



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

March 5, 2026

ZOOM ONLY

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Chairperson Dexter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call followed reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees:

Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Town of Cocheton- Larry Richardson, Town of Delaware- Harold Roeder, Town of Tusten- Cathleen Breen, Town of Deerpark- Ginny Dudko, Town of Highland- Christine Martin, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, National Park Service- Lindsey Kurnath, Delaware River Basin Commission- Beth Brown, New York State- Ryan Coulter, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan

Absent:

Town of Hancock, Town of Fremont- Jim Rodgers, Westfall Township- Michael Barth

Staff:

Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resource & Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt, Administrative Support- Stephanie Driscoll

Media:

Tri-County Independent- Peter Becker

Guests:

Town of Deerpark- Bill Dudko, Town of Highland- Michael Keller, Nick Hryniuk

Approval of February 5, 2026 Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Rajs to approve the February 5, 2026 meeting minutes carried,

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding previously distributed minutes for Water Use/Resource Management 2/17 (Evan Padua), Operations 2/24 (Jeff Dexter), or Project Review 2/24 (Larry Richardson).

Status Reports:

Delaware River Basin Commission: Brown reported that the DRBC had held its First Quarter Business meeting the previous day, during which the DRBC approved a total of 21 dockets. One of those approvals involved a project in New York State, the Gan-Eden development, which is located within the New York portion of the Delaware River Basin in Sullivan County. The DRBC received significant written public comment on this topic prior to the meeting, which prompted DRBC staff to prepare and publish a formal comment response document ahead of the vote. In addition to those written submissions, several community members participated in the open public comment period following the vote at the business meeting. Those remarks were made during the off-the-record open comment session, but the Commissioners were present and listening, and the comments were taken seriously as part of the public engagement process. The DRBC approval does not mean the project is immediately moving forward. New York State still has additional steps in its own review process. She offered to provide additional information if members of the Council or the public had questions about the project, particularly if there was local interest or concern. Martin asked whether the project being referenced was the warehouse development. Brown clarified that the Gan-Eden project is a residential development.

Brown thanked Ramie for including a copy of a DRBC news release that had been issued earlier in the week. It announces a new cooperative fisheries initiative, specifically a Creel (angler) Survey that the DRBC has launched in partnership with fisheries resource experts from each of the basin states as well as NOAA Fisheries. The survey began on March 1st and will involve consultants working directly with anglers along the river. These survey teams will be visiting fishing locations, speaking with anglers about their catches, and gathering observational information about fishing activity. In some cases, if anglers permit it, the survey teams may also collect biological samples from fish to assist with scientific analysis. The primary focus of the survey is migratory fish species, with particular emphasis on American Shad, though the effort will also gather

data on other species encountered by anglers. This is a coordinated, multi-agency effort, and DRBC is pleased to be collaborating with the various fisheries agencies across the basin. She encouraged members of the Council to spread the word about the survey, especially to individuals who fish along the river. Once the survey and analysis are completed, a final report will be produced, and the findings will be shared both with this group and with the public more broadly.

Brown highlighted a series of water loss training sessions currently being conducted by the DRBC. These trainings are designed primarily for utility employees. They focus on industry-standard practices for identifying and addressing water loss within municipal water systems. The training includes techniques such as leak detection and other operational practices that help utilities better track and reduce water loss, ultimately improving the efficiency and optimization of water use within distribution systems. The DRBC is conducting these trainings in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Additional sessions are scheduled for March 17th and March 31st.

The DRBC's Subcommittee on Source Water Protection will meet on May 14th. Following that, the Monitoring Committee will meet on May 28th, and this meeting will be conducted jointly with the Science and Technical Advisory Committee of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. She described this joint session as essentially a combined gathering of technical experts, bringing together multiple advisory bodies to collaborate on basin-wide science and monitoring issues. These two committees are responsible for producing major technical publications, including the State of the Estuary and the State of the Basin reports, which document environmental conditions and scientific findings for the Delaware River system and its estuary. The Water Management Advisory Committee will be meeting on June 3rd.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Coulter shared that he had spent the entire day at the Catskill Fish Hatchery in Livingston Manor. The reason for the visit was a pre-season coordination meeting related to trout stocking where staff and partners review logistics and planning ahead of the upcoming stocking season. The Catskill Fish Hatchery plays a significant role in supporting fisheries across a large geographic area. The facility is responsible for supplying fish not only for southeastern New York, but also for Long Island, and it even contributes fish to Region 4 waters as well. Because of the size of that service area, the hatchery has a considerable workload, and regional staff try to support the hatchery team wherever possible. That support includes helping organize volunteers, coordinating stocking events, and assisting with determining stocking locations. He said that the meeting went well and that it seemed like everyone was aligned moving forward.

Coulter turned briefly to a topic that Brown had just mentioned in the DRBC report, thanking her for raising the issue of the Delaware River Creel Survey. Before these meetings he typically sends an email request to various DEC divisions asking for updates, and one of the groups he contacts is DEC's Marine Division. Gregg Kenney, who leads that group, had also highlighted the Delaware River Creel Survey initiative in his response.

Like Brown said, the survey will focus primarily on American Shad, a species whose population numbers have been declining across the coast. Because of that trend, fisheries managers are particularly interested in collecting better data about angler catches and fishing activity. The Creel Survey will allow agencies to gather direct observational data from anglers, providing insight into what species are being caught and in what numbers. In addition to information about shad, the survey will also collect data on other fish species encountered by anglers along the river, helping to build a broader understanding of fish populations and angling activity.

Coulter reported that he had recently spoken with his counterparts in DEC Region 4 fisheries who are preparing to release a "Tailwaters Annual Report Card." This report will summarize conditions and fisheries information related to tailwater fisheries, and it is expected to be posted on the DEC website soon. Once the report is published, he will share the link or information with the Council so members may review it.

Applications are currently being accepted for the DEC's Wildlife Unit's Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program (DOCP), with a deadline of April 1, 2026. The program allows members of the public to participate in raising and releasing pheasants in order to enhance small-game hunting opportunities throughout New York State. Under the program, the DEC provides ring-necked pheasant chicks free of charge to approved applicants. Participants must have the ability to properly raise the chicks to maturity and then release the adult pheasants at appropriate sites designated for that purpose. If anyone was interested in learning more, they could reach out to him. He will find the link to that information and share it with the members.

