

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2016

Committee Members Present: Debra Conway, Pat Jeffer, Al Henry, Fred Peckham
Committee Members Absent: Tony Ritter, Andy Boyar
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-chairperson Jeffer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

A motion by Peckham seconded by Henry to approve the January 19 meeting minutes was carried, with Conway abstaining. It was noted that the February 16 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

February 1st NPS Corwin Farm D&H Canal Clean-up Meeting Update: Ramie referred to the March 1st Leadership Sullivan press release titled, "Leadership Sullivan Chooses Two Community Projects" provided in members' packets. She said the class did choose the "D&H Canal Clean-up at Corwin Farm" as one of two 2016 Community Impact/Service Project based on the UDC's application submitted on September 29th. An on-site meeting took place on February 1st with the Park Service and an advance team from Leadership Sullivan. It was decided that the work day will take place on May 21st. Participants will report to Corwin Farms at 8 a.m. The Park Service agreed that they will supply the equipment, safety goggles, gloves, and water. The project will be documented through video, Ramie noted. Before the work begins, the Park Service will offer three programs on the history of the D&H Canal, non-native plants, and a safety briefing. It is hoped to clear 120 yards of the canal that day. Peckham suggested showing the video of this project at a future UDC meeting.

February 11th Water Safety Committee Meeting Update: Odell referred to the written report provided in members' packets. She reported that one of the new initiatives for the upcoming season is the hiring of two water safety interns. These individuals will set up focus groups at various public accesses as well as the commercial liveries to evaluate the successes (or failures) of the water safety program which has been in place going on its fifth year. Odell noted that May 20th is "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work" day and May 21st is the *Ready, Set, Wear It!* Life Jacket World Record Day. She did not have information on a local event at this time. Hamilton stated that May 21st is also World Fish Migration Day. Odell mentioned that a partnership opportunity with Adams Outdoor Advertising is in the works for getting the Water Safety message out to the public. She said it was discussed that river conditions could be provided on the NPS social media sites and that river related warnings could be linked to electronic billboards.

Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Update: Ramie said a copy of the program's mission statement was provided in members' packets. A meeting of the Stewardship Council is scheduled for April 6th at the Carriage House in Barryville, N.Y. One of the points of this meeting will be to produce some sample itineraries to post to the website that will appeal to different audiences. The Memorandum of Understanding to lead the project into the future will also be discussed at this meeting. Ramie said she will have more information about the May roll-out events for the website launch after this meeting.

February 22 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting Minutes: Ramie said the minutes of the February 22nd meeting were provided in members' packets for their information.

March 8th Sullivan County Trail Committee Meeting Update: Ramie said a presentation about a new tourism mobile app was given at this meeting. She provided details of the presentation.

Ramie announced that the Sullivan County Litter Pluck will take place April 23 through May 1. The Sullivan County Division of Public Works and Solid Waste will donate trash bags for this community based roadside cleanup event, and will accept the roadside refuse for disposal free-of-charge at the County Transfer Stations. More information will be available on the Sullivan County website.

Ramie said information on upcoming New York/New Jersey Trail Conference Trail University events was shared. An Introduction to Trail Maintenance workshop is scheduled for April 17th near Livingston Manor, NY and another program for the Sullivan County area is scheduled for June 4th in Fallsburg. More information is available at www.nynjtc.org.

It is hoped that an informational program on ticks and Lyme Disease can be arranged for April, Ramie stated.

The next meeting of the Sullivan County Trail Committee is scheduled for April 12th. Updates to the Trailkeeper.org website will be discussed.

Other: Ramie said a letter dated December 21st was sent to Norman Gavlick, Commissioner of 7th District PA Fish and Boat Commission, requesting that the Commission replace the sign identifying the access just across the interstate bridge from Narrowsburg, NY as the Narrowsburg Access Area and to refer to the location instead as the Darbytown Access. An email response from Norman Gavlick reading, “Your letter regarding the boat access at Darbytown did finally reach me. I have asked our Director and staff to provide information on the naming of this access. Will keep you posted on the status,” was received on January 27th.

New Business

Draft Letters to Secretary Bose & U.S. Senators Schumer, Gillibrand and Congressman Gibson: FERC Project No. P-13287-004 – Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project: A motion to forward the letters onto the full Council for consideration was made by Henry and seconded by Conway. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Draft Letter to Decree Party Principals: Encouraging Attendance at April 5th RFAC Meeting: A motion to send the letter was made by Henry, seconded by Conway and carried.

Discussion of Use of Public River Accesses by Commercial Entities: Ramie said this topic was one that Andy Boyar had asked be referred to this committee for discussion. She suggested deferring the conversation until Boyar is in attendance unless Conway wanted to talk about it. Conway said a local commercial livery was using the public access at the cul-de-sac in the Town of Highland on a regular basis for the latter part of last summer. This use blocked parking and the emergency access, she stated. The public access offered no restroom facilities and the commercial livery customers were seeking facilities throughout Barryville. Conway questioned what the policy is for use of public DEC accesses by commercial use. Henry said if you have a Commercial Use Authorization, there has never been any limit on use. After a lengthy discussion, it was suggested that Conway approach the Town of Highland and suggest they set up a meeting with NYS DEC and the National Park Service to discuss regulating the use of the Barryville River Access at the cul-de-sac to provide for public use and allow for emergency responder access. The signage at the Barryville Access was brought up. Ramie read the response that Superintendent Heister received from Michael Flaherty, NYS DEC, Region 3 Fisheries Manager. The response read, “Hello Kristina, Yes, we are aware of the situation at Barryville. Late this fall, the entrance to the site was reconfigured by work done between the Town and State DOT. At that time we agreed that the sign standard should be moved from the existing location near the road, to the entrance to the site on the cul-de-sac. Originally we thought DOT was going to do this, but subsequently it was decided that DEC would take care of it when DOT was finished. I also received a call from Town Supervisor Haas that the sign had blown off the standard last week. I have a work request in to our Operations Unit to move the standard and remount or replace the damaged sign. I expect that this should be resolved in the next month or so.” Henry reiterated the idea of the Town of Highland setting up a meeting with NYS DEC and NPS to discuss the issues at the access. A brief discussion about the Lordville Access took place.

Draft Letter to NYS DEC: Bouchouxville Trail Signage: A motion to send the letter was made by Henry, seconded by Conway and carried. Peckham stated he wished the letter was “stronger”. Ramie said

that he could write a personal letter speaking from the perspective of a landowner. She added that it might garner more attention from them if they received more than one letter.

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: A copy of the March 15th current New York City DEP Reservoir levels was provided in members' packets. Total storage as of that date was at 93.9% with Cannonsville at 95.5%.

Other: Ramie said at Chairperson Ritter's request, a copy of a letter addressed to Senator Bonacic from Town of Fremont Supervisor George E. Conklin III regarding the Long Eddy River Access and included in the March 11th edition of the *Sullivan County Democrat* was provided in members' packets. Also included is an update dated March 15th from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC). Conway questioned what the handouts have to do with the UDC. Henry said NYS DEC wants to provide public access in the Town of Fremont, but the Town is apparently opposed to it. He noted the premise of the River Management Plan is that if you can provide public access, you can prevent people from trespassing on private property. Conway asked what our role is. Ramie said it was not listed on the agenda as she does not regard it as an action item; that it was provided for informational purposes. Ramie said the update from the DHC will be submitted as a response in the *Democrat*, according to that organization.

Henry reported to Hamilton that a creek that runs under Route 652 just below Peggy Runway Road is running brown. Odell added that it has been running that color for several days now. Henry suggested that the Park Service check into that issue.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham seconded by Conway to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 3/21/16