

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020

Committee Members Present:	Andy Boyar, Ginny Dudko (via phone), Al Henry, Pat Jeffer, Fred Peckham.
Committee Members Absent:	Evan Padua.
Staff:	Laurie Ramie, Shannon Cilento, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner:	Don Hamilton
Guests:	None.

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Chairperson Boyar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Jeffer, seconded by Henry approving the September 15th, 2020 meeting minutes carried.

Old Business

Ten Mile River Access Boat Ramp Feasibility Update: Ramie showed the committee the preliminary design plan from JHA Companies and this will be followed by a Structural Engineer's Plan. She was in touch with Eric Baird, the engineer assigned to the project, today. She asked Baird if he could come explain the design plan but he wasn't available saying that he is out in the field with limited cell service but they are shooting for next month. The preliminary design plan shows the proposed boat launch at the TMR access.

Boyar said he is involved in Trout Unlimited riverbank improvement projects where they use root-balls where it's been eroded. He talked about the importance of the engineers' design. He said in that project's case there were large bluestone slabs facing upstream; as the water rises in high-water events, the more water that comes, the more pressure goes on these angled slabs of stone. Speaking of our project, Boyar said it's been a fairly benign issue this summer but it likely won't be in February or April. He said it would behoove us to visit the site and look at the high-water. We should be observing all aspects of high-water. We've also been warned about how hard it is to keep anything man-made in place. He said that could be a good project to report here at WU/RM as to what it looks like when the flow is at various CFS. Henry noted looking at the preliminary design plan it wasn't the same location they spoke about when they met with JHA Companies at the location. It's more downstream. If they pinpoint the exact location with a marker it would be easier to do site checks and take photos at different highwater events as Boyar suggested. Referencing the preliminary design plan Henry said it's his understanding that the cofferdam is going to be temporary and they will dewater the area and then build the ramp. They were talking about having some pilings underneath it. The committee doesn't have a perspective of what they plan on doing as far as construction. Ramie said she thinks we will have a lot more information with the second part of the plan

NYS DEC Mongaup Access Parking Area: Ramie said as a reminder of what she had reported at the last full council meeting, the DEC is open and eager to work with the NPS and UDC in reorganizing the parking lot to get to get greater capacity to deal with the congestion issues. This was before Acting Superintendent Boch's departure. Ramie said the new Superintendent will have to advance that project.

Ramie said since then, Bill Rudge forwarded us correspondence on 10/2 (provided in the meeting packet). Cilento prepared a map to show where Power House Road is in the Town of Lumberland. It is clearly outside the river corridor. Nevertheless, it's an interesting rebuke of the people there for attempting to block the access to land that is part of the whole Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area; a subject of our last UDC presentation. She said this is more F.Y.I. than anything since it's not located in the corridor. It's to advise the committee that this is going on, and the neighbors have been put on notice. Boyar said if you are into kayaking, Power House Road is the starting point. You go down Power House Road, put your kayak in and have your whitewater run that ends just at Rt. 97. He said you use it for boating and kayaking and start outside the corridor but end in the corridor.

Drone Use on the Upper Delaware River: Ramie said this subject had come up at this committee about what rules are in effect for flying drones over the Upper Delaware? It's kind of a tricky issue because of course it's a unit of the National Park System, but we have private land ownership. She asked Boch before his departure and Hamilton as well for more clarification (email correspondence was provided in the meeting packet). Subsequent to this, the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association contacted UDC using us as a resource to find out what the policy is. They were doing a commercial shoot along the Upper Delaware River, and wanted to use drone footage. They had a production company that signed on to take aerial shots of the Upper Delaware. Ramie also forwarded that on to the NPS to answer. The answer from Acting Superintendent Boch was that the NPS cannot issue a permit for non-emergency drone filming purposes which take off or land on NPS lands and waters. However, they do not have jurisdiction of airspace over parks. They only have jurisdiction on land and waters within a park, not the air above it. Therefore, in this case, so long as the drone takes off and lands on property that isn't owned by the NPS, they technically and legally cannot permit nor prohibit the activity. Hamilton followed up by offering a few clarifications, that those restrictions and prohibitions on drone use also apply at any river accesses that are co-managed with a state agency, meaning the DEC or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Operation of a drone use is prohibited if it is deemed to be interfering with wildlife, use of the resource, or wildlife behavior. The operation of a drone is prohibited if it is deemed to be compromising visitor use and enjoyment. Lastly, any drone launching or retrieving on private property must be done with the consent and permission of the private property owners. Peckham said his neighbor has a drone and when he launches it, it goes right past his house and down the Delaware river and they can go for miles. He said half the time you can't even see them because they are small and many people don't fly them low. He said most of the drones on the river valley aren't on the river, per se. Hamilton said it's a little different here because the NPS doesn't have much land ownership. Drones can't be launched from the surface of the river of the mainstem or from property they have jurisdiction on, which again, includes co-managed accesses. Henry said NPS has jurisdiction up to the Ordinary High-Water Mark; they don't own it but they have law enforcement jurisdiction. He said they may have an Enforcement Policy that says they're not going to enforce it.

