



# Upper Delaware Council

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## UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2019

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Roeder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Delaware- Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont-Jim Greier, Town of Highland-Andy Boyar, Town of Deerpark- David Dean, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township- Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs, Westfall Township-Roland Edwards, Jr., National Park Service- Carla Hauser-Hahn, State of New York-Bill Rudge, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan. Staff in attendance: UDC Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist- Pete Golod, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: Town of Cocheton- Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Delaware River Basin Commission- Steve Tambini. Media- Peter Becker, Dave Hulse. Guests: Roger Saumure-Shohola Township, Ginny Dudko- Town of Deerpark, Michael Barth- Westfall Township, Jennifer Claster, Linda Reik, Greg Lotorto.

**Presentation by Thomas J. Shepstone, principal with Shepstone Management Company, Inc.: "Perspectives on the Upper Delaware Land and Water Use Guidelines":** Shepstone started by saying the development of the Land and Water Use Guidelines was a complicated process which took a long time. He showed his mass of material from the time they spent working on the guidelines. That notebook included deliberations of the committee. Shepstone's first Upper Delaware meeting was in July, 1973 in Barryville. That was the first time Shepstone heard about designating a Wild and Scenic River and that's when the subject of guidelines came up. Shepstone was still working with the Extension Service at that time and following that, he became Wayne County Planner and was there for four years. During that time Shepstone worked with various people who were concerned about the Scenic Rivers program and had various opinions. One thing Shepstone did was reach out to people in NYS; specifically, Dave Siebert in Sullivan County as well as his Pike County contact, a Delaware County contact and Peter Garrison, County Planner in Orange County. They started to meet to discuss the guidelines. This is before the river had been formally designated. It was included in a list of rivers to be studied but was not formally designated until 1978. Shepstone said they wanted to be ahead of the game and take control over their own destiny. So they formed an ad hoc group of county planners. They never had any formality to it really. They eventually invited people in like Frank Jones and Bob Lander, Sr., various local planners and local interest groups and Peckham's uncle, George Frosch, was also a part of it. Shepstone said that group was called Upper Delaware Clearinghouse. They also called themselves the Zoning Guidelines Committee. This was all prior to NPS being involved. They had a product (guidelines) by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1976. They had public meetings from Hancock down through Town of Deerpark and the public had various reactions to it. Generally speaking, most people were comfortable with it. Their approach was pretty realistic. Shepstone showed the cover of the report, bringing attention to the name: Zoning Guidelines Committee, which is significant, he said. Shepstone said he is now 68 and was in his early 20's at that time. Many of the people involved are dead now such as: Ed Curtis, Larue Elmore, Bob Lander, Sr. and Frank Jones. One of the requirements was a 150-foot setback from the river. They also had a 2.5-acre minimum lot size depending on what section of the river that you were in. They also had some suggested sign regulations. Shepstone said it was probably a bit strict for the time but most of the communities were headed in that general direction. Shepstone said that was the first attempt.



