



Upper Delaware Council

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

www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES August 1st, 2019

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Roeder called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs, Town of Fremont-Jim Greier, Town of Deerpark- David Dean, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township- Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, National Park Service- Marilou Ehrler, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan, State of New York-Bill Rudge. Staff in attendance: UDC Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist- Pete Golod, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: Town of Highland-Andy Boyar, Westfall Township- Michael Barth, Delaware River Basin Commission- Steve Tambini. Media- Peter Becker. Guests: Jennifer Claster- National Park Service, Ginny Dudko- Town of Deerpark, Roger Saumure- Shohola Township.

Presentation by Pete Golod, UDC Resource Specialist, and Jennifer Claster, Community & Land Use Planner for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: “Partnering to Protect the River: A River Management Plan Overview”: Claster said giving this overview of the River Management Plan (RMP) presentation will serve as a good introduction to eventually taking a closer look at the Project Review and Substantial Conformance Guide which at this stage has been passed off to Superintendent Kris Heister and Executive Director Laurie Ramie and Acting Superintendent Marilou Ehrler. Claster said they are all hopeful that everyone will be able to take a look at it this fall. Claster said the major feature that makes this park so unique is that it is literally people’s backyards because so much of it is privately owned. Of the 55,500 some acres within the park’s boundary, only about 5% of it or 30 acres is owned by the park. Greier said “I’m sorry but in the RMP it specifically says in bold letters it is not a National Park.” Claster agreed in the traditional sense it is not. Over 17 million people rely on the Delaware River Basin for drinking water but the river itself is pretty small. It only drains 4/10 of 1% of the continental U.S. Nine million of the 17 million people that get water from this system reside outside the basin in New York City and northern New Jersey. One of the reasons this river was found worthy of designation is that it is so proximal to all these people who live on the eastern seaboard, in what was referred to in the 1970s when the studies were done for the designations as “the expanding Megalopolis.” The term means one city runs into another city, runs into another city, etc. and here, at just a two-hour drive, is a really spectacular natural and cultural resource. In the 1970s there were initiatives to clean up and protect the nation’s waterways in relation to the Clean Water Act and also related in a way to the creation of dams for hydropower and water source creation. In this area we have Pepacton and Cannonsville that are a source of NYC’s water supply. There was also a project that was proposed for the Delaware Water Gap on Tocks Island to create a dam for hydroelectric power. The Army Corps came in and people were moved off of the land and then studies showed that the site was not going to work out the way they thought. The creation of dams for hydro was happening all over the country. To offset that, Wild and Scenic Rivers were designated so that there were rivers that would always be protected in their free-flowing condition and never be dammed.

On 11/10/1978, Congress charged the Secretary of Interior to administer an Upper Delaware Management Plan in accordance with the special provisions of the Upper Delaware Act as a unit of the National Park system and also as

