

The Upper Delaware

A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA

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In This Issue...

2020-2021 River Valley Awards

Pages 1 and 9

Upper Delaware Profile:

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh

Page 2

Welcome New Staff Member; UDC Meets with PA Gov. Rep.

Page 3

Federal Dollars for Delaware; Alliance Advocates for NYS \$

Page 4

NPS Studies Freshwater Snails; Northern Snakehead Caught

Page 5

UDC Activity Highlights

Pages 6 and 7

DRBC "Frack Water" Rules Out

Page 7

Round-up of Presentations; PA Grant Improves Parking

Page 8

Valley Transportation History; Bird & Boater Rescued

Page 10

UDC Grants; Sojourn Updates

Page 11

News, Views, and 'To Do's'

Page 12

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FAIR SHARE: New York State Senator Mike Martucci committed to advocating that the Upper Delaware River receive its fair share of funding for watershed protection during his keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's 33rd Annual River Valley Awards on September 12. (UDC Photo by Shannon Cilento)

UDC Presents River Valley Awards

The first-ever cancellation of the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) annual awards ceremony in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic set the stage for joyous double honors as accomplishments were publicly celebrated at the 33rd Annual River Valley Awards Ceremony on September 12.

The UDC welcomed 140 guests to its banquet with precautions taken at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

"Today is about celebrating what makes the Upper Delaware so special," said 2021 UDC Chairperson Jeff Dexter (Damascus Township representative).

"It really comes down to the people, those who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to protect our natural resources, keeping us safe, serving the public, and elevating our quality of life," he said.

New York State Senator Mike Martucci, who was elected in 2020 to his first term representing the 42nd District which comprises all of Sullivan County and parts of Delaware, Orange, and Ulster Counties, served as keynote speaker.

Martucci praised the diversity of the award recipients and their backgrounds.

"What you demonstrate is that we can be

successful working together. What's important is that we stay focused on our goals. We have to be good stewards of the land. It's no secret that we live in a hyper-partisan time. Protection of our environment is not a partisan issue; it's a community issue," he said.

He quoted President Theodore Roosevelt in saying, "Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

The Republican senator pledged to join forces with Democratic Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther to pursue establishing a \$1 million budget line through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for the Upper Delaware River.

"It's time that this region and this river gets its fair share. This has to be our year; this has to be our time," he said.

He supports doubling the EPF to \$600 million and leveraging those state funds as matches to federal watershed grants.

Please see AWARDS on Page 9

Upper Delaware Profile: Kristen Bowman Kavanagh

With over 25 years of experience in water resource modeling and engineering, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E. believes she found the right alignment of technical and managerial responsibilities when she became the Deputy Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in October of 2019.

Working with water has been a constant in her career path.

The Philadelphia native grew up in Southern California, where she lived until her mid-20s when a new job opportunity brought her back to the Northeast.

She had earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering: Environmental and Water Resources and an M.S. degree in Civil Engineering: Environmental Fluid Mechanics and Hydrology from Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA.

Bowman Kavanagh is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and 10 other states.

After working for companies and consultants to hone her hands-on technical skills, Bowman Kavanagh was interested in advancing to management and applying a “bigger picture” scope to the important science that was being produced.

Immediately prior to joining the DRBC, she served as the President and Principal Engineer of Flow Science Inc., and led its Hydraulic and Transient Analysis group which worked on system evaluations throughout the United States.

Her DRBC responsibilities include overseeing the federal/interstate government agency’s technical and managerial programs to develop and effectuate plans, policies and projects relating to the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

It’s a broad description that she and Executive Director Steven Tambini have opted to divide up so that she primarily coordinates water resources program activities and internal day-to-day operations, which allows Tambini “more capacity to have an outward focus” for their planning, development, and regulatory duties.

Commissioners representing the four states (NY, NJ, PA, DE) and U.S. government set the DRBC’s policies under the 1961 Compact for the work carried out by approximately 35 full-time employees.

“I found the type of position that I wanted with the DRBC. I enjoy the process and the



Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC

projects. To be able to work in the Delaware River Basin where I live gives it a local connection that is very satisfying,” she says.

Bowman Kavanagh made the long drive from West Trenton, NJ to Narrowsburg, NY to attend her first Upper Delaware Council (UDC) meeting on February 6, 2020.

She subsequently has embraced serving as the DRBC’s principal UDC representative, particularly with the increased opportunity to participate virtually that the COVID-19 pandemic introduced.

“I was interested to learn more about the upper basin, and felt it was important to get to know the UDC and the issues you’re dealing with. Though we’re not a voting member, we’re very pleased to be a resource. I keep an eye open for when we can work more closely as potential partners,” she says.

“The UDC is very interesting in that it is so dependent on collaboration of all the entities. It makes for a dynamic work environment. I appreciate the opportunity to be engaged and keep each other mutually informed,” Bowman Kavanagh adds.

Kristen has been married since 2004 to Bill Kavanagh, an architect. They and their two sons live in Center City, Philadelphia, close to the Schuylkill River.

The family enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, and being outside, which Bowman Kavanagh characterizes as “calming and energizing.” She makes it her mission to find fun activities and projects to do with her kids that don’t involve any electronics.

A former chair of the Southeast District Pennsylvania American Water Works Association, president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and member of North American Lake Management Society, Bowman Kavanagh also volunteers with the PTA at her sons’ school and for the historic Northwestern Stables, Inc. Equestrian Facility where she enjoys horseback riding.

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The Upper Delaware is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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UDC Welcomes Resources & Land Use Specialist

The Upper Delaware Council is pleased to announce the hiring of Lackawaxen Township, PA resident Kerry Engelhardt, P.E., as UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist, effective November 22, 2021.