Eel Weir Restrictions Set by the PA Fish and Boat Commission: Following up on a topic from last month. Cilento received a complaint from a resident in Narrowsburg about an eel weir getting too wide. It was discussed with DEC and it ended up being fine. At the last meeting Cilento was asked to see if PA had any restrictions or guidelines. From everything that she's found and everyone that she's spoken to, PA defaults to DEC. Hamilton said there are nine permits which includes one on the lower East Branch and a couple on the Neversink. He thinks there are six on the Mainstem. He's not sure if all were operating this year. Cilento found an old publication from the 1970's that said that eel weirs were outlawed in PA in 1878 and routinely destroyed by fish wardens in subsequent years because they were causing a decline in the shad population and other migratory fish. She thought that was an interesting historical fact that obviously doesn't apply to today.

Boyar said he was reading an interesting book on the Delaware that mentioned maintaining wing-walls. They are so temporary and they want them to knock over, so to prevent if they are much more solid, like a set of stone, they would collect silt and change the course. They want them to be sort of obliterated and started fresh every year.

Response from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers re: Ordinary High-Water Mark: Cilento shared that Hamilton had sent a follow-up email suggesting that UDC reach out to Glenn Weitknecht, who gave the training. Cilento provided the correspondence to Weitknecht and his reply was "Good morning, Shannon, I have never heard the term 'strand' before or having a distinction for that area. Like we said in the training, the Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10; RHA goes to the Ordinary High-Water Mark. What sort of information are you looking for? Being a navigable water Section 10, there is a right that public has to freely navigate on the portion of the river that is subject to the Army Corps. Section 10 Authority." Cilento asked if anyone had any direction on a reply for that or any additional information that they could provide us with that would be helpful. Henry said the fact that he didn't know what the strand was isn't shocking. If they don't know what the strand is, they don't know the answer to the question. Ramie said we fulfilled an educational role by introducing this concept of strands to the Army Corps trainer. Henry said Cilento can forward the response to him. Peckham said in 1798, NYS incorporated all the common laws with patents, like the Minisink Patent and the Hardenberg Patent, and that's what everything is based off of. In 1822, NY and PA decided on the borders. In 1822 they decided on a main channel and split the river along the main channel. Peckham's island is in NY and there are two smaller islands below and it becomes

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

Pennsylvania. The William Penn in Pennsylvania has to the low water mark, which he said isn't true because it only goes halfway across the road and PA owes under the water. He said NY has no interest owning under the water, including the Delaware River. He has a letter from 1996 from the NYS Comptroller stating that. Boyar said he would love to see a copy of that letter.

9/28 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting: Ramie noted that this time of year brings many fall foliage status requests on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) hotline. She refers callers to the iloveny.com website for its Fall Foliage Report which is updated every Wednesday to show the percentage of color changes in the various regions of New York State.

UDSB approved a donation to the UDC for \$1,200.

UDSB has been offered a seat on the non-profit board that is being organized for the Callicoon Depot project.

Trust For Public Land had a "River Harvest" public outreach event on 10/10 at the property they are proposing in Callicoon for a new riverside park. They provided two presentation on the importance of creating butterfly habitats and gave away 1-2 native perennial pollinator plants sourced from Hickory Grove Nursery in Callicoon. UDSB approved the Trust for Public Land's application for a Promoting Butterflies on the Byway Grant in the amount of \$990.

