

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2023

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Al Henry, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Andy Boyar, Evan Padua (Zoom)

Committee Members Absent: Pat Jeffer

Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt (Zoom), Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

NPS Partner: Lindsey Kurnath-Superintendent (Zoom), Don Hamilton- Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources (at 6:36 p.m.)

Guests: Bill Dudko- Deerpark Alternate

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Old Business

3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Update: Hall-Bagdonas said it's a fun and busy time now with the Litter Sweep. We are working hard on getting new supplies for volunteers like more grabbers and safety cones and signs. You will find a Litter Sweep calendar in the packet. We are still getting individuals and groups reaching out interested in helping and this is going to extend into May. As she has heard UDC members say: Earth Day is every day. We have school groups and after-school groups from NY and PA involved. We have groups of 3 and groups of 40 signed up. Every bit helps and matters. The permits from PA have been processed and accepted. Beth White from Mike Preis Insurance is working hard on getting the necessary last document over to Cathy at NYDOT.

Litter Leaders have been arranging to come in or are making arrangements for their supplies. Ramie helped with social media post acknowledgments to sponsors and that's been great to share along with all of our Litter Sweep dates. We are passing out a Litter Sweep sign-in sheet again to collect contact info along with the NYSDOT safety form. She will send out an email to Litter Leaders reminding them to keep track of the number of volunteers, hours, and litter gathered for record keeping. Callicoon Pantry will be holding an Earth Day Swap on 4/22 from 12-4 p.m. and has been promoting the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. The Pantry will be having a clothing swap; the Herbal Scoop a seedling swap; Litt Home & Book a used book giveaway and Wool Worth a craft supply swap.

Hall-Bagdonas will continue updating the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep calendar with any additional clean-ups that are shared, provide shirts and supplies to Litter Leaders for distribution to volunteers, forward the new insurance document required by the NYS DOT when it's provided by our agent for the highway work permit, collect trash statistics and email addresses from the volunteer sign-up sheets.

Ramie will take and collect photos from Litter Sweep events 4/22-30, when possible, for UDC publicity purposes, issue a news release and place ads in local newspapers to thank our sponsors and volunteers as a supplement to our social media posts.

3/24 Local History Roundtable Meeting: Ramie attended the 3/24 Local History Roundtable at Dorflinger Factory Museum, White Mills, PA with attendance by Bethany, Waymart, Carbondale, Wayne County, Wallenpaupack, Damascus, and Equinunk Historical Societies; Dorflinger Suydam Glass Museum, Dorflinger Factory Museum; Upper Delaware Council; and D&H THC. Local History PastPorts were distributed after the Pike County Hotel Tax grant submitted by Wallenpaupack Historical Society allowed the printing of 2,500 more.

A "Dining by History!" fundraising event idea was presented by Britta Bakos and Carol Dunn from the Wayne County Historical Society. They will set up dining tables for 6 that historical societies decorate with items from their collections or themes inspired by their mission. From 9/11-16 the tables will be exhibited at Bodhi Tree Gallery in

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Honesdale, when the public can view them, talk to organization representatives, and vote on their favorites via a QR code. This leads up to a cocktail reception on Friday, 9/15 (\$45 tickets) at the gallery and a formal dinner on Saturday, 9/16 next door at 6th and River (\$125).

At the Local History Festival targeted for 9/23 at the Dorflinger Factory Museum, they will offer 3 or 4 30-minute talks on diverse topics, exhibit area, catered lunch, and an outdoor activity. It will be promoted as a recruiting tool to increase participation in the region's historical societies. They want to try to appeal to younger people. Promote through social networks and traditional publicity. A smaller committee will discuss specifics. (That 9/23 weekend will have a new Renaissance Faire in Honesdale.)

Lackawaxen River Trail is expanding with a spur in White Mills to connect to their historic sites. It will involve interpretive panels and potentially a train platform for the Stourbridge Line. White Mills is also getting a new river access.

There will be a monument to honor women in military service throughout Wayne County. The person of contact for this project is Kim Erickson.

Ramie offered a copy of an auto tour: "Warrior Road: The Story of Sullivan's March Through PA: Before the Invasion of the Iroquois Homelands" (Easton to Athens, PA then Elmira, NY) with 3 narrated CDs. It takes around 2 days to complete.

The next Local History Roundtable meeting is 6/2, 10 a.m. in Honesdale, maybe at the Bodhi Tree Gallery to see the space or at the Wayne County Museum.

3/27 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes: Ramie provided a copy of the 3/27 meeting minutes to committee members and read through several highlights.

UDSB Chairperson Lowe confirmed that the furniture that UDSB had approved the purchase of via e-vote was delivered, the bill of sale from the Mee Charitable Foundation was pending, and the charges were discounted due to our non-profit status. The furnishings included one large, Neoclassical conference table in cherry, 6 leather chairs, and a U-shaped executive desk in the same style of cherry with glass doors on a matching hutch with clear and gold detailed glass panels.