In the full-time position, Engelhardt provides technical support to the non-profit organization and coordinates reviews of land and resource management activities to help ensure proper implementation of the River Management Plan in accordance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines for the Congressionally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in New York and Pennsylvania.

Engelhardt is a Professional Engineer (licensed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey), a Certified Municipal Engineer (NJ), and a 2012-2018 Professional Planner (NJ), who moved year-round to Northeast PA in 2015 to a former vacation property on 9-1/2 wooded acres along the Lackawaxen River.

She most recently worked as a freelance consultant for MCB Engineering Associates based in Totowa, NJ, with responsibilities to secure environmental permits, prepare Flood Hazard Application plans and technical reports, design stormwater management plans, and revise site plans based on comments from regulatory agencies and planning boards.

Prior to that, Engelhardt worked as a civil engineer for Schwanewede/Hals Engineering in Oakland, NJ and a project engineer for Sickels & Associates, Inc. of Woodbury, NJ.

Born in Queens, NY, Engelhardt grew up in Bergen County, NJ and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in 2000.

"I was thrilled to see the opening for the Resources and Land Use Specialist position on the Council's Instagram account. I have been on the lookout for a position where I can use my skills and two decades' experience working as a civil engineer to conserve and protect natural areas, rather than to expand development. It seemed to be such a perfect fit," Engelhardt says.

"I look forward to getting to know all of the different towns and townships in the river corridor, and to being a part of helping to make good decisions to promote sustainable and responsible development and assure that the river can be enjoyed by everyone," she adds.

Engelhardt and her husband of 11 years, Chris Hunt, a fellow Rutgers School of Engineering graduate, jumped at the chance to buy his family's serene Lacka-



Kerry Engelhardt, P.E.

waxen home which they had visited as often as they could to "escape an increasingly-developed Southern New Jersey" and enjoy a more natural environment.

In the river running behind their house, Engelhardt likes to swim, fish, kayak, and tube. She served as a Watershed Steward

for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in the summer of 2016, based at the Zane Grey Access in Lackawaxen.

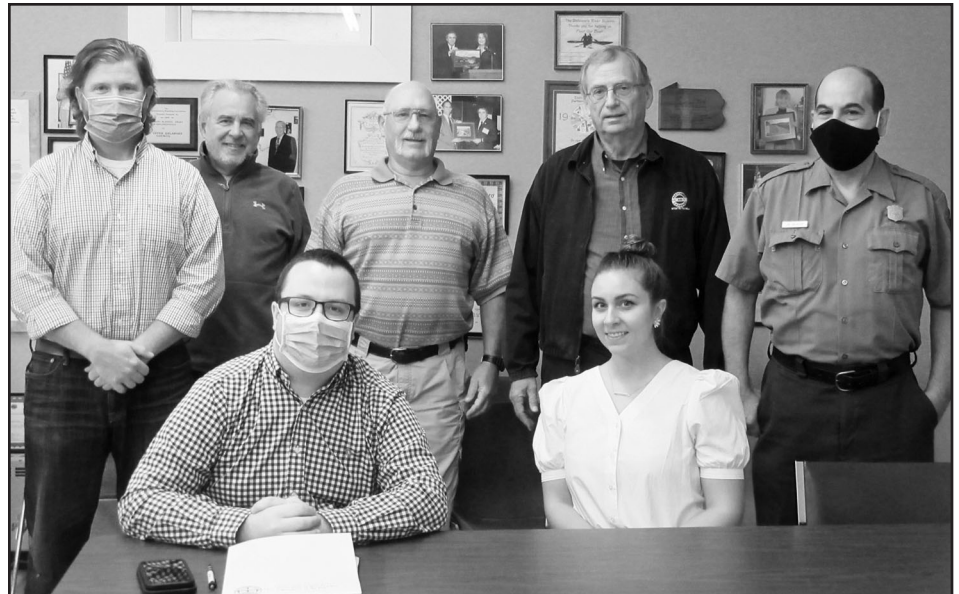
Engelhardt is an "enthusiastic birder" who began volunteering with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in 2016 and joined its Eagle Conservation Committee in 2018. She participates in their Eagle Watch programs, - noting that "it never gets old" to spot those iconic birds - does site visits and monitoring of conserved lands, and helps with public outreach.

As a landowner interested in environmental stewardship, Engelhardt has attended DHC's "Women and their Woods" educational retreats and workshops.

She is also an amateur beekeeper with four active hives this season, co-founder of a 10-year-old, Brooklyn-based book club for her love of reading, and hobbies include cross-stitching, attending live music performances, and hiking with their pit bull dog named Indiana.

The Resources and Land Use Specialist position became vacant on Oct. 15, 2021 when Shannon Cilento left to join Sullivan Renaissance, Inc. as its Community Development Program Manager after having worked at the UDC since July 15, 2020.

Reach Engelhardt at (845) 252-3022, kerry@upperdelawarecouncil.org, or stop by the Narrowsburg, NY office.



GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE: Thomas Caffrey, regional director for the Northeast Office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, paid a visit to the Upper Delaware Council office on October 4 to learn more about the mission and responsibilities of the non-profit organization which includes the Commonwealth as a voting member. Meeting with Mr. Caffrey (seated) for a presentation by Executive Director Laurie Ramie and discussions were, clockwise: Tim Dugan (UDC PA Representative) Roger Saumure (Shohola Township), Al Henry (Berlin Township), 2021 UDC Chairperson Jeff Dexter (Damascus Township), National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Joe Salvatore, and former UDC Resources & Land Use Specialist Shannon Cilento. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Federal Dollars for the Delaware

Passage of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 5 will benefit the Delaware River Watershed.