UDSB wants to revisit the Highland River Access project which remains stymied due to the need for \$5,000 to complete the engineering drawings before the improvements that have been funded through a \$250,000 Delaware River Watershed Conservation Fund grant administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can be implemented. A vote was approved to contribute up to \$2,000 toward a match for the O'Connor Foundation grant if needed and the Town of Highland does not contribute. Ramie said the vote was not unanimous with Richardson and Dudko opposed, and Jacksy abstaining. At the UDSB meeting Dudko asked if this would set a precedent for UDSB, they don't have a grant program .for river access. It was acknowledged it's out of the norm.

The UDSB website is being updated. They are working with photographer, Moriah Wolf, to photograph approximately 120 businesses and attractions along the byway route to populate the Eat, Stay, Play, Shop listings.

Dudko and two others from the UDSB participated in National Scenic Byway Foundation's Byway Leader Training Sessions. The training involved 9 hours over 6 days in September.

Ramie reported that the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held a preliminary task force meeting on 8/18 and decided to pursue two objectives to address issues with the Hawk's Nest in the Town of Deerpark and overflow parking at the NYS DEC Mongaup Access in the Town of Lumberland. A site visit at Eagle Creek Renewable Energy Site took place on 9/3. It was determined that a viable option is to work with the NYS DEC to explore opportunities to expand parking capacity on its lands. The task force is aware that UDSB has been working with the Deerpark Police and town to address congestion at the Hawk's Nest.

Kris Gilbert from NYS Department of Transportation Region 9 reported that the Spotted Lanternfly insect has been detected in Port Jervis near the I-84 corridor. State agencies are encouraging the public to be aware of and report this pest. A Spotted Lanternfly Reporting Tool can be found at: agriculture.ny.gov . Boyar recalled the February 2019 speech that Heather Leach from Penn State Department of Entomology gave to the UDC on Spotted Lanternfly.

NYS DOT Region 8 advised Ramie they would begin repairing the stone walls at the Hawk's Nest scenic overlooks as of 9/16 and anticipate completing that work within three weeks. They will be installing signs mounted to the stone walls that read "15 Minute Parking" to address safety concerns caused by loitering. The Town of Deerpark requested the signs to assist with their enforcement actions. Boyar said the signs he saw in the Hawk's Nest were 35 mph. Dudko said the Town speed limit signs are not up. Boyar said there was a serious motorcycle accident there this week with a motorcycle taking out two pedestrians. Peckham said Skyline Drive in Virginia, which reminds him of Hawk's Nest because it curves back and forth, has a 20 mph speed limit and it's enforced. Ramie said it's been a proposal to make a seasonal speed limit change. The Deerpark Police Chief reported there was filming for a Lincoln brand car commercial on 9/24. NYS DOT Region 8 Director Lance MacMillan acknowledged the 9/21 UDSB letter regarding the pull-off areas and stone walls at the Hawk's Nest. He stated in part, "We have a plan in

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

place to address the graffiti and repair the damaged wall sections along this stretch of Route 97. We anticipate the repairs will be completed by the end of the current construction season."

Debra Conway announced that the Delaware Company "is happy to report it has received an additional \$20,000 funding for viewshed/river clearing. That means, coupled with the generous grant of \$10,000 from the UDSB, they are now able to selectively clean the entire ½-mile section between the terminus of the NPS Towpath Hiking Trail (below the Roebling Aqueduct) and the Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation Blind." This is the first river access in Highland. The idea is they will develop it over phases into a park celebrating the D&H Canal history. They received a second donation to be used separately for education, interpretive signage, as well as the excavation/transportation of the cost of moving a snubbing post. Boyar asked if a project like cutting the foliage below the Roebling Bridge goes through Project Review Committee? Ramie said no, that is for planning and zoning projects. This is vista enhancement not clearcutting. Henry asked if Hamilton knew about the project? Ramie said that Ingrid Peterec is the NPS liaison and would have more information. Cilento said she's been to that site and heard about the project when she worked at Sullivan County and it's mostly just brush clearing. She thinks the funding was mostly going to be used for the interpretive signage.

The next UDSB meeting is 10/26 at the UDC office.

