

CORRECTED  
Upper Delaware Council  
**WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 19, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Tony Ritter, Debra Conway, Pat Jeffer, Al Henry, Fred Peckham  
Committee Members Absent: Andy Boyar  
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Travis O'Dell, Cindy Odell  
Guests: Kris Heister, Ingrid Peterec, Eric Rowe, Jordan Lewis

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Ritter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Election of Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2016:** Henry made a motion to open the floor for elections and nominated Tony Ritter for Chairperson of the Water Use/Resource Management Committee for 2016. The motion was seconded by Jeffer. Ritter was elected by voice vote. Ritter thanked his colleagues for their trust in him and he promised to do his best as Chair. Henry made a motion to nominate Pat Jeffer for Vice-Chairperson for 2016 and Ritter seconded the motion. Jeffer was elected by voice vote.

**NPS Preview of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Virtual Park Experience:** NPS Superintendent Kris Heister introduced Eric Rowe and Jordan Lewis of Quiet Light Films. She explained that they are the contractors for the NPS virtual visitor experience. She added that Rowe has also served as a volunteer for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The project was funded through a grant received from the Northeast Regional Office as part of the Park Service Centennial, Heister added. Rowe, on his and Lewis' behalf, thanked Heister and Ingrid Peterec for the opportunity to work on the project. Rowe stated that the project he and Lewis developed is an interactive park tour consisting of still photos, maps, GPS coordinates, and videos, that once approved will be available on the UDSRR website. Rowe stated the site consists of five modules. The modules include River Access Points; Take-A-Hike; History & Culture; River Recreation & Safety; and Wildlife & Ecology. Rowe demonstrated each module individually explaining how the user would navigate through and spoke of the information available in each one. Rowe noted that the Virtual Park Experience is not considered educational, but more experience or visual driven. Ritter questioned when the site will go live. Heister said once she views and approves the completed project, it will go live in the near future. Ritter questioned how many of the short videos the whole site contains. Rowe estimated 14 videos. Ritter suggested that the National Park Service may want to establish their own You Tube account to share those videos on. He feels more people may be reached that way. Rowe explained that the site is searchable by search engines such as Google and Yahoo. Rowe said that the opportunity to explore the Upper Delaware region for a year with a camera was phenomenal. He finds it hard to represent the beauty of the area in one minute videos, but hopes that capturing the essence and emotion will serve its purpose and draw people in. He stated, "It's a pretty special place". Ritter offered to share his fish images with Rowe and Lewis for the site. Ritter recommended that the Park Service combine the videos so that they could be looped continuously at various venues such as trade and sport shows. He specifically noted that the 39th Annual World Fishing & Outdoor Expo in Suffern, NY is scheduled for March 10 – 13. Peckham questioned if there is any type of announcement in the series stating that the majority of the property in the Upper Delaware is privately owned. Rowe said that verbiage conveying that message is within the modules of the virtual park experience. Henry said the fact that over 90% of the property is privately owned needs to be shared in an obvious way. Heister said that when she reviews the project, she will keep that concern in mind. Henry asked that it be confirmed that the Barryville Access is included in the tour. Ritter said it is his opinion that there should be some sort of an introduction from the superintendent that would offer a welcome, explain why this area is so special, and ask the public to respect private property. Heister agreed with that concept.

A motion by Peckham seconded by Jeffer to approve the December 15 meeting minutes was carried, with Conway abstaining. Henry questioned Peckham's membership on the WU/RM Committee. Ramie reported

that he has decided to join the committee effective tonight. Henry said he is glad to have him on the committee. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

**January 7 Common Waters Teleconference Report:** O'Dell reported that he and Ramie both participated on this conference call. He noted that Stephanie Dalke, Project Director at Pinchot Institute for Conservation, provided an update on the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS RCPP).

O'Dell stated that call participants provided their own updates. Wayne and Pike counties have been conducting water quality assessment through the USGS through ground water testing. This project has been on-going for a couple of years. Wayne County's study should be finalized by the end of this month with Pike County's expected by the end of February. Sullivan County Planner Heather Jacksy stated that the county is looking for William Penn Foundation funding to help towns fund ordinance updates in preparation for future development. Jeff Skelding of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River said they are contracting with Delaware County on their Stream Corridor Management Plan.

