reported that with the exception of one abstention of Peckham for Chairperson, the result was unanimous with twelve votes cast for the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Henry said it has been “an honor and pleasure to serve as Chair.” He stated he remains available to assist however possible. He asked that everyone would show the new Chairperson the same good faithfulness that was shown to him during his tenure. He asked that members continue to be mindful of being recognized by the Chairperson and speaking at that time and not over other people. Peckham conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of December 5 Meeting Minutes: Peckham asked for approval of the December 5th meeting minutes. A motion by Richardson to accept those minutes was seconded by Dean and carried.

Presentation on “Geologic and Natural History Mapping in New York State” by Andrew Kozlowski of the New York State Geological Survey: Dr. Andrew Kozlowski, Glacial Geologist and Senior Scientist, and James R. Leone, Geologist and Museum Scientist, of the New York State Museum and New York State Geological Survey (NYSGS) were introduced. Kozlowski explained that he and Leone are actually with the New York State Education Department out of Albany. A PowerPoint presentation was given. He noted that the mission of the NYSGS is to conduct geologic research, evaluate mineral resources and geologic hazards of the State of New York, and make the data and advice derived from that research available to State agencies, the educational community, and the public for the health, safety, and economic welfare of the citizens of the State. He added that they are non-regulatory. Educational outreach is one of their principal missions, Kozlowski added. He said the N.Y. State Geological Survey has been asked by the

National Park Service to conduct geological mapping to understand the natural history of this part of New York State. He stated that scientists from the Museum have not been down in this area to conduct work for approximately 100 years. Referring to the PowerPoint slides, Kozlowski spoke of the generalized bedrock geology of New York State and provided some of the geologic history including the fact that the state was glaciated multiple times. He explained what a geologic map is and the process for creating one. A geologic map shows the distribution, nature, and age relationships of rocks, faults, strata, and other geologic features. Kozlowski explained the process of geologic mapping. Each geologic map has a map key, which is a table explaining the meanings of all colors and symbols used to represent geologic features in the map. Geologic mapping is helpful in making sound decisions and answering questions such as: Is the ground good for building or farming? Are you likely to find available groundwater? What natural resources are there underground? What is the likelihood of a natural disaster? Kozlowski spoke of some of his ongoing projects in the state. He noted that when they start their work in our area, they will not be going into Pennsylvania. He showed a slide which detailed the areas in which the mapping will take place. Phase one will encompass six quadrangles from Hancock down to Narrowsburg. In geology, the word "quadrangle" usually refers to a United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map. Kozlowski said when conducting their field work, they look for areas where the geology is exposed. He noted that local landowners are one of the best sources for letting the geologists know where the geology is exposed or unusual. Differences in the geology, as subtle as they may be, can provide a lot of information. Kozlowski's slides showed some of the items that have been excavated by NYSGS or donated to the New York State Museum including the tooth of a mammoth and the skull of a giant beaver. It was explained that in order to observe the subsurface, geologists will drill deep below the surface to sample the material. He explained the coring systems and spoke of a find in one of the core samples. Kozlowski said he hopes to eventually not only have an understanding of the landscape, but an understanding of the deposits at depth. Sediment tells a story if you can see it, he added. Kozlowski stressed that the NYSGS is non-regulatory and they are looking to partner with landowners in order to ensure a successful study in the area. Henry questioned if they will be doing any work on the river. Kozlowski told him they will be mapping the geology along the river. He is unsure if they will be doing any coring in the river. It is a difficult environment to work in, he added. Dean asked if there are any precious metals in New York State. Kozlowski told him there is no gold in New York State. Sullivan asked Kozlowski how he connects with landowners when they move into an area to conduct their study. Kozlowski said they work with a number of different groups. He said in their most recent and successful venture, they worked with the local landowners primarily made up of dairy farmers who also served on their town board. Robinson asked if a chemical analysis is done of the bedrock during their process. Kozlowski told him typically not. Reporter David Hulse asked if their work is funded by tax dollars. Kozlowski told him yes, they are largely federal grants that fund their work. He added the federal funding is available because they match their state salaries. He said they leverage their salaries and their time for federal dollars for drilling, dating, and other costs. The program works on a cost-sharing basis. Ramie asked what the timetable is for the Upper Delaware project. Kozlowski said they will commence when the weather will allow them to be in the field. Phase one will take place from early spring through the fall and will encompass the six quadrangles from Hancock to Narrowsburg. Kozlowski said they are working with Duane Braun who conducted the geologic mapping on the Pennsylvania side of the river. He said he has met with Braun and will meet with him again to ensure that the geologic mapping done on the New York side will seamlessly match that which has been done on the Pennsylvania side. Kozlowski said they are funded for phase one and anticipates that phase two could be initiated in 2017. O'Dell asked how a group like the UDC could help facilitate the upcoming study. Kozlowski said they are open to suggestions and are willing to come back and speak with groups and the towns themselves. He added that general introductions and connections to large land tract owners are appreciated. He added that the first phase is largely hiking across the landscape just to see what is out there. It is very minimal impact. Kozlowski said he will have a one page overview of the project with contact information that he will get to the NPS and UDC for distribution. Heister noted that each unit of the National Park Service is required to have twelve basic datasets and a geological map is one of those twelve. When the project is complete, the Park Service will take the geologic mapping from the New York side and the Pennsylvania side and stitch them together so that there is one map for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and that will be available as both a hard copy and electronically. Peckham thanked Kozlowski and Leone for their attendance and presented each with a UDC lapel pin.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: December 15 Project Review by Richardson; December 15 Operations by Henry; and December 15 Water Use/Resource Management by Ritter.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: The DRBC was absent, however, the hydrologic report was provided. The NYC Delaware River Basin Storage as of December 22, 2015 was at a combined capacity of 74.3% with Cannonsville at 69.9%.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: No report in the absence of Representative Bill Rudge, however two press releases were included in members' packets at Rudge's request. The first one titled, "3rd Proposal of Governor Cuomo's 2016 Agenda: Bolster New York's Legacy of Environmental Protection" dated January 5, 2015 and the second titled, "DEC Releases Fisher Management Plan" dated January 7, 2016.

PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources: No report in the absence of Representative Tim Dugan, however he submitted a report that he asked be shared on his behalf. Ramie read, "I would like to let the Council know that the Commonwealth budget did pass, in part, at the end of December. The Governor performed a line item veto where he reduced or zeroed-out specific funding lines in the budget that was presented to him. From my position, it will be a couple of weeks until we know what our 'actual budget' is for the remainder of the fiscal year. Nonetheless, it appears that budget line items for DCNR and DEP did pass at similar levels to last year, so we may be heading back to business as usual."

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Heister reported that the federal budget has passed and the modification agreement to provide for the full funding of the UDC will be prepared on January 12th.

Heister noted that Keith Winslow has arrived at the Park and will serve as the Acting Chief of Law Enforcement. He is on a 120-day detail from Delaware Water Gap. He will be here until April 26, 2016. Requests for Proposals for law enforcement will be going out to the towns and townships and Sullivan County in the near future, she noted.

Heister said they will be moving their communication information from the tower in Long Eddy to the Wayne County tower in Equinunk within the next six months. This move will save the Park Service approximately \$900 per month. She added she does not have an answer yet to the inquiry about the feasibility of using the existing infrastructure that supports the National Park Service's radio communications in the Upper Delaware River to extend services to the public, for at least emergency purposes. She hopes to have an answer soon. Henry asked if the Park Service anticipates any degradation as far as coverage with this move. Heister said they do not. There will be no negative change in coverage; in fact, it may be slightly better.

Heister announced that a 2016 Centennial Bioblitz will take place on June 24th and 25th at Ten Mile River. The Park Service is working with a variety of partners on this event.

Heister noted that a preview of the park virtual tour will be given at the January 19th Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting.

Henry asked when the geologic mapping was done on the Pennsylvania side of the river and where that information is available. Kozlowski believes the project was started around 2000 and is available through the Pennsylvania Geological Survey on-line digitally at their website.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie reported that the federal budget for FY 2016 was approved on December 18th. This will allow the UDC to gain access to the balance of our funding through September 30th. The next step will be for the NPS to submit a modification to our Cooperative Agreement.