Program Manager Johnny Pizzolato reported that the 3/6 tour with NYS Senator Peter Oberacker at the Callicoon Depot followed by a meeting at Catskill Provisions went well. On behalf of the UDSB, he presented a \$58,000 permanent state budget line-item bill co-sponsorship request. This would build off the NYS Assembly 'one shot' \$40,000 contribution to ensure that a Program Manager remains in place, at minimum to staff the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center and enable that project's success.

Regarding the 4/24 UDSB election, the Nominating Committee asked the sitting officers if they would continue their roles. Chairperson Richard Lowe III (Village of Hancock), Vice-Chairperson Rosie DeCristofaro (Town of Delaware), and Secretary/Treasurer Larry H. Richardson (Town of Cochection) were accepted as candidates for the election that will take place at the 4/24 UDSB, Inc. annual meeting.

UDSB, Inc. approved a \$500 donation to sponsor the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. Pizzolato said that Congressman Marc Molinaro (NY-19th District) would like to participate in a Lumberland/Highland area litter sweep and he is facilitating those arrangements.

Pizzolato said there is an opportunity to start Shadfest programming earlier on 5/19 by incorporating a Delaware Valley Arts Alliance benefit event that is scheduled on that Friday from 7-10 p.m. at the Starling at Pond Eddy. This would spread out the timing, activities, and territory being covered this year. He met with DVAA representatives to discuss tie-in options.

Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Rob Doherty has pledged \$5,000 of his district's allocation of discretionary funds to support the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Shadfest. The \$5,000 in county funds will be booked through the UDSB treasury in late April. Activities include a shad focus at the Barryville Farmers' Market opening

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date on 5/20, an evening Shad Shindig at Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg, and a Saturday-Sunday angler's trade fair which experienced coordinator Stephon Torrence has volunteered to organize. That fair, in a location to be determined, will be free to the public with a small participating fee charged to vendors. The Homestead School, a Montessori school with 58 students, is enthused to participate in an after-school fishing event targeted for 5/25. Pizzolato is working with the A Single Bite program to serve lunches to the students. They may park on the NY side of the Roebling Bridge and walk across to the PA side for fishing access and the restrooms.

Pizzolato has requested that the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association consider subsidizing a printed Shadfest guide to be published by the River Reporter, additional advertising, and the Shad Run bus transportation on 5/28. Lowe said that Hancock will incorporate shad programming into the festival it has planned at the Town Square over Memorial Day weekend. Pizzolato said that the closing day roundtrip bus will start in Port Jervis and make stops in Cochection or Callicoon on the way to Hancock. Richardson said that the Cochection Preservation Society may be interested in providing passengers with a quick tour of the Cochection Station and possibly lunch. Pizzolato said we could invite Sullivan County Historian John Conway to serve as a tour guide to discuss the region's history during the ride. UDSB, Inc. approved \$5,000 to sponsor the 2nd Annual Festival of the Founding Fish. Pizzolato said he's still hoping to supplement the schedule with additional events and special promotions. He will reach out to business groups along the byway to suggest their participation.

The next Upper Delaware Scenic Byway meeting is on 4/24 at the UDC office.

4/4 D&H Transportation Heritage Council Trustees and 5/20 Bus Trip Updates: Ramie reported that a perfect attendance of all 10 trustees for the D&H Transportation Heritage Council met for the first time on 4/4 to discuss restructuring of the 501(c)3 organization. She will attend the next D&H Transportation Heritage Council meeting on 4/26 at 10:30 a.m. at Century House Historical Society in Rosendale, NY and the D&H Trustees meeting on 5/5 at 2 p.m. at the UDC. She will also assist with arrangements for the 5/20 D&H Canal Bus Tour to follow the route from Port Jervis to Phillipsport.

3/30 & 4/13 NPS Water Safety Committee Meetings; 4/21 Safety Partners @ UDC: Hall-Bagdonas reported that at the 3/30 Water Safety meeting she talked with NPS about partnering at the SWB RailRiders event and that game is 8/1. The 4/13 Water Safety meeting was a run through of the PowerPoint that will be shown at the Spring Partners Meeting this Friday 4/21. Agenda topics include a review of 2022 summer statistics and drownings; an introduction and explanation of the National Canoe Safety Patrol; the Life Jacket Wear Rate Study; a description of options for High Water Alerts for cell phones; Upper Delaware water flow and dam releases; visitor awareness/public info/signs and billboards. Public Safety announcements; and info on the Life Jacket Loaner Stations. An update on the new Water Safety video will be given and future needs and questions will be heard at the end. Hall-Bagdonas and Ramie will assist the NPS Water Safety Committee with set-up for and attend the Annual Spring Water Safety Partners meeting on 4/21 at 10 a.m. at the UDC office. Hall-Bagdonas will request a digital file of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's new water safety video when it is available to play at a UDC meeting and potentially post it on the UDC website.