9/30 PA Historical Museum Commission Historic Markers Webinar: Cilento provided an informational handout included in the meeting packet. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) has put out their annual call for historical markers. The deadline is 12/1. If you have any questions please let Cilento know.

10/7 Regulated Flows Advisory Committee Meeting: Cilento participated in this meeting while Ramie was on vacation. She provided the 10/7 agenda. She will email links of the presentations if any are of particular interest. The Cannonsville reservoir issue was discussed to great extent as DEP was on the call. There was also a presentation on the Thermal Mitigation program, at the Water, Water Everywhere Conference as well.

10/9 Callicoon Riverside Park Steering Committee Meeting: Cilento said that project is moving along really nicely. Provided in the meeting packet is the master concept plan. Hamilton also attended the meeting. This general master plan has been created after lots of public input sessions, stakeholder meetings, and surveys. She said the 18 things found on the legend are a massive wish list and then they'll start to prioritize with funding and the community which things will be completed first with this park. Cilento said she thinks it's going to be a really great asset to the County. UDC had written a letter to the Legislature asking them to continue their funding commitment. There is a resolution on Thursday's County Legislature meeting agenda to allocate funding towards this project. Hamilton noted #12 on the legend is labeled "swimming hole" and it was cautioned to them naming it that because of the liability and the need to test for E. coli bacteria. Hamilton said they're going to change it but they'll still allow people to access the river. Ramie referenced #16 Binnacle and said at a previous Callicoon Riverside Park Steering Committee Meeting she had asked what it means. Henry said it's basically a backwater area. It's common on the river and boat water levels. You get an area that has water between the shore and a little island or peninsula, it's usually a slack water area. Hamilton said that area has high biodiversity. There is another spelling for binnacle, it's a Dutch term "binneill". Ramie said it's an exciting project. Like Cilento said, the majority of it will be a Sullivan County park, five acres is for the Town of Delaware to develop their wastewater treatment plant, and the DEC wants a portion of it too for their river access. The one that they have in the Town of Delaware currently is not functioning. She said it seems like a great partnership project. Henry referenced the master concept plan and asked what all the white lines were? Hamilton and Cilento replied trails. Boyar asked where is the PA launch on the other side? Hamilton said it's downstream of this.

10/14 Water, Water Everywhere Friends of the Upper Delaware River Conference: Ramie said the UDC was a co-sponsor of this conference. A copy of the agenda was provided in the meeting packet. At one point we saw 59 participants in the Zoom rooms. We had offered registration for UDC members and staff. We ultimately had four people participate: Boyar, Cilento, herself and Dan Paparella was supposed to attend but had a work commitment so Hall-Bagdonas took his place. All of the sessions were recorded. It started out with Congressman Cartwright from PA and it ended with Paul Rush from NYC DEP. Ramie said they were both dynamic bookends. Rush got grilled pretty extensively about the Cannonsville release snafu. He apologized and did accept responsibility for a failure to

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

communicate about that situation. Dr. Kolesar was terrific in explaining the Thermal Relief Program. Ramie said there will be a newsletter article about the highlights of each of these presentations.

Peckham asked what stage is the NYS Trout Plan at for the Delaware river? Hamilton said the information Steve Hurst was presenting was on the Inland Trout Fisheries Plan. Peckham said NYS is trying to do this jointly with PA. He said he's wary about this rule because if they want to Callicoon, Lordville, etc. and they want "Catch and Release" the whole way through for trout, he feels it may discourage some people for example, kids fishing for the first time. Ramie said the classification of Delaware tailwaters to Lordville will be Wild Premiere. There are only 16 of those in the entire state. From Lordville to Callicoon would be that one Trout limit but they will have the same regulations. Hurst said they had guidance before, but never a plan for trout and their management philosophy had been based on catch-oriented stocking. Now they want to apply new science. They held 16 meetings across the state about this and the fisheries managers met monthly for a year and a half to complete a draft. They had focus groups, public meetings, and a 30-day comment period. Ramie said they learned that the catch-rate is not "king" anymore. People value the wild trout. The habitat is indicative of a good healthy ecosystem, and people are more oriented on having better resources for habitat. Hurst reported that the plan will be ready in two weeks.