The bill includes \$26 million of supplemental funding for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over five years - an additional \$5.2 million annually.

The funding supports on-the-ground restoration projects, and new and existing jobs across the four-state watershed.

"Federal funding for public infrastructure improvements in the Upper Delaware River region is of paramount importance to all watershed stakeholders," said Jeff Skelding, executive director of Friends of the Upper Delaware River. "These pro-

jects create jobs, mitigate flooding, protect water quality, restore aquatic habitat, and enhance river-based recreational opportunities that fuel a burgeoning tourism economy. Congressional approval of bipartisan infrastructure legislation means everybody wins in the Upper Delaware River watershed."

On Sept. 20, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$11.5 million for 41 grants through the Delaware River Restoration Fund (\$1.96 million from the William Penn Foundation) and the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (\$9.52 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Sullivan County was awarded \$500,000 to develop a Neversink Watershed Management Program, hold a citizen science

event, and develop a walking trail along a section of the O&W Rail Trail. The total project cost is \$1,453,240.

The Delaware River Basin Commission will receive \$499,126 for three studies focused on water quality, contaminants of emerging concern, and future water availability to advance research for basin-wide resource planning.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission was awarded \$400,000 to improve public fishing and boating access through municipal and non-profit group facility grants.

Trout Unlimited will receive \$221,692 for a Willowemoc Trout Habitat Improvement project, while Catskill Mountainkeeper won \$75,000 to combat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and protect Eastern Brook Trout habitat in the Beaverkill Valley.

Alliance Advocates for New York State Investment

The Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed, NY League of Conservation Voters, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, and Friends of the Upper Delaware River hosted "A Day on the Delaware" August 5 at the future Callicoon Riverside Park to celebrate the economic, recreational, and ecological assets of the Upper Delaware River region.

In the process, they rallied for New York State to invest in the value of the Upper Delaware River by instituting state funding and technical resources through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

"This river fuels the economy so we're here to keep protecting and restoring it," said FUDR Executive Director Jeff Skelding as he introduced "the foot soldiers for this campaign in Albany."

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther said, "I'm all in. The environment means a lot to me. I would bet a million dollars that this is going to happen."

Preparing to board a drift boat for a river ride following the press conference and a picnic lunch, Senator Mike Martucci joked that if he didn't deliver, "I feel we might not come back."

Persuasion wasn't needed though. "It's time to make a sustained commitment to this river," he agreed.

NYLCV President Julie Tighe, who grew up in Sullivan County, said river recreation and tourism contributes \$3.5 billion to the economy but historically the tailwaters have been overlooked. She pointed out that it's a lot cheaper to keep the water clean than to try to restore it.

Climate change, erosion, sedimentation, invasive species, and flood protection for the safety of people and property are critical issues that must be addressed.

Vincent Sapienza, commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, said his agency recognizes that the Delaware Basin reservoirs not only provide City residents with clean water but they also support a world-class fishery and important recreational industry.

"The Delaware River is one of the most spectacular rivers in the United States," he said. "We never lose sight of our responsibilities below the reservoirs."

A petition drive co-sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council, an Alliance member, was underway through Nov. 19 to support the New York State funding initiative.

The Upper Delaware watershed comprises approximately 2,390 square miles of land area in New York State and is home to 125,000 people who rely on the basin's groundwater for their drinking water needs.

The nationally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River unit of the National Parks System attracts more than a quarter-million visitors annually. Wild trout fishing alone accounts for \$29 million in economic activity.



STATE FUNDING: Speakers at the August 5 Day on the Delaware in Callicoon included, from the left, New York City Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, New York League of Conservation Voters President Julie Tighe, NYS Senator Mike Martucci, NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, and Friends of the Upper Delaware River Executive Director Jeff Skelding. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

NPS to Study Abundance of Snails

By Andy Weber, Ecologist, National Park Service
Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River



Freshwater snails are an often-overlooked and relatively understudied component of the Upper Delaware River ecosystem. Fishes and mussels have received much more research attention over the years.

However, given their apparent abundance and density in places in the river, snails likely play a large role in community structure and function.

Their position in the food web makes them a key player in the transfer of energy between lower and higher organisms.

When an opportunity for new inventories was announced through the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Division, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) staff requested and received funding for a large scale inventory of freshwater snails along the park's entire length.

UPDE has partnered with Dr. Stefanie Kroll of Drexel University, who will serve as the principal investigator and will work with a graduate student to complete the project.

Generally speaking, freshwater snails are notoriously difficult to identify to species level. For this reason, Dr. Kroll will collaborate with mollusk researchers at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to help confirm species.

There will be an environmental DNA (eDNA) component to the survey. That is a technique that allows for the detection of species through the environment, which in the case of this project will be via analyses of river water samples. This will enable the team to be more accurate with identifications, and potentially find species that we would have missed otherwise.

Another advantage of eDNA is that water samples can potentially be utilized to search for other (non-snail) species of interest, such as endangered and non-native species.

The main objectives of this project will be to determine distribution and community structure (e.g. species composition and

richness, density, biomass) of snails in this important section of the Delaware River.

We are also interested in learning how the distribution and structure changes in different parts of the river.

With the distribution and structure information, we will learn about any non-native species of snails that occur in UPDE.

We know that the Chinese Mysterysnail, which is a large conspicuous species, occurs in park unit waters and makes up the largest snail biomass in some habitats.

Another non-native snail that occurs in the Delaware Basin but has not yet been found in the Upper Delaware River is the prolific New Zealand Mudsnail, which is known to reach extremely high densities.

Through this project, we hope to gain a better understanding of where these non-native species occur and gain some insight into how they may affect the rest of the freshwater snail community.