NPS came along in 1978, and started talking about developing the official guidelines. Shepstone was involved in working with NPS on the Planning Team. There was a planning team with members from the various counties, and the two states. It was a large group of people who would meet for about two or three years. Shepstone had been designated to represent Wayne County. He was no longer working with Wayne County, but was designated by them to be their representative on this project. Shepstone was very involved in developing the revised set of guidelines which were adopted in 1981. They were designed to be general guidelines, that is to say, to provide local, county, state and regional government guidance in the preparation enforcement plans and regulations, etc. It was emphasized from the beginning they would be general guidelines. They also indicated they would provide a basis for Secretary of the Interior review of local plans, regulations and land use decisions. Shepstone said it's a very key point there because he said that came back to haunt them. There's some similarity to what was eventually adopted years later with the allowable and incompatible uses as broken down by scenic and recreational. In addition to what they had done informally, they created in this committee a designation of settlement areas, where you would have uses allowed where a pattern of settlement was already established and adequate sewage treatments available to allow commercial like industrial, heavier residential, etc. Shepstone said this set the basic framework for how you would do it by river segment, which the original group had not addressed. Their additions included animal husbandry, timber harvesting and floodplain. It was very similar to what the original group had been developing informally. Something else that was not originally addressed was the water use side of it, which is referred to as river use. It says the use shall be limited of the Upper Delaware. The level would be consistent with the capacity of the river. The use of land areas adjacent the river for recreation should be done in a manner to ensure protection and recognize values, etc. At that time, it was an internal debate on the Planning team. Many of the NPS workers thought that is was all about providing recreation and many of the local people, Shepstone included, had a deep concern that the river was being overrun by canoeists. People were getting off the river and going on private property and not respecting private property rights and there were many issues people were angry about it. From a local perspective, the group wanted to tamp that down, Shepstone said. They were responsible for some of that language. That created the problem, regarding the secretary review within two years. Shepstone said at that time NPS officials were in charge here. NPS said we've got these guidelines in place. Now we need to go out and tell the Towns and Townships what they need to do. Shepstone said he was so angry at the time because it was the wrong time and wrong approach. He felt it was done inappropriately. When NPS went out to the Towns and Townships to advise them, nobody appreciated it. Shepstone said the meetings were actually perceived as threats. It was a very bad situation with respect to NPS and their action with the community. The communities exploded with anger, suspicion and a lot of organized resistance. One meeting Shepstone attended had 800 people. The head of The National Park In-holders Association n/k/a American Land Rights Association, Charles Cushman came. Shepstone said he was a relatively easy guy to deal with, but when he came to town, he kind of took advantage of the moment and helped people organize. That was when Conference of Upper Delaware Townships, which got the acronym COUP formed. COUP was very effective and well lead by a lot of local leaders here, said Shepstone. Cushman suggested a rewrite with new plan. Mike Priesnitz and Chuck Hoffmann came to town. Shepstone was enlisted by them to help again with the land use guidelines and a committee was created to do that. Shepstone said that was take three. They started on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1984 and on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1985, the first draft of the new approach was done. There were many debates and edits in the meantime. Shepstone said in August they started taking a different approach from what was done before. It was necessary because the standards changed but they wanted to provide alternative standards. Shepstone relates them to goals and objectives and that's how it's done now. That was the big outcome from the local effort to take over the planning process. It became more flexible, it offered different alternatives and finally, those were adopted in 1986.

There's nothing in the guidelines themselves that talk about how you might update them. However, there is a NPS study that was put out. Shepstone said the process would have to be done by the same means by which they were originally adopted, which would be a lengthy process, subject to all kinds of meetings and legal reviews. Shepstone wanted to make one observation; there are a number of things that have happened over the years in the way of new uses that weren't anticipated. When it was written nobody was thinking cell towers or solar farms. Those are just two that come to mind and they were not addressed at all. Shepstone said just speculating here, one of the useful things UDC could do is to try to develop some kind of supplement, not an amendment. With those supplements UDC could address some of those specific issues and on how to handle them. Shepstone said he doesn't think UDC needs to go through the whole process; he thinks it would be dangerous actually. Shepstone said the force of the guidelines is not the threat of condemnation. That's what started it. In the real world it's not going to happen.



Shepstone said from having worked with the Town of Delaware for 13 years, the force of the guidelines is in the fact that people agree. It's the common spirit and cooperation.

