



# Upper Delaware Council

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## UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2023

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call followed reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Highland- Andy Boyar, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajsasz, Town of Deerpark- Virginia Dudko, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township- Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, State of New York- Ryan Coulter, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan (Zoom), Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Zoom), National Park Service- Lindsey Kurnath. Absent: Town of Tusten, Westfall Township. Staff in attendance: Executive Director- Laurie Ramie and Resources and Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt. Guests: Bill Dudko- Town of Deerpark Alternate, Don Hamilton- NPS (Zoom), Alex Garcia-Maldonado- NPS (Zoom). Media: Liam Mayo- River Reporter, Derek Kirk- Sullivan County Democrat, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent.

**Approval of May 4, 2023 meeting minutes:** A motion by Rajsasz seconded by Dudko, to approve the May 4, 2023 meeting minutes carried.

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

**Committee Reports:** There were no questions regarding previously distributed minutes: Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM), May 16 (chaired by Dudko); and Project Review, May 23 (chaired by Richardson). Robinson reported that minutes from the May 23 Operations Committee meeting are pending. Ramie explained that Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas did not have time to complete them before her May 31 final day of work and we will need to re-create them. Dudko shared as a follow-up to the WU/RM Committee meeting that the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program had been renewed by the Decree Parties through 5/31/2028. She knows that is a subject of interest.

### Status Reports

**Delaware River Basin Commission:** Bowman Kavanagh reported that the Commission's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter business meeting will be June 7 in person at Rutgers University in Camden, NJ and streamed on YouTube. The DRBC Toxics Advisory Committee will meet on June 14 at 9 a.m. and the Water Management Advisory Committee will meet on June 28 at 10 a.m., both via Zoom. It has been a dry season so far with a minimum of rainfall lately, so DRBC staff is keeping an eye on that. Ramie said that we were asked by a livery representative today whether the reservoir drawdowns have started for the Delaware Aqueduct repair project? Bowman Kavanagh said she will check on that since she's not sure what the decision point will be on whether to move forward with the targeted Oct. 1 shutdown. The DRBC has been posting information at: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/nyc-aqueduct-shutdown2023.html>. The DRBC's Hydrologic Conditions Report dated May 30 was included in the meeting packets.

**NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation:** Coulter agreed with Bowman Kavanagh's assessment that we do need rain. He put in a work order to repair potholes at the fishing access at Kellams Bridge and noticed that the DEC's sign at the Skinners Falls Access "looks terrible", so he has asked their Operations staff to address that also. If anybody sees any maintenance issues at DEC sites, please let him know so he can take action since he isn't

always out in the field to notice. The next step for improvements at the closed Highland Access is paving. Unfortunately, the quotes came in “extremely high”. DEC is negotiating with a contractor. It’s a relatively small job so he hopes that they should be able to start soon and finish within the month. Sharing a report from the NYS DEC Region 4 Fisheries Division, they will be doing a trout survey on the West Branch of the Delaware River tonight as part of a long-term project.

**PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:** Dugan reported that PA DCNR is concerned over dry weather impacts. Over the last 6-8 weeks, they had only one week of precipitation which took them from a bad spring into the summer wildfire season. While they normally have 80-90 forest fires all calendar year, there have already been 135 fires this season to date. It’s been very active. They look forward to a forecast for precipitation this weekend. In addition to the dry air mass that has stayed in place for such a long period of time, there is concern about lightning strikes sparking fires. A couple weeks ago, there was a frost kill event and vegetation that had already leafed out saw those impacts. They are going to do an aerial flight survey next week to map that out. Coupled with the dry period, they are concerned about the overall tree health. Just before Memorial Day, DCNR completed its spongy moth spraying program, treating 19,000 acres on state forest land in Pike and Monroe Counties. Across all the Commonwealth, they sprayed 280,000 acres. It was a bit of a delayed start but they only spray when the trees are ready. One positive impact of these conditions is that they are not seeing a lot of active caterpillars this year. Spongy moth egg masses hatched early and a lot of them died naturally from the lack of a food source caused by the unusual spring frost limiting the amount of leafy material. They will be doing injections against Emerald Ash Borer. Grant reviews by the DCNR are ongoing and awards will be announced this fall. Dugan said he’s pleased that Governor Shapiro has become such a strong advocate for PA parks and forests, getting out and about to show his support which bodes well for this four-year term.