Field work is set to occur in summer 2022, with data analyses and reporting to

follow. We look forward to learning as much as we can about these often-forgotten but important inhabitants of the Delaware River!

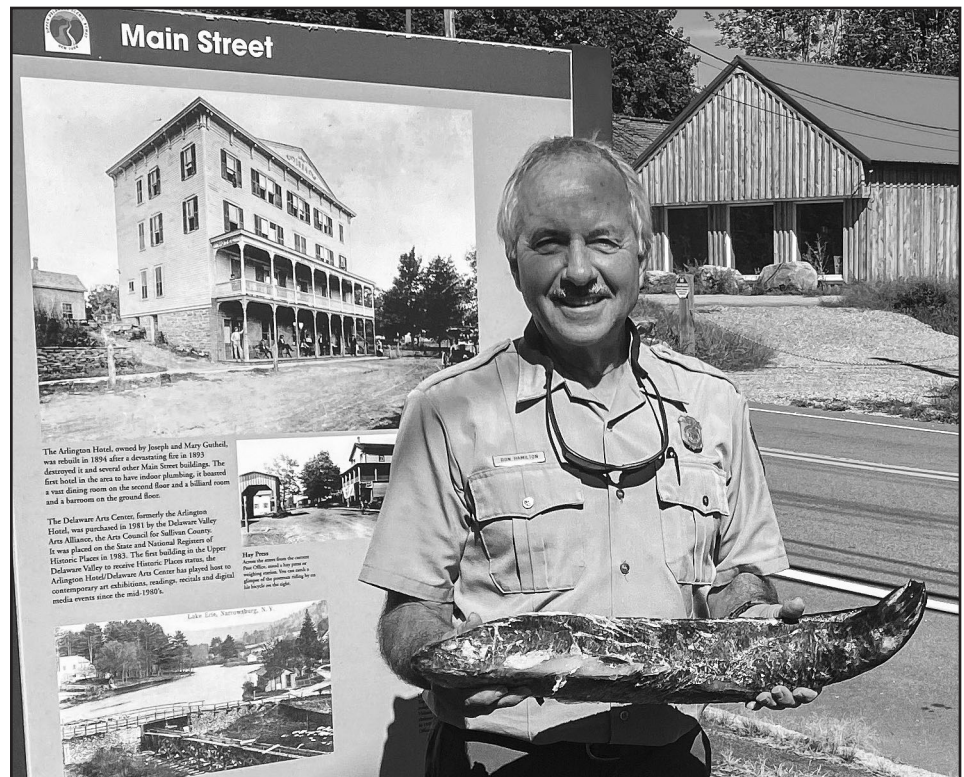
For more information on the snails study, please contact me at (570) 493-0089 or Andrew_Weber@nps.gov.

Trout Season Change

New York State enacted a new catch-and-release trout stream season as of October 1 which requires anglers to use only artificial lures and immediately release trout they catch through March 31.

This time period was traditionally closed to trout stream fishing as a precautionary measure during the reproductive period for wild trout.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation biologists concluded in the new Statewide Trout Stream Management Plan that fishing during the spawning season will not negatively impact the fishery.



INVASIVE FISH: National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Natural Resources Chief Don Hamilton displays a Northern Snakehead (frozen) fish which was caught in an eel weir operated by UDC Lackawaxen Township Representative Doug Case on Sept. 19. Native to Asia, Northern Snakeheads are voracious predators that threaten native species and recreational fisheries. They are generally brown with dark blotches along their sides, a single fin running down their back, a somewhat flattened head, and a large mouth with many teeth. They can grow up to three feet long. Other documented catches this year occurred in Ray Turner's eel weir on the lower East Branch Delaware River on Sept. 7 and in the Bashakill Marsh on Aug. 16, following first reports of two Northern Snakeheads caught on the Upper Delaware River, both near Callicoon, on July 31 and Sept. 17, 2020. Fishery agencies ask anglers to kill, freeze, photograph and report the catch location. For more information, contact Don_Hamilton@nps.gov or (570) 493-1022. (UDC Photo by Shannon Cilento)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from late July to mid-November 2021, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

UDC FUNDING

While Congress approved an initial Fiscal Year 2022 Continuing Resolution to extend funding for the federal government for 10/1-12/3/21, NPS Upper Delaware provided the UDC with a 1st quarter \$75,000 advance transferred on 9/13.

Recommendations from the Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Plan for which the UDC contracted with Crane Associates, Inc. on 7/1 were due to be revealed at the 12/2 UDC meeting.

WU/RM ISSUES

The UDC initiated a "Let's Talk Delaware River Safety" infographic viewed by 14,000+ people with over 200 Facebook shares, and a video life jacket campaign #WhyIWearIt/#PorQueLoUso to help combat the five Summer 2021 drownings.

On 9/21, the UDC provided suggestions for surveys of recreational users and landowners for Friends of the Upper Delaware River's Recreational Plan Study for the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters.

U.S. EPA issued its 5th Five-Year Report for 2016-2021 on remediation of the Cortese Landfill Superfund site in the Town of Tusten, noting the dramatic decrease of groundwater contaminant levels from the dump that was capped in 1998.

HISTORIC BRIDGE

At a 9/23 Project Advisory Committee



UDC RAFTERS: The Upper Delaware Council's 33rd Annual Family Raft Trip attracted 77 participants on August 1 to paddle from the Staircase Access Base in the Town of Lumberland, NY to Kittatinny Canoes' Matamoras Base in Westfall Township, PA. Guests included UDC Berlin Township Representative Al Henry, pictured at the anchor position, along with Liam, Katelynn, Bill, and Kathleen Carlson of Hopewell Junction, NY. (UDC Photo by Shannon Cilentio)

meeting for the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge's Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, the UDC learned that PennDOT and its consultants plan to complete a draft Purpose and Need Document to issue by the end of the year, subject to a 30-day public comment period.