Breen asked whether New York State had released the 2026 trout stocking schedule yet. Coulter said no; the discussion he had earlier that day at the hatchery was actually part of the process of finalizing that schedule. The fish hatchery manager had been working with an Excel spreadsheet containing the stocking details, and staff were still working through some of the logistical considerations. The schedule should be finalized and released soon.

Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and National Resources: Dugan said that winter conditions were beginning to transition, with snow and ice starting to melt across the region, which typically marks the period when agencies

begin shifting their focus toward the upcoming field season. This time of year is largely devoted to preparation for the spring and summer work cycle, particularly in terms of hiring seasonal staff and planning field projects. Agencies are currently working on interviewing and onboarding seasonal employees, who typically begin work in March and April, and staff are also starting to organize and prioritize projects that will take place during the summer field season. As conditions improve and fieldwork becomes possible again, crews will be mobilizing to begin that work. The region experienced a relatively cold and sustained winter, which many natural resource professionals view positively from an ecological standpoint. He had recently attended a Forest Health conference earlier in the week, where one of the key topics of discussion was the potential benefit of this colder winter in reducing populations of certain invasive or non-native forest pests. Many forest health specialists expressed optimism that the extended cold temperatures could help suppress some invasive insect populations, which in turn may reduce pressure on forests during the coming growing season. While it remains to be seen how conditions will ultimately play out, he said that many professionals in the forestry and natural resources community are hopeful that the winter weather will translate into healthier forest conditions during the upcoming year.

Dugan reported that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission had received a \$500,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Delaware River Watershed Conservation Fund. The purpose of the grant is to enhance public access and recreational opportunities throughout the Delaware River watershed. The Fish and Boat Commission will administer the funds and distribute them through a series of smaller grants or partnerships, supporting projects that improve public boating access, recreational infrastructure, and outdoor recreation opportunities across the watershed. Those funds will be made available to partners, nonprofits, and other agencies working on projects that advance those goals. Local partners receiving funding will generally be required to provide matching funds for the mini-grants that are awarded through the program.

Dugan gave a report on Avian Influenza, commonly referred to as Avian Flu. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture are actively monitoring the situation, as there are currently several hotspots of avian influenza within the state. Pennsylvania has unfortunately been one of the areas where the disease has appeared repeatedly in recent years. Most of the current activity is concentrated in more suburban and agricultural regions of the state, including areas such as the Lehigh Valley and counties farther west like Lancaster and Berks Counties. At the moment, the northern parts of the Upper Delaware region and the Poconos have not seen significant impacts. He had recently been in discussions with staff from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and they emphasized that the standard public guidance remains the same: if members of the public encounter dead or visibly sick birds, they should contact the Game Commission, which can investigate the situation and determine whether testing or further action is needed.

Dugan said from a forestry standpoint, staff are currently pleased to see rainfall in the region, as moisture helps reduce wildfire risk heading into the spring season. However, Pennsylvania has officially entered its annual spring wildfire restriction period, which runs from March 1 through May 25. During this period, open fires and campfires are prohibited on all Pennsylvania state forest lands. It may seem counterintuitive to people when conditions are currently wet and rainy, but he explained that spring weather patterns can change quickly, and fuels often dry out rapidly as temperatures rise. Historically, spring is one of the most active wildfire seasons in the region, so the restrictions are implemented as a precaution to reduce the likelihood of human-caused fires. Conditions will likely dry out again in the coming weeks, and forestry crews will be preparing for the spring fire season, which typically ramps up soon after the snowmelt period.

National Park Service: The NPS monthly activity report is included in the packet. Kurnath reported that NPS had recently gone through some staffing changes, which had forced the agency to pause and reconsider the structure of its existing Water Safety Committee. The current version of that committee had been in place since the fall of 2011, when it was created in response to a particularly tragic summer that included multiple fatalities at both the Upper Delaware and Delaware Water Gap. The Upper Delaware recently received the National Park Service Director's Achievement Award for Visitor Safety in recognition of the 2024 water safety campaign, including the launch of the water safety video. Because the committee had been operating for nearly fifteen years and the park had just received one of the highest levels of safety recognition available within the NPS, staff took the opportunity to step back and ask some broader questions: What is working? What is not working? And how should this effort be structured going forward? As a result of those discussions, UPDE developed a new three-pronged strategy for water safety coordination. The first element is an internal operational water safety committee within Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. This internal group will focus on very practical, day-to-day operational matters such as staffing, equipment status, the condition and availability of canoes, staff gear needs, river hazards such as strainers, and other direct safety and response concerns. The second part of the strategy involves better defining and separating out

NPS's spring meetings with Commercial Use Authorization holders. These meetings have existed in one form or another for some time, especially with fishing guides, but the NPS now intends to formalize them as Commercial Use Authorization operational meetings. The purpose is to have a clearer and more focused venue for discussing operational matters directly with liveries, camps, and non-fishing guide operators, rather than trying to tuck those conversations into the broader water safety partner meetings as had often happened in the past. This will give the NPS a more effective opportunity to talk through logistical and operational issues with those operators, especially with liveries and camps, where those kinds of structured conversations had not really happened before. The third part of the strategy is still developing and is slightly delayed, because as staff began to think about how they wanted to structure a broader external water safety partnership, they realized they may need to carefully consider whether such a group could trigger the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Since the NPS would like to bring together a wide array of partners at one table, they are taking the time to do appropriate legal and procedural due diligence before moving forward. Kurnath said the hope is that they will be able to convene a broader partner roundtable that could include the UDC, state agency partners from New York and Pennsylvania, local emergency response agencies, livery companies, camps, other CUA operators, media representatives, and other interested parties. Until they receive confirmation that such a broader group can be convened in the way they envision, the NPS will continue to have one-on-one conversations with non-governmental entities about water safety, rather than bringing everyone together in the same formal setting. She hopes to have another update by the following month regarding whether the broader external committee could move ahead.