a unit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Claster said we have this really interesting, dual character here. Our unit is really special in this way because there are two sets of operating principles that come together in this place. The enabling legislation charged this unit with protecting our outstanding water quality and free flow in what is called Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Claster said there was an Outstandingly Remarkable Values Report that had come out in the past ten years; NPS refers to them as ORV. It's another way for talking about the values of which the river was designated. The ORV Report can be found online. It is also found in the RMP, titled a little differently after page 63, when it mentions water resources, threatened and endangered species and cultural resources, etc. The ORVs are just a different way of describing the same things. Every National and Wild Scenic River must have outstanding water quality in order to designate them. It must also have free flow. Claster said this is the largest undammed main-stem river east of the Mississippi. We also have cultural resources, historic engineering, a national landmark and picturesque hamlets. In the RMP it talks about publicizing widespread preservation of these, upgrading management efforts of state and local governments and the private sector, and drawing on the technical expertise of the NPS and the UDC. It also talks about ensuring that state and federal agencies comply with historic preservation, laws, regulations and policies. Ecological value is another one of the ORVs. The plan ensures continued public use and enjoyment of traditional and historical uses of public lands and waters for hunting, fishing, trapping and commercial taking of eels and bait. Also covered is the continuation of some forest management practices, improving vital conservation releases and other sound management practices, to conserve the fishery's quality and integrity. Another goal is to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species within the river because water quality is so good, it supports a lot of insects, which in turn, serve as a food source for many different species. The most iconic of these is the Bald Eagle, but maybe the coolest is the Dwarf Wedgemussel which is federally listed as endangered and relies on the eels for its lifecycle completion. The larval mussels catch a ride on the eels and they rely on that transportation in order to reproduce and populate the river. This in turn helps to keep the river clean because they're constantly filtering the water. In the plan it also talks about identifying the land forms that have national, regional, state, and local significance. There's Point Mountain up near the confluence also; the Hawks Nest is another example of what the RMP is talking about. It talked about creating a plan to provide interpretation of the most significant landscape features and also to work with property owners when private lands were involved to help protect these special landforms. This wouldn't be a scenic and recreational river if we didn't have wonderful recreational assets. The RMP called for protecting the outstanding and highly valued attributes of the river for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, encourage cooperation and coordination of all levels of government, and provide an enjoyable recreational experience, a variety of compatible recreational activities and situations and to respect and protect riparian landowner rights. It also called for keeping the private sector in the role of providing recreational activity on the river. Claster said she and Golod have been asked previously why doesn't NPS have campgrounds; isn't that what parks do? The reason is because the RMP is clear that should be done by the private sector and not the government. It also calls for educating and informing river users about protecting the river, reducing river conflict and respecting the rights of others. Last is the Scenic value. The scenic resources include forested and open farmland, rocky cliffs, the river, both landscape scale views like Jensen's Ledges and the more accessible Hawks Nest. The historic Hamlets contribute to this sense of place that people encounter when they enter the river corridor. Claster wanted to stress a critical piece of the designation is ensuring that water resource development on the river itself or on the tributaries does not impair the area or unreasonably diminish the resource values for which the river was designated. Dams will not happen on this river but you may wonder why we have eel weirs and that's because it's a protected traditional use. As long as someone is operating those in a continuous chain of ownership they will still be here. Claster said in order to protect all of these remarkable values we need to work together. We've got partners. UDC is our best partner. We've got formal partners in the municipalities, the states and DRBC, all of whom are members of the council. We also have a host of informal partners, nonprofits in the area that are also helping to preserve the scenic character of the area, improve ecological function of the river and the corridor, etc. It takes a lot of people, groups, and effort.

Golod said as Claster mentioned in 1978 the Upper Delaware was designated a Wild and Scenic River, providing special protections unlike other Federal land protection legislation, particularly for rivers with a high percentage of privately owned riparian property as in the Upper Delaware. Because of this designation, the formation of the Land and Water Use Guidelines came to be. As stated in the Upper Delaware special provisions, Public Law 95-625 states, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register general guidelines for land and water use control measures to be developed and implemented by the appropriate officials of the states of New York and Pennsylvania by local political subdivisions and by the Delaware River

Basin Commission. The Land and Water Use Guidelines are intended to be a set of standards for the 15 towns and townships to utilize when developing or modifying relevant local laws, plans and ordinances, and to carry out the purposes of the RMP.

Golod said the Land and Water Use Guidelines begin on page 114 in the RMP. Although the RMP and the Land and Water Use Guidelines are combined into one document, essentially they are two separate documents with the guidelines preceding the RMP. The guidelines were federally recognized in 1981. The Secretary of Interior had first published guidelines for Land and Water Use on 9/4/81. The Land and Water Use Guidelines (LWUG) directly relate to the principles and objectives of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and also serve as the basis for Substantial Conformance. The LWUG provide guidance, direction and determination of uses which would be deemed appropriate. They also provide guidance for uses with conditions that would be deemed appropriate, which we call special or conditional use. Lastly, they cite uses which would be a threat or a potential threat to the river resources and would be deemed inappropriate. Local governments which adopt land use regulations based on the guidelines are deemed to be in substantial performance. Golod said he considers this the reason why he's here. The LWUG has several purposes, seven to be exact. 1) Protect health, safety and welfare of Valley residents. 2) Protect the corridor's outstandingly remarkable values or ORVs, which Cluster just spoke about. 3) Protect and courage traditional land and water uses. 4) Identify conforming and nonconforming land uses. 5) Identify standards and types of programs which might be applied by local governments to substantially conform. 6) Provide maximum flexibility for local governments in meeting the guidelines. 7) Assure all government actions contribute to a true partnership management of landward activities.

