

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2023

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Al Henry, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Andy Boyar, Evan Padua (Zoom until 7:15 p.m.)
Committee Members Absent: Pat Jeffer
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton- Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources
Guests: Bill Dudko- Deerpark Alternate

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 21st, 2023. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Padua approving the February 21st, 2023 meeting minutes carried with Boyar abstaining. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business

3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Update: Hall-Bagdonas said we are really excited about this event. Our latest donation came in as of 5 p.m. from Padua (Sweetwater Guide Service). Our first donation was from Callicoon Pantry for \$250. The Pantry is a low-waste grocery store, and the owner, Dania LaScola shares wonderful social media about low waste. This is another way we can promote being less wasteful and also share messages from our community and partners. Continuing with donations, Al Henry Nadia Rajs, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, WJFF, and Pond Eddy United Methodist Church each donated \$100. We have contributions from Lee Castner and Lydia Joy Langley. This year Hall-Bagdonas has seen more local businesses stepping up to clean their storefronts and Main Streets which is really great. We're also working with Sullivan West High School again this year and they are work shopping an idea of monthly cleanup for the students. We are seeing this impact reaching all levels of the community from Maura Mullally Caycho's students at SUNY Sullivan helping the 1st year and then adopting their own stretch of highway the next to Sullivan West helping each year and possibly building a club or group from this!

Platform Industries gave us a discount on the cost of our 300 t-shirts and it's always fun working with them. They also provided a great social media post for us showing the printing the five-color shirt step-by-step. Matt Saluso from NexGen Dumpsters in Barryville has offered his services and that was huge for that cleanup. We have a lot of returning Litter Leaders and volunteers stepping up. Hall-Bagdonas will create a Litter Sweep calendar as dates come in for members to reference. She is working on the required documents for NYDOT and working with both NYSDOT and PENNDOT was an easier process last year.

Ramie reported that the UDC was awarded a \$2,000 discretionary grant allocated by Sullivan County Legislature District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajs.

Bill Dudko said he wondered what NY Town had the longest stretch of Rt. 97.

2/22 D&H Transportation Heritage Council Meeting Minutes: Ramie attended the meeting on 2/22 rescheduled from 1/25 at the 1863 Schoolhouse Town of Deerpark Museum in Huguenot, NY. Now that the DHTHC is officially a 501(c)3 they are going to start having monthly trustee meetings while the entire council can continue to meet quarterly. The first meeting of the trustees is on 4/4, and Ramie volunteered use of the UDC office because it is a central location. They plan to go over restructuring issues, bylaws to make sure that information is up to date, and set an agenda for what the group hopes to accomplish, a lot of which involves fundraising and advocacy.

The fourth chapter of the historic DVD series has been released that covers Port Jervis to Phillipsport. A bus tour is being arranged for 5/20 following that route. There will be about 7 stops between those two localities and will include lunch. They currently have 30 registered and must decide on a 44 or 56-passenger coach bus. Production of Chapter 5 has begun: Phillipsport to the Hudson and with four days of shooting, and a half-dozen speakers, Bill

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Merchant suggested splitting off Summitville to Phillipsport and Phillipsport to High Falls. Members agreed to split Chapter 5 into two chapters to cover: Chapter 5, Phillipsport to High Falls; and Chapter 6, High Falls to the Hudson.

Regarding a video platform, Merchant said there are multiple methods of offering content online. Now that DHTHC is a 501(c)(3) organization, we could solicit donations, such as setting up a streaming platform and asking people who watch the videos to donate in support of our mission. Members agreed for Ramie to ask Dorene Warner how much it would cost to set up a Donate button on the website to be linked to a PayPal account.

DHTHC has two potential grant sources to pursue the \$4,750 design fee + \$500 to build an eCommerce shopping cart quote that W Design of Barryville, NY had provided to develop a new, responsive, mobile-optimized website utilizing the Squarespace framework.

On 3/12 Lackawaxen River Conservancy and the Rowland Cooperative held a 200th anniversary kick-off event at the Rowland Cooperative Market that included a history talk, canal music by Dan Engvaldsen, food, and exhibits.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be on the 4th Wednesday, 4/26 at the Century House in Rosendale. A tour and lunch will be arranged.

2/23 NPS Water Safety Committee Meeting Report: Hall-Bagdonas provided a few updates from the 2/23 NPS Water Safety Meeting. Jamie Myers will be writing an article on water safety for *Connections Magazine*. Contracts have been signed with Adams Billboards (Roebing and 652) securing locations for 2023. The Spring Partners Meeting is Friday, 4/21 from 10-11 and Ingrid Peterec and Ron Babus are working on a presentation for that. Jim Hammel will be filming areas with rapids in early Spring and will be attending the partners meeting to give an update on the Water Safety Video. NPS is reaching out to camps to set up dates to meet with their staff and talk about expectations in 2023.

ACA Instructor Training is set for May 8-10 and that includes Kevin Reish, Ron, Susie and Tim. ACA canoe training staff dates are May 24-26. New NYDEC Officers Kevin Wamsley and Murel Lougren will be joining in NCSP training days.

Peterec and Jessica Weinman are working on the Loaner Life Jacket Return Boxes. They will be placed at West End Beach, Sparrowbush, and Matamoras Base. Loaner Life Jacket stations will be set up at KC Riverside, Lukes Landing, Skinners Falls and new ones at Ascolona Campground and Sparrowbush DEC access.