Cilento said between the Regulated Flows Advisory Committee Meeting and this conference the big topic was the Cannonsville Reservoir shutdown. Hamilton said they didn't give much communication lead time. Jeff Skelding and Dan Plummer were taking DEP to task. They had photos of big fish kills. Boyar said he really enjoyed the 4.5 hours. It was very user-friendly using Zoom and the graphics that each presenter had to go along with each presentation came out so beautiful. It was really a good program, with a lot of interesting things about river cleanups and plastics in the system. Steve Schwartz gave his presentation *Knotweed: A Tough Love*. He said if anyone is thinking of attending next year, don't hesitate. Ramie said it was reported on 10/11, that as of 10/12, NYC DEP was doing that repair work to fix a leaking pipe at the Cannonsville dam, and they would need to drop the level to 40 CFS on Monday, and then to zero by Tuesday. Boyar said he didn't get a chance to ask this question but there were pictures of the piping valve that was leaking through which the flow is going and they can regulate turning it on or off. It was an elbow they had bolted in but they were fixing the wells in the middle of the pipe. He doesn't know why a new portion hadn't been fabricated and dropped in? He said that had been repaired more than once. Hall-Bagdonas will forward the YouTube link of the conference to the committee.

Peckham requested UDC to send a letter to NYC DEP requesting an update on the status of their improved early warning systems for the reservoir. Henry said even an email to Adam Bosch would suffice.

Peckham asked if they started working on the tunnels or if they have a schedule? Ramie said that was discussed at the FUDR conference. The fall of 2022 is when they're going to be doing the Delaware Aqueduct repairs. They'll need to shut it down because they're doing the concrete lining of the bypass tunnel. That work is 30% finished right now.

10/20 Upper Delaware BioBlitz Site Visits Report: Cilento went on two site visits this afternoon with Steve Schwartz, Jessica Newbern, and Andy from NPS. But I did go on two site visits this afternoon with Steve Schwartz (FUDR), Jessica Newbern, Andy Weber from NPS and a couple of people from Delaware Highlands Conservancy to scope out possible sites for 2021 Bioblitz. They went to the Van Scott Nature Preserve property in Beach Lake, which was a donation of a farm to Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Cilento said it was beautiful with lots of different biodiversity on that site. Ramie said we wrote a support letter when Delaware Highlands Conservancy was seeking a grant related to that. They also went outside of Abramsville in Damascus to Kathy Dodge and Pete Snyder's property. Another wonderful property. Each have different habitats. They saw three different types of salamanders between the two site visits, lots of birds, bugs, and plants. They will reconvene in a week or two to discuss logistics and a location. Cilento said it's hoped by next June or July we can have an in-person Bioblitz event. Boyar asked if each property is in the river corridor? Cilento said each is just outside of the river corridor.

Other: Hall-Bagonas thanked Dan Paparella for participating in the 10/4 Get Trashed River Clean-up on the Beams. This was sponsored by Pig Farm Ink, Trout Unlimited, Delaware River Club, Dette Flies and others. Kelly at Dette Flies relayed to Hall-Bagonas that students from SUNY Cobleskill and the Trout Unlimited chapter came

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

out with a total of 40-45 people helping. There weren't too many tires to retrieve but things like metal and a full mattress were taken out of the river.

Boyar said this weekend on the Lackawaxen they had a group cleanup. He went up on Saturday morning and there were more than 30 people there. There was one young lady and the rest were Boyar's age or older. He said the Lackawaxen looked brand new after the cleanup, getting those plastics out of the water. They really cleaned up the Towpath from one end to the other and ended with a barbecue.

New Business

Planning for 2021 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep: Ramie said speaking of Paparella, he was our coordinator for the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. The Five-Year Strategic Plan Retreat was his last event with UDC. As of today, he was leaving for Italy to learn how to be an organic farmer, and resigned from the UDC because of that. That means he also will not be able to coordinate our Litter Sweep. In terms of what we're going to do about that next, assuming that life has returned to some sense of normalcy by next spring, the original idea was to hold it in April. Of course, it was keyed to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day 2020 which that came and went, and we had to cancel because there were no supplies available and a variety of reasons why we were unable to do the event. Ramie said we had an agreement that we signed with Paparella as an independent contractor for this position and our grant from Pennsylvania, included a line item for that of \$3,000. Before Paparella left Ramie made sure to settle up for all the time he spent putting the framework together, making contacts, holding meetings, etc. He spent 117.75 hours and the charge was \$15 an hour. Ramie reimbursed him from our special grant account for \$1,766.25. That leaves us with a balance of \$1,233.75 and because this is part of our Pennsylvania grant program, we pretty much have to hold a litter cleanup because we have committed to do so.