Kurnath reported that she had received another letter from Mr. Wayne Holbert and the Holbert Brothers Bluestone Quarry in Lackawaxen and had just copied Ramie on UPDE's response. This matter had received some additional attention, in part because the Upper Delaware is one of only a few National Park Service units that allows any kind of mining or resource extraction within park boundaries. Because of that unusual circumstance, the response to Mr. Holbert involved some senior-level engagement within the NPS. The substance of the NPS's response did not change. The message remains consistent with what has been communicated to Mr. Holbert since he first raised the issue, first through the UDC and then with the NPS, namely his request to relax the conditions of his permit and allow the expansion of the quarry footprint. There is nothing substantially new in the latest exchange, other than the fact that Mr. Holbert had once again sought permission to expand the size of the quarry. She anticipated that Ramie would circulate the response letter, either to the full committee or to Project Review, so everyone would remain informed.

Kurnath wanted to publicly thank Ramie and Marshall for their collaborative work while the NPS is currently making significant changes to how it reports on the work of the UDC and how it plans for the coming year, with the goal of better demonstrating the strength and value of the UDC-NPS partnership through the NPS Financial Assistance Program. Change can be difficult, particularly when several things are changing at once, and she wanted to specifically recognize Ramie's efforts in working through all of those adjustments.

Kurnath said UPDE is still looking for housing options, although she had just received an update from UPDE Administrative Officer Tara Harbert that day indicating there had been some recent progress and a small surge of possible housing opportunities. Even with that positive development, she asked Council members to continue keeping an eye out for potential rental options. Ideally, UPDE is seeking a unit with at least a couple of bedrooms, and preferably three or more bedrooms, that could be used to house seasonal employees.

Kurnath reported that Eagle Watch season had come to an end. The UPDE monthly report included some basic numbers from the season, including 74 volunteer hours contributed by Delaware Highlands Conservancy volunteers and more than 200 visitors to the museum during the Eagle Watch programming period.

She announced that UPDE had received a National Park Foundation Junior Ranger Angler Grant. That funding will support a seasonal employee to run fishing and birding programs this summer, working in conjunction with the park's Fish and Feathers intern. This is an exciting development because it will allow UPDE to continue and expand youth-oriented outdoor education programming during the summer season. She also announced that UPDE had been selected to host an intern through a Historically Black Colleges and Universities internship program. That intern will assist with collections management, essentially UPDE's museum management work. Opportunities like these are especially valuable because they help bring young people into the field and expose them to possible career paths in conservation, interpretation, museum work, and public service.

Kurnath said that the lower portion of her written report included more detail about the Commercial Use Authorization operators meetings. UPDE hopes to send out an invitation within the next week or so to explain to livery and camp operators why they are being invited to this new type of operational meeting. The UDC would also

be invited to participate. The Spring Fishing Guide meeting will remain unchanged, and that meeting is scheduled for April 10th.

Kurnath reported that a project scoping visit is expected within the next month for the Roebing Bridge icebreakers and that work is underway on the design for rehabilitation, which are intended to provide the necessary structural protection for the bridge. This effort is being led by the Federal Highways Administration.

G. Dudko asked how successful the visits had been and whether participants had been seeing many eagles this year. Kurnath asked Engelhardt whether she happened to know that information since the final eagle observation numbers were not included in the figures she had received, and she had neglected to ask for them. G. Dudko said she was not looking for exact numbers, but was more interested in the general impression, noting that she personally had not seen many eagles this year. Engelhardt said that she was not sure of the final totals but based on the few volunteer shifts she had worked, it seemed that eagle sightings were somewhat down this year. Extreme cold may have been a factor, noting that the river at Zane Grey had been frozen across almost its entire width for much of the season. She added that several Eagle Watch sessions had to be canceled due to weather, which likely affected the season as well. Breen asked if Kurnath could get those numbers and circulate them. Kurnath said that she believes Delaware Highlands Conservancy typically tracks the eagle observation counts, which may be why she did not yet have them in hand. She will follow up and circulate the numbers.

Dexter said that he had recently been invited to the NPS office to meet with staff. The visit gave him a much fuller understanding of the wide range of work the NPS is involved in, far beyond what he had previously realized. The staff are handling an enormous breadth of responsibilities on both a daily and annual basis, and he found it very informative to better understand the full scope of what they do. Kurnath thanked Dexter and said UPDE was glad he had been able to visit. They had a similar meeting with 2025 UDC Chairperson Jim Rodgers the previous year and found it very successful. She apologized that she had not thought to do the same with Robinson and G. Dudko during their terms as chair, and said they were welcome to come down as well if they wished.

Kurnath said the NPS had recently provided the Council with its draft Annual Report. This is listed later on the agenda, and said the NPS was looking forward to receiving feedback from the Council before finalizing the document. The goal is to distribute the final report to municipalities, likely after the Council votes on its accompanying letter at the next meeting. Based on that anticipated schedule, she said the report would probably go out in late April or May, depending on the feedback received from the Council.

UDC Executive Director: Ramie announced that the UDC had received an extremely generous unrestricted gift of \$10,000 from the Carlson-Henry family of Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, given in honor of their families. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the organization for the donation. The contribution will be deposited into the UDC's Vanguard account, where it will begin accruing interest and serve as a resource to help address any future shortfalls or urgent priorities. There was applause for the Carlson-Henry family. Ramie said the Delaware River Basin Commission's \$2,000 contribution check was received on February 23rd. This sponsorship was intended to support four existing UDC programs focused on outreach and beautification. A copy of the appreciation letter was included in the meeting packet that describes the four \$500 sponsorships and the activities they would cover. The UDC will make sure to acknowledge DRBC's support publicly as each of those sponsored projects is carried out.