Golod showed the group the Schedule of Uses. The RMP segments the Schedule of Uses into three sections: the Scenic segment; the Recreational segment; and the Hamlet segment, where we have our compatible uses, special and conditional uses, and incompatible uses. The LWUG incorporates these uses into the schedule that can be found in the back of the guidelines. Golod provided a GIS map of the Upper Delaware River corridor. Recreational segments are denoted in light green, Scenic segments in dark green. Hamlets were not designated on that map because they are essentially designated by the municipality. Keep in mind that Scenic segments have the strongest restrictions as opposed to Hamlet designated areas because traditionally development is encouraged within a Hamlet area. You read it for the segment that you're in and then read all that apply. With compatible uses, Golod reads it downward and up. For hamlets, the recreational as well as the scenic segment, compatible uses will also apply. With special use conditional it's the same process. You're reading down according to the segment you're in and if the bullet notifies you to use the segment above, you do that. The only difference is with the incompatible uses which are read straight down. Cluster said there is a little caveat, especially conditional uses. In the table it says all the conditional and special uses above are also conditional and special uses here. You also need to check and see if the use shows up incompatible because sometimes it's appropriate with special and conditional use. Golod said the scenic segments have the most restrictions and the recreational segments are a little less restricted.

Golod moved on to management responsibilities of our towns and townships and what that means. The 8 New York Towns and 7 Pennsylvania Townships serve an important management role here within the Upper Delaware. As it states in the RMP: "Their greatest responsibility lies in implementing and enforcing comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to manage land uses within the river corridor in a way that is not detrimental to the purposes for which the river was designated." The specific responsibilities for Towns and Townships per the RMP are: participate as a voting member of the UDC; the opportunity to participate on a rotating basis as an officer of the UDC; the implementation and endorsement of comprehensive plans in land use regulations and management techniques for the protection of the land and water and resources of the river and the river corridor; the implementation of ordinances prohibiting disposal of solid and toxic wastes; the implementation and enforcement of ordinances restricting floodplain development; number six, which has been a contentious one here, when contracts for the removal of solid waste from the river corridor or the provision of law enforcement had been entered into between the NPS and the river towns and townships, those services will be provided; lastly, consideration of the appointment of park and recreation boards to coordinate the development, management and maintenance of recreational facilities related to the river corridor for local residents and where desired for visitors with the object of minimizing conflicts between the two groups.

Golod said any modification to a law, plan or ordinance or development of one triggers a substantial conformance review. There are three parts of the Substantial Conformance reviews. Golod said the one that the board is probably most familiar with is the Principles and Objectives Review. LWUG lays out six principles A through F. Each principle has a series of objectives. Some may have more, some may have less, but they all equal 22. The six principles laid out in the guidelines are as follows: Maintain the high water quality found in the Upper Delaware river; Provide for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors and provide for the protection and preservation of natural resources; Provide for recreational and other public uses while protecting the Upper Delaware river as a natural resource; Provide for the continuation of agriculture and forestry uses; Conserve river area resources; and Maintain existing patterns of land use and development and ownership. Golod provided an example taken from the Project Review Workbook which he uses for his Substantial Performance Review Reports. Golod referred to Principle A: Maintain the high water quality found in the Upper Delaware. The first objective out of the 22 would be "Soil erosion and sedimentation from construction on steep slopes is limited by..." The municipality that is either developing or modifying law or zoning ordinance has the opportunity to quantify the objective with several of these parameters in order to make this objective reach conformance. The second part of our Substantial Conformance Review is the comparison of the Township's Schedule to the LWUG schedule. Golod says they take the municipality's district schedule of regulations, look at all permitted uses as well as the special uses that are permitted, and compare them against the LWUG schedule. This can be very time consuming because aside from reviewing each and every use, they also look at the definition of every single use, to see how it compares and relates to the LWUG definition. Golod said the third piece of the pie is Zoning Map Review.