O'Dell said that Dalke also reported that they are looking for grant funding to implement some of the strategies identified by Susan Beecher, Research Fellow, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, in the "Adapting to Climate Change: Risks & Opportunities in the Upper Delaware River Region" study that she conducted. They will be showcasing one of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River stream restoration projects on Sands Creek.

O'Dell reported that Sue Currier of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy provided an update on the Clear Choices Clean Water program they support. More information is available at <http://mydelawariver.clearchoicescleanwater.org/>. Ramie said that more information about the program will also be available in the Spring/Summer 2016 edition of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter.

**January 12 Sullivan County Trail Committee Meeting Update:** Ramie reported that January is the one-year anniversary of the launch of this committee. It was noted that a presentation had been made to the Sullivan County Legislative Planning Committee, as they have jurisdiction over this sub-committee, providing information about Trail Committee membership and what the committee's goals are. Those goals are to develop, promote, maintain, and connect the trail system with common signage and certain cohesive standards. The committee's accomplishments were discussed. One of the accomplishments of the committee and staff at the Sullivan County Planning Division was that they assisted with applications for three different trail projects that were submitted through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Projects for the O&W Trail, Smallwood Preserve in the Town of Bethel, and the Livingston Manor River Walk were submitted and unfortunately all rejected, Ramie added. The O&W Trail has been a priority of the Sullivan County Trail Committee because that would cover 50 miles from Wurtsboro to Livingston Manor and potentially beyond that. Resources to subsidize a feasibility study are currently being sought. A brief discussion about some of the successful CFA grants took place. Ramie noted that the Committee has decided to put together a fact sheet that would spell out the benefits of trails in terms of their economic impact on communities where they are located, the recreation and health benefits, etc. This fact sheet could be used as a promotional piece for trails in general. Ramie provided details on Governor Cuomo's State of the State address that took place on January 13<sup>th</sup>. She stated she was disappointed in the lack of detail provided regarding the Governor's Catskills Challenge that is scheduled to take place this year. Ramie said that discussion regarding the Geotourism initiative took place.

The next meeting of the Sullivan County Trail Committee will take place on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Legislative Committee Room in Monticello.

**January 14 Upper DelAWARE River Roundtable Report:** O'Dell reported that the main topic of this meeting was "Strengthening our Regional Food System". O'Dell stated that meeting participants discussed the notion of producing and consuming food locally. Also discussed were the issues that farmers face. Food hubs were discussed. O'Dell explained that this is a place where a farmer could bring excess products for distribution. It was reported that the red meat facility in Liberty, NY is complete and they are looking for someone to run it. The facility is a USDA certified red meat facility for slaughtering and processing. Currently, the nearest such facilities are approximately two hours away, O'Dell added.

**January 15 Pike-Wayne Local History Roundtable Report:** Ramie said she attended this meeting which took place at the Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA. A written report was provided in members' packets. Ramie reported that a Passport to History booklet is currently in the works. The booklet will include information on all the local history organizations in Wayne and Pike Counties. Each would have one page in the booklet to provide a narrative description, photo, hours, and facilities. Each organization would have a stamp that was unique to them and if a passport holder were to visit each of the historic sites in Pike and Wayne Counties, they would be entitled to some sort of a prize. Printing quotes and contributions are being discussed. The goal is to have the booklets ready for distribution by April.

The annual Thomas Kennedy Local History Festival is scheduled for April 16, from 12-4 p.m. at the Hawley Silk Mill. All of the local history organizations are welcome to set up a table to explain what they do and offer to the public. The festival will be preceded by a 9-11 a.m. workshop conducted by Jane Varcoe of the Waymart Area Historical Society on Seeking Grants for Historic Organizations.

Ingrid Peterec from Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River shared registration flyers for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Zane Grey Festival in Lackawaxen on July 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be expanded this year to help celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial.

The quarterly meeting of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg was announced. This meeting is open to anyone who may be interested in this subject, Ramie noted.