On the topic of spongy moths, Dudko asked Coulter how New York State is looking for infestations? Coulter said he has seen a lot of caterpillars around his house but will ask their Forestry Division folks to find out more. Peckham observed that after that spring frost, he noticed a lot of knotweed died and the dry weather was also pushing rattlesnakes out to move toward water. He hadn’t seen rattlesnakes for years and believes that the knotweed plants will be stunted when they come back. Dugan agreed with both points. He said knotweed and mug wort both leafed out early before these invasive plants got killed off, but they will grow back. Visitors to PA lands have reported seeing a lot of snakes, though not rattlers, moving toward better habitat and water sources. Robinson said in Shohola Township, they escaped any significant spongy moth damage. When he compares State Game Lands to his, he doesn’t see a difference. Dugan said the brief wet period we had came at an opportune time because the caterpillars had already emerged. The PA Game Commission sprayed a lot of acreage, and their aircraft flew pretty low to the treetops, resulting in a lot of calls from people in the northern part of Pike County.

**National Park Service-Upper Delaware:** Kurnath reported that the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) staff is ramping up their water safety messaging. They had their first fatality over Mother’s Day weekend. The story is told in the *Sullivan County Democrat* article included in the meeting packet. The victim was reportedly declared missing from his campsite near Barryville, NY on May 13 around 11 p.m. and his body was discovered in the afternoon of May 14 after a full-scale search, washed up on the PA shoreline in Lackawaxen Township. An autopsy confirmed that the 53-year-old from Monroe, NY drowned. He had not been wearing a life jacket. Kurnath said they can’t overemphasize the importance of wearing a properly fitted life jacket. NPS UPDE will be presenting a water safety program at next month’s UDC meeting on July 6 to share information on contributing causes to drownings and how they are trying to combat them. Billboards with new messaging have been installed on NYS Rt. 97 and PA Rt. 652, and they are working with media and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau to help them promote the message that personal flotation devices save lives.

Kurnath said she was excited to announce that UPDE has hired a Community and Land Use Planner to succeed Cody Hendrix. While a press release has not yet been issued, her name is Angela Sabet and she is a resident of Callicoon, NY, therefore already in the river valley and familiar with the area. She hopes that Sabet will begin her duties in mid-June.

Don Hamilton and Alex Garcia-Maldonado have been representing NPS UPDE in agency coordination meetings for the Skinners Falls Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study and participated in the May 24 Project Advisory Committee meeting that Ramie will discuss under New Business. Kurnath also provided a “shout-out” to Hamilton for arranging a program about migratory fish for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of the Founding Fish: Upper

Delaware Shadfest on May 25 with a group of elementary school students coming to the Zane Grey Fishing Access in Lackawaxen. One student caught her first ever fish that day.

**UDC Executive Director's Report:** Ramie read from a notecard received from Cyrena Gurth and family from Lake Hiawatha, NJ, which stated, "To the Council, Thank you for recognizing the work of Diane Banach. We've been friends since the family moved to Mill Rift, Pa. Our daughters brought us together. Please accept this small remembrance in her name." A \$50 check was enclosed. Ramie explained that this was in response to the In Memoriam notice that she included in the Spring 2023 issue of "The Upper Delaware" to recognize Diane Banach's six years of service on the UDC board as Westfall Township's alternate representative. She appreciated that Cyrena Gurth had included an address for Diane's husband Joseph Banach so she could send him a copy of the newsletter and acknowledgement of the donation. Secondly, the UDC will open its Fiscal Year 2024 round of Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) very soon in early June, with applications due by August 18 which is also the project deadline for the FY 2023 program. She encourages UDC member towns, townships, and river valley counties to start thinking about potential funding proposals. The Project Review Committee will hold its annual special meeting to review applications on Sept. 12 and TAG awards will be voted on at the first full Council meeting of the new fiscal year on Oct. 5. Thirdly, Ramie sent a letter to PA Senator Lisa Baker, Representative Jonathan Fritz and Representative Joe Adams on May 31 at the suggestion of Wayne County Republican Committee Chairperson and UDC Damascus Township Alternate Steve Adams re: Pennsylvania Budget Line-Item Funding for the Upper Delaware Council. When Adams asked about setting up a meeting on this topic, the senator suggested that the UDC outline the issue in correspondence as a first step. Similarly, Sullivan County Republican Committee Chairperson and Town of Cochection Supervisor Gary Maas had facilitated a meeting between the UDC and NYS Senator Peter Oberacker on July 6 to provide the new 51<sup>st</sup> Senate District representative with an orientation about the Council. This discussion at the UDC office will be by invitation. Fourth, Ramie referenced the June and July calendar handouts of meetings, activities, and deadlines. She said that while we are busy all year, the summer season brings additional public outreach events such as the Delaware River Sojourn for which Engelhardt serves on the steering committee and will help coordinate the Upper Delaware section on June 16-19, and several festivals including July 15 NPS Zane Grey Festival and July 23 Narrowsburg Riverfest. More information can be provided on any of the listed entries upon request. Lastly, while there have been some additional clean-ups following the official April 22-30 dates of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, she felt it was a safe time to offer commemorative t-shirts from our remaining supply to anyone on the board or in the audience who hadn't received one yet or knew of people that should have to recognize their overall support. The shirts also serve to promote the UDC with its name and large "land-water-people" partnership logo on the back. They are available and marked by size in the front small conference room.