Henry questioned the statement that the 1981 guidelines have never been amended? Golod said since 9/4/81, they haven't been updated. Henry said on page 114 they have 1986 but there's no effective date. It says that they replace, in their entirety, those guidelines adopted on 9/4/1981 and are intended to provide additional flexibility to State and local governments in meeting the objectives of the legislation. Golod said the information he found, when Carla Hauser-Hahn was working here, was that the federally registered guidelines have not been amended. Golod said he will look into that. Claster said they were published in the Federal Register at the same time as the RMP. Rajs asked who would have made the 1986 amendment, what body? Claster said she thinks The Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) was still working on it. Ramie said the 1981 guidelines were designated by the Department of the Interior as the Secretary's Guidelines. Claster said COUP worked on it for years in the mid-80s. It wasn't a quick process. Over those years there were many rounds of comments from all sorts of different entities. There was local representation on COUP and it was a grassroots effort to have more input into this. Claster said she doesn't know if the 1981 guidelines were published in the Federal Register. She knows that they were published with the RMP in the version that we use today. She said she thinks they were still a work in progress. Henry said a lot of that information is online but if someone can look at the Federal Register in 1981 and 1986, that may be enlightening. Claster said if anybody wants to look that up you certainly can. Claster said 1986 were the final guidelines that were published with the plan at the same time in the Register. Sullivan asked if anyone at the meeting was in COUP? Greier said he was. Greier asked if the purpose of the presentation is to make amendments to the RMP? Claster said the purpose of the presentation is to whet your appetite for looking at the Project Review and Substantial Conformance Guide with Claster and Golod. Greier said he just read an email he got from NPS on 5/2, when Tom Shepstone presented at UDC, and he urges UDC not to make an amendment to the guidelines but rather, do a supplement addressing some of these specific uses. The supplement would not have to go through the same level of process. Claster said she and Golod are not discussing that as part of the presentation. Ramie said it was explained earlier that Claster and Golod were asked to come to the Sullivan County Planning Department and give a presentation like this to their staff, so that when they are looking at projects in the river corridor they understand what these LWUG are and their purpose. They plan to present to other counties as well. Roeder thanked Golod and Claster for their presentation and gave Claster a UDC lapel pin in appreciation.

Approval of July 11th Meeting Minutes: A motion by Richardson seconded by Peckham, to approve the July 11th, 2019 meeting minutes was carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: July 16th Water Use/Resource Management by Golod; July 23rd Project Review by Richardson, and July 23rd Operations by Roeder.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Ramie said DRBC issued their annual report. Ramie included the press release in meeting packets. They are trying some new techniques of modern communication so they can present it in different ways. The campaign is called "Our Shared Waters: A Look at the Delaware River Basin". The 7/31/19 Hydrologic Report was included in the meeting packet with total combined storage at 90.4% capacity with normal storage 90.0%. Actual July precipitation is at 3.67 inches and 4.15 inches for the historical record.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Rudge reported that Regional Wildlife Manager Dr. Ted Kerpez, who was someone Rudge hired in 2002, passed away in December while he was working for DEC. It was a shock for the whole agency; he was really respected. Rudge said in memoriam to Kerpez they are planning a significant renovation of the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area. Work will likely start later this summer or early fall. It will be a complete replacement of the building and they will dedicate the new building in Kerpez' honor. It's a simple structure, a blind to allow the public to view eagles. Rajs asked what about the plan? Rudge said they are not working on the plan. The Wildlife unit which manages their wildlife areas has adopted a different planning process than their Lands and Forests which manages all the forests and preserved lands in the Catskills and reforestation areas. They've embarked on a two-planning unit process for every property they own. One is a Habitat Management Plan and the other is a Recreational Plan and they will be working on those plans. Rudge will report on that next time.