Ramie said the staff is in the planning process of the 6th Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. The UDC tracks Litter Sweep donations and expenses through a separate account, so the funds remain dedicated specifically to that project and can be monitored clearly. The single largest expense for the Litter Sweep is always the t-shirts, and with that she introduced the new shirt design for this year. Driscoll held up a sample, and described it as featuring a beautiful heron designed by artist Jeff George, along with a decorative vintage-style ribbon motif intended to reflect the semiquincentennial theme. Photographs of the shirt would be circulated so members could get a closer look, though anyone was also welcome to stop by the office and see it in person. The way to earn one of those shirts is to participate in a cleanup in one's community, making the shirt both a promotional item and a participation incentive. Richardson said he was pleased to share that the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway had once again voted to contribute \$500 toward the UDC Litter Sweep. He had intended to deliver the check in person that evening, but since that had not happened, he would instead send it through the mail so the UDC would have it before April. Ramie thanked him and said the support was greatly appreciated. The UDC also plans to apply for grant funding through Sullivan County and possibly through Pennsylvania sources. After paying for the t-shirts and depositing the byway funds, the dedicated Litter Sweep account will only have about \$500 left. The UDC is still able to accept donations. We're not especially concerned about physical supplies, because over the years the UDC has been able to build up a strong reserve of materials. The larger issue is making sure there is enough seed money left over to launch the program again the following year.

Ramie reported that on Tuesday, the UDC had learned that it was one of only 17 successful applicants in the first round of Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association grants to support tourism and events. The SCVA will be awarding the UDC \$1,000. The grant was based on a proposal she had submitted in December for a project called “Promoting the Attractions and Stories of the Upper Delaware River Valley.” Those funds will go toward publication and distribution of the UDC’s spring newsletter. She has already received the contract materials electronically. She is grateful that the reviewers saw value in the UDC’s application and recognized the connection between protecting the river valley’s resources and supporting the attractions that bring people back to the region. The \$1,000 award represented about 26 percent of the total budget request she had submitted. The full project cost, minus the UDC’s match, had been \$3,852, so while the grant did not fund the entire request, she was thrilled to receive it. Unfortunately, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway did not receive any funding through the same SCVA program. The Scenic Byway proposal had sought just under \$25,000 for carefully budgeted marketing projects tied to the launch and implementation of the Visitor Center in Callicoon. There will be a second round of SCVA grants due on April 14th, so the byway will likely consider reapplying and refining the application based on feedback they are requesting. She offered that comparison to underscore how fortunate the UDC was to have been selected in such a competitive round. The SCVA award, combined with the \$500 DRBC sponsorship specifically designated for this newsletter issue, means that the spring newsletter is now nearly fully covered financially.

Ramie said she had raised the idea of a joint Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund application with Friends of the Upper Delaware River at the February full council meeting and again at the March Operations Committee meeting, explaining that both the UDC and FUDR had been looking at the same capacity-building grant category, although they had different goals in mind. The council had instructed her to look into it further and determine whether it would be appropriate for the UDC. She had spoken several times with Molly Oliver, Executive Director of FUDR, and had also sought advice from others who had received the grant in the past. After all of that, she concluded that the program did not really fit the UDC’s objectives. The biggest problem was that what the UDC most wanted to fund through such an application – a consultant to prepare a development and communications plan which had been recommended by the UDC funding task force – would not have been eligible under that grant program. They were left trying to identify another possible project on short notice, but everything they considered felt like something the UDC was already doing or something that was hard to frame convincingly within the conservation-oriented structure of the program. The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, as administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, really prioritizes on-the-ground projects that clearly benefit fish and wildlife or advance direct conservation outcomes. It became difficult to articulate a scope of work and budget that would fit those conservation goals while also meaningfully serving the UDC’s needs. She was also concerned about the significant administrative burden that would come if the UDC had participated as a subcontractor to FUDR. The program would have functioned on a reimbursement basis, meaning the UDC would first have to front the money and then seek repayment. Over a two- to three-year period, that would have required monthly billings and detailed reimbursement claims, including the allocation of percentages of staff time to specific project components. This would be particularly difficult because UDC staff time is already supported through federal funding, so introducing a second pool of federal funds into the same operations would create a complicated overlap. The UDC and FUDR intended to cooperate on their respective ideas, regardless of the grant, so the partnership aspect did not depend on formal participation in this program.

A letter the UDC had sent to New York State Assembly Member Paula Kay, congratulating her on her appointment by the Assembly Speaker to the Special Committee on Environmental Conservation was included in the packet. Ramie said that this is very advantageous for the 100th District, because it places one of the region’s representatives in a position to advocate directly for environmental resources. She reminded the Council that Assemblymember Kay had been instrumental in arranging the Albany meeting involving G. Dudko, Driscoll, and herself, during which they met with the chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee. Paula Kay’s membership on that committee could potentially be highly relevant to future state funding opportunities for the UDC.

Ramie informed the Council that the UDC currently has a vacancy on the board. She reported that on February 17th, Katt Judd resigned as the Town of Hancock UDC representative. Ramie had promptly reached out to town officials with information about the appointment process and what service on the Council involves. She had not yet heard back, but said she was hopeful the Town of Hancock would be able to fill the vacancy soon so there would not be a long period without representation. Hancock does have an alternate representative, but that individual has not typically been active or involved. If anyone knows someone in Hancock who might be interested, they could certainly mention the opening, while acknowledging that the actual appointment remains entirely up to the town.

Ramie said the UDC will once again be administering a river safety campaign this year, contracting with Adams Outdoor Advertising for a series of digital and static billboards placed at entrance points in New York and Pennsylvania leading into the river valley. The contract from Adams has already been received, and the next step is to process a budget modification for the \$5,000 cost through the UDC's Cooperative Agreement with the NPS. UDPE's Administrative Officer Tara Harbert had just begun that process at the end of the business day. The intent is to increase the Cooperative Agreement funding enough to cover the campaign. The same approach had been used the previous year, at which point the UDC's total budget ended at \$305,000. She asked whether anyone had strong opinions about the water safety billboard design. We could reuse last year's design and slogan, the "Always have their backs" message. Since the design was introduced only last year, it still felt relatively fresh and had been an effective message. The other option would be to ask the Adams Outdoor Advertising art department to create something new in consultation with the NPS Water Safety Committee. We do not need to decide immediately, but she would need to let Adams know relatively soon whether they should proceed with the existing design or begin work on a new one. Martin asked whether there would be an added cost associated with redesigning the graphic. Ramie said that was a good question and that she did not believe there would be, because she assumed the in-house art department would treat that work as part of its normal service, but she will follow up to confirm. Henry asked whether there was a deadline for deciding about the design, and whether the issue could be brought up at the next meeting or work session. Ramie said she would also ask Adams about that. The billboard contract itself does not begin until mid-May, but obviously the company would need lead time to produce the materials.