This grant program runs through 12/31/2021. What we had described in our grant work plan was that the Upper Delaware Council will sponsor a volunteer-powered trash cleanup within the land-based portion of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 centered around the 4/25 designation. We submitted this back on 1/24, so we were pre-COVID when this was written. The coordinator for which funds are requested will serve in an independent contractor capacity to oversee the logistical coordination with duties to include development of a work plan, timeline and budget; assembling a leadership network; fundraising to support objectives, promotion, publicity, and educational outreach, and producing a final report describing product outcomes. That was the task for which \$3,000 was planned from this grant. Ramie said we've spent a little more than half of that, but we didn't have the event. So now the question before us is, what do we do? She said this grant is very lenient so far, because our Pennsylvania Representatives, Fritz, Peifer and Senator Baker had secured this \$100,000 for the UDC to be used for any projects that we deemed worthy, basically. UDC gave the majority of it to pass through the 5 Pennsylvania townships. We also funded a lot of equipment and technology upgrades. Then we have funds set aside for a UDC Fiscal Sustainability Plan, all to be accomplished in that same timeframe.

The committee agreed to table this subject until next meeting to give everybody time to think about a potential leader and plan on doing it in April 2021. Boyar said at the River Cleanup he just participated in for Lackawaxen, they were all assigned a section of the river. He said maybe we have to go back and keep it simple. Henry suggested it be brought up at the general meeting. Ramie said we were trying to outsource this so it didn't fall on the staff especially because April is our Awards Banquet month. The committee talked about getting Town reps involved. Cilento said that she and Hall-Bagdonas would be happy to lead the charge on that event if there is buy-in from the municipalities. Ramie said Sullivan County does the Litter Pluck at that time so you can get trash bags and stickers. We found that Orange County doesn't have a program like that. Boyar said Waste Management in PA was agreeable to take whatever was collected. He said for the event last Saturday, the Highway Department took care of it. Boyar said at the Litter Cleanup on Saturday someone was taking the tops of soda cans off because they contain titanium and are very valuable for prostheses. They're shipped off to two different non-profits, St. Jude being one of them.

DCNR Request to Review Pennsylvania Forest Action Plan: Cilento said that Ramie had received an email from DCNR with their draft 2020 Forest Action Plan with a request for comments from interested parties, requested by 11/13. It's a 300+ page plan. Cilento went through it and just pulled out what was relevant to us in the Delaware

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

River Corridor and the greater Delaware River Basin and watershed. She provided a one-page summary with her comments on the plan as it pertains to our region in the meeting packet. The plan talks about some of the Bureau of Forestry's strategic priorities and those line up with UDC's priorities as well, as far as promoting water conservation, managing invasive species, and some of the themes that we've discussed recently. The Delaware River Basin was listed in the plan as a multi-state priority area, along with seven others. On page 9 there was a section on water conservation that said: "Watershed health begins to decline as forest cover drops below 65 to 75%". Cilento said she was curious about where that statistic came from and how it would be measured for the Delaware River. There was one section in Water and Soil where they had done a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis and one of the opportunities was continuing to work with partners in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to improve water quality. Cilento thought that could be expanded to all the watersheds involved in PA. They also discussed water in terms of economic development, community health, and recreation. We at our Five-Year Strategic Planning session had discussed a lot of those things as well. They mentioned the Northern Snakehead and invasive riparian vegetation. There was one-page dedicated to the Delaware River Basin in the plan and it enumerates land use fragmentation, forest health and water quality as major issues within the watershed providing significant opportunities for partnership. It didn't expand beyond that, but those are some general observations. Cilento made a PDF that is 25-pages compared to 300 which shows the sections that she mentioned. Hall-Bagdonas sent that out via email this morning. Cilento said we can either send comments to DCNR or we can let it be. Boyar asked if Spotted Lanternfly was mentioned? She said she would double check but they seem to be referring to aquatic species. Ramie said because the comment deadline is 11/13 we would have time to put together a comment letter based on Cilento's remarks before the 11/5 full Council meeting. Ramie said personally, she always thinks it's good for us to weigh in on these draft plans because we are standing up for our Delaware River and making sure that it's represented. You can see from only one page out of 300 being devoted to the Delaware, we need some support for this watershed. Cilento said we did forward this to Aaron Robinson, who is in the forest industry. Boyar said hopefully he will get a chance to weigh in on that. Cilento said she would follow-up with Robinson. Ramie said we have Tim Dugan, being our representative from the Commonwealth and a Forester from PA. She feels he would probably appreciate us weighing in on this also. The committee recommends the drafting of a comment letter on the Pennsylvania Forest Action Plan for the 11/5 meeting. Hamilton mentioned that the Upper Basin is still 80% forested.