Sullivan said there are enormous pot holes at Skinners Falls Access parking area. The parking area was flooded in 2006 and she doesn't know if it's ever been the same since. She's not sure if that should be directed at NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation or NPS. Rudge said NYS DEC has been working with Sullivan County and that's a project they hope to get to in terms of renovating the access site and parking. He will be sure to update with details in the future. Sullivan said one issue the board is in agreement with is cleaning up the accesses. In Pennsylvania, over the warm weather cycle there was a lot of garbage as well as Route 97. There is support in all of the Towns and Townships. Sullivan asked if there is any way to let UDC know if there are gaps we can fill or if NYS DEC would like to participate in a corridor cleanup. Dexter asked if there are any updates with Barnes Landfill? Rudge said yes, a letter went out to Sullivan County. Rajs said the letter came to the County saying DEC will indemnify them, however, in that letter it did not give them express permission to get onto the property. Rudge said NYS DEC can't do that; that's for the county to work out. Rajs said there are different avenues they can take, one being go to court and get permission to enter the property while NYS DEC is indemnifying them for any issue prior to that. They are working on a strategy. Dexter asked if there were any updates on the Wurtsboro Lead Mine? Rudge said no, that's an EPA project. Ramie wanted to thank Rudge for participating in the Coalition meeting on water signage to mark the boundaries in NYS of the Delaware River Watershed. Ramie asked if he had any further thoughts on the DOT protocol for the wording on the signage. They would like it to say "You Are Now Entering the Delaware River Watershed". The local interests here thought "You Are Now Entering the Upper Delaware River Watershed" would be more appropriate. Ramie said that may not be an option with the DOT. Once the signs start, the campaign will continue on throughout the four states so perhaps they want one sign with uniformity. Ramie said there was a question if the group should invest any effort to advocate for the word "Upper" to be in there or not? Rudge said he has not had a direct conversation with Ed Mall from NYS DOT yet. The document Mall cited may limit the number of words you can have on a sign but Rudge doesn't believe adding that one word would put it over that limit. Cluster said she has a theory as she has worked on sign projects before using MUTCD and her theory is when you have too many characters your font gets smaller to fit it on the sign. If the font gets too small, it doesn't meet the standards in the MUTCD related to letter height. Ramie asked Rudge who would introduce the proposal? It was discussed on 6/11 that it made sense for the DEC to present it to the DOT as a fellow State agency. The DRBC however, did have some interest in participating in that process. The question was who has oversight management of the Delaware River Watershed? The DRBC believes they do. In this case, for the NYS portion of the signage request the local partners involved think the DEC is an appropriate entity. Rudge said DEC will consult with DRBC when it's at that point. DEC won't be offended if they do it; the important point is that it gets submitted.

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: Dugan said DCNR has been observing and monitoring something that is now being labeled as White Pine Decline. They have noticed large mature stands of White Pine dropping needles, looking skeletonized. The dark green turns more of a yellowish-green. DCNR started picking up some signs of White Pine Decline in the Milford area and elsewhere in Pennsylvania about 4 years ago. Forest Health Specialists from all over the Eastern United States had a meeting in New England a few months ago as they have been seeing similar issues all the way up to Maine. It's relatively widespread. Dugan said it's not systemic, it's spotty. Some of the initial thoughts they are finding are it is weather related. There has been excessive moisture the last couple years. They have also found fungal pathogens. White Pine Decline does kill the tree. Roeder said on his way to Roscoe, NY on Gulf Road he noticed a stand of Pine trees that were dead and dying and they weren't in water or anything. He wonders if that was White Pine Decline. Richardson said he just read a good article on White Pine Decline in the *NYS Conservationist Magazine*. Dugan said DCNR is paying attention to this issue.

The adult Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) are mobile now in Southeastern and Eastern Pennsylvania. Over the course of the last 2-3 weeks they have gone to the adult stage. This last week USDA inspectors were in Pike County making inspections Township by Township. They are trying to monitor to see how far north outside the donut of Southeast Pennsylvania SLF are going. Dugan says they were in Porter Township which our State Forest occupies almost 50% of that Township. They are looking for *Ailanthus* "Tree of Heaven", the main target tree. Dugan said Tree of Heaven lines Route 209. Landowners in Berks County, where it originated, they don't have many SLF left. Last year and the year before property owners were infested and now the wave has moved past.

PA passed the budget. UDC did not get a line item. Ramie said DRBC funding was moved to a different line item; it's not the full share but there is a small amount of funding in there. Dugan said if there are any continued conversations for UDC funding, he will try to join them.

In Pennsylvania, Chronic Wasting Disease impacting deer has expanded. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has the current data on that and NYS has been adamant about keeping it out of New York.

