



Upper Delaware Council

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UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES June 3, 2021

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock- Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont- Jim Greier, Town of Delaware- Thomas Dent, Town of Cochetcon- Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajsz (phone), Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Zoom), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan (Zoom), National Park Service- Superintendent- Joe Salvatore. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resources and Land Use Specialist- Shannon Cilento, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: Town of Highland- Jim Gutekunst, Westfall Township- Michael Barth, State of New York-Bill Rudge. Guests: Brendan Dohn, IT Specialist- NPS, Hon. Ronald J. Edwards, Buck Moorhead (Zoom), Linda Dexter, Ingrid Peterec- NPS Chief of Interpretation, Cody Hendrix- NPS Community & Land Use Planner, Ginny Dudko- Town of Deerpark Alternate. Media: Liam Mayo- River Reporter, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent (Zoom).

Swearing in of Officers by Hon. Ronald J. Edwards, Senior Magisterial District Judge: Dexter welcomed Judge Ronald J. Edwards. The 2021 elected officers: Chairperson Jeffrey Dexter, Vice-Chair Susan Sullivan, and Secretary/Treasurer Alan Henry; took their oaths during a swearing-in ceremony officiated by Edwards, who witnessed and sealed their certificates.

Presentation: “Introduction to Water and Weather Alerts” by Brendan Dohn, IT Specialist with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: Dexter introduced Dohn. Dohn said he is a 17-year Marine Veteran. He’s a Gunnery Sergeant in the Marine Reserves and currently serves with an Artillery Unit. UDC members thanked Dohn for his service. Prior to working for Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) he was a dispatcher for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; where they dispatched for a lot of the incidents in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Dohn said regulations pertaining specifically to UPDE reside within the park's Superintendent’s Compendium. The Superintendent's Compendium serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of the park. This document is generally updated yearly or as needed by the Superintendent upon advice of all of the Division Chiefs at the Unit. Under Closures section (a)(2) of the Superintendent’s Compendium it states: “The following designations, conditions, and/or restrictions are imposed on all specific use or activities. During periods of high water all individuals in or on the waters of the Delaware River within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are required to wear a Type I, II, III, or V U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The PFD must be of the proper size for the individual wearing it and must be in good, serviceable condition. High water is defined as six (6) feet and above, as measured at the Callicoon Gauge for all points upstream of the northern side of the Narrowsburg Bridge. For the river downstream of that point to the southern boundary of the Unit, high water is defined as six (6) feet and above as measured at the Barryville Gauge. This condition is necessary to manage the increased risk to river users and rescue personnel during periods of high water.”

Dohn shared that alerts about streamflow conditions are available via two services from USGS: WaterAlert and WaterNow. WaterAlert is automated emails or text messages whenever certain parameters (that a person can define) are exceeded at one of the gaging stations.

To receive a WaterNow email or text message from WaterNow@usgs.gov, including the USGS Site Number of the gage you want to query (optionally add parameter codes to customize your query). You will receive an automated response within a few minutes. You can sign up by going to: USGS WaterAlert Mapper: <https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/wateralert/>; Manage Existing USGS Water Alerts: <https://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/help/manage.html> and USGS Water Alerts – Supported Parameters: <https://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/parameters/>

Real-time data parameters available for subscription are surface water, groundwater, water quality, and precipitation.

Dohn described the difference between Weather.gov projections versus USGS gage conditions. Weather.gov projections include a hydrograph with height predations relative to flood stage based on historical data and local weather forecast.

Weather.gov – Delaware River at Callicoon:

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=bgm&gage=ccrn6>

Weather.gov – Delaware River at Barryville:

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=bgm&gage=BRYN6>

USGS water gage conditions provide real-time measurements of data based on installed equipment at that location.