Discussion on addressing the sign issue at Sparrowbush with NYDEC and Masthope Access will occur at the Partners meeting. The next meeting will be 3/30 at 1 p.m.

2/27 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes: Ramie provided a copy of the 2/27 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway minutes for members' review. A \$700 Promoting Butterflies on the Byway Grant was awarded to the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation to create an indoor exhibit in a glass case with printed signage and cardboard-mounted panels to share information from the UDSB monarch butterfly brochure and sign to identify milkweed patches.

The UDSB approved a \$1,5000 sponsorship of the 4th Annual Deep Water Literary Festival which is from 6/16-6/19 in Narrowsburg.

Johnny Pizzolato provided a Program Manager Activity Report. Listed as his immediate Goals are: Strategic fundraising and grant writing to sustain the program manager position long-term and support UDSB activities; Support development of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center at The Callicoon Depot with the project partners; Management and promotion of UDSB existing grant programs; Tourism marketing outreach, UDSB branding; digital media recommendations, website enhancement; and Engagement with UDSB member municipalities to provide advocacy and address community needs.

Planning is underway for the 2nd Annual Festival of the Founding Fish, otherwise known as the Upper Delaware Shadfest, 5/20-28. Pizzolato provided a preliminary draft of potential activities.

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Ramie brought up participation for the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, 4/22-30 and said she would provide more information next month.

Ramie shared reports on UDSB Visitor Center at the Callicoon Depot Update: that included a 3/6 tour by NYS Senator Oberacker and the 2/10 Catskills Legislative Networking Breakfast.

UDSB will be updating their website soon and online shop. The next meeting is 3/27.

3/1 Neversink Watershed Management Plan Report: Engelhardt attended the 3rd online meeting of the Neversink Watershed Management Plan. Freda Eisenberg, Commissioner at Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, talked about the various economic benefits of stream protection and restoration. She also discussed the remarkable tourism and hospitality industry that used to be in Sullivan County.

Shachi Pandey, Founding Principal of Metropolitan Urban Design Workshop, gave a talk about the County Resiliency Plan which was a little more esoteric. A member of the public talked about needing to reach out to the local community at a level that they are going to understand and relate to, because that's where a lot of the knowledge lies and she was encouraged to reach out to them for further discussion.

3/1 Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Conservation Committee Report: Engelhardt said this was their first meeting after the end of the Eagle watch season. The number of eagle sightings was down, because they stayed up north. Canadian eagles come down to find open water and they didn't have to go very far to find that this year. They did have a lot of events and sold out all the buses and they're talking about doing two buses a day next year (morning and afternoon) because it was so popular. The bus tours from Settlers Inn were a great success.

Rachel Morrow, the new Education and Volunteer Coordinator, shared upcoming events which are listed at: <https://delawarehighlands.org/events/> A few include an 4/6 Pollinators and their Plants and 4/15 Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk with The Botanical Hiker Heather Houskeeper, both at Van Scott Nature Reserve, 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake PA. There will be a 4/21 Ramps-U-Pick event at 5476 Hancock Highway, Equinunk, PA from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Earth Day Crafts at the Reserve on 4/21 from 4-6 p.m.

3/14 Delaware River Sojourn Report: Engelhardt said the Upper Day planners meet prior to the committee meeting and they still trying to figure out busing. They have decided on all of their High Admirals and are still thinking of programming. Registration opens the first week of April and an event flyer was provided to members. 2023 marks the Delaware River Sojourn's 28th journey down the Delaware. The volunteer river cleanup is on Friday, 6/16 from Damascus, PA to Skinners Falls, NY. Saturday's stretch (6/17) is from Hancock, NY to Buckingham Access, PA and camping at Northeast Wilderness Experience (NEWE). Sunday, 6/18: Buckingham Access, Pa to NEWE's Camp. Monday, 6/19: NEWE Camp to Callicoon, (camping at NEWE). Tuesday, 6/20: Dingman's Ferry, PA. to Bushkill, PA. (camp at Driftstone, Mt. Bethel, Pa.) Wednesday, 6/21: Minisink Park on PA's Brodhead Creek to Driftstone (camping at Driftstone). Thursday, 6/22: Driftstone to Martin's Creek Access, Pa (camping at Driftstone) and on Friday, 6/23: Martin's Creek Access to Phillipsburg, N.J. (no camping, Sojourn is over). For more information on the event follow this link: <https://delawareriversojourn.com/> .

River Litter Bag Stations Update: Hall-Bagdonas forwarded the information Henry provided on non-plastic litter bags from the February WU/RM meeting minutes to Boyar to review.

New Business

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 3/20 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 95.7%. The monthly Delaware River Flow and Storage Data for February, 2023 was also provided.

Other: Hall-Bagdonas said Sullivan County dropped off the Countywide Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck disposal coupons. We will serve as a distribution point for Narrowsburg region during the county's 4/1-10/31/23 program.

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Ramie said this afternoon she heard from the consultants for the Skinner Falls Bridge. The first phase of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis has been prepared to examine whether rehabilitation can be completed while maintaining the historic integrity of the bridge. Several build alternatives have been developed for consideration. Ramie will attend the 5/24 Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Committee virtual meeting to hear the Phase I Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis report outcome with preliminary build alternatives and report back to the UDC. The meeting is not open to the public.

Adjournment: A Motion by Boyar seconded by Henry to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 3/31/2023