### **New Business**

**5/24 Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Committee Report by Laurie Ramie:** Ramie said she decided it would be easier to show the slides from the Skinners Falls Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study that had been shared at the May 24 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting than to summarize this information in a written report since some of the graphs and maps were quite detailed. There were only four PAC members present for the one-hour virtual meeting, including Ramie for the UDC, Supervisor Steve Adams for Damascus Township, Don Hamilton and Alex Garcia-Maldonado for NPS, and Planning Director Craig Rickard for Wayne County. The other participants were from PennDOT, NYS DOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the project's consultants, AECOM. The purpose of this fourth PAC meeting was to report on results of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis, Phase 1 (HBRA), which Ramie displayed a copy of while saying that it is available to anyone through the project's website. She will share the link in this meeting's Action Items. Consulting parties and the State Historic Preservation Offices have been asked to submit comments on it by June 25.

The purpose of the HBRA is to examine two questions: 1) Can the bridge be rehabilitated while still retaining its character-defining features per the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) standards? 2) How well will the rehabilitated bridge meet the project needs? This analysis is typically conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review which is an upcoming phase after the PEL study. The DOT/FHWA has committed to carrying a Rehabilitation Alternative into the NEPA process; therefore, a Phase 2 HBRA will be done as part of the NEPA review. Phase 1 seeks to identify the preservation priority of the bridge and its character-defining features in order to determine how much load the rehabilitated bridge could carry. Under HBRA Phase 2, "additional non-traditional

rehabilitation options” will be analyzed. Ramie said when she asked for examples of these options, they mentioned installing dry hydrants for emergency usage and cantilevered sidewalks to meet the bridge’s purpose and needs.

The analysis found that the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge that connects the Town of Cochection to Damascus Township has “exceptional” historic significance. It meets Criterion C for Engineering Significance as a rare, intact example of a multiple span Baltimore truss bridge of moderate length. It is also a contributing element to the Milanville Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The primary character-defining features are the two Baltimore through truss spans, the truss configurations, pin connections, and the stone piers, abutments, and wing walls. Secondary character-defining features include the size and scale of the structure, portals, bracing, finials, decorative railings, bridge plaques, and decorative ornamentation. Close-up photos were shown of these various features.

A chart describing the Rehabilitation History of Skinners Falls Bridge was shown, starting in 1974-75, based on when the first rehab plans were developed in 1971 when the bridge was at a 9-ton capacity, through a 1986 rehab, and emergency repairs in 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2016 before it was “permanently closed to traffic” in 2019. In that period, the capacity was downgraded to a 7-ton posting in 2007 then to a 4-ton posting in 2013. Specific rehab or repair activities were listed.

Ramie said the biggest take-away from the report to her was the finding that three rehabilitation options would all meet the SOI standards with maintenance plans required. The options listed are: Minimum (4-ton) Rehabilitation for \$15.6 million (10-15 year design life); 7-ton Rehabilitation for \$15.7 million (also 10-15 year design life); and 10-ton Rehabilitation for \$17.3 million (the most extensive rehab to yield a 25-year design life). The costs were from a 2014 Feasibility Study, escalated to 2022 dollars, including deck replacements and significant substructure repairs in each case. She quoted from the HBRA conclusion for the 10-ton Rehabilitation option: “Overall, the task of rehabilitating the Skinners Falls Bridge to a 10-ton weight limit does not include significantly more work than the minimum rehabilitation option. Since all rehabilitation options at a minimum include the sizeable task of replacing the floor system to extend the structure’s life, the additional work in this alternative does not yield a significant increase in cost between the minimum and 7-ton weight limit alternatives. The positive outcomes of the 10-ton weight limit rehabilitation alternative include increased structural capacity of the bridge.” (HBRA Phase 1, page 33)