USGS Gage Data – Delaware River at Callicoon: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?01427510>

USGS Gage Data – Delaware River at Barryville:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?agency_code=USGS&site_no=01432160

Weather.gov (National Weather Service) does not provide direct communication but offers a list of providers based on the alert or forecast you wish to receive, such as by email, text, phone call, computer software, app, desktop browser or radio.

Ingrid Peterec showed members updated content on the NPS website: <https://www.nps.gov/upde/index.htm> and the virtual story maps that she has been working on with assistance from interns.

There was a brief question and answer session after the presentation. Peckham asked about the addition of flood stage information to the Lordville gage readings. Dohn recommended looking at the USGS site or reaching out to them.

Approval of May 6th Meeting Minutes: A motion by Robinson seconded by Henry, to approve the May 6th, 2021 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding the following meetings. They were: May 18th Water Use/Resource Management, May 25th Project Review, and May 25th Operations.

Dudko said she had a comment that's not from committee but from herself. The 5/18 Water/Use Resource Management meeting 4/29 Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Report by Hall-Bagdonas which was discussed. Dudko mentioned one of the speakers, Marcus Shoffner said, "When people see their language on trail heads they can see themselves in that space." Hall-Bagdonas said that made her think of the bilingual signage at the NPS Park Unit. Dudko said another speaker, Taiji Nelson mentioned the "spiral of silence"; when confronting difficult issues sometimes people chose not to speak out at all. Nelson also spoke about the concept of the language of "native", "nonnative", "alien" and "exotic" species etc. being racialized. Nelson is an Asian American and educator and shared how when he speaks about Japanese Knotweed to children, they look at him funny. Dudko said the more she thought about it the more it got to her, saying in today's climate so much comes down to Critical Race Theory and diversity and we lose the message in all that clamor. She said as an educator, a lot of that concerns her. You hear Japanese Knotweed, Asian carp, the Asian Flu, Hong Kong Flu etc. She said in her opinion that is to note where things come from and where they started. She said as an educator it's not to put down any group; it's to note

where these things originated. She said we teach children when we move things from one place to another, we're taking them out of their element and taking them away from their natural predators and that's when they get out of hand. She said if we take away those labels sometimes that's when we lose the full educational value. Dudko said she feels sometimes we become oversensitive about some of these issues. She said are we going to take away Asian and African elephant and just call them elephants? She said she would hate to see DEC or NPS remove these labels because we've become so sensitive to all of these issues. She said she's not going to be silent anymore when these issues come up. Hall-Bagdonas said she would like to clarify that it was her statement in the report saying that seeing the bilingual signs at the Upper Delaware & Scenic Recreational River NPS Unit which made her think of Shoffner's quote.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Bowman Kavanagh their Business Meeting is on 6/9. There is a bit of an overlap with DRBC's Monitoring and Coordination Committee also scheduled for 6/9. The Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting is on 6/17 on which Ramie has a seat. All upcoming meetings can be found at: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/> The Hydrologic Conditions Report from 5/3 was provided in the meeting packets.

Following an offer Bowman Kavanagh made at the last meeting for a presentation on Microplastics she spoke with their Aquatic Biologist, Jacob Bransky, who is leading the DRBC Microplastic Study. Bransky is currently in the collection stage of his project and is happy to present his data in the fall. If UDC would like a presentation sooner it could be a more general presentation. Bowman Kavanagh will follow up with Ramie.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Absent. Ramie said staff received an auto response that Rudge was out of the office until tomorrow.

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: Dugan provided a series of updates in the meeting packet that are relevant to the Commonwealth. PA state parks and forests are already seeing a large volume of public coming out to use natural spaces just as they did last year. Their staff are working tirelessly to maintain the resources they have while at the same time protect the natural resources. Last year they saw that a lot of people would park along the highway or a local roadway creating potential safety issues and walk in to the site. In some of the state parks in PA they have implemented restrictions going into this year such as capacity limits, not allowing overflow parking in areas that used to allow it, not allowing walk-in traffic. The parking area is designed to meet the capacity of what the resource of the park can handle. He believes Delaware Water Gap has implemented some restrictions from what he has seen driving through the area. Dugan said DCNR is happy to see so many people come out to experience nature and natural resources but their job is also to manage those resources and try to make sure they are here for current and future generations.