Those results will inform consideration of

future alternatives for the 1902 bridge that has been closed since Oct. 16, 2019 after failing an emergency safety inspection.

LACKAWAXEN RIVER

The feasibility of designating the Lackawaxen River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is being explored under a partnership model that would be managed by local stakeholders as opposed to the National Park Service.

The Lackawaxen River Conservancy is coordinating the potential nomination bid for the 31.3-mile length of river from below Prompton Lake to the confluence of the Delaware River. An eligibility study and Act of Congress would be needed.

Organizers will appear before the UDC to discuss the initiative at a future date.

PROJECT REVIEWS

NPS Superintendent Joe Salvatore sent a 11/3 letter to the Council objecting to its 4/1 adoption of a UDC position paper on the definition of substantial conformance as it pertains to application of the Land and Water Use Guidelines for project reviews.

Salvatore's letter stated, "The UDC does not have the authority to amend the LWUG by resolution", which was under discussion for a formal response at press time.

NPS concurred with UDC substantial conformance recommendations for the Narrowsburg Union Signage Plan and Great Pine LLC, Tusten, proposals.

Project activity this period included:

Town of Tusten - Feagles Lake Subdivi-

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7



ROOMIER PARKING: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation increased parking capacity at the popular Mongaup River Access by 60% to now accommodate approximately 60 vehicles by removing earthen berms and reorganizing the space in a first phase expansion project completed in early August. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

sion; Bar Veloce rooftop construction; Narrowsburg 2nd Street artist studios; and a potential brewery and restaurant in the old Rasmussen building.

These Land Use Complaints were investigated: riverfront campsite, Hancock; Arrowhead Lane clearing, Tusten; Tow Path Road patio, Lackawaxen; River's Edge Road excavation work, Damascus; illegal damming of a tributary in Mill Rift, Westfall; and Cackletown Road wetlands disturbance, Tusten.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

UDC staff regularly participates on the NPS Water Safety Committee, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership, Upper Delaware BioBlitz, and Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committees.

Other meetings and events were:

8/5 - Day on the Delaware, preceded by 7/27 and 8/19 calls with Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed

8/16 - Highland River Access Project

9/15 - Hancock Junction Pool River Access with NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program staff

9/29-10/1 - 9th Annual Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Forum

10/12 & 10/14 - "Water, Water Everywhere" conference by Friends of the Upper Delaware River (presentations at fudr.org)

SELECT LETTERS

The National Weather Service is establishing new forecast services and flood stage information for the USGS Delaware River gage at Lordville, NY to assist with public safety and infrastructure protection in response to UDC's correspondence and coordinating the review of drafts this fall.

On 11/4, the UDC contacted the Federal Railroad Administration concerning a potential safety issue with a damaged culvert pipe under the tracks in Hankins, NY and to ask questions about policies for the replacement of railroad ties.

Letters were provided on 7/20 to support trail development at the Orange County D&H Canal Park; on 7/29 to the National Parks Conservation Association for its William Penn Foundation proposal; on 8/5 to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission to retain the Upper Delaware region within the 42nd Senatorial District; and on 9/2 to welcome NYS Governor Kathy Hochul, describe the UDC, and note the 60/40% federal/states anticipated cost-shares for UDC operational funding.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2021-15 (9/2): Awarding the Printing of "The Upper Delaware" Newsletter to Courier Printing for FY 2022; and-16 (10/7): Approving Technical Assistance Grant for Fiscal Year 2022.



WORK PAUSED: Rehabilitation work on the Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge has shut down for the winter season, due in part to additional steel repairs and longer delivery times for materials. The single lane, signalized configuration and restrictions prohibiting vehicles that exceed 8'6" wide and 14'8" high from crossing will remain in place. New York State Department of Transportation forces will remove snow and ice as needed. Temporary access will continue to be provided to the Cochecton Fishing Access underneath the bridge. Construction for the \$7,067,088 project will resume in the Spring of 2022. The contractor expects to complete the job by October 31, 2022 despite the shutdown, though that may require weekend and night-time operations to accelerate it. Traffic was reduced to a single lane as of May 26 to start replacing the deck. There will also be a new sidewalk, approaches, railing, and pedestrian fence installed. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

DRBC Proposes 'Frack Water' Rules

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is seeking comments on its draft regulations addressing importation and exportation of water and the discharge of wastewater from High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) by February 28, 2022.

Four public hearings to offer oral comments virtually via Zoom Webinar are scheduled on two dates: Dec. 8 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.; and Dec. 15 from 1-3 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

The rulemaking was published on Oct. 28, and follows up on the Feb. 25, 2021 vote by the DRBC Commissioners to prohibit HVHF natural gas drilling within the Delaware River Basin watershed.

The proposed amendments include a determination that the discharge of wastewater from HVHF and HVHF-related activities "poses significant, immediate and long-term risks to the Basin's water resources and that controlling future pollution by prohibiting such discharges within the Basin is required to effectuate the Commission's Comprehensive Plan."

The DRBC's policy has been to discourage the exportation of water from the Basin. The draft amendments establish the

circumstances under which proposed exportations that meet the Commission's existing threshold for review may be considered for approval.

Under the proposed rule, the DRBC may approve an exportation if it is needed to serve a straddled or adjacent public water system; if it is required on a temporary, short-term, or emergency basis to meet public health and safety needs; or if it comprises an exportation of wastewater.

The Commission will require an analysis of alternatives to the proposed exportation.