Ramie said the spring newsletter must be submitted to Courier Printing by March 30th, while the 2025 annual report is due to NPS by March 31st. The reporting requirements and formatting for the annual report have changed and also the office is now introducing Adobe InDesign for the first time for the newsletter since QuarkXPress is not compatible with the office's new Windows 11 computer system, forcing them to start from scratch. She is hopeful that once they get past the learning curve of this first issue, future newsletters will go more smoothly. She thanked Driscoll for putting together a 12-page InDesign template. The UDC is also beginning work on the new UDC-NPS Cooperative Agreement. Marshall, in her role as the Agreement's Technical Representative, has been preparing a first draft of a new Cooperative Agreement for a one-year term. As part of that process, the UDC will also need to develop its 2027 Work Plan. There is a hard deadline in May for completing those materials, and Marshall has worked backwards from the Council's meeting schedule so that members will have sufficient time to review the draft documents. They expect to receive the first draft around March 13th, which would then trigger the Council's review of both the Cooperative Agreement and development of its associated work plan.

Ramie pointed members to the March and April calendars in the packet. She said it was very unfortunate that the Lenape Nation Chief's presentation on the Rising Nation Journey, which had been scheduled for that evening, had to be canceled. The UDC has not actually had a presentation since December, because the intervening meetings had been taken up by the election, oaths of office, and then this cancellation. The presentation schedule would be back on track at the next meeting, which she reminded everyone would actually take place on March 31st rather than the usual April date, in order to avoid a conflict with Passover. At that meeting, the Council is scheduled to hear from Amanda Khalil of the DRBC on the subject of water resource impacts from AI data centers.

New Business:

- a. **Draft Letter to NPS: Tusten Open Space and Recreation Plan (UDC 2026-01), Town of Tusten:** A motion by Henry to send a letter to NPS recommending that the Tusten Open Space and Recreation Plan substantially conforms to the River Management Plan, seconded by Robinson, carried.
- b. **Draft Letter to NPS: Callicoon Riverside Park (UDC 2026-03), Town of Delaware:** A motion by Henry to send a letter to NPS recommending that the Callicoon Riverside Park in the Town of Delaware substantially conforms to the River Management Plan, seconded by Robinson, carried.
- c. **Draft Letter to NPS: Highlands Salon (UDC 2026-04), Town of Tusten:** A motion by Henry to send a letter to NPS recommending that the Highlands Salon in the Town of Tusten substantially conforms to the River Management Plan, seconded by Robinson, carried.
- d. **Draft Letter to NPS: Keller Williams (UDC 2026-05), Town of Tusten:** A motion by Henry to send a letter recommending that Keller Williams in the Town of Tusten substantially conforms to the River Management Plan, seconded by Robinson, carried.
- e. **Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 2026 Annual Workplan:** Ramie asked Kurnath whether the NPS had a deadline by which comments from the UDC should be submitted. Kurnath said that UPDE's hope was to receive official comments following a Council vote at the next meeting (April meeting, 3/31). The goal would be to incorporate any comments from the Council and then move forward with sharing the

finalized work plan with municipalities, publishing it on UPDE's website, and distributing it more broadly sometime later in April or possibly May. The document itself was structured in essentially the same format used in the previous year's plan. By keeping the format largely unchanged from year to year, readers can focus on the actual content and priorities of the plan rather than needing to adjust to a new layout each time. Kurnath asked if the Council could review the document and provide feedback by the end of the month, that would align well with the NPS schedule. Ramie agreed that the timeline sounded reasonable. She reminded members that the work plan had been distributed the previous day via email. B. Dudko commented that he had already skimmed through the work plan and it looked good. He still intended to go back and read it more carefully. Ramie asked that if members had comments they wished to share, to please send them to her by March 23rd, which would be roughly one week prior to the next Council meeting on March 31st. That schedule would give staff enough time to compile the feedback and draft a formal response letter from the Council if the members decided to transmit comments to the NPS. Robinson said he wanted to thank Kurnath for including a paragraph addressing the UDC's current financial situation. The Council might want to reinforce that point in its own commentary back to the NPS when responding to the work plan. Kurnath thanked Robinson for the feedback. She encouraged members to send simple questions directly to her and to Marshall, so they could provide clarification promptly and help facilitate the Council's review. Members will review the UDSRR 2026 Annual Work Plan over the next several weeks, send any questions or comments to Ramie by March 23rd, and vote at the March 31st meeting on whether to transmit official feedback to the NPS before the plan is finalized and distributed publicly.

- f. **Letter of Support for Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant Projects:** Ramie said that one draft letter is included in the meeting packet, and right before tonight's meeting the UDC had received a second request for a support letter from Sullivan County for the same grant program. Applications for the DWCF program are due by March 26, so this meeting is the final opportunity for the Council to act on these requests before the submission deadline. Ramie reminded everyone that Friends of the Upper Delaware River's proposal was the same project that had previously been discussed as a potential joint application between the UDC and FUDR, although she had ultimately concluded that it would be more effective for each organization to pursue its own path. The FUDR proposal relates to expanding the Upper Delaware River Network, an initiative with which the UDC is already closely involved. In the draft letter, she mentioned that the UDC has been an inaugural member of the network and serves on both the Executive Committee and the ReGrants Subcommittee. At present, the network's grant-making activities are limited to communities on the New York side of the river, because the funding source originates from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Environmental Protection Fund. The proposed DWCF grant would allow FUDR to expand that program to Pennsylvania communities, enabling municipalities on the Pennsylvania side of the river to participate if they choose. She has firsthand familiarity with how those grants function and believes they represent a valuable resource for municipalities.

As with any letter of support issued by the UDC, the Council's endorsement would express support for the applicant's opportunity to pursue the grant. If the Council approved the letter, she had agreed on the UDC's behalf to circulate the letter to the Council's five Pennsylvania member township with a cover memo and a sample support letter so that those municipalities could, if they wished, submit their own letters of support for the application. Demonstrating interest and backing from Pennsylvania communities would strengthen the proposal by showing that the program expansion has local support. A motion by Richardson to approve a letter of support to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation for the Friends of the Upper Delaware River's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant project, seconded by Henry, carried.