The consultant stated that HBRA Phase 2 is due to be completed in Winter 2024-25. PennDOT will conduct a Consulting Party meeting once that occurs. They next reviewed Conceptual Bridge Alignment Locations, showing aerial maps of the bridge area that depicted environmental resources such as the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River boundary, various watersheds, flood zones, wetlands, and the NYS DEC Skinners Falls River Access; and a second map showing cultural and socioeconomic resources, such as commercial businesses and the two National Register of Historic Places listings for the bridge itself and the Milanville Historic District. Six different alignments for the bridge endpoints, along with a comparison to the existing bridge, were then superimposed in various colors. Summaries of pros and cons for the impacts of each alignment were provided. Ultimately, the HBRA recommended dismissing three of the conceptual alignments while advancing three of them for further study. When Ramie asked why this was being reviewed when the analysis said that rehabilitation of the existing bridge is viable, the consultant said it was a requirement and not part of the same document.

Next steps for the PEL Study include conducting an evaluation of bridge types, holding a public meeting, and publishing the PEL report in order to complete the study ahead of the NEPA phase for Section 106 review, which requires preparing supporting documents, doing Phase 2 of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis, public involvement, and pursuing a NEPA decision and permitting. Since the presentation didn’t provide any timeframes for those actions, Ramie asked when these will occur. While AECOM representative Lisa Brozey said that the timing hasn’t been programmed yet, it’s expected that build alternatives will be ready this fall or early winter and the public meeting is targeted for 2024, prior to moving into the NEPA phase. Additional information will be available through PennDOT’s project website or by contacting [skinnersfallsbridge@aecom.com](mailto:skinnersfallsbridge@aecom.com) or (610) 234-5148.

Bill Dudko remarked that if this bridge ever gets rehabilitated, there should be a memorial plaque installed recognizing the efforts of the late Ed Wesely who was such a passionate advocate for it.

**5/25 NPS Letter to UDC: Camp FIMFO Substantial Conformance Recommendation:** A letter from NPS UPDE Superintendent Lindsey Kurnath to UDC Chairperson Aaron Robinson dated May 25 was included in the packets. It

reads, “We are responding to the recommendation from the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) dated September 2, 2022 for a finding of substantial conformance to the 1986 Land and Water Use Guidelines (LWUG) for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for the Town of Highland special use permit application from Northgate Resorts for Camp FIMFO. We have reviewed the updated submission provided on April 12, 2023. This submission is in response to our February 17, 2023 correspondence, asking for additional information necessary to complete our evaluation of the proposal. We appreciate the applicant’s response, specifically the H&H analysis and the high-water event evacuation plan. NPS has conducted a preliminary substantial conformance review based on the information received to date. The review revealed elements of the proposal that fundamentally conflict with the LWUG. We request UDC organize a meeting to include NPS, UDC, the Town of Highland, and the applicant at the earliest convenience of all parties, during which we will present our determination. Thank you for your assistance and the willingness of UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist, Kerry Engelhardt, to engage with reviewing updates from the applicant. Her help has been invaluable. If you have questions, please contact me at [Linsdey\\_Kurnath@nps.gov](mailto:Linsdey_Kurnath@nps.gov) or 570-729-8251 x2225.”