4/11 Delaware River Sojourn Report: A press release "Registration Opens for 6/17-23 Event" was shared. Engelhardt reported that the day 0 River Clean Up has filled up with 20 people registered for the event. At the time of the meeting on 4/11 there were 136 registered, with 11 thru-trippers for the sojourn. They are finalizing the day plans in both upper and lower Delaware and are still looking for volunteers. She will finalize logistics for the 6/16-19 Upper Delaware activities and publicize the registration opening through social media. For more information check out the website: <https://delawareriversojourn.com/> Engelhardt said they are still looking for volunteers "for the land support team".

4/12 NPS Annual Fishing Guides Meeting: Ramie provided the agenda of the 4/12 NPS Fishing Guides Meeting and gave a verbal report of the meeting. It was Kurnath's introduction to the fishing guides so they got the chance to ask questions and express their concerns. Kurnath gave the group a synopsis of the 1978 designation of the Upper Delaware and what that Federal protection covers as being a unit of the National Park system. She expressed the mission to preserve unimpaired all the natural and cultural resources of this river, saying it's a great opportunity fishing guides have to connect with their clients and pass along that mission and the message of the collaborative management here. She mentioned that one of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values is fish and wildlife.

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Chief Ranger Keith Winslow mentioned property owner rights, reminding everybody that they have the right to be out there that they should always be cognizant of the private property in this particular river. Hamilton introduced Michelle Stevens, the new NPS biologist, and mentioned some of the programs that are underway. They are continuing to monitor for Northern Snakehead and have not seen any. The new nonnative, invasive threat is the Flathead Catfish. One of those was caught last September near Narrowsburg. They are voracious predators that should be reported immediately. He also spoke about the acoustic trapping of 50 American eels. They were implanted with transmitters, and they've been able to pick up on 45 out of the 50.

They talked about a dragonfly study that is being held in conjunction with the USGS. They are looking at the larvae. They are bio accumulators of mercury and a good example of links in the food chain in higher organisms to gauge the health of the ecosystem.

Hamilton spoke about the freshwater snail inventory about their EDNA sampling. This was done last year. It is a species that people don't know that much about, but they are interested in learning about them, particularly the nonnative ones that exist here like the Chinese mystery snail.

Ranger Ryan Schumacher from UPDE mentioned the importance of safety, that the last drowning that occurred was an angler who had a PFD that was locked in his seat locker in the boat. There was discussion about anglers carrying their CUA documentation. Ryan explained one of the reasons for that is he doesn't get Internet access everywhere but said if you took a photo on their phone that would suffice as documentation. Rangers said that they generally would not write a ticket for not having it but would give a warning. NPS also talked about the importance of getting to know the fishing guides, and after they understand who the guide is hopefully they won't get contacted multiple times. NY DEC Officer Nathan Doig said he appreciated fishing guides giving him some tips about people that were taking fish over the size limits, and they were able to make some good cases out of that. In Delaware County, they're down to 3 officers, and that's the size of Rhode Island. That makes it tough on them.

Debby Seaboldt, SPU Coordinator, thanked anglers for getting their annual reports in. She received 83 out of 90. Annual Reports not submitted by due date may/can be denied applying for future cycle. The 2022 CUA Report included 75 total fishing guides. They received 70 reports, 3 late, 2 didn't report. Angling brought in 2,708 visitors with total gross receipts: \$2,177,769. Total gross receipts resulting in visiting the park: \$4,605,327. She spoke to them about what they need to do for their paperwork. They're responsible for keeping track of their dates, and their CUAs. She also mentioned that there were no fee increases implemented after a study that took place last year, that the fees are meant to cover the costs for administering the program as opposed to being a profit-making. Kurnath mentioned there's about a 6-week turnaround time for processing applications.

Kurnath will provide a report on regulations in place for the use of inflatable Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) on the Upper Delaware River after that question was raised. Henry said the Upper Delaware is considered to be a white water river.

Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter's River Litter Bag Stations Update: Boyar will report back after Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter's 5/6 meeting on their potential sponsorship of a pilot project to install two River Litter Bag Stations, one in NY and one in PA.

Other: Engelhardt will ask Heather Jacksy at Sullivan County Planning for an update on the resumption of construction work at the Highland River Access, including the expected timetable for its reopening, to share with the UDC board.

New Business

Establishment of an Upper Delaware River Watershed Plan Steering Committee: Engelhardt and/or Ramie will participate in the inaugural meeting of the Upper Delaware River Watershed Plan Steering Committee that Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) is currently scheduling through a poll for a TBD date in May.

5/10 NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Comm. Annual Meeting & 5/24 Skinners Falls Bridge PAC: Ramie and/or Engelhardt will participate in the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission annual virtual meeting or watch the recording to report on capital construction and maintenance plans for the 10 Upper Delaware River bridges. Ramie

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will participate in the 5/24 Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Committee meeting to hear the results of Phase 1 of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 4/17 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 98.6%.

Other: Henry said he was contacted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network about the status of the UDC's railroad emergency response guide. He provided some information and referred them to Ramie.

Hall-Bagdonas shared that the Wayne County Canoe Classic is April 30th with a rain date of May 7th for more information check out: <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/60481/jaycees-annual-canoe-classic>

Adjournment: A Motion by Henry seconded by Boyar to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 5/1/2023