On 6/24 DCNR Forestry completed a substantial Gypsy Moth Suppression Effort that was only on DCNR State Game Lands and U.S. Forest Service Lands. It did not span up into our region. The data from the previous year showed that we did not have a large population of Gypsy moth caterpillars or proliferation in the Upper Delaware.

Just to the West, there were some spray blocks in the Upper Susquehanna area. Their staff will be monitoring for Gypsy moth defoliation populations from Spring into the Summer. On Wednesday he was on site visits and saw that the caterpillars hatched and they are starting to defoliate, what they call shot gunning or shot holing, so they are just starting to show their activity in a few places. Dugan said keep an eye out in your woods and woodlots and you can always let him know via email. As they head into July, DCNR staff will do an annual aerial monitoring where they fly grids across the entire region to do aerial surveillance for defoliation. Hopefully the wet weather we're getting will kick in a lot of the natural controls that are out there. There's a fungus and a virus that both will reduce the population of the caterpillars.

Pennsylvania Game Commission hunting licenses go on sale 6/14. You can buy them online or in person.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Salvatore thanked Dohn for his presentation. He said it's very important when it come to safety, not only does it help NPS make decision on the river but it potentially saves lives. He also thanked Peterec, saying the resources we have in this area are very important and the work that she's doing on the NPS website with her team is a credit to her leadership as well. He congratulated Dexter, Sullivan, and Henry for getting sworn in as officers for the UDC.

Regarding the Ten Mile River (TMR) Agreement, he's gotten permission from Washington D.C. to enter into what they're calling a licensing agreement which is a new term that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) were not familiar with. Salvatore would sign off on the agreement here locally and they could go ahead and enter in the lease and take over 40 acres of land. He's still waiting to hear back from BSA. He's been calling and emailing them for a week. BSA said they want their attorneys to review the documents and they had some issues with wanting to make sure that NPS will support hunting the land through the hunting season. Salvatore said he told them to edit the document with track changes. NPS did receive some complaints over Memorial Day weekend because they didn't have facilities at TMR but he said he can't offer those right now without an agreement. He doesn't feel comfortable taking the risk when it comes to the legal aspect of sending NPS staff over there and doing maintenance, education, etc. He's hoping to solidify the agreement within the next week or so. NPS would like to have a presence there by the 7/4 holiday weekend.

Salvatore wrote a Letter of Support for the preservation restoration of Skinner's Falls Bridge which he submitted on Monday to PennDOT. It's provided in the meeting packet and he said if anyone has questions or concerns feel free to reach out to him.

NPs has been preparing for summer operations. Last week they did Park CPR and EMT training. They teamed up with the Red Cross and Salvatore said he was proud of the outcome. They also did a canoe safety training last Thursday and Friday. A lot of staff members couldn't make it so they are going to run the training again next Thursday and Friday to make sure people know how to navigate on the river. They have onboarded all of their interns and most of their seasonal employees with exception of one seasonal law enforcement officer. Mike Portnoff is their new Law Enforcement Ranger who replaced Sean McNeil. Salvatore said Portnoff is a great guy and will be ready for when the summer season arrives. Portnoff came from Gateway National Recreation Area. They are onboarding Brian Schumacher in the coming weeks. They brought Ron Babus on full-time. Babus was a seasonal employee subject to furlough before that. Babus will be the lead on their Water Safety Program.

On 6/16 Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River will be accepting a donation of an original, signed Zane Grey book. This will be happening at the Zane Grey Museum. As Salvatore said at a previous meeting, they are not opening the Zane Grey Museum this summer. They are short on a few interns and seasonal employees, and they didn't have a lot of visitations within the museum last year. He said if anyone here is interested in attending the book donation, or would like to access the museum to contact NPS.