Kurnath said she is requesting this coordination of a meeting to brief the four parties on the NPS findings. Out of respect for the significance and longevity of this project, she didn’t want to simply drop the determination into an email. Henry said the NPS should have brought their concerns to the Project Review Committee to give them a chance to review them first, as well as being shared with the UDC throughout the process. Kurnath said that’s not where we are in this process. Through Public Law 95-625 Section 704, Congress has assigned responsibility for protecting lands within the Upper Delaware River Corridor to the Secretary of the Interior, as delegated to the National Park Service. This responsibility includes making determinations of substantial conformance with the LWUG, based on recommendations from the UDC, and this authority is delegated to the NPS Regional Director for Interior Regional 1. The UDC gave NPS its report and recommendation; now it’s to the point that the NPS gives the final determination. Peckham said he believes the FIMFO concerns voiced by the NPS should first be disclosed and discussed with the UDC’s Project Review Committee to determine whether they are warranted under the River Management Plan before meeting with Highland and the applicant. He said that the UDC is supposed to be “the go-between”. Kurnath replied that NPS is indeed asking UDC to be the conduit to setting up this requested meeting among the parties. She recognizes that the customary protocol would be to provide the determination to the UDC and the Town of Highland in the same message. She decided to request the meeting out of respect for all parties involved and the goal of providing rationale and answering questions in one forum, rather than fielding multiple requests for response. Rajs said that the UDC should be made aware of the conflicts the letter alludes to; in all fairness, the Project Review Committee should have been given a heads-up. Kurnath said she will look into that. When the NPS found a different use applied in a Lackawaxen Township Zoning Ordinance review than what the UDC had found, she was told that the Council does not revisit their substantial conformance recommendations once they’re made. Peckham said the UDC made its substantial conformance recommendation for the FIMFO project based on the available information we had at the time. NPS went further to ask for additional information from the applicant since then. Engelhardt confirmed that all the supplemental information has been shared with the UDC as well. Henry made a motion which Rajs seconded for the NPS to come in to present these conflicts at the next Project Review Committee meeting. He said we are being asked to broker a meeting without knowing what the issues are. Boyar said this is a new situation and it is precisely the role of the UDC to figure out what the game plan should be. NPS is saying there are issues. The Town of Highland Planning Board’s position is unknown. Someone has to broker a meeting to see where it stands and that body should be the UDC. We’re in the middle. The applicant, planning board, UDC, and NPS should be in the room at the same time. That’s the perfect resolution. Robinson said that the UDC should have the same details that NPS used to analyze the project. We acted early on. What changed? We are operating in a vacuum. We want to be well-informed. Engelhardt reiterated that she has been copied on all submissions and they have been discussed with the Project Review Committee. She went through a timeline of the documentation and said, in her opinion, that nothing she saw caused it to rise to the level of changing the UDC’s position. She would be happy to present that information again. Robinson agreed that would be helpful. Henry said we need NPS to explain how they differ with our opinion. Richardson said he thinks this procedure is correct. Having been on the Council since 1989, he does not recall the UDC ever having a reversal of a substantial conformance recommendation. A discussion is the way to go. It would be helpful to understand what the specific issues are so we can examine them. Henry urged everyone to look at the procedure outlined in the Project Review Workbook.

Kurnath said, to her, that was an earlier step than where we are now in this process. As of Nov. 17, 2022, the NPS should have made its decision according to the review clock in the workbook. She has been thinking intentionally

about how to navigate these issues. There has been a lot of direct communication with the applicant, which is possibly outside of protocol for project review. They're in a tough spot with what should have happened and how this ended up. G. Dudko said this is a partnership. The UDC didn't hear the NPS process as we go into this meeting. We would like to know your concerns as you heard our position. Technically, Robinson said the UDC doesn't deal with the applicant, and the applicant shouldn't be dealing directly with NPS either. The UDC is the intermediary between the towns and the federal government. We instruct applicants to communicate through the towns. Richardson said he doesn't recall any section of the PR Workbook that addresses not having enough information. We did everything correctly according to the workbook's timeline based on the information that the town provided to us. There is a question over what has changed. Engelhardt said she feels it is going to come down to different interpretations. Boyar said he was not happy with the outcome of the substantial conformance recommendation. He does not think the UDC gave the same in-depth analysis to Camp FIMFO as it did the Narrowsburg Veterinary Office project, which had already been approved by the Tusten Planning Board. Richardson said he respectfully disagrees with that opinion. We have spent and continue to spend a lot of time researching FIMFO. The questions that came up about the veterinary office were legitimate to raise. Kurnath said she will take this request for a briefing of the Project Review Committee to her leadership. This was the Regional Director's plan for how to issue this determination. The intent was to share their findings with the UDC and town, and the applicant in this case too. What step has she missed? It is not typical for the NPS to brief the UDC before announcing a final determination after UDC has provided its recommendation. Peckham said if NPS had questions on our review, they should discuss them with us. If they are legitimate concerns, the UDC would go to the town and then provide their input back. The towns control what happens in their communities. Kurnath replied that it hasn't been happening that way though. This is a great opportunity to re-set how we work together. She has been uncomfortable the whole time with dealing directly with the applicant, although the Town of Highland and UDC were copied on everything. Richardson said, in a normal situation, we have a Park Service representative in attendance at each Project Review Committee. If NPS has specific concerns and we are at odds, that's where we work it out. Greier said he feels that we should take our time and do this right. This is probably one of the biggest projects we've ever voted on. It could change the look of the whole river valley. Robinson noted that we don't have an infinite amount of time. There's a legal clock running on these reviews. Greier said it's our charge to keep this corridor scenic. We don't even know what the town wants. We're kept in the dark. Engelhardt said the town appears reluctant to make a decision until NPS does. Henry said if there ever was a time when NPS had issues to share, it should be now. He asked to call the question. Engelhardt suggested that, rather than waiting until the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday end of the month, they may want to consider holding an earlier special meeting. After discussion, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday was selected. A motion by Henry, seconded by Rajs, to convene a special meeting of the UDC Project Review Committee on June 13 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Town of Highland Camp FIMFO Substantial Conformance review with the National Park Service carried unanimously.