The proposed regulations clarify the factors the DRBC will use in evaluating proposed importations of water or wastewater that meet the Commission's existing thresholds for review. They may be permitted after careful consideration to ensure that available alternatives have been evaluated, treatment is employed to ensure applicable water quality criteria are achieved, restoration efforts are not impeded, and uses incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan are protected.

Visit www.drbc.gov for details and comment instructions. The UDC was reviewing a comment letter at its Dec. 2 meeting.

UDC Hosts Informative Presentations

August 5 UDC - Rich Evans, formerly with the National Park Service Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, presented on "Climate Change and Our Hemlock Forests and Brook Trout."

The Upper Delaware River region is becoming warmer and wetter, according to NPS studies of each park unit.

Temperatures have increased roughly 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit and precipitation has increased by about 5.5 inches over 120 years. The recent climatic conditions shift beyond the historical range of variability.

Eastern Hemlocks, the PA state tree, are a foundation species that create a microclimate in stands where they are dominant. Brook Trout, the PA state fish, are ecologically linked as more likely to occur in streams running through hemlock stands. They are increasingly impacted by non-native Brown Trout, floods and sediment.

Sept. 2 UDC - Gregory Wrightstone, executive director of the CO2 Coalition and author of "Inconvenient Facts: The Science that Al Gore Doesn't Want You to Know" (2017), spoke about "Global Warming: The Cold, Hard Facts."

He contended that CO2 is beneficial to the Earth and current efforts by climate scientists to reduce emissions are misguided.

Oct. 7 UDC - Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development's Senior Planner Heather Jacksy provided an update on the Highland River Access.

The county is rebidding this federal



THAT'S THE SPOT: Sullivan County Senior Planner Heather Jacksy makes a point during her October 7 presentation on the Highland River Access project. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

grant-funded improvement project to seek a contractor to start work in Spring 2022.

Nov. 16 Water Use/Resource Management Committee - Kaylan Hubbard and Steven Schwartz on behalf of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy offered information on "Conservation Initiatives and Funding Gaps: How the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Can Help."

Each county and municipality has received ARPA per capita funds to allocate by 2024 and spend by 2026. Land conservation, acquisition for public recreational access, and farmland preservation are among the eligible projects.

Find UDC virtual presentations posted on its YouTube channel and Power Points attached to meeting minutes as available.



UDC POSTER: The Upper Delaware Council debuted a new poster at the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership's Pennsylvania Legislative Breakfast held at the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 in Hawley, PA on July 29 which addresses the Commonwealth's failure to contribute the anticipated 20% share of UDC operating aid since the non-profit organization's 1988 inception as called for in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, which is also the situation with New York State. Former Resources and Land Use Specialist and poster designer Shannon Cilento, left, attended with 2021 UDC Chairperson Jeff Dexter, and Executive Director Laurie Ramie. (Contributed Photo)



RAVING FOR PAVING: The Berlin Township Community Center parking lot is newly paved thanks in part to PA grant funding allocated by the UDC. (Contributed Photo)

PA Grant Improves Access

Berlin Township improved safety, increased handicapped accessibility, and accomplished a more attractive and inviting entrance into its Community Center at 50 Milanville Road in Beach Lake by applying its \$15,000 allocation through the Upper Delaware Council's "Townships, Technology & Sustainability" grant as secured by PA Representative Jonathan Fritz, Representative Mike Peifer, and Senator Lisa Baker to an \$18,875 excavating and paving job for 2,400 square feet by Joseph Blacktopping, LLC of Honesdale, PA.

The UDC is wrapping up administration of the \$100,000 grant by the year's end and will report in the next issue on all projects accomplished.



HIGHEST HONOR: National Park Service U.S. Park Ranger Kevin Reish (retired) received the 2021 Distinguished Service Award for 34 years of service at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from 1987-2021, including roles as the first Water Safety Program Manager, an instructor, presenter, wildland firefighter, Special Events Team member, and active participant in numerous river rescue incidents.

Martucci said his strategy is to remind influential lawmakers in New York City that a healthy Upper Delaware River supplies a significant portion of their drinking water.

"Natural resources are scarce," he said, adding that over-development can change the community's character.

"We need to ensure that there's sustained annual funding for the Delaware River. The reality is, I don't know how to spend this money well but the good news



2021 HONOREES: Attending the Sept. 12 UDC banquet were 2021 award recipients, seated first row: Richelle Dufton, Steven Schwartz and Sherri Resti Thomas (Knotweed Management Project-Recreation Achievement Award); Bonnie Sheard (Special Recognition); Sparrowbush Engine Co. (SECO) 2nd Assistant Chief Danielle Glynn (Lifesaving Award); and Mike Coppola (Keep Hawley-Honesdale Beautiful-Recreation Achievement Award). Seated 2nd row: Rocky Pinciotti (Cultural Achievement); Deputy Chief Jack Flynn, 2nd Assistant Chief Carl L. Van Horn, Chief Jeremy Swingle, and firefighter Kayla Degraw (SECO). Standing from left: Highland Town Supervisor Jeff Haas (Outstanding Community Achievement); Andy Boyar (Community Service); John Conway (The Delaware Company-Cultural Achievement); Tim Bruno (WJFF Radio Catskill-Special Recognition); Steve Melendez (The Delaware Company); Larry H. Richardson (Oaken Gavel Award); Firefighter Scott Glynn, 2nd Lt. Kevin Fisher, Fire Police Captain Marty Reiser, Captain Michael Reiser, Firefighter Heather Van Horn and Dive Master Chris Morgan (SECO); Delaware Town Clerk Tess McBeath, Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Robert Doherty, Sullivan County Planning Commissioner Freda Eisenberg, and County Senior Planner Heather Jacksy (Callicoon Riverside Park-Partnership Award). Present but not pictured here were Ed Jackson (Volunteer Award) and Francis O'Shea (Trust for Public Land-Callicoon Riverside Park). (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

is, you do," he said.