The next request came from Sullivan County which is proposing a project to develop a watershed management plan for the Mongaup system, an important tributary of the Delaware River. The county plans to carry out the project in partnership with several organizations, including Trout Unlimited, Pace University Land Use Law Center, and Friends of the Upper Delaware River. The working title of the effort is the "Mongaup Plus Watershed Management Plan." The proposal focuses on community-driven planning across the watershed. The project would involve municipal and public planning meetings throughout the Mongaup watershed, designed to bring together local officials, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan that highlights the community benefits of watershed management, resource protection, and restoration efforts. According to the sample letter, the initiative would emphasize public health and safety, protection of infrastructure, flood mitigation, and economic revitalization, all framed within the broader goal of improving watershed management. By

emphasizing those practical benefits, the project aims to build strong local support and buy-in from elected officials, landowners, and other stakeholders for future restoration and protection initiatives. A motion by G. Dudko to approve a letter of support to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation for Sullivan County's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant project, seconded by Richardson, carried. Richardson asked Rajsz about the timeline for developing the proposed watershed management plan. He wondered whether the effort would proceed more quickly than the previous state-led Mongaup Wildlife Management Unit plan that had taken many years to complete. Rajsz agreed that the earlier process had taken a long time and expressed the hope that this new planning effort would be completed more efficiently.

- g. **3/11 Citizens Emergency Preparedness Training Class:** Ramie said that online advance registration had been capped at 70 participants, and 50 was the number required by the program organizers to ensure the class could be held. The class had reached that threshold quickly, exceeded it, and effectively filled the available online registration slots. Walk-in attendees would still be allowed. The UDC had asked the National Guard whether it would be possible to host a second session of the Citizens Emergency Preparedness Training, and they had responded very enthusiastically. They had already provided a list of potential dates when instructors would be available to return. These included several options in May, a larger number of available dates in June, and a few possibilities in July. The UDC staff is now reviewing those options and considering scheduling a second training session. If the additional class is organized, it would most likely be held at the same Tusten Town Hall Community Room location as the March session, since the venue is centrally located within the Upper Delaware River Valley and accessible to participants from both New York and Pennsylvania communities. We also might consider holding the second session at a different time of day. The 3/11 class is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., offering a different time for the second class might therefore allow additional residents to participate. Sullivan County Emergency Operations Center in Swan Lake is holding the same seminar on May 11. Because of that existing event, the UDC would likely schedule its second training later in the spring or early summer to avoid overlap. The organizers were very excited about the strong response and the fact that the class filled up so quickly. Refreshments will be available for attendees.
- h. **Other:** Robinson displayed a check from Shohola for \$1,000 for UDC stop gap funding. He said he would drop it off at the UDC sometime next week.

Robinson introduced a letter from Shohola Township displayed on screen to pursue an amendment to the River Management Plan as a way to address the UDC's longstanding funding problems. Robinson said the UDC's shortfalls is something he thinks about often, and he has repeatedly gone back and reread the River Management Plan over time. After Thanksgiving he had what he described as an epiphany: the River Management Plan itself already contains a mechanism that could bring the partners together in a coordinated, uniform way, rather than through the fragmented and piecemeal approach the Council has been using while trying to secure funding from different sources. In his view, that amendment process might offer a path toward resolving the UDC's funding crisis. He brought this concept to the Shohola Township Board of Supervisors, and he noted that two of the three supervisors are especially familiar with the origins of the River Management Plan. One supervisor, George C. Fluhr, is the son of George J. Fluhr, who was deeply involved in the original preparation of the plan, and another, Greg Hoepfer, had roots in a landowners' organization that was active during that period. These supervisors understand the plan, support the UDC, and placed confidence in him to carry this proposal forward. The River Management Plan contains an explicit amendment process, which he pointed out appears prominently on pages 26 and 27 of the document, not tucked away in an obscure appendix or footnote. The amendment section clearly spells out the conditions under which an amendment can be pursued, and after reading and rereading that language, he became convinced that the UDC's funding situation fits squarely within the kind of issue that warrants use of that mechanism. The plan describes itself as the most important document for all future efforts and actions within the Upper Delaware Corridor, and says that it is intended to provide the direction and parameters for implementing the legislation and guiding the actions of the participating organizations. On page 19, the plan states that the Upper Delaware Council must be the driving force behind the plan, must maintain an active presence in the river valley, and must serve as the primary entity through which local, state, and federal agencies resolve their differences and agree upon joint actions affecting the valley. Robinson stressed that the UDC's duties and responsibilities under the plan are not interchangeable and cannot simply be transferred to another entity. The River Management Plan includes a specific funding structure, calling for the UDC to receive \$500,000 annually, consisting of \$300,000 from the NPS and \$100,000 each from New York State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The plan references those figures in 1986 dollars, which he said is significant because it confirms in black and white that the funding

structure was established decades ago and has never been updated for inflation or current operational realities. He observed that, in practice, the UDC has received only the \$300,000 federal contribution and has never received the state funding components envisioned in the plan. Because of underfunding, the UDC has already been forced to reduce personnel and cut back or eliminate programs that support member municipalities, safeguard water quality, protect home rule authority and private property rights, and contribute to the valley's economic vitality. The UDC will eventually need to eliminate another full-time position, even though the organization's 80-plus mandated tasks under the River Management Plan have not diminished.

