



# Upper Delaware Council

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York 12764-0192 • (Tel.) 845-252-3022 • (Fax) 845-252-3359

[www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org)

## UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 3, 2022

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 by Zoom. Chairperson Boyar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock- Fred Peckham (Zoom), Town of Fremont- Jim Greier, Town of Delaware- Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cochecton- Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Sue Sullivan, Town of Highland- Andy Boyar, Town of Deerpark- Virginia Dudko, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township- Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, State of New York- Mike DiSarno, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan (Zoom 7:53), Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Zoom), National Park Service Superintendent- Joe Salvatore. Staff in attendance: Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resources and Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: Westfall Township- Michael Barth. Guests: John Yagecic, DRBC (Zoom), Cody Hendrix- NPS Community Land Use Planner, Bill Dudko- Town of Deerpark Alternate. Media: Liam Mayo- River Reporter, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent (Zoom).

**Swearing in of Officers by Jeff Haas, Town of Highland Supervisor:** Boyar welcomed Town of Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas. The 2022 elected officers: Chairperson Andy Boyar (Town of Highland), Vice-chairperson Aaron Robinson (Shohola Township), and Secretary/Treasurer Alan Henry (Berlin Township) took their oaths during a swearing-in ceremony officiated by Haas. Boyar presented Haas with a UDC lapel pin as a token of appreciation.

**Virtual Presentation: “Update on Modernization of the Decision Support System (DSS) for Habitat Evaluations in the Upper Delaware” by John Yagecic, manager of Water Quality Assessment for the Delaware River Basin (1:58 time on recorded meeting):** Yagecic shared DRBC’s ongoing work on updating the Decision Support System (DSS) for Habitat valuations in the upUpper Delaware. He said the amount of available habitat changes with flow. Different fish species at different life stages need different conditions. Some may need slower-flowing more shallow water; others may need faster-flowing, deeper water. In the Delaware River, we have flow management regimes that indicate how water will be released from the reservoirs. The DRBC would like to know how that habitat changes under those different flow management regimes. This work was originally performed by K.D. Bovee and team from USGS in 2007. They published a report called “The Decision Support Framework for Water Management in the Upper Delaware,” and along with that report were a couple of different implementations of interactive tools. One of those tools was a spreadsheet-based tool developed in 2007 that had some VBA code behind it. Later they came out with a GIS-based tool that was called REF-DSS. The problem with both of those tools is that over time the platforms that they ran on became antiquated so they were hard or impossible to run, they weren’t expandable, and they were limited to comparing one base case to one alternative case. The DRBC was interested in resurrecting these tools and bringing them into usability. They wanted to code them in a modern, more modular platform to be easy to use and expandable. Their effort was supported by a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. DRBC also wanted to allow consideration of new or different flow management scenarios and allow consideration of different time periods. It was really hard-coded and locked into one specific time period. They wanted to compare multiple flow regimes at one time instead of comparing just one base case and one alternative. They wanted the whole system to be expandable so that if they got new information, new data on new species, they would be able to incorporate that. They wanted it to be updatable so that as the science progressed and changed, the tool could change as well. They also wanted to extract new outputs and a new understanding from all of this. The original DSS was more limited in the output that it provided. In the original DSS work this was based on some field studies in reaches on the Upper Delaware, two reaches on the West Branch, three reaches on the East

Branch, three on the main stem Delaware from Hancock down to Lordville, and three reaches on the Neversink. They extrapolated that field study so they're covering the entire upper Delaware to include the West Branch, East Branch, Neversink, and the main stem to Lordville. The DSS considers different species of fish at different life stages. The table provided considerations of brown trout, rainbow trout, American shad, and two different classes of other fin fish in shallow, fast-flowing water and other fin fish in shallow, slow-flowing water. It also considers different life stages. Brown trout included spawning, incubation, juvenile or adult; for rainbow trout juvenile and adult; for American shad spawning and juvenile. Yagecic pointed out that there is not habitat information for all species in all locations. At its heart, the DSS is a series of habitat curves. He said the optimum flow is different for different species; it's even different for the same species but at different life stages. For example, a rainbow trout juvenile would have a slightly different optimum flow than a rainbow trout adult.