The 2021 honorees are: Distinguished Service - Kevin Reish; Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award - Sparrowbush Engine Company; Partnership Award - Trust for Public Land, NYS Department of

Environmental Conservation, Sullivan County, and Town of Delaware for the Callicoon Riverside Park; Outstanding Community Achievement - Town of Highland; Recreation Achievement (2) - Knotweed Management Project and Keep Hawley-Honesdale Beautiful; Volunteer - Ed Jackson; Cultural Achievement (2) - Rocky Pinciotti and The Delaware Company; Community Service - Andy Boyar; Special Recognition (2) - WJFF Radio Catskill and Bonnie Sheard; and Oaken Gavel Award - Larry H. Richardson.

The 2020 award recipients are: Distinguished Service - Harold G. Roeder, Jr; Lifesaving Award (2) - Paddy McCarthy & Tim Freeman; James Moss, Johnny Smith, Andy Moss (Equinunk Vol. Fire Co.) and Jeff Dexter (Damascus Township Vol. Ambulance Corps); Advocacy - PA Reps. Jonathan Fritz, Mike Peifer, and Senator Lisa Baker; Partnership - USGS Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory; Cultural Achievement (2) - Big Eddy Film Festival and Wayne County Historical Society 1888 Spencer Tractor Restoration; Community Service - Nancy Furdock; Recreation Achievement (2) - Dan Plummer and Bill Streeter; Volunteer - Star Hesse; and Special Recognition - Carla Hauser Hahn and John Ogozalek.



2020 HONOREES: Accepting 2020 awards were, seated from left: Paul, Andrew and Karen Freeman (representing the late Tim Freeman, Lifesaving Award); Fred Murray (2nd row, Spencer Tractor Restoration, Cultural Achievement); John Ogozalek (Special Recognition); and Big Eddy Film Festival Director Tina Spangler (Cultural Achievement). Standing: Jeff Dexter (Lifesaving Award); Carla Hauser Hahn (Special Recognition); and Kim Erickson (Spencer Tractor). (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

Visit the UDC website under Publications for award profiles.



Sullivan West High School teacher and NPS Seasonal Ranger Paddy McCarthy, was co-recipient of the 2020 Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award with Tim Freeman.

River Valley Milestones Came from Transportation

Ingeniously embracing perceived obstacles was key to the growth of the Upper Delaware River Valley region, according to Sullivan County Historian John Conway.

The Cohecton Preservation Society hosted its 15th Annual "Coffee, Tea & History" afternoon on Sept. 26 at its relocated Erie Railroad historic barn property along New York State Route 97.

Conway's topic was "From Timber Rafts to Turnpikes: The Role of Transportation in the Development of Sullivan County."

Sullivan County, NY was founded in March 1809, but long before that, scrappy settlers had to find a way to survive.

"When we begin to reconstruct the history of Sullivan County, virtually every historic and economic milestone is the result of transportation," Conway said.

Timber rafting became the first major local industry, despite initial conceptions of the river that separates New York State's southern tier and northeast Pennsylvania as a barrier.

"The Delaware River was viewed as an impediment to development. The Swedes never thought about using the river as a direct link to Philadelphia... but the Skinner family did," Conway said.

Daniel Skinner, a merchant seaman who had come to this area from Connecticut in 1755, looked at the tall pine trees growing on their property and envisioned them as making perfect ship masts.

How to get them to the Philly market was the challenge. After an attempt to roll six trees into the river and guide them by canoe failed, he got the idea to lash the logs together and form a raft which could be ridden and steered down the river.

In 1764, he successfully reached his destination in eight days.

"Someone learned how to harness the Delaware as a conduit to transportation and the timber rafting industry was born,"

Bird & Boater Rescued Simultaneously

On September 6, National Park Service Ranger Ron Babus contacted NYS Environmental Conservation Police Officer Glen Parker to collect an injured great horned owl rescued from the Delaware River.

Parker met Babus and NPS Ranger Kali Bunn at a halfway point at the Ten Mile River Delaware access point south of Narrowsburg, NY.



CANAL MARKER: Though it was only active from 1828-1898, the influence and remnants of the Delaware & Hudson Canal are still appreciated today. A new William G. Pomeroy Foundation historic marker celebrating the Neversink Aqueduct cable suspension bridge which carried the D&H Canal over the river as built in 1849-1851 by John A. Roebling and dismantled after 1899 was unveiled at the Orange County Canal Park in Cuddebackville during the October 27 quarterly meeting of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council (DHTHC). Participating were, from the left, DHTHC Legislative Liaison Don Drewett, Jamie Myers (National Park Service), Sally Talaga (Wayne County Historical Society), DHTHC President Bill Merchant (D&H Canal Historical Society and Museum, High Falls), Orange County Legislator Tom Faggione, Judy Gumaer Testa (Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation), Town of Deerpark Historian Norma Schadt, and Sparrowbush, NY resident Bill Dudko. Visit www.dhthc.org for more information. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

earning Skinner the title of Lord High Admiral of the Delaware, Conway said.

The 1801 chartering of the Newburgh-Cohecton Turnpike created a road to increase settlement, followed by the 1828 opening of the D&H Canal, 1831 leather tanning era, the ongoing bluestone industry, and the Erie Railroad beginning operations in 1849 which boosted tourism.

Following Conway's talk, retired railroad diesel engineer Bill Dudko discussed "The

Advent of the Erie Railroad" and displayed artifacts to the interested audience.