Hendrix said Peterec touched on virtual interns. NPS staff met this morning to go over the Fiscal Year 2022 projects they want to do. He said Dexter brought up the Historic Districts in Milanville and Damascus and he thought it would be a great opportunity to get a virtual intern to meet with the historical societies in the corridor and identify historical places, put pictures on social media and then eventually do virtual story maps. Richardson asked for Cohecton's Historic District to be included. Cilento said she met with the Damascus Historical Society last week based on Dexter's interest. They also wanted to discuss a Technical Assistance Grant with her. She spoke with Lauren Hauptman and said we're on board with doing the virtual intern tour. Hendrix said the project description is due by 6/18. He said he would share whatever responses they receive. He thinks they will get one to two interns because they only work 10-hour weeks. Another idea was getting someone in GIS to look at the overall development of the corridor since its inception in the 80's and over time where you are seeing the most growth. Peckham said there are a few groups like the Pinchot Institute that have done studies like that on the area. Hendrix said Don Hamilton of NPS sent him an email today from 2008 that Shippensburg University and NASA did a potential development of 10-15 years out. Sullivan wanted to remind Hendrix and NPS that there are oral histories that were digitized. She said it would be cool if there were oral histories along with the pictures. For example, in

Damascus and other community centers there are pictures of churches, houses, and architecture. There are also stories that people told. Dexter said the NPS is distributing the transcripts. Some of the historical societies are now getting the histories that came from their area. Peckham said previous Superintendent Kris Heister had a list of people that NPS still needed permission for the transcripts to be released. Some of these people passed away and maybe their kin can decide for them to be release? Richardson said that Town of Cochection was the first to get their transcripts.

Ramie asked Salvatore how many Law Enforcement Rangers will be staffed after the new seasonal person is on board? He said four full year-round and one six-month Ranger. Sullivan asked if that staff is shared with the Delaware Water Gap NPS? Salvatore said no. He said they have a good relationship with the Superintendent at Delaware Water Gap where Salvatore was the Acting Superintendent. They are great at collaborative resources. He's also having the same conversation with the Superintendent at Steamtown. Ramie asked if the formal agreement was still in place for sharing services between Delaware Water Gap and Upper Delaware regarding law enforcement? Salvatore said there's not any formal agreement but it's real simple casual agreement they have with each other and it doesn't have to be formalized. He said if they didn't have that relationship, it would be something like a supplemental agreement. Ramie said before it was a proposal that came before the UDC to essentially sign off on and endorse. Salvatore said to his knowledge, that doesn't exist as far as formalized scope and he doesn't think they need it.

Ramie asked if there was any follow-up to the Great American Outdoors Act. NPS was going to look for projects for which they could submit funding. Salvatore said right now they are focusing on the top 35 parks in the system. It's about big projects because it's about executing the funding right now. He said they don't really have anything that qualifies them to get any of that Great American Outdoors Act output in the first couple years. In the out years they will start looking at the medium and smaller parks and the smaller projects. They've got a lot shelf-ready federal highway projects across the service. He believes the legislation is limited to 30-35% of roads for the Great American Outdoors Act. The rest of it has to be spent on structures. The Federal Highway Program has been so sound with the NPS because of the Condition Assessment Program they've had they have a shelf ready projects to go. Salvatore said it's not like they get to execute 30-35% every year. Out of the \$6 million over the five years 30-35% is limited to roads. A lot of that is executed upfront because they have so many projects that are ready to go in parks like Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite and the National Malls. A lot of those facility projects are going to be bundled and executed because there's an expectation from Congress that not only the money be tracked but it be executed in a matter of time. He said right now NPS is trying to staff up at the Regional Office and then Washington D.C., as far as engineers, architects, project managers, contracting officers, etc. because they just don't have the capacity to execute the additional funding that's going to influx into the NPS. He said Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River isn't going to see any of that legislative funding in the near future but they are looking at it. He has a great Facility Manager on board, Jessica Weinman. He wants her to focus on a Cyclic Maintenance Program.

