

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2023

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Al Henry, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Andy Boyar.
Committee Members Absent: Pat Jeffer, Evan Padua
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt
NPS Partner: Lindsey Kurnath-Superintendent (Zoom), 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, May 16th, 2023. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Boyar seconded by Henry approving the April 18th, 2023 meeting minutes carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business

3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Update: Ramie will issue a news release to announce the results of the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep including gratitude to event sponsors, Litter Leaders, and volunteers. Staff will continue to publicize and provide supplies for additional clean-ups and consider ways to engage more youth in next year's event such as through an advance poster or essay contest based on Boyar's suggestions.

Inflatable PFD Usage on the Upper Delaware River (NPS report): Hamilton and Henry will exchange references on inflatable PFD regulations and guidance from U.S. Coast Guard and NPS sources for the committee's further review.

Highland Access Construction Status: Engelhardt will follow up with Ryan Coulter, NYS DEC, and Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Planning, on the current open or closed status of the Highland Access pending additional paving and construction work due to the lack of barricades as of this date. Hamilton said there is a sign on the river stating that the access is closed.

4/21 NPS Annual Water Safety Partners Meeting: NPS will consider the UDC's invitation to present a synopsis of their Annual Water Safety Partners reports as speakers at the 6/1 or 7/6 UDC meeting as well as play the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's new water safety video. Otherwise, Ramie will share statistics from the 4/21 meeting at next month's WU/RM Committee meeting.

4/24 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting: A copy of the 4/24 meeting minutes were provided for members.

4/26 & 5/5 D&H Transportation Heritage Council Meetings: Ramie will draft minutes from the 4/26 D&H Transportation Heritage Council and 5/5 D&H Board of Trustees meeting. Ramie said the Port Jervis to Phillipsoort bus tour on 5/20 has been fully booked. The next D&H THC meeting is 7/26.

5/6 Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter's River Litter Bag Stations Update (A. Boyar): Due to low meeting turnout at the 5/6 TU meeting Boyar did not bring up the River Litter Bag Stations. Their next meeting is their Annual Meeting and are hoping for a higher attendance.

5/8 & 5/9 Delaware River Sojourn Report: Engelhardt is finalizing logistics for the 28th Delaware River Sojourn starting with a river clean-up on 6/16 through the final Upper Delaware section day on 6/19. Engelhardt shared that Hall-Bagdonas has been named an Admiral on Sunday, 6/18, for her work with the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

5/10 NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Annual Meeting: Engelhardt attended this meeting as Ramie was on vacation and provided a brief update for members. Ramie received the link to the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge

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Commission's 5/10 annual meeting recording that was requested on 5/16 to review and write a news release on capital construction and maintenance plans for the 10 Upper Delaware bridges.

5/10 Flexible Flow Management Program Webinar: The Office of the Delaware Rivermaster's announcement of the Decree Parties' unanimous agreement to renew the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) through 5/31/2028 will be circulated to members.

Other: None.

New Business

5/19-28 Festival of the Founding Fish: Ramie provided a handout with a list of events for the Festival of the Founding Fish which will be held from 5/19-28. May 19th the Starling Cabaret will hold a benefit performance for Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in Pond Eddy at 7p.m. On Saturday, May 20th there will be Shad Tasting by Celebrity Chef Annika Sundivik of Nordic Preserves and music by All-Time Darling at the Barryville Farmers' Market from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. There's an Angler's Fair from 12p.m. to 8.m. at Fort Delaware and will feature the DRBC, fishing guides, and more. From 6-10p.m. at Fort Delaware there will be a Shad Shindig with music by DJ Kristine Barilli, Boyscott, and Shredder Thor. On May 25th NPS, Homestead School, and A Single Bite will host a Youth Fishing Day. On May 28th the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway will host a Shadrin bus ride to honor 20 years of Byway designation with Sullivan County Historian John Conway and numerous stops from Port Jervis to Hancock.

5/24 Upper Delaware River Watershed Plan Steering Committee: Ramie and Engelhardt will participate in the 5/24 10 a.m. virtual kick-off meeting of the Upper Delaware River Watershed Plan Steering Committee as arranged by Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR).

5/24 Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Council Meeting: Ramie will participate in the 5/24 2 p.m. Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Committee meeting to hear the results of Phase 1 of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis.

6/24 Lackawaxen River Clean-Up: Hall-Bagdonas attended a 5/10 meeting with members of Keep Hawley Honesdale Beautiful and Housefly Fishing to discuss details about the 6/24 river clean-up event. She will provide supplies (gloves and bags). The event starts at Housefly Fishing in Hawley at 10 a.m. Hall-Bagdonas provided an event poster for the meeting packet for which the UDC is listed as an event sponsor. Groups will focus on Hawley, White Mills and Honesdale, Pa.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 5/15 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 99.8%.

Other: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Henry seconded by Boyar to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was carried.