**Personnel Subcommittee Report: Administrative Support Assistant Vacancy:** Ramie reported for anyone unaware that Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas had submitted a letter of resignation on May 17, effective May 31. Ramie immediately placed advertisements in four newspapers, an online recruiting service, workforce development listings for Sullivan, and Wayne/Pike Counties, the Upper Delaware Community Network, the UDC website and social media pages to seek applications for the new title of Administrative Support Assistant by June 1. We received six applications and will arrange interviews with leading candidates following the Personnel Subcommittee's vetting of the resumes and letters of interest. She and Engelhardt will be dividing up the responsibilities for this job until the vacancy is filled. Ramie notified health plan providers and will ask the bookkeeper to calculate vacation compensation for the maximum 30 days for Hall-Bagdonas' final paycheck. Personnel Subcommittee Chairperson Henry asked if members could meet briefly after adjournment of this meeting to discuss another personnel matter.

**Other:** Henry urged everyone to be careful to lock up based on a State Police report about a string of substantial burglaries that have been committed in the Beach Lake area where stolen possessions were being taken to Monticello.

### **Old Business**

**UDC News Release: "Callicoon-Damascus Bridge Ready for \$18 Million Rehab":** Ramie described the three capital projects that the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission had approved at its May 10 annual meeting. The 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge will under an \$18,150,000 major rehabilitation for which the contract letting is scheduled on August 24 and subsequent construction will take place over two seasons with one lane kept open to traffic. Commissioners approved \$1,092,500 to continue the PEL Study for the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge which has been shut down to all vehicular and pedestrian usage since failing an emergency

inspection on Oct. 16, 2019. They had previously allocated \$2 million in 2022; \$400,000 in 2021; and \$200,000 in 2020 for the study and preliminary engineering that was initiated in October 2020 to guide the decision-making process on whether to preserve the existing bridge through rehabilitation, tear it down and build a new structure, or eliminate the crossing entirely. The final capital construction approval was \$460,000 for design work to rehabilitate the deck from its open grid system to concrete, preserve the trusses, replace all stringers, and paint the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge. She added that the 1953 Cochection, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge which underwent a major rehab that started in 2021 will be completed with a paint job under contract this summer. Her news release also provided details of a series of maintenance projects on various bridges resulting from inspection deficiencies.

**5/15 NPS Determination: Big Eddy Brewing Special Use Permit Substantial Conformance:** Engelhardt reported that the NPS has issued a final determination concurring with the UDC's substantial conformance recommendation made at the April meeting for the Town of Tusten's Special Use Permit for Big Eddy Brewing. A copy of Regional Director Gay Vietzke's May 15 letter was included in the packets.

**UDC News Release: "Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Grateful for 2023 Support":** Along with providing copies of the UDC's May 31<sup>st</sup> news release expressing appreciation to the Litter Leaders, sponsors and clean-up volunteers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, Ramie reminded everyone of the availability of 2023 t-shirts.

**Other:** 1) Rajs announced that Sullivan County has appointed Scott Schulte as its new Commissioner of Emergency Management/Homeland Security and that she will present the UDC's gift of a framed map of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor boundary in the Town of Lumberland to the town board at their next meeting. Ramie asked her to please submit a photo of the presentation. 2) Robinson said he finds it "disgraceful and pathetic" that his individual letters to federal elected officials who represent the Upper Delaware River Valley about the UDC's financial crisis only yielded one form letter style acknowledgement from U.S. Senator Fetterman. He spent a lot of time writing those letters and doesn't know how to get their attention to tell them that the UDC's operation is based on Congressional legislation that they are ignoring. The lack of a response won't stop him from writing more though.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Roeder, seconded by Rajs, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. carried.