

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2017

Committee Members Present: Fred Peckham, Doug Case, Al Henry, Debra Conway, Jim Greier, Pat Jeffer
Committee Members Absent: Tony Ritter
NPS Partner: Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Pete Golod
Guests: Jeff Dexter

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Peckham called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

A motion by Conway, seconded by Jeffer to approve the November 21 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway November 27 Meeting Minutes: A copy of the November 27th meeting minutes was provided in members' packets and Ramie provided some highlights. She said the Byway Committee decided to reserve a quarter-page ad in the 2018 Orange County Travel Guide. It was noted that Orange County Tourism Director Susan Hawvermale was retiring after 25 years and a letter offering congratulations and expressing appreciation for her strong support of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway was sent.

Ramie reported that the order of an additional 6,500 monarch butterfly brochures was received on November 7 and they are stored at the UDC office.

Ramie noted that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has registered the UDSB logo as of October 31, 2017. The trademark is valid for 10 years then can be renewed, she added.

Ramie reported that the Byway still has funds available to conduct NYS Route 97 Vista Enhancement. They have decided to issue a press release asking property owners along the river with private or public parcels for which they'd like help with vista clearing to contact the Byway. She provided a list of the guidelines that would be followed. Henry suggested that the eagle viewing area with the shed along Route 97 in the Town of Highland would be a nice spot for such a project. A brief discussion about this parcel took place. Ramie said it was decided that the press release would be sent to each of the local governments to see if they may have a project idea. Members offered other parcel suggestions.

Ramie noted that the Byway is changing its toll-free phone service to a virtual set-up due to an increase in price. She provided details on the new provider.

Pricing on the Byway biodegradable litter bags is being obtained in order to place another order for the spring.

Ramie said the Byway received a copy of the Letter of Intent that the Callicoon Business Association submitted to Central New York Railroad Corp. for adaptive reuse of the Callicoon Train Depot as a community commons. If the railroad indicates an interest in considering an option to lease agreement, the group will proceed with submitting a formal proposal.

Ramie said the Byway Committee decided to skip its December meeting and will meet next on Monday, January 22, 2018.

Common Waters November 30 Meeting Report: A written report was provided in members' packets and Golod covered some of the highlights of the meeting. The meeting took place at Grey Towers in Milford, PA. An update on the Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster, now in Phase II with a completion date of Jan/Feb, was provided.

Golod reported that the Pinchot Institute has finalized its 16-page Forest Management Guide. He passed around a hard copy of that document. The guide details how climate change affects/impacts a forest shed. He said that the guide along with state-specific fact sheets and links to various agencies can be found at

www.sugarsync.com/pf/D7132756_07244374_76314539#. Hard copies are available upon request at the Council office, Golod added. He called the guide “good information” and suggested that members share the information on it with their municipalities.

Golod shared information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Delaware River Basin Restoration Program. The non-regulatory program was established by the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, and is intended to implement and coordinate conservation and restoration activities. The framework for the program was included in his written report, Golod added. He said that hard copies of the information and links to obtain it on-line are available upon request.

Upper Delaware Watershed Resources December 4 Forum Report: Ramie said she attended this meeting which took place in Port Jervis, NY. She said this meeting focused on the Neversink River area of the Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster to identify projects for that portion of the watershed. A written report was provided in members’ packets. An update on the Port Jervis Whitewater Park was given. She said that the discovery of a population of Dwarf Wedgemussels has delayed the project. They are now ready to submit their permits to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ramie spoke of the number of jobs that are projected to be created by the Park.

Ramie said information on the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis was provided. The 501 (c)(3) volunteer organization relies solely on donations and has developed 38 miles of watershed trails for hiking and biking. The Club plans to develop 55 miles of trail.

Bill Herrmann, supervisor of the Town of Mamakating spoke of the construction fund from Spectrum cable company franchise fees they set up to dedicate to ecotourism. 27 acres of trails has been developed along with the opening of an Interpretive and Educational Center three miles south of Wurtsboro, NY to showcase the town’s best assets.

Ramie said that Diane Rosencrance, executive director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy discussed the “Saving Lands Makes Cents” study by economist Steven Morse as another case study.

Ramie stated that the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which is funded by the William Penn Foundation, will embark on a new 3-year phase in January. She listed some of the initiatives that will be pursued. She added that the William Penn Foundation is offering assistance to increase the capacity of existing organizations to identify recreational needs, do water quality, broaden access to recreational opportunities, and to start new organizations if warranted. Information will be going out to communities on available funding soon, she added.

Hahn suggested that copies of the Land and Water Use Guidelines be sent to municipalities looking to update zoning or ordinances.

Scenic Wild Delaware River Marketing & Promotion Committee December 6 Call Update: Ramie said she participated in this meeting which took place in Allentown, PA via telephone. She said discussion took place about seeking contributions from the nine counties that are part of the Scenic Wild Delaware River in order to invest in a Google Ads campaign to drive traffic to the MapGuide website.

Ramie said the committee is always looking to strengthen the MapGuide by adding new listings and is encouraging anyone that knows of businesses or attractions that are appropriate to send them the guidelines to get their listing on there.

Ramie reported that the number of page views was up 64% over last year at this time.

Other: Henry asked if more information could be researched on the \$10,000 stipends available to communities that are part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative to improve their ordinances for land protection as funded by the William Penn Foundation. Ramie said she will look into details and circulate any information she finds.

Conway asked if there has been any more information on the Upper Delaware Economic Research Project. Ramie said no. Another meeting was tentatively mentioned by the National Parks Conservation Association for late winter

Golod referred members to the PA Environmental Digest Blog December 18 article titled, “Defending the Delaware: One Year After the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act” by Madeline Urbish provided in their packets. He stated that the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (DRBCA) created the non-regulatory Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) and directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring partners from the nonprofit community, state and local governments,

universities, and other sectors to comprehensively address some of the region's greatest challenges. He said the article is provided for members to read at their leisure.

Greier asked why the Cannonsville Reservoir is at 50% capacity. Peckham told him that is the reservoir they release from to meet the flow target at Montague as the quality of the water is not as high as the water in the Pepacton and Neversink Reservoirs. A brief discussion about the current river level and dry conditions took place.

New Business

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: A copy of the December 15th NYC Current Reservoir Levels was provided in members' packets. Total combined storage was at 76.5%. Normal storage for the same date is 81.4%.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Greier, seconded by Case to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 1/2/2018