On Dugan's annual family trip to Gettysburg he was able to get ahold of Superintendent Kris Heister. She was gracious and spent an hour with them at the museum and visitors center with his in-laws who are big Civil War fans.

Robinson said he's been watching a large sample area of woolly adelgid infestations in Shohola and this year there is very little indication of woolly adelgid. Dugan said they have some monitoring blocks around Tanglwood, near Wallenpaupack. Dugan said with climate change we have hotter hots and colder colds. We have seen in the last two years with the arctic vortex that comes down it has really had an impact helpful to woolly adelgid populations.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Acting Superintendent Marilou Ehrler said following up on boat accesses and litter, NPS worked with PA Fish and Boat Commission to clean up the access at Darbytown, where it was particularly overgrown at the roadway. It was not safe pulling out of there.

Today a group of 200 people were going down the river and NPS received numerous calls from landowners as well as another family on the river about the garbage and debris they were leaving along their trip. Law Enforcement Rangers were dispatched this afternoon. They appreciate everyone calling. No one wants litter and certainly landowners don't want it on their property. NPS is working on it. If NPS gets a call, they will try to address it. Ehrler or Heister will give an update on the outcome of that incident.

Since the last meeting there was the Zane Grey Festival which was very successful. Ehrler thanked UDC for attending. It was a good group of presenters and vendors. In September they will begin exterior repairs and painting of the Zane Grey house. Shortly after that they will begin to design accessibility improvements for the house as it is not currently handicapped accessible.

Seasonal staff and interns will begin to leave as soon as this weekend. They just advertised a GS 9 hydrologist that is a permanent position and will be closing shortly. They expect to be announcing their permanent law enforcement chief ranger shortly. Ramie asked what is Andrew Weber's title? Claster said Aquatic Ecologist. Henry asked if they really need two full-time positions like this compared to Law

Enforcement needs. Ehrler said she will ask that question of Heister. Responding to Henry, Golod said NPS also lost two full-time Biologists in the Resource Management Division.

Superintendent Heister will be back in a week.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie said first, since this may be Ehrler's last meeting she asked the UDC to thank her for her time here in the Upper Delaware. Roeder presented Ehrler an UDC lapel in appreciation.

Ramie said the question came up about the DRBC contribution from the states. She included an article about that in the latest UDC newsletter and said that Pennsylvania has a 25% share of the DRBC budget which would be \$893,000. They agreed to pay \$217,000. The New York share is 17.5% of the five parties. That would be \$626,000 and they paid \$359,500. In both cases there were funding shortages compared to what the DRBC would expect to receive at full shares.

This Sunday is UDC's 31st Annual Raft Trip from Ten Mile River Access to Luke's Landing Base. Hall-Bagdonas said we are currently at 89 people signed up. Robinson said how did you get 89 signed up? Ramie said through advertising and repeat customers.

Peckham said last week in Equinunk by the cliffs and a really deep pool, kids that were visiting got a 32-inch striper, 35-inch walleye and a 12-pound catfish at the same hole. Peckham will share the email with pictures.

Ramie said the Summer issue of the newsletter came out on 7/31 with extra copies available for pickup at the office. Receiving it via mail takes a little extra time because it goes out via bulk mail. It was early given that it was due to be delivered by Courier Printing on 8/5. Ramie said we appreciate that they had a hole in their printing schedule. We print 10,000 newsletters, mail them to approximately 9,000 and have extras for UDC achieves. We will have a Fall/Winter issue in December.

On 7/30 there was a two-session roundtable meeting for the River Corridor Cleanup. It was a modest turnout in terms of numbers of people for the afternoon and evening sessions that they held but they were quality people. Ramie and Boyar are compiling a synopsis of the meetings and Hall-Bagdonas has been updating the database of people interested in this subject that is up to 75 contacts. Ramie said the concept is there would be a steering committee to coordinate this with the UDC's help potentially. Ramie specified UDC would not be running it especially because it's targeted for Earth Day 2020 around the same time as our Awards Banquet when she said we are way too busy to take on another task. The idea is to get something going in all 15 communities around the same time. Someone had a good idea for the name "Clean Up/per Delaware". They will be sure to circulate the synopsis when it is ready.

