

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2022

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Andy Boyar, Al Henry, Pat Jeffer
Committee Members Absent: Fred Peckham, Evan Padua
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton
Guests: Bill Dudko- Deerpark Alternate

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19th, 2022. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of March 15th, 2022 Meeting Minutes (2:30 time on recorded meeting): A motion by Boyar, seconded by Jeffer approving the March 15th, 2022 meeting minutes carried.

Old Business

3/23 DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee Report (3:04): Engelhardt attended the 3/23 DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC) meeting via Zoom. The first presentation was on the dwarf wedgemussel in the Delaware River Basin. They're very sensitive to water quality, and river flow management is critical for the species protection. They're keeping an eye on those populations.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to the subject of the Delaware Aqueduct repair update, as was discussed at our full Council meeting on 4/7. At the RFAC meeting, Jennifer Garigliano from NYC DEP made her presentation which was followed by a presentation by Garth Pettinger. Engelhardt said they were both very informative, and both presentations can be found here: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/RFAC_march2022.html

3/28 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes (9:11): Ramie provided the 3/28 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) Minutes for members' review. The next meeting on 4/23 will be the Annual meeting of the UDSB, where they elect officers. Henry asked for an update on the Callicoon Depot. Ramie said UDSB extended the Memorandum of Understanding with the CDI for another six months to see some progress. The Depot Committee is ready to put out the Requests for Qualifications to get a design team hired, which is a considerable step.

4/12 Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee Report (10:33): Engelhardt provided a handout for the Delaware River Sojourn that runs from June 18th to the 25th. The theme is "The river rocks". On 4/1, she met with Sara Velazquez from Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Ingrid Peterec from the NPS via Zoom to nail down logistics. The full group met on 4/12. At that point 49 people were registered for the event (many for more than one day). They do expect a lot of the days to sell out. They discussed issues like bus capacity. They gave notes on the t-shirts design. They may meet twice in May or June as the Sojourn gets closer. Engelhardt encourages members to share the event flyer.

4/12 NPS Annual Fishing Guides Meeting Report (13:24): Ramie attended the 4/12 meeting as did Hamilton. Notes from the meeting provided by Permits Manager Debby Seaboldt were provided in the meeting packet. Ramie said she was surprised to hear there are now 83 fishing guides permitted for our stretch of the Upper Delaware. Some topics discussed were the effect that fishing guides have on the local economy and the issue of non-permitted fishing guides on the river. UPDE Chief Ranger Keith Winslow has assigned Ryan Schumacher as the full-time ranger for increased monitoring/operations on land and water areas that are guided in. Others in attendance were Emily Borger from PA Fish & Boat Commission and Jeff Skelding of Friends of the Upper Delaware River. UPDE Ecologist Andy Weber reported that a researcher will be placing acoustic monitoring transmitter receivers (about 5) to monitor eels via transmitters with orange buoys. He discussed the Snail Inventory of the Upper Delaware River, including eDNA sampling which will start in July. Weber gave an update on Northern Snakehead occurrences in the Upper Delaware River, saying they have collected a handful in the last few seasons. If you capture one kill them and report to UPDE NPS.

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Ramie said they briefly mentioned the carrying capacity on the river. They knew it would be a larger conversation to be had but UPDE NPS wants to look into that and have discussions with the UDC and community to make sure the resources are being protected but that people are still having an enjoyable experience.

Responses to Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Station Concept (27:38): Engelhardt sent a follow-up email to Joe Holdren at PA Fish and Boat Commission and Keith Winslow of UPDE. Holdren forwarded a contact to her; Paul Faucet, who said he would socialize the idea with his supervisor. She looked on the internet for a non-nylon alternate that would serve the same function but didn't find anything at a reasonable price.

River Access Updates: Highland, Long Eddy, Ten Mile River (28:45): Regarding Highland, Ramie had reported at the full Council meeting that the two bids that the county received for the improvements at the Highland Access both came in over the \$500,000 grant amount that they had, they sent it back to those two bidders and asked for a cost breakdown.

We received an email from Heather Jacksy from Sullivan County Planning who is coordinating that whole effort. They are meeting tomorrow at 8 a.m. at the Highland Town Hall to bring all the parties back together again who worked on this concept to look at the cost breakdown and move the project forward.

Secondly, provided in the meeting packets was a site plan for the Long Eddy Access sent by Mike DiSarno of NYDEP. This is the plan that was presented to the Fremont Town Board. At the 5/5 full Council meeting he will explain more and be available for questions.

Hamilton had no update to provide on the Ten Mile River Access at this time.

Other (41:10): Engelhardt said there is no update regarding the FUDR Upper Delaware Recreation Plan.

New Business

2022 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Update (42:00): Hall-Bagdonas said we are swept up in the Litter Sweep! You will find a Litter Sweep calendar in the packet. We are still getting individuals and groups reaching out interested in helping which is great. We have school groups from NY and PA involved. The permits are out of the way and most of the supplies have been handed out and now it is time for the fun, exploring the member town/ships and meeting the volunteers that love the river corridor. The event t-shirts from Platform Industries were finished today and Hall-Bagdonas said she is so happy with the work they did. We are getting supplies from both PennDOT and NYDOT and they have been great contacts with any questions Hall-Bagdonas has had. UDC has been promoting the Litter Sweep events on its social media pages. Staff will create a Litter Sweep sign-in sheet to collect contact information for all volunteers to distribute to Litter Leaders along with the electronic fillable Litter Log forms, check with NYS DOT on which safety forms need to be completed and by whom for Rt. 97 clean-ups, pick up hard hats and gloves provided by PennDOT and the landfill transfer station disposal stickers from Sullivan County Litter Pluck, begin distributing t-shirts and supplies to groups and individuals, continue to record clean-up dates on the Litter Sweep schedule, post social media updates, and lead clean-ups in towns or townships without designated Litter Leaders.

Ramie said we had raised \$6,250. The 400 t-shirts cost \$2,940. The cost was adjusted because we moved the UDC logo to the sleeve so we were more prominently featured. They also charge extra for XXL. We also bought ads and bought supplies. Of the original \$6,250 we still have a balance of \$2,357.21 in case we need additional supplies. As Boyar suggested, whatever money we have leftover we will keep in that dedicated account for next year's event.

Henry said garbage trucks should be monitored in this nation. Garbage trucks should be tarped. He sees them go by all the time to the transfer station and garbage is flying out of the back.

Pennsylvania Historic Places Inventory Survey for Wayne and Pike Counties (63:35): NPS Cultural Resources Technician Lauren Hauptman provided information on a survey which Ramie will send the links for Wayne and Pike Counties for the Pennsylvania Historic Places Inventory to the UDC PA township members to encourage their nomination of historic sites in the river valley.

Jeffer said Shohola Township is having a History of Rohman's Inn on 5/4.

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Upcoming Meetings: 4/29 NPS Annual Water Safety Partners; 5/25 Annual NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission (67:16): Ramie will be attending these meetings and will report back.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 4/18 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 100.7%.

Other: Henry said there is progress on the road repair on Peggy Runway.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Jeffer seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 5/5/2022