Rudge asked if Shepstone could expound upon what he means by "adopted". Shepstone said the Guidelines were published in the Federal Register. They were part of the RMP which was adopted and were separately published in the Federal Register. Each community didn't independently adopt them. The RMP was supported by the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships. Hulse asked what would Shepstone do, if he had to do it again? Shepstone said he liked the third revision process. He feels they got a much better set of guidelines that were more flexible. He has to say that having a committee that represents every possible view, that met regularly, and considered each other's views seriously was very effective. Henry said in reference to supplemental changes, UDC has often looked at the reference that talks about Letters of Interpretation. The Council was wondering how did that come because it says you are supposed to use Letters of Interpretation to advise the Secretary of Interior. Shepstone said he thinks that's how it's supposed to be done. You have to be careful with who's doing the interpreting. Shepstone said one of the topics the group debated was the definition of Substantial Conformance. He provided the copy of the letter to UDC members that he wrote 35 years ago at the start of the process when they were doing the rewrite. They gave their interpretation, NPS gave their interpretation of what the law said, and in the end they went with the NPS version. Robinson said one of the observations he has made is that although the RMP is the benchmark, all the circumventing regulations that interact with the RMP cause Towns and Townships great frustration as well as the UDC. When the RMP was established and agreed upon, there was an expectation based on the current methods of bureaucracy. Today, it's night and day. It doesn't resemble anything as when the plan was accepted in 1986. Although the intent was pretty pure, it's almost exhausting to work around the regulations that the UDC has to follow, Towns and Townships must follow to realize the intent. Robinson said he thinks that is a big flaw in the system. Shepstone said he thinks that flaw existed from the beginning. Just one example is, New York State has a different philosophy on government than Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does. Shepstone said without getting into specifics, some of the governments have changed their attitudes on certain things over the years. One example is, in NYS Environmental Impact Statements are required while there is no such thing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Robinson said even at the Federal level, how funding is structured for UDC, that's an outgrowth of pure bureaucracy. It's morphed into something that's beyond the 1986 RMP. Shepstone said that's why he thinks the better and safer approach is to supplement on the things you can agree. If you try to reinvent the wheel you may have a hard time. Shepstone said it took 55 people four months to write our constitution; it took them four years to rewrite the guidelines.

Greier said he had the good fortune of sitting with George Fluhr at UDC Awards Banquet this year. They were comparing notes on how far they went back. Greier told Fluhr that in 1978 when NPS announced they were taking over the River Valley it started a war. Greier was one of the guys putting up signs that read: NPS GET OUT. Greier said he kind of feels bad about it now. Fluhr told him don't feel bad, because if it wouldn't have been for the resistance from the landowners and property owners, UDC would not be here today and NPS would have taken over the whole Valley. Greier asked how does UDC go about changing the guidelines in a simple way? Shepstone said solar is a good topic to address because there is a little bit of experience with it now. Shepstone represented Town of Delaware at the time. He said there were frustrations with the way it was unfolding but in the end it worked out. Shepstone said we know the issues on that; it's not hard. Some of the Towns and Townships have taken a stab at this and written up their own regulations. So you have some experience and an idea of what the local feeling is on it. Therefore, if you need to have any guidelines on it you can address it. You can have a subcommittee or as a whole discuss issues and adopt a resolution. Ramie wondered if a supplement would be considered to require a unanimous approval the way that a minor amendment does? She said it doesn't exist now so UDC would have to invent this concept. Shepstone agreed with inventing it. Saumure asked as part of the RMP, there was an economic study done as well. What would Shepstone's recommendation be in revisiting that? Shepstone said that was a good study and many people involved. He thinks that could be worthwhile. Saumure said don't you think for this River Valley to work there's must be an economic benefit? Shepstone said he totally agrees with that. Saumure said he believes the study concluded there's \$11 million worth of tourism coming in a year. Shepstone said the problem comes in segmenting what comes from what. Hauser-Hahn wanted to clarify something for Saumure. The \$11 million is based on the number of visitors that come to NPS sites only. Hauser-Hahn said Shepstone mentioned that he started working on the guidelines in 1973. Shepstone clarified that he attended his first Upper Delaware meeting in July, 1973. The Zoning Committee was formed around 1975. Roeder thanked Shepstone for his presentation and gave



him a UDC lapel pin in appreciation.

**Approval of April 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes:** A motion by Peckham seconded by Greier, to approve the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes was carried.

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

**Committee Reports:** Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: April 16<sup>th</sup> Water Use/Resource Management by Boyar; April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Project Review by Golod, and April 23<sup>rd</sup> Operations by Roeder. Greier has a correction for the WU/RM minutes. He said someone made a statement that the Ferry St. access was a Town of Fremont access and DEC access. It is strictly a Town access. Anyone can use it but the Town maintains it. The DEC property is contiguous to it.