At minute 6:45 in the YouTube link of the presentation, Yagecic demonstrates how to use the tool. If they compare adult rainbow trout, and the other fin fish for slow-flowing water, they see that for adult rainbow trout, the majority of habitat is in the Delaware main stem itself. That's almost half of the available habitat. Then the East Branch, West Branch, and Neversink are each about a third of the remaining habitat. When they look at other fin fish, it's more evenly split, so they're about a quarter in the main stem, a quarter in the East Branch, a quarter in the Neversink and a quarter in the West Branch. In going through the code of the original DSS products, one of the things that they were able to bring forward that wasn't really obvious from the reports is that the tool is only counting habitat for certain species and life classes at certain times of year. Their process for bringing this up-to-date was to recode the DSS into a different programming language. The first thing that they had to do is benchmarking, which is essentially comparing the output from the new code to the output from an older version and making sure that they match 100%. They began to code that based on an understanding of what the program was doing. They had to look at Legacy flow times and considered REV1, REV7, and generic FFMP. One of the things that they realized as they were doing this is that this effort was complicated because there were multiple different versions of habitat curves that were within the REF-DSS. It took kind of a trial and error to figure out which versions of the curve that program was selecting. Ultimately, they were able to benchmark this 100% in spring of 2021. Once that's benchmarked, they use that as the platform for the full modernized version, what they call the development version, and they can then evaluate more modern flow regimes. They evaluated REV1, FFMP 2008, FFMP 2011, and FMP 2017. They looked at the time period from 1/1/1990 to 12/30/2000. They're not limited to that time period. They can actually look at any time period for which they have PST model output. A big part of their effort was developing post-processing synthesis, interpretations, and metrics for the output of the DSS tool. At 11:45 Yagecic talks about the benchmarking progression. Ultimately, they did get to a point where it was 100% benchmark shown by perfect agreement for all of the flow regimes, the reaches, and the species. It gives a lot of input. They're comparing a 10-year flow period, for 11 different reaches, for 10 different species of life classes for four plus one (4+1) flow management scenarios. So, there was the original four then they added another flow management scenario toward the end of the project. That gives you over two million (2,007,500) individual discrete habitat output values. Part of the process was to collapse that down to metrics that would help them understand the system and how the different flow management scenarios were impacting habitat. As he mentioned, they added in a new flow management scenario, and they called that AltOST, That represents DRBC's attempt to implement some recommended changes proposed by Trout Unlimited and Garth Pettinger to the selection of OST release schedule values. The link to Pettinger's presentation was provided.

They also developed web-based applications and he showed members these in real time. The application was by Jacob Bransky. You can select different species that you want to look at, select the life stage, the reach, and then the flow value. When you hit "run" it will generate a mapping of the available. Yagecic showed the available habitat for adult brown trout in Delaware- Reach One. If he changes the flow, the habitat changes. The second tool for output was by Yagecic; it also allows you to select which reach you want to look at, the species, and the Life Class, and then you can also indicate the time period.

There are a couple of steps left for them under the grant. They're working on GIS as Narrative Engagement Tool, also known as a Story Map. They are hoping to have that done by the end of the grant period. Ultimately, all of this will be wrapped up and submitted to NFWF in March 2022. This will all be publicly available. The two interactive web tools showed will be released with the product and there will be a full final report that will go along with this, but they're not looking to end work on this. Their goal is to keep this alive and keep it useful. They're going to continue to work and coordinate with the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows and other stakeholders, and that includes possibly evaluating new rapid flow change protocols. There is some information on Dwarf Wedgemussel

habitat, so they may be incorporating that into the tool as well. Yagecic said finally, there's a lot of interest in trying to incorporate temperature considerations into this and so that also might be something that we do in the post grant period. There was a brief question and answer period after the presentation and members thanked Yagecic for his presentation.

**Approval of February 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes (40:25):** A motion by Robinson seconded by Greier, to approve the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes carried.

**Public Comment on the Agenda:** None.

**Committee Reports:** There were no questions regarding the following meetings: Water Use/Resource Management; Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> (Ginny Dudko) Project Review; Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Larry Richardson) Operations; Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Andy Boyar)

### **Status Reports**

**Delaware River Basin Commission (41:42):** Bowman Kavanagh reported that 3/9 will be DRBC's First Quarter Business Meeting. The Regulated Flow Advisory Committee's next meeting is on 3/23 from 1-3p.m.; that changed from her last announcement to a week later. The Advisory Committee on Climate Change is still accepting applications. One area that would be great to fill is someone from a watershed organization who's done work in climate change. In Bowman Kavanagh's report last month, she mentioned DRBC was taking comments on their methodology for their biannual Water Quality Assessment. Yagecic is in charge of the group that produces that, and it will be coming out next week. The Hydrologic report and all meetings can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/>.

**NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (43:26):** DiSarno reported the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) 2020 Stock Assessment for American Shad found that the mortality on the Delaware River shad stock was unsustainable. The DEC continues to work through the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative to update the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan to address this unsustainability finding through changes in recreational and commercial shad fisheries throughout the basin. They expect that changes will be implemented for the 2023 fishing season. If anyone has further questions feel free to reach out to Gregg Kenney with the Hudson River Fisheries Unit ([gregg.kenney@dec.ny.gov](mailto:gregg.kenney@dec.ny.gov)).

The Delaware River is a major sporting area for striped bass and the DEC is seeking public input on [Draft Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan \(FMP\) for Atlantic Striped Bass](#) through the ASMFC. The Draft Amendment proposes new options to the FMP to help rebuild the stock and significantly update the management program. DEC encourages New Yorkers to review proposed changes, participate through in-person or virtual webinar events, and provide comments to ASMFC by 4/15. DEC is hosting two public hearings in New York's Marine and Coastal District to solicit New Yorkers' input on the development of the Draft Amendment. Meeting spaces have limited seating capacity and DEC encourages fishing clubs and organizations to send key representatives to provide public comments. Hearings are scheduled: Wednesday, 3/16, 6 to 8 p.m., DEC Division of Marine Resources, 123 Kings Park Blvd, Kings Park; and Wednesday, 3/23, 6 to 8 p.m., DEC Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz. In addition, audio from the hearings will be live-streamed and participants can listen to the hearings via links available on [DEC's website](#). Kenney would be the appropriate contact to reach out to. Richardson asked if the Striped bass come this far up the Delaware to spawn? DiSarno said his guess is no but we do see a few stray bass coming up here to spawn.

DEC Region staff are currently working on developing a Fisheries Management Plan to better manage trout populations in the East Branch, West Branch and Upper Delaware River. This long-term monitoring plan will use a set of indices to monitor and react to as they drop below threshold triggers for an adaptive management methodology. The plan will hopefully be available for public comment this summer. For additional information feel free to contact Chris Van Maaren with the Region 4 Fisheries staff ([chris.vanmaaren@dec.ny.gov](mailto:chris.vanmaaren@dec.ny.gov)).

The DEC has completed Phase 1 work on expanding the Delaware River Access at the Mongaup Valley WMA off Route 97. This included expanding parking from 35 to 60 parking spaces. They are currently looking for feedback as to whether they should move forward with Phase 2 of that project which involves further expanding the footprint of

the lot to accommodate additional parking and adding a livery lane. DiSarno said if you have any input you would like to share, please reach out to him ([michael.disarno@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.disarno@dec.ny.gov)) or Nathan Ermer ([nathan.ermer@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nathan.ermer@dec.ny.gov)). Rajs said it's hard to really comment on this because the last two years really were phenomenal. Last year was much better and the parking from when she passed by was adequate. Who knows what the future holds? He and Bill Rudge surveyed the area and Salvatore said great job. He did mention crossing Rt. 97 being scary and the responsibility of that landowner. He said people are parking over there and crossing Rt. 97 with their children. DiSarno said that property is owned by Eagle Creek and reaching out to them would be the way to go.

UDC members asked how Bill Rudge was doing. DEC had a retirement party for Rudge yesterday. DiSarno said he looked fantastic and in great spirits. If you would like to reach out to him his email should forward.

**PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (52:08):** Dugan said grant rounds are open for DCNR grant applications. Last month he mentioned that staff across many districts right now are preparing for their spring wildfire season, as well as some insect and disease treatments coming up. There will be a DCNR treatment for the Spongy moth, which is the new common name for *Lymantria dispar*, previously known as Gypsy moth. About 220,000 acres across Pennsylvania DCNR lands, including some national forest property and state game lands, will get treated this spring, mostly in the month of May.