8/30 is the deadline for both the current Technical Assistance Grant projects that are being completed under this round and the applications for the 2020 program. Please remind your Towns and Townships. If you have any questions regarding Technical Assistance Grants, please contact Golod.

Hall-Bagdonas posted the photos Ramie took from the 7/11 Randy Stechert "Habit and Habitats of Venomous Snakes" presentation with the Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake in the photo gallery of the UDC website.

Ramie circulated a press release from US Senator Chuck Schumer (NY) about federal funding through a program called "Connect America" which is about rural broadband expansion. Ramie said she was excited to see this was specifically about rural counties in New York and both Delaware and Sullivan were included on the list. It said in Sullivan there were 24 sites and in Delaware there were 124 sites. Ramie thought the River Valley would be included but it turns out all 24 of those sites are in the vicinity of Lew Beach. As for the Delaware County sites she has no information about those. Robinson asked Ramie to write Senator Schumer a letter.

At the next Water Use/Resource Management meeting on 8/20 there are a few potential speakers to talk about the Ten Mile River Access. Some of you, especially if you are on the WU/RM Committee, have seen emails going around on the subject of the muddy conditions and what can be done to mitigate that. This is something that the

committee and council discussed extensively in 2015 and UDC reached the conclusion that some of it is simply nature and there is only so much you can do with the conditions in that eddy. UDC has been asked to take another look at it to see if there are any engineering solutions or funds available to address it. That particular access is owned by the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America as part of their property for the Ten Mile River Boy Scouts Camp. Ramie has invited the Director of the camp to the 8/20 meeting. He relayed he will try to attend but it is the last week of their camp and he may be too busy. Ramie asked him to please delegate it if he can't attend. Skinners Falls was mentioned earlier. The Local Waterfront Revitalization grant project for the Upper Delaware Corridor specifically addressed six river accesses in the Upper Delaware and what could be done to improve them. Skinners Fall and Ten Mile River are two of those accesses. Heather Jacksy from Sullivan County Planning coordinated that grant program and will attend the 8/20 meeting. With all the support letters UDC has written over the years for funding to implement those recommendations they decided to start with the Highland River Access as the most practical improvements to address. If you are interested in the Ten Mile River Access, please come to the 8/20 Water Use/Resource Management meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Lastly, Ramie provided an August calendar in the meeting packet of activities and deadlines. For the next presentation in September Ramie will renew her call to Adam Bosch from NYC DEP, to see if the results for the Emergency Notification System Improvement Study for Cannonsville Reservoir are ready. Bosch relayed the contractor had the time extended until the end of the City fiscal year (6/30).

Old Business

Other: Greier said he wanted to explain his adamant feelings about calling the Upper Delaware a National Park. He said this goes back to when they were building this River Management Plan (RMP) with years and years of hard work, blood, sweat and tears going into the RMP. That was one of the main objectives; don't ever let them call it a National Park. On page 15 it says "Upon final approval by the Secretary and completion of the review by Congress, the plan becomes binding on the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service has no authority on private lands, and therefore cannot impose any federal regulations on private lands within the river corridor." Greier said if it is a Park they can. The RMP goes on to say "Congressionally designated areas such as the Upper Delaware are established for specific purposes as described in the enacting legislation." In bold letters it says "Therefore, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is not a national park." Greier said they fought hard for that and said when he's gone, to tell people don't let them change the name to a National Park.

New Business

Town of Lumberland Local Law #1 Substantial Conformance Recommendation: Golod said on 7/23 the Project Review Committee heard and discussed his Substantial Conformance Review on a proposed zoning designation change. Two parcels located in the Town of Lumberland had been zoned and re-designated to the River Hamlet District which had formally been the Hillside District as well as the Black Forest District. Both of the parcels fell within the recreational segment of the designated corridor and connected the Towns two Hamlet Districts. He came to the conclusion that the changing of the Zoning constitutes a logical infill area between the two preexisting Hamlet Districts. His report was that it Substantially Conformed and made the recommendation to the Project Review Committee to refer to the Council to also make a recommendation. Rajs said you are talking about two different areas of the Town. The Black Forest is by Mongaup and Hillside is by Barryville. Golod said the parcel was zoned to the River Hamlet District it's the parcel that's next to Jerry's Canoes. It originally fell within the Black Forest District and they rezoned to designate it to the River Hamlet District. Golod said now it's the full Council's purview to make a recommendation to the NPS that this conforms per his review. On 7/10 the Town held a meeting and this was approved. A motion by Robinson seconded by Rajs to approve Town of Lumberland Local Law #1 Substantial Conformance Recommendation was carried unanimously.