### Status Reports

**Delaware River Basin Commission:** Ramie said today DRBC sent a notice for their next Public Hearings; included in that was a resolution regarding the apportionment by the four states and the Federal Government. This was provided in meeting packet. To Ramie's understanding this is what they are expecting or wishing for; it's not necessarily the final amount. Apportionment means not everyone pays equal shares into the DRBC. It's based on land criteria. This is the intended signatory party contributions and will be the subject of a public hearing on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the DRBC office. Ramie said a month later is the business meeting at which that and their overall budget can be voted upon. Also provided in the meeting packet is the Hydrologic Report. Next month at the Full Council meeting Amy Shallcross and Steve Tambini will be giving a presentation describing directed water releases that the DRBC is responsible for as opposed to the Office of the Delaware River Master.

**NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation:** Rudge referred to the handout provided in meeting packet. It's a brief summary of the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers program. Rudge said he may have misunderstood the committee's interest. Rudge wanted to be clear it's not a ceremonial designation that UDC would be seeking. It's a regulatory program that UDC would be asking the State of New York to take on. Unlike the Guidelines, there would be regulations that would be enforceable. The Department would undertake that charge within the whole corridor. UDC would have input to what the corridor ends up being. Rudge said initially there is a standard corridor. You would need a study done to deviate from that standard corridor. Once it was enacted State of New York and the Department of Environmental Conservation would be responsible for permitting within that corridor unless a local municipality wanted to adopt that. Rudge wanted to make the council aware. Ramie said thank you, as she imagines UDC's response will be 'never mind, we withdraw our request'. Ramie said we did not realize it was that layered.

Dexter had a request from Damascus Township to learn more information about the Wurtsboro lead mine in the Town of Mamakating. Dexter found the *Times Herald-Record* April 6<sup>th</sup> article. Rudge said this is a property NYS DEC acquired around the early 1980s. On that property was a lead mine that had been in existence since the early 1700's. Native Americans originally discovered that lead existed there and local people mined it for a while. It was long abandoned when DEC acquired the property. Rudge can only guess, as he was not working for this Region back then. No one did any investigative work for several years. NYS DEC started doing planning and asked their Solid and Hazardous Waste folks to look into it. It came to light that lead was escaping from the site. NYS DEC is not sure how far the extent is but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has stepped in and is managing the project now. Rudge said he has provided a fact sheet and information on the website. Some work has already been done to contain the lead contamination. None of the local wells have detected lead in their water and they have done tests. It continues to evolve. Rudge said with the Federal EPA involved NYS DEC is doing anything they can to address this situation. EPA is working with the state's Department of Environmental Conservation. Henry said he brought this issue up at the Water Use/Resource Management meeting based on a request by folks from Damascus. The *Times Herald-Record* article says there are 56,000 gallons per day of contaminated water coming out of the mine going into Basha Kill. Henry said neither NYC DEC or EPA is saying it's a Superfund site to address if there are huge amounts of water leaching. Rudge said it's not like there's a discharge. When it rains it flows over the mine tailings and enters the drainage in that area and eventually is put in the Basha Kill. Rudge said that's what they are addressing now.



Peckham reported that Hancock had the highest deer-take in Delaware County with 300+. Rudge said he thinks Ulster County was the highest for bear-take this year.

**PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources:** Dugan said Spotted Lanternfly season is here as of May 1<sup>st</sup> in the quarantine areas which is Southeastern and South-Central Pennsylvania. People must have their permits on commercial vehicles. It's an information and education-based effort to try to inform businesses and private residents of the threat of Spotted Lanternfly. There have been public service announcements on NPR and other radio stations. Peckham asked how far north it's come. Dugan spoke of a confirmed case in Monroe County. They have not yet considered it an inter-state hazard. Railroads are monitoring and doing maintenance on their own properties within the quarantine but it hasn't reached the level where Aphis, the USDA's Plant/Health section, can do inspections through interstate commerce of the railroad cars. They believe that this year is when they may get to that next step. Boyar said how good the presentation by Heather Leach of Penn State Department of Entomology was on 2/7 and opened his eyes to something he knew nothing about. Boyar wondered how people could learn about this and after a Trout Unlimited stream cleanup he was driving home and heard WJFF was airing Leach's presentation from 2/7. Rosie Starr was at the 2/7 meeting and provided a link to her show, Farm and Country, which is now on the UDC website.