Their budget process is going through the House and Senate hearings. Just yesterday, DCNR Department head Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn had her session with the Senate Appropriations Committee for the budget as it would apply to their department. Dugan said there are pretty broad increases in funding for grant programs, staffing, infrastructure resources across many departments proposed in Governor Wolf's proposed budget at this time, but the budget season can last for several months. UDC members asked for more information on the Spongy moth. Dugan said there is a spray program in Pennsylvania this year. But as it has been for the last several years, it is only on state owned land. They no longer are providing the cooperative program and cost-share to privately-owned lands. They do provide advice and guidance to private landowners and some advocacy, but the private landowner would need to hire their own spray contractor to do treatments for those moths and caterpillars. For the most part, the majority of the spray treatments are using *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (BTK), which is a naturally occurring bacteria found in soil. Of a lesser amount they are using another product called Mimic. A lot of research and testing has been done on that over the last 10 or 15 years, and they found the impacts on caterpillars are significant but the impacts to non-target species are limited as well. There has been a growing population of Spongy moth over the last three years. It has been very spotty, not large-scale areas getting hit. North Central Pennsylvania and central Pennsylvania have actually been having some more substantial defoliation over the last two years. In Northeastern PA, it's been very sporadic and limited. In the Delaware State Forest, there will be 1,400 acres that are going to be treated, a pretty small amount of land in this region.

**National Park Service-Upper Delaware (58:19):** Superintendent Salvatore shared he had a three-day workshop with his management team and brought in a facilitator. A few things they discussed were constraints at the park unit, their future, and personnel morale. He said as far as the Michael Crane report goes, NPS wants to look at their survival as well. Their funding has been static and hard to manage they find themselves in the same situation where they look at priorities and say where do we draw the line in the sand and what are we not going to do anymore? He will forward the summary to Ramie and she can share it with members. They looked at their Strategic Plan, and goals and objectives of what their mission is requiring today. They discussed how the pandemic is affecting the workforce. There were a lot of safety talks after the five drownings. They know the demographics of who are drowning out there, how can they message better and who can we partner with to help them put safety messages out there.

Charles F. "Chuck" Sams III was ceremonially sworn in as Director of the NPS. Sams is the first Tribal citizen to lead the agency, which has been without a Senate confirmed leader for nearly five years. Salvatore read Sams' priorities to UDC members saying UPDE shares many of the same priorities in their park unit. Salvatore said he would forward that along to Ramie. He's laid out his priorities for the National Park Service. Salvatore said he feels very confident that UDC is already focused on a lot of these things as are NPS in this park unit and how they can diversify the workforce. Sams is also focusing the climate crisis using science and traditional ecological knowledge. Salvatore said there will be some funding that starts going back into climate change that had been pulled out of the budgets under the last administration.

Salvatore said he's trying to strengthen indigenous connections, and fully uphold our trust and treaty responsibilities. He's trying to bring as many tribes as possible to the area but he needs funding. He said we have 12 or 13 tribes that are tied to this park unit and they have not had a town hall meeting in some time. He would like to thank them and have conversations with them because he feels there's a lot they can do with the tribal units and he would UDC to partner in that.

Hendrix said Northgate Resorts has reached out to Chief Ranger Keith Winslow. Engelhardt and Rajsz also went out to Northgate to look at their plans for the Camp Fimfo development. Boyar said the March Highland meeting is approaching and they've heard nothing from Northgate. Discussion continued.

**UDC Executive Director's Report (74:07):** Ramie welcomed DiSarno to an in person meeting and was happy to hear the positive report on Rudge's party. She inquired about the UDC State of New York member vacancy. DiSarno said he is filling in and it would likely be filled by the next Natural Resources supervisor position. That job has now been posted.

Ramie shared that 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative Mondaire Jones came to the UDC office on 2/22 to meet with 12 of us. As reflected in the Redistricting Report, he could be our Congressman as of 2023 when the redrawn district lines take effect. He was accompanied by his press secretary and chief of staff, along with Sullivan County Democratic Committee Chair Anne Hart and Legislator Nadia Rajsz. We offered a new PowerPoint presentation that Ramie created to summarize our funding challenge while highlighting the breadth of our responsibilities and activities. Jones told us about his background, political philosophy, and rating as the most active freshman U.S. representative. He acknowledged never having been to the Catskills or the Delaware River in his 34 years of life and was very engaged in asking questions. We sent him away with an informational folder and dashed off a letter of appreciation that afternoon. By that evening, we heard back from Anne Hart, who said, "Dear Laurie, Thank you for having us – it was a great presentation in advocacy and support for our great river and its community." The Chief of Staff, Zach Fisch, replied, "Thank you so very much for having the Congressman by today, and for educating us on the issues you face. We look forward to working with you to ensure a sustainable future for the Delaware River Basin for years to come!"