Ramie said one aspect of that legislation was to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and they were looking for allocations and requests. She said we did see a list that came out today. Salvatore said there was a lot of National Parks resource money that was in the process of being passed by the President's budget. He thinks it was around \$200 million+ across the service for Natural Resources. He had a conversation today with Don Hamilton to look into that. Ramie asked if they have any pending applications for funding? Salvatore said he can't answer that question right now. Ramie said there is an application pending on the LWCF list for funding for \$200,000 for acquisition of the Ten Mile River (TMR) Access (20 acres). Salvatore said it's on the list and it was left on because it's been on there for about three years and it was signed off on. He started having conversation with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) because they were hesitant to sell. NPS is still pursuing it and they'll see how it rolls out. That action won't start until FY 2022. Dudko noted that's only three months away.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie thanked Dexter for the quick work this week to make arrangements and for Judge Edwards to accept his request to officiate at our swearing-in ceremony which had been pending since February. As the agenda states, we will take our 2021 portrait right after adjournment then we invite everyone to enjoy some refreshments as we welcome back full Council meetings in person.

One harbinger that summer has arrived is when the NPS brings back their seasonal staff and interns. We appreciate that Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec invited Cilento to give a presentation about the UDC during their orientation on 5/20. Cilento said she and Peterec were working on a few projects when she got this request and it was nice to give a presentation in person again and talk about our partnership. She adapted the same presentation she had given to the SUNY Sullivan Zoom class about the UDC and its history. She incorporated some of the Five-Year Strategic Goals to talk about what UDC is focusing and working on. She also spoke about UDC's recent Litter charge. The group was attentive and had some great questions. Ramie said we always appreciate that opportunity, especially to stress the amount of private property in the Upper Delaware and that it's not a traditional National Park.

We've had a change in our typical media coverage. On 5/21, she and Hall-Bagdonas received a note from Linda Drollinger informing us that she has retired as a freelance reporter for the River Reporter and will no longer be covering UDC meetings. She said, "Thank you for all the help and information you've given me over the years. It's been a pleasure working with you." She also briefly worked for the UDC for five months in 2018 before Hall-Bagdonas joined the team. UDC welcomed Liam Mayo, full time reporter at the River Reporter. Ramie told him we look forward to your coverage and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to UDC staff.

Local resident Dr. Mort Malkin has published a new book which he came in to show Ramie today and asked her to bring to the UDC's attention. While Malkin previously published "Celebration of Spring in the Delaware Valley: Upper Delaware River in Verse and Image" from which we have featured a few of his poems in our newsletter, this subject matter is unrelated but she did promise to mention it. The new book is a historical analysis and collection of peace-themed poems titled, "Homo Sapiens: A Violent Gene?" It questions whether the perception of war as inevitably being part of man's nature needs rethinking. Malkin is described as a "decathlete, surgeon, teacher, artist, poet, archaeologist, and an independent, profound thinker and public intellectual." If you're interested, Ramie has a press release from the publisher.

At this month's UDC committee meetings on 6/15 and 6/22, we will start our analysis of where we stand with the tasks and projects that we identified in our new Five-Year Plan. A suggestion had been made to revisit that document after six months. Cilento is extracting the tasks that fall under the jurisdiction of Water Use/Resource Management, Project Review, and Operations for those committees to review.

Other upcoming activities include the opening of our Fiscal Year 2022 Technical Assistance Grant round. We will start our outreach to member municipalities and the five counties next week, with applications due by 8/20. Toward the end of June, we'll put out a call for nominations for the UDC's 33rd Annual River Valley Awards. Those will be due by 7/23, leading up to our 9/12 ceremony at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake. Those dates and others for June and July are found on your calendar handout. Our presenter for next month's full Council program on 7/1 has agreed to pivot from virtual to in person. The subject is Sullivan County Broadband. We don't have any other speakers lined up at this time.