The Governor is going around the Commonwealth promoting his budget package "Restore PA". It's a new initiative based off of Marcellus Shale gas fees to restore Pennsylvania infrastructure. It's a source of funding that the Governor's budget is looking to acquire to use to restore Pennsylvania in many facets. Infrastructure is a huge part: roads, bridges, dams, etc. It includes infrastructure in state owned facilities: state hospitals, state parks, state forests, water treatment plants, etc. Dugan said that is something you may see a lot of publicity about.

There is a lot of Lyme disease awareness advocacy and publicity going on right now. It's tick season; they're very active. There has been a Co-Operative established with someone else that has previously presented at UDC, East Stroudsburg University. Dugan said a state representative in Monroe County was able to get legislation through and funding to have a Co-Operative with East Stroudsburg University where they are taking ticks for testing. You can find that information online at <https://www.ticklab.org/>. Pike County, Pennsylvania has a Tick Borne Diseases Task Force. Dugan said there are new ticks coming into the region from other places in the continental U.S. and places farther away.

It's spring planting season. Our fire season has been very wet again, so it's been pretty muted in terms of number of wildfires. It is DCNR's field season in parks, forests and private landowners. Trout season started last month. Spring Gobbler season is in now. There is a new set of studies for turkey nests that DCNR staff are assisting with on State forest land to determine if West Nile Virus is having an impact on turkey pullets. It was pretty well studied and somewhat confirmed over the past few years that the grouse population was being impacted by the West Nile Virus.

Research continues on Chronic Wasting Disease with Pennsylvania Game Commission, more so in Central and South-Central Pennsylvania. It is expanding. It has not impacted the Delaware Watershed as of yet.

Dugan will try to provide an update next month regarding the changes by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to the hunting season schedule.

Roeder saw online that the DCNR in Elk County owns a big property and they will be natural gas drilling on the state land. Before they had it outside and they came across private property into it. This time they are doing the opposite. Roeder said: it seems to me if that does occur that might be a way of helping his budget a little. Dugan said DCNR has that already; DCNR Bureau Forestry land is leased out for gas drilling. The core of DCNR's forest holding are within the major play of the Marcellus as well as other deeper oil and gas reserves. The Bureau of Forestry does receive monthly payments, lease payments, and royalties. There's a substantial amount of funding that comes through; DCNR processes it because it's revenue received on activities from DCNR's land they are managing. Dugan said gas revenues on Commonwealth lands at the end of March for the Fiscal Year DCNR were just shy of \$59 million.



**National Park Service-Upper Delaware:** Hauser-Hahn said Upper Delaware NPS has received their budget. With assessments they've received upwards of \$25,000 less than last year. Hauser-Hahn said they thought they knew what their assessments were, they got their budget and the higher up NPS takes funding off to fund their other programs. Upper Delaware NPS is concerned there will be another assessment so that is why she is saying upwards of \$25,000. NPS has acted to fully fund the UDC. The process of releasing UDC's remaining funding of \$244,110 has been completed. Kris Heister is the Acting Superintendent at Gettysburg. No Acting Superintendent from outside has been assigned to Upper Delaware NPS yet. Hauser-Hahn will continue as Acting Superintendent until someone is assigned. Three Upper Delaware NPS staff are in an acting management capacity until they can hire other staff members. That won't take place until after seasonal staff is hired and in place. NPS held a strategic planning retreat from 4/30-5/2.

**UDC Executive Director's Report:** Ramie thanked Hauser-Hahn for the funding update. What Ramie hopes will happen next is that Patrick Reidy from the Northeast Regional Office will sign a modification #11 to UDC's cooperative agreement. That's the instrument required for UDC to have the funding directly deposited into our ASAP account. Hauser-Hahn said this should have taken place; she hasn't been in the office for three days. If you check your account right now it may be there.