Robinson then introduced and read aloud Shohola Township Resolution No. 2026-02, titled "A Resolution to Request Amendment of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan to Ensure Adequate Funding of the Upper Delaware Council":



SHOHOLA TOWNSHIP

Board of Supervisors

George C. Fluhr, Gregory P. Hoepfer, Keith W. Raser

SHOHOLA TOWNSHIP, PIKE COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST AMENDMENT OF THE
UPPER DELAWARE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ENSURE
ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Supervisors of Shohola Township to Request Amendment of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, In 1978, Congress designated 73.4 miles of the Upper Delaware River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Delaware legislation stipulates that the Secretary of the Interior (through the National Park Service), the Delaware River Basin Commission, the (now defunct) Citizens Advisory Council, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of New York and the affected political subdivisions of the two States cooperate in preparing a plan to protect the river within the scope of their existing laws; and

WHEREAS, such plan was prepared as the Upper Delaware River Management Plan ("RMP") by the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP), an association formed in 1981 by the eight affected New York river towns and seven Pennsylvania river townships; and

WHEREAS, the RMP stipulated the creation of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), which is composed of the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the National Park Service (NPS), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), and 13 of the 15 towns and townships that border the river; and

WHEREAS, Shohola Township is an active voting member of the UDC and further benefits from the implementation of the RMP; and

WHEREAS, the RMP makes financial provision to annually fund the UDC in the amount of \$500,000, of which \$300,000 is to be a line item in the National Park Service's annual budget, and \$100,000 each from line-item appropriations of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and The State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued Executive Order No. 1989-2 on 2/16/1989 (now PA Code Subchapter MM) and New York State issued Executive Order No. 169 (reaffirmed annually) on 3/22/1993, directing state agencies to act consistently with the RMP; and

WHEREAS, the appropriations outlined in the RMP provide for no inflation based increases or adjustment; and

WHEREAS, despite the clear funding arrangement, the UDC has only received \$300,000 in annual funding by the NPS and no funding from either State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this underfunding the UDC has been forced to reduce its personnel, and to cut back and eliminate programs that: provide support services and grants to its member municipalities, safeguard the river's water quality, protect home rule authority, safeguard private property rights, and enhance the river valley's economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 independent economic analysis projected that, without any relief, the UDC will need to eliminate another full-time position despite no corresponding decrease in the 80+ mandated tasks assigned to it in the RMP; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of a grossly underfunded and understaffed UDC will be detrimental to Shohola Township and the other member-municipalities; and

WHEREAS, a financially stable UDC is imperative to the continued success of this cooperative agreement and provides real and tangible benefits to Shohola Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Shohola Township requests that the River Management Plan be amended as per its prescribed amendment process generally described on pages 26-27, as follows:

1. That the Federal funding component of the Upper Delaware Council be increased to a level that sustains its comprehensive responsibilities outlined in the River Management Plan and that funding levels will be adjusted annually to reflect the projected budgetary needs of the organization as determined by the Council;

2. That the funding components of the Upper Delaware Council from the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be increased to a level that sustains its comprehensive responsibilities outlined in the River Management Plan and that funding levels would be adjusted annually to reflect the projected budgetary needs of the organization as determined by the Council; and

3. That the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania re-affirm their commitments as UDC members and participants in the River Management Plan to meet their funding obligations.

It was signed by all three supervisors and dated February 12, 2026.

Robinson acknowledged that using the amendment process would be a major step, but he said he believes it is the right one. He is not trying to denigrate any of the UDC's partners. Rather, his goal is to bring all of the partners together to focus on the continued functioning and survival of the UDC, because in his view the plan itself makes clear that without the UDC, the River Management Plan essentially falls apart.

Rajsz said she thought it was a very good resolution and that it deserved to gain traction. She suggested that the resolution could be used as a template and circulated to all of the member towns and townships, so that each municipality could consider passing something similar and sending it to the appropriate state and federal officials. It is an election year, with congressional elections and the New York gubernatorial race coming up, and she thought that context could make the timing opportune for broader outreach. Robinson said that in his reading of the amendment process, it is not necessary for every municipality to pass its own separate resolution. The River Management Plan provides that the Council itself would vote on whether to initiate the amendment process, and that it takes only a majority vote of the Council to set that process in motion. If the Council were to approve the proposal, that would trigger the next steps. If the Council could achieve the required majority, hopefully, eventually, all of the voting members would support it, but separate municipal resolutions would not be necessary to start the formal amendment procedure. Rajsz said she is trying to understand exactly what the path forward would look like. What does he envision as the next step after introducing the idea? Robinson said that once the concept is taken up, the Council would

likely need to work on developing a realistic budget or set of budgets showing what the UDC actually needs in present-day dollars to carry out its responsibilities. That work might benefit from the assistance of an accountant or financial professional to help ground the numbers in a defensible, up-to-date budget analysis. Once the Council had that information, the proposal could move through the amendment process laid out in the River Management Plan. He also said there are some procedural steps as he understood them from the plan, including the need for public hearings in the directly affected states, eventual submission to the Secretary of the Interior, publication in the Federal Register, and transmittal to the appropriate committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate for review.

Henry thanked Robinson for his work on this and agreed that it was worth pursuing, but he recommended that the Council not rush through it. This would be the first time the Council has ever tried to amend the River Management Plan and he felt it was essential to proceed thoughtfully and deliberately. He suggested that the Council should first circulate Shohola's resolution to members so everyone could read it carefully, and also provide the relevant page references from the River Management Plan so members could familiarize themselves with the amendment process. He recommended making the topic the number one priority at the next Operations Committee meeting. It might be wise to have the UDC solicitor review the matter, even though Robinson had indicated there had already been legal review at the township level.

Richardson added that, in addition to circulating the resolution itself, it would be helpful if Robinson could provide an outline of the steps involved in the amendment process, so that when Council members begin discussing it with their towns and townships, they would be able to explain the full process clearly. Robinson said that he had already prepared that kind of background information for Shohola Township, complete with page references, and said he would send it to Driscoll for distribution to the Council.

Kurnath said she fully supports the idea of having the Council talk through the matter further in Operations, but she also wanted to make sure members did not underestimate the scope of what a major amendment would entail. Some of the steps had been mentioned only briefly, but they are actually substantial, including an analysis of alternatives, preparation of either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, public hearings, and ultimately approval from the Secretary of the Interior. She said these are not small asks. She described the prospect as interesting and exciting but also wanted to be realistic and caution the group that simply changing the funding numbers in the plan would not, by itself, magically create more money in the National Park Service budget to pass through to the UDC. Kurnath said she would be interested to see where the idea goes and offered to help from the Park Service side in whatever way she could.

Martin said she found the entire conversation fascinating, particularly because she had often wondered how the amendment mechanism actually worked. She suggested that if the Council is going to communicate this concept to others, it would be very helpful to have a graphic flow chart showing the process visually. Robinson said he would prepare an informational sheet laying out the amendment steps, with page citations. He reiterated that while the process is not fast, it could be more productive in the long run than continuing to run around to Albany and Harrisburg trying to re-educate new officials every time there is turnover in government.