NPS Delaware River Microplastics Study Results: Hamilton said this study is completed but it's still in the peer review and supervisor review stage. They expect it out this winter or spring. Ramie said her Fall/Winter Newsletter deadline is 11/13 and Hamilton said he would check and get back to her about that topic. She said the good news is the study is done and now NPS is just awaiting the interpretation of the results. Hamilton said we are awash in plastics. You don't have to do too many connecting the dots. You walk through a grocery store and look at everything packaged. Only about 14% of that gets recycled and a lot of it goes to landfills. A lot of it's out on the landscape.

Cilento wanted to mention, as of yesterday, NYS DEC is now officially enforcing the plastic bag ban that was introduced in NY on 3/1.

DEC Harmful Algae Blooms Mapping System: Cilento said Hall-Bagdonas provided a link to DEC's Harmful Algae Blooms Mapping System. There are a few present in the greater Delaware river watershed. They ask for reports on seeing them. Ramie said the one we tend to hear about is on Lake Huntington in the Town of Cocheeton. Hall-Bagdonas noticed one for Cannonsville and that's why she forwarded it to Cilento. Henry asked if there is something comparable in PA perhaps by the Fish and Boat Commission? Cilento said she would look it up.

10/22 Catskill Mountainkeeper Webinar: "Trash, Traffic, and Crowded Trails: Tackling High Use & Overuse in New York's Forest Preserves": Ramie said these are things we've been discussing in our River Traffic Public Safety Task Force. We're grateful to see that the Catskill Mountainkeeper is taking this on also their focus is on NYS forest preserves and public lands, but she's sure those topics apply to our river accesses, etc. We wanted to let you know that it's this Thursday at 6:00 PM. The webinar is free and anyone can register. All three of the staff

UDC Water Use/Resource Mgmt. Comm. Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

are interested in it. Hall-Bagdonas included a link to this event with the same email in the advanced documents for this meeting. Ingrid Peterec from NPS has a role as a presenter.

Pike Wayne Conservation Partnership Virtual Delaware River Sojourn: Hall-Bagdonas said the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership meets on a regular basis to share information and provide updates on current activities. Each organization has thus developed a better understanding of one another's role in protecting and preserving the natural resources. This understanding has opened lines of communication as well as provided important contacts that help the Partners achieve both individual and group goals. This collaboration has helped reduce duplication of services to residents of the region. They created a half-hour video promoting river safety and river etiquette on the Delaware River. Hall-Bagdonas forwarded the YouTube link before the meeting.

Ramie said it's a bit confusing because they are using the phrase "Delaware River Sojourn" which is a twenty-year event. They just meant sojourn as in taking a river trip. Ramie said Cilento is going to be participating this Thursday in the steering committee meeting for the Delaware River Sojourn. She would like to audit the meeting. They had to cancel the 2020 event and are looking ahead to 2021. Ramie had dropped out of participating in that project as it was taking up too much time but now that we are fully staffed we can check it out again.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: A copy of the 10/19 DRBC Hydrologic Conditions Report was provided in members' packets. Total combined storage was at 64.6%.

Other: Peckham said he read if you shape a paper bag like a hornet's nest and hang it up, it could deter carpenter bees and wasps from your property. It has worked for him.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 11/3/2020