UDC's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony happened on Sunday. We presented honors in ten different categories. We were also privileged to hear from Congressman Matt Cartwright from Pennsylvania 8<sup>th</sup> District as our keynote speaker. Ramie felt Cartwright got a good reception from everyone. As Senator Bonacic pointed out, Cartwright stayed for the whole entire program. Ramie feels he came away with a good sense of who UDC is and what we do. His Economic Development Director, April Niver, wrote Ramie today and said: "The Congressman had a good evening hearing about the many fantastic projects and committed people you have to help reach your goals." Niver thanked UDC "for such a warm welcome into the Upper Delaware Council's network of members and friends." Ramie sent photos and publicity about the Congressman's appearance. On the website today Ramie posted his speech to UDC. Central House, as always, was an excellent venue to host UDC in terms of their food and service. We ended up with 94 guests. Ramie wanted to thank Hall-Bagdonas for handling the logistics of the banquet. Golod came off his sickbed that day to do what he could. Congressman Cartwright made special provisions to be there. He was on an overseas trip to visit military bases in Asia and cut that short by one day to make our event. He had committed to the banquet and wanted to keep that obligation. That is something that is above and beyond, said Ramie. Ramie would judge it as a very successful event. Scott Rando had provided Ramie with 40 photos and Dave Soete provided 443 images. If you need any photos we have them. Ramie passed around the group photo of award winners and the souvenir program that has articles and photos about every recipient. There are extra print copies or it's available as a PDF file. Right now the office is wrapping up finals tasks of sending out thank you letters and bookkeeping. DOT and the Forest Rangers requested photos so they may use them in their own publications. Golod saw today that the DEC has already done that with Forest Ranger Rick Franke, who had also just been involved on 4/25 (three days before our banquet) in a rescue in the Town of Thompson of seven people that had gone temporarily missing. Franke found them and guided them back to the trail. Henry said he thinks this is the appropriate time to give everyone that was involved with the banquet a round of applause. Henry said fantastic job. Roeder said we had given Congressman Cartwright a donation for his new office in the Silk Mill in Hawley, a framed picture of the Roebling Bridge. Hulse said the Wayne County Commissioners were more than pleased with their award. It was the first item on their agenda at their meeting. During Cartwright's keynote address he did note that he had a Municipal Leaders Conference for District 8. Today Ramie received details about that and sent that out to Pennsylvania Townships. It's at Northampton Community College at Monroe Campus in Tannersville on 5/18. Reservations are due by 5/10.

On 4/26 NPS held its Annual Water Safety Partners Meeting at UDC primarily hosted by Kevin Reish as the Water Safety Coordinator for NPS. Ramie will provide a full report at the 5/21 WU/RM Committee meeting. One highlight is the National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP) is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. Its commodore, Marc Magnus-Sharpe and secretary Chuck Haupt were at the meeting to give a brief presentation. In 2018 they made 6,000 river contacts and had over 100 significant rescues (more than just a boat over or someone requiring assistance). The volunteer commitment that group makes is really exceptional, said Ramie. 5/3-5/5 is their Spring Training weekend. They are doing that at a variety of locations in the Upper Delaware: Cedar Rapids, Shohola and Luke's Landing. On Mother's Day weekend 5/11 & 5/12 they are bringing in a nationally renowned swiftwater



rescue instructor named Mike Mather who's giving a course at Skinner's Falls. Ramie read in their newsletter that is already sold out. The next event for NCSP is they provide the safety patrol for the Delaware River Sojourn, which is in its 25<sup>th</sup> year on 6/14-6/22. The first few days happen in the Upper Delaware and then move on down the river. They have a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary barbeque on 7/6 at the Zane Grey Museum. Lastly, 11/3 the NCSP Fall Dinner and Awards Program at Woodloch Pines Resort. It will feature a founder of NCSP Chris Nielsen as the guest speaker with other founders.