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is soliciting proposals for the 2022 round of the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund by 3/31. The program will award matching grants of \$75,000 to \$1.5 million to projects to conserve, restore, and connect people with fish and wildlife habitat in the Delaware River Watershed. Approximately \$14 million is available. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations; federal, state and local governments; tribes; and educational institutions. Awards will be announced in mid-August. Information is available at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).

Ramie referred to the March calendar in the packets, to mention a few dates. Today was the deadline to renew the UDC's annual registration in SAM.gov, the federal government's System for Award Management, which she has done. Engelhardt and Peckham attended a meeting for the Upper Delaware Recreation Plan by FUDR in Hancock this afternoon, and will report on that at the WU/RM Committee. We are trying to block out the next two weeks to work on Spring issue of "The Upper Delaware" newsletter, which so far is an outline of contents. Later this month, we will issue our memo to solicit municipal applications for our River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants Program. Two final quick notes: Hall-Bagdonas is now including time-stamps in the meeting minutes that refer to when each topic comes up on the Zoom recording or audio file. Secondly, the presentation lined up for our 4/7 UDC meeting is to discuss impacts from the repair work on the NYC reservoirs. That will be delivered by Jeff Skelding, executive director of Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

Robinson said he would look into making a pull string tool for the projector screen to make it easier on staff for UDC presentations.

### **New Business**

**Draft Letters (6): Administration of River Management Plan Threatened by Funding Crisis (84:05):** Boyar said in the meeting packet are six draft letters. They were crafted over the last week and are an outgrowth of Consultant Michael Crane's report, which highlights the issue of UDC's financial sustainability. In the draft letters we're contacting those involved in the funding process, starting with our Congressional coalition. He said they tried to craft each letter to the individual's wheelhouse. Boyar said we managed to pare it down to a page and a half and

start the letter by simply observing in the 33 years of this council we've done all that's been asked of us with unsustainable funds. If you took what we were first funded at the \$300,000, over inflation means we're operating at \$123,000 today. If it had inflationary index, our budget from the National Park Service would be \$717,000. Boyar said the states of New York and Pennsylvania have never chipped in. He said hopefully, we stated in succinct, clear enough terms what advocacy is needed. Similarly, we have letters to the Governors of both states, again, pointing out that they've never fulfilled their end of the bargain set forth in the River Management Plan, not a thin dime from the State of New York or the Commonwealth. We are again making our argument with no equivocation to our government officials of what we need. Many officials have come to visit UDC or supported us but we've never really seen real action when it comes to operational funds. He said UDC needs financial help; it does an important job. There are tasks that we used to do that we're no longer doing. There are tasks that we would like to do and we cannot, and the situation has to be remedied. The draft letters were distributed ahead of time and we got some great feedback and comments back from our board members, Dudko and Robinson in particular. Lastly, an idea by Greier and Henry was to bring our argument to the Secretary of Interior. A Motion by Henry seconded by Rajsz to approve the draft letters on "Administration of the River Management Plan Threatened by Funding Crisis" carried. Robinson thanked Ramie and Boyar for putting together exemplary letters. Boyar considers this to be a first phase in this effort to ask again, one more time as clearly and as unequivocally as possible that UDC needs help. Our next phase is going to reach out to our supporters, our constituents, those who love the river and those who work on the river, for a grassroots effort about our funding issue.

**Draft Letter to NYS DEC: Updated Strategic Plan for State Forest Management Comments (94:25):** A Motion by Henry seconded by Rajsz to approve the draft comments on the NYS DEC Updated Strategic Plan for State Forest Management carried.