Ramie noted that she completed the Annual Report for FY 2015 on December 30th. That document was sent out electronically to members as well as posted on the website, she added. A news release was

issued for public notification. A new feature for this year's report was the addition of a few color photos. She thanked Tony Ritter for permission to use his photo for the cover shot. She hopes that members will feel proud over the accomplishments that are documented in the report. A hard copy of the 15-page report can be provided upon request, Ramie stated.

In terms of new calendar year business, Ramie reported that staff awaits the return of the 2016 UDC representative and alternate appointment forms. As this information is received, orientation packets will be sent out to new members and appreciation letter to outgoing members, as well as updating various lists and labels. Ramie noted that Odell will be working with Chris Hollenbeck at NPS on compiling an updated Local Officials Directory for the River Valley. Ramie referred to the Annual Conflict of Interest Statement provided in members' packets. That document must be filled out annually by every representative and alternate per our 2014 policy. Upon completion, they are to be returned to staff. Once they are collected, the Executive Committee will sign off on them. Heister questioned if the Local Officials Directory will be posted to the UDC website. Ramie said we have never had it available electronically, but support that idea. Ramie referred to the memo regarding committee memberships in members' packets. She asked that members let staff know of their intentions for remaining on committees or joining new ones for quorum-setting purposes and to be thinking about elections of committee chairs and vice-chairs at the January 19th WU/RM and January 26th Project Review and Operations Committee meetings. Peckham stated that committee membership is encouraged. Ramie noted that the WU/RM Committee currently has just five members and we often find it difficult to seat a quorum.

Ramie referred to the press release in members' packets which contains background information about the officers that were elected earlier in the meeting. The press release will be sent out to the media on January 8th, she added.

Ramie reported that the IRS has dropped the standard mileage reimbursement rate from 57.5 cents per mile to 54 cents per mile effective January 1, 2016.

Ramie referred to the copy of the December 2015 issue of the *Pond Eddy News* newsletter from Pennsylvania Department of Transportation provided in members' packets. It provides a status update on the Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement project and contains an announcement of a public meeting to take place on January 21 at 6 p.m. at the Shohola Township Building. The purpose of the meeting is to present proposed engineering plans, construction schedule and project information. PennDOT staff will be on hand to explain the project and answer questions on an informal basis. Ramie noted that we were advised by PennDOT that the latest emergency repairs to the Pond Eddy Bridge prompted by the sand truck accident were completed on December 31st to bring the bridge back up to a 7-ton weight limit.

Ramie referred to the January calendar of UDC Meetings, Activities, and Deadlines. She reiterated that the NPS preview of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Virtual Park Experience will be shared at the January 19th Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. All are welcome, she added. She stated that the UDC's 28th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, April 24, at a venue on the New York side to be determined. We are seeking venue and keynote speaker ideas. The UDC's Family Raft Trip will take place on Sunday, August 7th this year on a river section to be determined, Ramie said. She encouraged members to mark these dates in their calendars.

Old Business: None

New Business:

UDC Resolution 2016-01: Authorizing Signatories for the Council's Banking Accounts in 2016: A resolution to allow the UDC 2016 officers and Executive Director to sign the corporate resolutions and signature cards for the accounts at Jeff Bank was presented. A motion by Richardson seconded by Henry to approve the resolution was carried unanimously.

UDC Resolution 2016-02: Enter Into a Contract with Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP for FY 2016 Financial Audit: A resolution to contract with the firm of Eckersley and Ostrowski, LLP of Scranton, PA to provide auditing and accounting services for Fiscal Year 2016 was presented. A motion by Henry seconded by Conway to approve the resolution was carried unanimously.

2nd Draft Letter to 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree Party Principals: UDC's Flexible Flow Management Plan Position: Ramie stated that the letter was sent out in advance for review on Monday, January 4th. A motion to approve and send the letter was made by Roeder, seconded by Conway and carried unanimously.

Draft Letter to NYC DEP: Public Safety Below the Reservoirs: A motion to approve and send the letter was made by Dean, seconded by Sullivan and carried unanimously.

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by McKay, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 1/14/16