The next meeting of the Local History Roundtable is tentatively scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Pike County Historical Society's The Columns Museum in Milford.

**Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Update:** Ramie said that a couple of conference calls have taken place in advance of the January 15 deadline for submitting nominations to discuss how the nominations were coming in. As of 1:30 p.m. on January 15, 427 nominations have been made to the site, she reported. The next step in the process is a one and a half day long meeting of the Geotourism Stewardship Council January 25 and 26 at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA. At this meeting, the nominations will be reviewed in detail to try and determine gaps and identify any inappropriate submissions. Once this process is complete, the building of the site will begin. Henry questioned if the official title of the program is "Scenic, Wild Delaware River". Ramie said it is. He noted that is grammatically incorrect. A brief discussion took place about the title.

**Other:** Peckham said he suggested to the Town of Hancock at their most recent meeting that better signage for the Bouchouxville Trail (Jensen's Ledges) be installed since visitors can be easily confused at the intersection of Lordville Road. He added that the trail is being advertised and promoted more. The trail is maintained by NYS DEC, he noted. After a lengthy discussion, a motion by Ritter to send a letter to NYS DEC Region 4 with a copy to the Town of Hancock requesting the installation of better directional signage for the Bouchouxville Trail was seconded by Henry and carried.

Henry recommended following up on the requested, improved signage at the Barryville River Access. Ramie said an email was received on November 18<sup>th</sup> from Michael J. Flaherty, Fisheries Manager – NYS DEC Region 3, advising us that the issue is being actively worked on. Henry added that the Town of Highland should be working with the DEC on this signage issue. Conway provided an update on some of the changes already implemented at the access. Henry reiterated that he would appreciate a follow up to ensure that this issue is resolved before the tourist season begins. Ritter noted that Flaherty's correspondence states that he expects the sign to be ready for installation by spring. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Ramie would send a follow-up email to Mike Flaherty requesting an update on the plans noted in his November 18, 2015 e-mail to improve the signage at the Barryville River Access.

Henry asked who the Water Use/Resource Management Committee members are for 2016. Ritter said that he will represent the Town of Tusten; Conway or Boyar, the Town of Highland; Jeffer, Shohola Township; Peckham, the Town of Hancock; and Henry, Berlin Township. Membership for Lackawaxen Township is unknown at this time as John McKay is no longer a member of the Council. Ramie said it was not McKay's decision to be replaced. She added that he was on the board for 27 years. It was noted that if committee membership is six, four individuals will be needed to seat a quorum.

Henry noted that if Ritter is still concerned about launching or landing a boat at the TMR Access, he might want to contact Jerry Lovelace of Jerry's Three River Campground and inquire about the use of

his Ten Mile River Access which he noted does have a ramp. Ritter stated that he would like to see an improvement to the public access at the Ten Mile River.

Henry asked if there has been any update on the Long Eddy Access. O'Dell stated nothing official. He noted that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy owns the property and he believes they are still following through on their plan to sell it to New York State to develop as an access, but they continue to struggle with community relations.

It was noted that a copy of the letter dated December 21, 2015 to Norman R. Gavlick, Commissioner, 7<sup>th</sup> District of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, requesting that they officially use the historic name of Darbytown for their access located on Route 652 just across the NY/PA bridge rather than the inaccurate "Narrowsburg, PA" was included in members' packets.

### **New Business**

**Leadership Sullivan Community Service Project:** Ramie reported that she received a call on January 12<sup>th</sup> saying that the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board met on Jan. 11 and approved the recommendation of the Leadership Sullivan class to choose two entries for their 2016 Community Impact/Service Project, one of which is the D&H Canal Cleanup at the NPS Corwin Farm that the UDC submitted on 9/29/15. The next step is to set up an on-site meeting to go over project specifics. Hamilton asked to be kept in the loop on this project.

**Delaware River Flow and Storage Report:** Ritter referred to the NYC DEP current reservoir level handout provided in members' packets. The total storage as of January 15<sup>th</sup> was at 87.9% with normal being 84.9%.

**Other:** Ritter welcomed Peckham and Conway and stated he is looking forward to a good year.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Henry seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 1/28/16*