Old Business

Request for Proposals: Long-term Fiscal Sustainability Plan and Economic Analysis: Ramie provided a copy of the two-page Request for Proposals (RFP) in the meeting packets. It's a bit of a tight timeframe we have in mind because we've put this out and the proposals are due back by 6/28. This is all with the goal that the projects need to be completed by 12/1, so we're trying to give the contractor as much time as possible. This RFP, once it was vetted by the Operations Committee, has been posted online through our website and social media. Ramie sent it directly to 14 different consulting firms that we're aware of. She also submitted it to the five-county planning department so they could help us disseminate it to their contacts. Mike Mrozinski from Pike County was particularly helpful in sending us lists of Excel spreadsheets of every contractor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We're advertising it as a legal notice in five newspapers over the course of this week and next week. We have also posted it to the American Planning Association which has a Pennsylvania chapter and an upstate New York chapter, it's an open listing for anybody who belongs to those organizations to see. Ramie said her greatest fear is nobody will bid on this. It's a bit of an unusual project asking for somebody to tell us as an organization, how we can diversify our funding and capitalize on grant opportunities and how long at our current level of flat federal funding we can last realistically, because at some point the balance is going to be thrown off and it would be impossible to operate on our current circumstances without the state funding that we were owed, etc. The other aspect of the project is an

update of the 1985 study that's an appendix to the River Management Plan (RMP), which was studying what the impact would be on finances on the local governments based on the designation of the Upper Delaware. We threw that in as an addendum, but the main project is the Fiscal Plan. We are paying for this out of our Pennsylvania Grant and have a little bit of additional money set aside as outside consulting services in our budget. Ramie said we have a fixed amount of money to work with, and she's hoping that we get enough bids, that it will be competitive, and we will let you know because we'll be coming back to you with those for the 7/1 meeting.

Other: Dexter said we had to speed up the agenda in order to get the Hon. Edwards in-and-out. Otherwise, the first item on the agenda would be acknowledging the passing of Ed Wesely. He read most of the members' comments and every single one is 100% true. It's truly a great loss at a critical time with the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge being up in the air. Dexter said we've seen his brochures, booklets and greeting cards and all the things Wesely did for school groups. He said he's amazed at how he could get volunteers for monarch butterflies from here to Florida and he figured out where they could rejoin the kaleidoscope (group of butterflies) down there. Ramie said he was a great volunteer for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Many people remember the Butterfly Barn. Ramie said he was a gem and she's glad UDC were able to honor Wesely with a Distinguished Service Award when he was 86 in 2017. Sullivan said Barbara Yeaman said in an email and it sticks out to her that it's our responsibility to carry things forward.

New Business

Draft Resolution 2021-14: Approving Records Management Needs Assessment Final Report & Policy and Procedures Manual: A Motion by Richardson seconded by Sullivan to approve Draft Resolution 2021-14: Records Management Needs Assessment Final Report & Policy and Procedures Manual carried.

Letter to NPS: UDC 2021-006 Miss Home Occupation Special Use Permit, Town of Tusten: A Motion by Greier seconded by Sullivan to approve the draft letter to NPS RE: 2021-006 Miss Home Occupation Special Use Permit, Town of Tusten carried.

“NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Approves Construction & Maintenance Plans: Ramie said this is a report in the form of a news release she issued based on the annual meeting. The meeting is generally focused on providing the results of the inspections that they do once a year with all of the engineers from the NYSDOT and PennDOT, and then setting the maintenance schedule and approving capital projects for the next fiscal year. You may have expected a lot of discussion about the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge but there wasn't because they simply observed that it's been closed since 2019, so there's no actual inspection needed there. Hendrix did point out to them that the NPS has observed people crossing it anyway on various smaller vehicles, which they're not supposed to be doing because it's supposed to be closed to pedestrians as well as a safety factor. Ramie talked to them about putting up nicer barriers or less obnoxious signage that would still convey the message that it's closed. The main discussion was about the Cochecton- Damascus Bridge because it was the day of the meeting that they started work on it in terms of restricting it to one lane. We subsequently saw a news release from NYSDOT saying that that alternating one way traffic controlled by temporary signals and the single lane started 5/26 and it will be in place until 11/30, depending on the weather. During that time, it's important to note that commercial trucks are not allowed on the bridge or vehicles exceeding the standard legal width of 8ft 6 inches. Dexter said that's not what we agreed upon, saying he thought they were going to allow commercial traffic. Ramie said it reads: “Commercial trucks with a hauling permit”. She doesn't know if there are commercial trucks that don't require a hauling permit. Ramie said she's sure it's because it's a single lane that it probably affects the weight post. The 1953 Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge was reduced to a single lane of traffic that same day to initiate its \$7,067,088 deck replacement. Awarded on 4/30, the contracted work is scheduled for completion by 10/31/2022. The Commission approved \$2,212,000 to design a major rehabilitation of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, for which no construction schedule was yet announced. The controversial study into the repair, replacement or removal of the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville PA Bridge received a \$400,000 earmark to fund the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL) that is underway. The Commission approved \$70,000 is to analyze re-decking options for future rehabilitation of the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge. Its open grid system requires frequent welding repairs. Consultants are looking into replacing it with a concrete deck. This work will continue the \$30,000 approved for the study in 2020. There was no capital construction work planned for the other bridges but Ramie likes to list them in the press release: the other Upper

Delaware River bridges that the interstate commission oversees are: Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA (newly built in 2018); Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA (newly built in 2006); Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA (original 1953 with a 2018 rehabilitation); Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA (original 1890 with a 1990 re-build and 2018 rehabilitation); Lordville, NY-Buckingham, PA (1992); and Hancock, NY-Buckingham, PA (1937).

Skidders Falls-Milanville Bridge PEL Study Comment Letters: 5/31 NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and 6/1 Damascus Citizens for Sustainability: Ramie said we wanted to share with you the NPS's letter, which was very comprehensive and we appreciate NPS taking that stance. We also share the letter from the Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS). The reason Ramie included this letter is because they referenced the UDC and the NPS many times throughout it. They, in fact, attached our letter and NPS's letter and many others going back in time. They also did a very comprehensive analysis and hired a consulting firm called Greenworks to do research and put the letter together. This was entered on the deadline day of 6/1. She wanted members to have a reference that they did accurately represent UDC's position. We received a hand-written letter from a Steven Shermeyer from Milanville, who's a part-time resident there and Florida otherwise. His letter was also sent to the Wayne County Commissioners and to the Wayne County Planning Department including his idea with sketch where he favors historic rehabilitation. Shermeyer said he feels the deck has to go and to bring in a crane to lift steel structures, bac trucks up and to take that timber deck away, and put in a concrete deck. Another option is to lift it up and put it on wheels, wheel it out of the way, then build the new deck. He basically made a lot of the same points that UDC did saying that a new bridge there is unnecessary and an unacceptable solution, etc. There were 143 people at the public hearing held by Zoom for the PEL hearing so PennDOT learned that there's a great level of interest in what happens with that bridge. Since the comment deadline closed on 6/1, she hasn't heard what the next steps are or when we can expect some action. Originally, we learned by being on the Project Advisory Committee that they had a pretty aggressive schedule to come up with selecting an alternative by the end of the summer. That may have been pushed back because the public comment period was extended from 4/23 to 4/30 and then 6/1. Ramie said you would assume that it will take some time to compile all of the responses. Sullivan said she would like to also thank Cilento for telling us about the Historic Bridges Program Manager that apparently exists. She thinks that the UDC's and the NPS's comments were excellent. She was personally grateful that NPS identified the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) affected.

Other: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 6-21-2021