UDC agreed to sign on to a letter to NYS Governor Cuomo encouraging him to participate in the first ever Delaware River Governors Leadership Summit which is happening at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia on 5/16. As UDC learned, Governors from the other three basin states (PA, NJ, DE) have all committed to attend. Ramie checked with the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and as of this morning Governor Cuomo does not plan to attend. However, he is willing to send staff to represent him and there is discussion that he may be interested in signing the Memorandum of Agreement that they hope is a result of this conference. Another project that the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed has been spearheading is to develop watershed-wide signage. Currently, there are no signs that read "You Are Now Entering the Delaware River Watershed". There are signs that read Chesapeake Bay and other areas but right now the geographic boundaries of this watershed are not marked in any way, said Ramie. They've decided to start in New York and use that as an experimental model. If they can get NYS DOT on board with the various regulations and guidelines that are required for placing signs, then they will move down the river to have everything marked. An initial stakeholders meeting has been set to introduce the concept and explain the objectives. They have mapped out the locations and identified the communities where it would happen. They hope to have a dialogue with NYS DOT to see what the next steps are. Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) in Hancock are core members of the coalition. UDC is not a coalition member because our quasi-governmental membership doesn't allow for that. They are strictly non-profit organizations. They asked for UDC's assistance in pulling together contacts for the NYS area. They knew of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's successes with working with NYS DOT to get new signage throughout the Upper Delaware corridor. 6/11 from 6-8 p.m. the meeting will be held at the UDC office providing a light meal of sandwiches. When Ramie has the formal invitation she will make sure it gets sent out to all.

It was mentioned earlier in Roeder's Operations Committee report about the latticework. Ramie wanted to express appreciation to Henry and Richardson for their collaboration in fixing that. They came in on 4/29. The cost of the job was under \$100 for materials and they donated their labor. Henry found that at the back at the property it's unkempt and something should be done in conjunction with our neighbors, Frontier Communications. Henry said it looks like Frontier is using that space as a repository for wire they don't need anymore. Ramie suggests at the next Operations meeting having the Committee take a look. Henry said the remaining parts to the lattice are upstairs in the attic: two full sheets of the lattice, a 2x4 and a box of screws.

The Local Government Officials Directory has been completed. This is a project that Christina Hollenbeck from NPS works on. It represents all the contact information for Towns, Townships, county government, state and federal representatives, the UDC, NPS offices, chambers of commerce and emergency services on both sides of the river. We thank NPS for putting this together. Hollenbeck brought in one hardcopy for Hall-Bagdonas who scanned it into a PDF and provided that to UDC members. If you would like a print copy please let Hall-Bagdonas know.

Ramie made note of the May calendar that was provided in the meeting packet. Dates that were not included were: 5/17 is National Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day. Ramie learned of that event at the Water Safety meeting. You wear it to work, take a photo and use the hashtag #wearyourlifejackettowork. Congressman Cartwright's conference is 5/18. Ramie doesn't know the time of the Delaware River Governor's Summit as of yet in Philadelphia on 5/16 but she is sure there will be publicity. The UDC presentation on 6/6 will be by the DRBC. UDC is hoping in July that NYC DEP presentation about the Cannonsville Reservoir public emergency notification system improvements will be ready. The last we heard the consultants' contract had been extended.

Dexter said Roeder and he were at a conference today with the Pennsylvania delegation for the river valley. UDC met with them in February to discuss the fact that the Commonwealth never paid towards the operation of the UDC. From that Representative Jonathan Fritz was working to reallocate \$100,000 from the DRBC appropriation and give it to UDC. Dexter asked Fritz for an update today. He said that the House Appropriations Committee chairman said



as far as he's concerned "it's a go". He communicated with the Speaker of the House who said "I have no problem with this, let's get this done." Representative Fritz sent a message over to Representative Baker and she said she was in. Dexter spoke with Representative Baker and she said as soon as the budget comes over from the House to the Senate she will gladly carry the freight and make sure that is put in the Senate's version. Boyar asked if there was any feedback from Senator Metzger or Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther? Ramie said Assemblywoman Gunther did introduce a \$100,000 appropriation into the NYS budget but it apparently didn't make it. Ramie requested updates but didn't receive anything back prior to the state budget being approved for 4/1, so it would not be for this Fiscal Year. Ramie said all three of our state officials on the Assembly and Senate had pledged their support to pursue that state funding. It will probably just take more than one request.

### Old Business

**Town of Highland Parcel #27.-9-1 Project Update:** None.

**State River Designations:** Mentioned in NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Report.

**Other:** Henry said the Performance Appraisal for Executive Director Ramie is due. He had a mishap with his computer today, otherwise it would have been completed. If people on the Personnel Subcommittee have still not sent Henry their appraisal of Ramie there is still time to submit it to Henry and he will finalize that by the Operations Committee meeting on 5/28.