FY 2019 Budget Recommendations and Outside Consulting Services Project: Ramie provided a handout of budget expenditure recommendations. She said since we are getting to the end of the Fiscal Year we need to decide what we will do with the Outside Consulting job because that's the largest chunk of what has yet to be allocated in the budget. Starting with the smaller purchases Ramie would first recommend a new desk for the UDC bookkeeper as his desk is falling apart. Ramie also recommends getting another set of wire shelves for the attic to help with

organization. Both items are from the Kristt Kelly catalogue, UDC's discounted office supply store. Under Education and Outreach when we were at our events this summer it became apparent we need more lightweight materials to work with. We generally bring a tri-fold exhibit board and particularly at RiverFest if there is a breeze it falls over. Hall-Bagdonas proposed the idea of a vertical screen banner that unfolds with a base. A motion by Henry seconded by Dexter for Ramie to use her discretion for the first three items was carried unanimously.

Ramie said regarding the Consulting job in the UDC Work Plan we talked about doing a Records Management Project and a description of that is in the handout. It's a question of whether we have time to do that. Ramie said we have been told by NPS it is permissible that as long as we allocate the funds for the project in this Fiscal Year the work could extend into the next year. Ramie asked if there were other projects of higher priority? Henry said if someone could look for an archivist or librarian, they may be interested in doing this. Ramie expressed being worried about being able to find someone for the job. Peckham suggested calling Carol Ann MacMaster of the Equinunk Historical Society. Rajsasz suggested contacting Laura Quigley from Sullivan County Workforce Development. Richardson suggested contacting the County management to see if they have recommendations on how to look for such a professional. Henry will check with the Wayne County Historical Society. Saumure recommended volunteers at Grey Towers. Ramie said Golod suggested Carla Hauser-Hahn as she's retiring. Ramie said first is putting together a scope of work describing what we need. We're looking for a contractor to work on a temporary basis. Henry recommends that UDC pursue the outside consultant for the records management and bring it up at Operations Committee, but in the meantime he would also like to bring up the idea of contacting Tom Shepstone to see if he would be interested in pursuing the supplement to the River Management Plan. Henry was asked to work with staff to draft a supplement but he will be away and asked Ramie to call Shepstone to see if he would be interested. Dugan asked are there any restrictions in terms of what qualifies for funding? Ramie said Federal funding needs to be reasonable, allowable and allocable. If that sounds subjective it might be in certain aspects but obviously has to tie in to the RMP and what the UDC's responsibilities are. Before UDC pursued anything like that Ramie said she would check with Heister and the Contracting Officer to make sure that was an approved project. Robinson said UDC is seeking alternative methods to accomplish a certain goal that are less burdensome and perhaps more favorable to the membership than the procedure that's recited in the RMP. He would approach it on that basis. Ramie looked up the thresholds of spending for procurement. The OMB reports that micro purchases which are the acquisitions of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures are set at \$10,000. Small purchases are \$250,000. Ramie said that's always been a question if you have to do a formal request for the proposals process then you might as well add two months on to your procedure. In both of these cases with the records management as well as the RMP it would be best if UDC kept it under the \$10,000 threshold as she interprets that. Ramie has reached out to Michelle Blockberger from NPS to confirm that information. Ehrler said there's a difference if it's a service as opposed to a construction. There are also limits. Blockberger is looking as guidance has changed. Dugan asked if you have the option to prepay for some of the items like fuel and Ramie said yes.

Other: A Motion by Robinson to write a letter to US Senator Chuck Schumer acknowledging that we are pleased to see him working on rural broadband expansion but as the UDC has written him in the past we have a 13+ mile dead zone along the Upper Delaware River where we have voluminous amounts of tourists and boaters with no access to communication for public safety issues was seconded by Dugan was carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Rajsasz, seconded by Peckham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. was carried.