Contact the Cohecton Preservation Society at cps12726@gmail.com or (845) 932-8104.

Tools to Protect Nature & History

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has created a new resource entitled "Sustaining and Growing Delaware River Communities - A Sourcebook of Tools and Tips for Protecting Nature and History."

The sourcebook will assist gateway communities near the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and other Delaware River national park units to preserve community character, promote pride and community health, and stimulate local economies.

It offers practical solutions and inspiring examples for challenges including increased visitation, development, and climate impact.

Visit www.npca.org/sourcebook to view the full online booklet.

UDC Grants Update

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$4,700 to fund a Town of Tusten Zoning Updates and Open Space Planning project through its Fiscal Year 2022 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program.

That brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has provided to its member municipalities and counties to \$921,652 for 261 projects since 1988.

The full Council voted in favor of the single application on Oct. 7. The project completion deadline is Aug. 19, 2022.

The Town of Delaware completed the last of three TAG projects awarded in Fiscal Year 2021 by the Aug. 20 deadline.

The Delaware Town Board engaged Shepstone Management Co. to study the feasibility of linking to a prospective walking trail from Hancock to Long Eddy that was identified in a 2020 Town of Hancock TAG study project.

The latest Recreational Access Study area began at the Cochetcon/Delaware town line and proceeded along the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, largely paralleling the Upper Delaware River, to the Long Eddy River Access.

The analysis indicated that there is excellent trail potential, with significant possible routes and river accesses already in place. The plan would require securing private landowner permission and improving existing river access to become practical trailhead locations.

A phased approach is recommended, starting with designations of certain low-traffic public roads as formal routes with accompanying maps and signage to promote trail use. Parking arrangements are critical to all trail development. A lead entity should be named to coordinate further exploration of options.

In addition to that \$6,000 Town of Delaware grant, the UDC in FY 2021 had awarded \$10,000 to the Town of Hancock to create a Joint Master Plan for the Village and Town, and \$9,000 to the Town of Tusten to undertake a Phase II update of its 2007 Comprehensive Plan.



SUCCESSFUL SOJOURN: The 26th Delaware River Sojourn took place August 6-13 after being cancelled in 2020, with four days of kayaking on the Upper Delaware from Hancock to Narrowsburg out of the total 60 non-contiguous miles covered. Above, Sojourners paddle below the former St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary (now the Delaware Valley Job Corps Center) in Callicoon. New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, left, was saluted as "Lady High Admiral" on Day 4 for being a river champion in the State Legislature. Local itineraries were organized by the National Park Service, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, and Upper Delaware Council. 2022 Sojourn "The River Rocks" dates will be June 17-25. (UDC Photos by Shannon Cilento)

Towns Do River & Shoreline Clean-ups

The Towns of Deerpark and Lumberland completed their 2021 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grant projects by Sept. 20. Since 2014, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded \$37,006.71 to member municipalities as an investment of the Council's operating funds to help keep the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and its banks pristine.

Deerpark focused efforts on the Hawk's Nest area of the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. The Town Highway Department conducted three multi-day sweeps following Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day to pick up debris along a 2.9-mile stretch. Expenses for labor, transportation, supplies, and disposal fees were \$3,973.90.

Lumberland hired contractor Ann Steimle of Glen Spey for \$1,100 to collect trash via canoe patrol every other week along the town's river banks during the summer.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

Life Jackets Needed

The National Park Service reminds everyone that may be out on the Upper Delaware River this fall and winter in any type of boat, regardless of age, that it is currently mandatory to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device during the cold weather months. This regulation is effective through April 30, 2022.

Wearing a PFD when exposed to cold water has potentially life-saving advantages such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy, and reduced risk of aspiration of water. Your chances of surviving a cold-water immersion are greatly increased.

10-Digit Dialing in Effect

As of October 24, 2021, mandatory 10-digit local dialing went into effect for six New York State area codes that include the Upper Delaware Council's 845-252-3022 phone number. This is due to a FCC ruling that designates "988" as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

The other affected area codes are: 516, 607, 716, and 914.

Search for "North American Numbering

Plan Administrator" for a list of all states and area codes that have transitioned.

Eagle Watch Dates

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will offer Eagle Watch Bus Tours on Jan. 8, 15, 22, Feb. 5 and 12, from 10 to 2, at a cost of \$15 members and \$25 non-members, departing from the DHC's Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA.

Confirm dates and make reservations by calling (570) 226-3164, ext. 8 or visit delawarehighlands.org/events.

Volunteers will staff Eagle Observation Areas on weekends at the Zane Grey Boat Launch in Lackawaxen, Delaware River Minisink Falls, and Mongaup Reservoir.

Culture & History Grants

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. has initiated a "Culture and History Along the Byway" program to supplement its grants for Vista Enhancements, Signage, and Butterflies Along the Byway assistance.

Non-commercial organizations may apply for grants of up to \$1,500 on a rolling deadline for projects that promote culture and history associated with the New York

State Route 97 state-designated byway route from Hancock to Port Jervis. Email info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org for guidelines and application forms.

NY Broadband Survey

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul has launched the first in-depth, state-wide Broadband Mapping Consumer Survey to identify the availability, reliability and cost of high-speed broadband services. Find it at: www.empirestatebroadband.com.

The Public Service Commission will publicly release a report and recommendations by May 2022.

PA Boat Facility Grants

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is accepting applications through Dec. 30 for Boating Facility Grants, with a special emphasis on the Delaware River Watershed thanks to a boost from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund.

Townships, county governments, and non-profit groups may apply. Funding requests require a 50% match.

Visit www.fishandboat.com to find more information and the application form.