### New Business

**Draft Resolution 2019-04: Permanent Employee Status to Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas:** Motion by Henry seconded by Peckham to approve permanent employee status to secretary Hall-Bagdonas carried.

**Draft Resolution 2019-05: River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants:** Motion by Robinson seconded by Boyar to approve the 2019 River Clean-up Grant Applications carried.

**Proposed Revisions to Technical Assistance Grants Contract Criteria:** Motion by Henry seconded by Boyar to approve the six recommendations listed on the back of 3/4 email from Kris Heister was carried. Ramie asked if UDC was interested in any other proposed changes to UDC's contract. Previous discussion brought up expanding the scope of projects. Currently, projects are limited to zoning, comprehensive plans, and GIS primarily. There was discussion about whether expanding it into cultural and historical projects would be a possibility. Heister's message said the UDC would have justify that request. Roeder said you can justify it from the River Management Plan (RMP) because it's in there. Ramie said there seems to be a contrary opinion. Robinson said he suggests UDC pleads our case. Golod said he thinks pleading the case is a good avenue but Golod also did a review of the RMP and Guidelines and there is a lot of verbiage regarding Technical Assistance but in regard to funding, pretty much everything Superintendent Heister put in the 3/4 email is everything stated in the RMP. Golod didn't find anything additional. Golod thought it might bolster the charge for the two States to fund UDC because in order for UDC to open up the TAG program, to go back to Cultural, Historical, Threatened and Endangered Species and not use Federal Funding because Heister spelled out to UDC it is strictly for zoning, planning and codification of laws, etc. It may take other funding. He believes that would be another charge Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and New York State could help UDC with funding so that UDC could assist our municipalities by offering the TAG incentive with more money and more availability for projects. Robinson looked over the RMP and said it's explicit in that it calls for protecting cultural aspects of municipalities. Protecting is also preserving and a lot of UDC's projects memorialize the cultural and historical significance of these towns. Robinson does feel there is justification for NPS to reconsider the funding. Hauser-Hahn said she believes Heister gave UDC the steps on how to go about requesting changes. Ramie said UDC would have to submit a written request and base it on the RMP. Henry said since NPS is always focusing on the "outstanding remarkable values" of which cultural is one, he recommends that we review this and discuss it more at the Operations meeting on 5/28, and develop draft language to consider. Ramie said last year UDC put out its solicitation for TAGs in mid-July and applications are due in August. Henry asked how much was budgeted for FY19 TAGs? Ramie said it's on the same line as River Cleanups. The total budget line is \$16,390, allocating \$5,000 for the River Cleanups. Roeder said it's kind of interesting that NPS took Federal money and



restored a historical bridge and then they went into the canal and had a whole cleanup project. He said let's hope that this is a positive thing we can work together on.

**Other:** Boyar said the UDC Awards Banquet was excellent. He really enjoyed the souvenir program. The Upper Delaware Trout Unlimited (TU) Chapter had many members there. The day before TU had done cleanups at Tower Road fishing access and the DEC fishing accesses at Callicoon, Narrowsburg and Barryville. During Boyar's 30 mile sojourn he was really appalled at how filthy Rt. 97 looked. He read in the paper this week, on the Hudson there is an organized River cleanup with multiple groups all participating at the same time. Boyar is just wondering if we can do better along the Delaware? A litter-ridden environment isn't scenic. Boyar said perhaps UDC can take some kind of leadership role with a multi-group effort with Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, river cleanup groups, Scouts, liveries, etc. Boyar said last year TU did a River cleanup in Long Eddy and Shaun Sensiba, who lives in that Town, helped. Sensiba said this year it's much better. Maybe people are more reluctant to be slobs when the litter isn't there. Roeder said one of problems here with grants for a river cleanup is that it has to go to a municipality. Boyar said TU got the bags from the county and free dumping stickers and TU filled five bags.

A motion to go into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel Issues was made by Henry seconded by Boyar. Henry asked that all UDC members and staff attend the Executive Session. A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Henry seconded by Robinson at 9:10 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Robinson, seconded by Boyar, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 5-15-19*