**Redistricting Impacts on Upper Delaware River Valley Representation (95:00):** Ramie provided a handout based on her research regarding the two states and the 15 Towns and Townships (minus two) that UDC essentially represents. Ramie looked at the Congressional level and both states in terms of what changes are due to take place. She noted that there are legal challenges in PA. She thinks NYS is pretty firmly set. She summarized briefly; in Congress we currently have two New York Congress representatives. Currently, Representative Sean Patrick Maloney represents a small part of Orange County, but our Orange County section is becoming part of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, which includes all of Sullivan County as well. Congressman Delgado, the incumbent for the 19th District, will continue to represent the Hancock area. His district boundary is moving up north. In Pennsylvania, Congressman Cartwright's district is not changing that much and we've been told that it's fairly close to what it is now in terms of the Wayne and Pike County communities that are in the 8<sup>th</sup> district. For Senator Baker, it's the same five Pennsylvania townships so no change to the 20<sup>th</sup> district. There are changes to the House of Representatives side. Representative Mike Peifer will be retiring after his eighth term and the Wayne County townships that he had are moving to the 111<sup>th</sup> district, which is represented by Representative Jonathan Fritz, adding Damascus and Berlin. The Pike County Townships will remain with the 139<sup>th</sup> district, as Ramie understands. In NYS, Senator Mike Martucci, the incumbent for the 42<sup>nd</sup> district, that will now be the 44<sup>th</sup> district, but the boundary will include all of Sullivan and Delaware counties, parts of Orange, and Broome. He's adding the Town of Hancock which Senator Fred Akshar currently represents in the 52<sup>nd</sup> district. Regarding the two assembly members that we have, Aileen Gunther for Sullivan and Orange County, the Town of Fremont is being carved out of her district and added to District 121 and join the new district for the Delaware County portion that's currently represented by Joe Angelino. To get this information she first reviewed maps but then went to all of the representatives directly and asked for confirmation for the 15 towns and townships.

**Other:** None.

#### **Old Business**

**Executive Committee Recommendations for UDC Fiscal Plan Workshop Follow-ups (100:25):** Ramie provided a UDC Fiscal Plan Workshop Follow-up Topics handout and asked members to review it. She will attempt to convert the list into a priority ranking format through which to seek input.

**Skidders Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge Correspondence and Tour (109):** Ramie said in the meeting packets is the 3/1 response received from PennDOT. UDC sent a letter on 2/1 suggesting that this new federal Bridges Program, which is through the Infrastructure bill, would be a great source of funding to rehabilitate the historic bridge. Ramie said they seem to be saying that this would not qualify as being an off-system bridge because those

must be owned by a county, township, city, or municipality. Our Upper Delaware bridges are all owned by the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission. Ramie said she would not consider that a disqualifying criterion.

Secondly, we received the Pennsylvania Governor's response but it doesn't mention the particular bridge and is very generic. We also received a response from U.S. Senator Pat Toomey because we copied all the federal and state officials. On 2/18 he said: "Laurie, Thank you for contacting me about our Nation's infrastructure and the collapse of the Forbes Avenue Bridge." It references the collapse of the bridge in Pittsburgh on 1/28, resulting in 10 injuries. Toomey says specific to your legislative concerns, there is a need to expand and maintain our nation's physical infrastructure, but then goes on to say why he voted against this Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act. Ramie said at the end of the letter it reads, "in spite of my opposition, the Act passed the Senate and President Biden signed it into law."

PennDOT, Congressman Cartwright and Senator Baker's aides have said yes to the offer of a tour of the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge. Ramie will look into organizing a tour or event at the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge to advocate for rehabilitation of the historic bridge.

**Status of 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Sponsorships:** Ramie is pleased to say that we've done our publicity for this but this event sells itself! She wishes the UDC funding was so easy because we have priced out the cost of 400 team t-shirts, which would be \$2,700 and we have already raised \$2,950. We also would like to purchase additional supplies. Not all of this money is in hand, most of it is pledges, but we assume people who pledged will come through with it. UDC also had \$600 worth of professional services offered as a swap for being listed on the T shirt. For example, *The River Reporter* will give us two ads for the equivalent of \$250 which is terrific. Platform Industries is taking \$100 off the price of the T shirts, so that is their contribution to our nonprofit, and Happy Tattoo from Honesdale which the artist who created the original logo that we're using has value associated with that as well. She also included in the meeting packet the gracious letter provided by The United Methodist Church of Pond Eddy with their donation.

Richardson presented on behalf of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB), a \$500 check to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. Boyar thanked the UDSB and encouraged members to reach out to community members and make sure they're going to be ready to provide community service the week of Earth Day, noting it ends on Arbor Day. Find updates from the UDC social media and contacting Hall-Bagdonas.

**Other (1:18):** Sullivan said an example of outreach we could be doing is Hall-Bagdonas asked her for more information on the TREX benches in the Town of Tusten. Sullivan connected her with Tusten Energy Committee contact Brandi Merolla and she will be featuring the Tusten Plastic Recycling Program on UDC's social media.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment, followed by UDC 2022 Board Photo and Reception:** A motion by Robinson, seconded by Dudko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 3-17-2022  
Recording of meeting available on request*