Dexter said that the River Management Plan states that there must be a UDC, and Aaron agreed, that is in black and white and that the plan contains no replacement clause identifying another body that would take over the UDC's work if it ceased to exist.

Dugan said there are really two elephants in the room; the first is that although the states have participated in the UDC for decades in terms of representation, they have never actually contributed the financial support contemplated in the plan. The second is that the funding figures in the plan have never been adjusted over the life of the agreement. Over the more than ten years he has been involved with the Council, there have been many attempts to approach Pennsylvania and New York and ask them to provide the funding they should. He asked whether the Council had really exhausted every possible avenue for leveraging the states before embarking on a formal amendment process. Robinson said that the Council has certainly tried. He personally has spent many years meeting with people, talking to legislators and officials, and pursuing this issue in many ways. The intent to help is often there but the effort has not produced actual funding. That is why, in his view, a different mechanism is needed. He reiterated that the states signed onto the plan and should be expected to meet the obligations it outlines, especially given the compromises the municipalities made, including on zoning and local control, in agreeing to the plan in the first place. In

Robinson's view, the amount of money being discussed is small in the context of state budgets, yet still has never materialized. That reality, he argued, makes it all the more necessary to try a process that compels attention.

Ramie said the resolution would be circulated to the Council. It had only arrived around 5:00 p.m. that evening, which is why members had not seen it sooner. She said for nearly thirty years the prevailing attitude had been "do not amend the plan," because opening it up was often described as opening a can of worms. She said this proposal would therefore represent a pretty radical shift, and there are a lot of implications that need to be considered very carefully. Beginning the discussion at the Operations Committee level would be the right way to proceed. She asked Robinson whether the resolution had been sent anywhere else, and he confirmed that it had only been directed to the UDC and had not yet been circulated beyond Shohola's own board meeting and this Council discussion.

A motion by Henry to send Shohola's proposal to amend the River Management Plan, including the process outline and any flow chart or explanatory information be circulated to Council members in advance so they could review them, seconded by Rajs, carried.

Old Business:

- a. **NPS Determination: Sorochynskij Dog Kennel (UDC 2025-08), Damascus Township:** Engelhardt said the NPS' determination letter on Sorochynskij Dog Kennel in Damascus Township is included in tonight's packet, concurring with the UDC's finding of substantial conformance, therefore closing out this project.
- b. **Town of Deepark Police Mobile Surveillance Trailers at Hawk's Nest:** Ramie said this issue has been a recurring topic over the years for both the UDC and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, particularly because the Hawk's Nest overlook has long been associated with episodes of speeding, vandalism, littering, and other forms of disorderly behavior. The Town of Deepark Police Chief had been talking about installing surveillance cameras at that location for quite some time as one possible way to deter misconduct and assist with enforcement. Tonight's packet includes the Police Chief Richard Szyndor's announcement regarding the new surveillance equipment, but after receiving that information she followed up with him to clarify several details. First, she had asked how the project was funded. The Chief said that the equipment had been purchased through the New York State Law Enforcement Technology Grant, which covered the cost of two mobile surveillance units. She also asked when the trailers would actually be deployed. According to the Chief, the units are already operational in the sense that they are currently capturing video, but the department was still in the process of being onboarded to the system that allows them to view the footage. The cameras are recording, but the police department does not yet have full access to review the video feeds. The Chief indicated that the onboarding process and training on how to use the system should be completed soon; he expected they would have the ability to view the recordings by the end of that week. They also need to obtain permits from the New York State Department of Transportation. Because the trailers are intended to be positioned along state-maintained highways, the police department must first secure DOT approval for placement. The Chief said they hope that obtaining the permits will be a relatively quick process, but they do not yet know how long it will take. Ramie asked the Chief to provide a photograph of the units. He sent a photo, which she will circulate along with the meeting's action items the following day. The surveillance trailers are manufactured by Wireless CCTV, a company based in Texas. Each unit is towable and is currently equipped with three PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras. Because they are mounted on trailers, they can be moved and deployed wherever needed throughout the town, although the primary goal is to keep them stationed in the Hawk's Nest area as frequently as possible.

Dexter asked, given the history of vandalism at Hawk's Nest, how does the police department intend to prevent people from simply pushing the trailers over the edge of the overlook? G. Dudko said though she had not yet seen them in person, the photographs suggested they are large and substantial units, mounted on a good-sized trailer frame and raised up on a metal support structure. They appear to be solar powered, with panels attached to provide energy for the cameras and equipment. They look like heavy-duty installations, not small or easily tipped devices. Previous attempts to install cameras or other monitoring equipment in that location have often failed because people shot at them or destroyed them, and even basic signage placed at the overlook has sometimes been vandalized or thrown over the edge of the cliff. Because they are towable, the police department will be able to move them to other locations around the town as needed, including during large events or gatherings where additional security might be helpful. Engelhardt then asked whether the system includes any advanced capabilities such as facial recognition, or whether it simply records video that can later be reviewed. She also wondered whether officers would be monitoring the footage live or only accessing it after the fact. G. Dudko said her understanding was that the units can

transmit live video feeds back to the police station, allowing officers to view activity remotely. She believes they would also be capable of capturing license plate information, although he was less certain about how detailed the imagery would be when people are outside their vehicles at the overlook. For more technical specifics, she suggested that people might want to contact the Town of Deerpark Police Chief directly. G. Dudko had emailed the Chief to thank him for implementing the program and received a prompt response.

- c. **Conflict of Interest & Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Deadline:** Driscoll said at this point, if any representatives or alternates have not completed their Sexual Harassment Prevention Training by today, Section 7 of the UDC's Bylaws will be enforced. The monthly stipend and mileage will be frozen until the training and Conflict of Interest forms are completed. Driscoll will send out a memo this week to all representatives/alternates to whom this applies. Henry asked whether towns and township boards enforce this training, while emphasizing that he is not against it. Ramie said this board had decided as well as staff in its resolution to adopt the NYS Department of Labor policy. Henry suggested discussing this requirement at the next Operations Committee meeting.
- d. **Other:** None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder seconded by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. carried.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Driscoll, 3/13/2026