

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
June 20, 2017

Committee Members Present: Fred Peckham, Andy Boyar, Doug Case, Pat Jeffer, Jim Greier
Committee Members Absent: Tony Ritter, Al Henry
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Pete Golod, Cindy Odell
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Peckham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Greier, seconded by Boyar to approve the May 16 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

Center for Creative Placemaking May 18 Workshop Report: Ramie referred to the written report provided in members' packets on this workshop which took place at the National Park Service Bushkill Meeting Center. Ramie said it was explained that Creative Placemaking is another way of looking at economic development by bringing in the arts and different creativity. Placemaking comes from a bottom-up initiative that focuses on community engagement and equal voices, she added. The second part of the conference was about brownfields and what resources exist. Ramie said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines brownfields as properties where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of that real estate may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. An estimated 450,000 brownfield sites exist in the United States. Ramie reported there are funding sources available through the federal government and foundations for brownfield site remediation.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway May 22 Meeting Minutes: A copy of the May 22nd meeting minutes was provided in members' packets. Ramie reported that the \$20,000 donation from Sullivan County was received the day of the meeting and went over some meeting highlights.

A motion was made and carried directing Ramie to send a letter to the Town of Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas requesting formal permission for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. to assume ownership of the Monarch Butterfly Brochure. The brochure was produced under a Technical Assistance Grant from the UDC applied for by the Town of Highland.

Ramie said a presentation was given to the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on June 16 to provide them with more information on the UDSB.

Ramie referred to a copy of the UDSB "2017 Request for Proposals Application Promoting Butterflies on the Byway" provided in members' packets. The goal is to use seed money to challenge organizations to help enhance the mission of promoting butterfly habitat. A pool of \$5,000 has been allocated for this program. Grants will be awarded on a rolling deadline. Applications submitted by the third Monday of a month will be reviewed and awarded on the fourth Monday of the month. Ramie reviewed some of the application requirements. More information can be requested by emailing info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org. Ramie told members to feel free to share this information with anyone who might be interested.

Ramie noted that an update on the New York State Department of Transportation Attraction Signage project was provided by NYS DOT Region 9 Scenic Byways Coordinator Kris Gilbert. Ramie provided details of the discussion and of a subsequent on-site meeting that took place on June 2 in the Town of Highland. It is anticipated that the signage will be ordered this month.

A proposal to earmark \$10,000 toward Rt. 97 Viewshed Enhancement was made at this meeting, Ramie reported. She said a site in the Town of Lumberland, a pull-off area, is one of focus currently. The site is a rest stop already. NYS DOT has been asked to conduct a field visit to provide an opinion of what's needed there for improvements.

Ramie reported that the new mobile website still has not launched pending final proofreading.

Ramie said it was recently learned that the train station in the center of the hamlet of Callicoon which had been used by Central New York Railroad was vacated a few weeks ago and is available for lease. The railroad is willing to entertain proposals for adaptive re-use of the facility. A Callicoon community group interested in seeing the space put to some sort of public use reached out to the UDSB Committee to ascertain any conceptual interest in a visitor center at the Callicoon Station. The committee decided it was worth exploring.

Ramie said a NYS DOT response to the Byway's May 10 letter observing that the roadway surface of the Beaver Book Bridge Replacement on Route 97 in the Town of Highland appeared to be of an inferior condition in the vicinity of the bridge, was received. The letter indicated that the final top-course was completed on May 3, 2017 and the final bridge surface treatments were completed May 8, 2017. Committee members noted that there is a noticeable improvement now.

The next meeting of the Byway is Monday, June 26, Ramie noted.

Highland Access June 2 Meeting with consultants Update: Golod said he attended this meeting and provided a list of those in attendance which included Sullivan County Planning, the National Park Service, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS DOT, and Town of Highland representatives. He highlighted some of the issues addressed including: questions raised regarding privately owned property; DOT announced that they're going to install signs that read "fishing access"; concerns were raised regarding D&H Canal walls in the project area; mention of a possible bat nest located within a rotting tree that the architects wish to remove; potential noise impacts were addressed regarding an eagle's nest in the vicinity of the proposed work area; concerns regarding knot weed mitigation were raised due to the issue of private property ownership on the parcel along the riverbank; two plan options for the access were presented, both with 14 regular car parking spots, 2 handicapped, and one bus, restrooms, boat racks, and bike storage. Golod noted the bus lane is still under discussion. He described the two plan options presented and noted the one decided on has a straight paved path to a boat launch that will require more cutting into the bank but would utilize the fill to backfill areas of the project. This option also follows the grade and would allow boaters to launch downstream or with the current of the river. Golod said that the National Park Service Law Enforcement division has stated that they are opposed to any form of floating dock system entering into the water. A federal regulation was quoted which disallows such use. Questions were raised whether it is necessary to make this access handicap accessible being that there is a handicapped accessible access a mile and a half away from this site. This issue will be further discussed, Golod added. Lastly, the big issue discussed was a maintenance plan. It was decided that this access must be a low maintenance primitive boat launch, but will require further discussion.

Building Watershed Resiliency in the Upper Delaware River Region June 7 Workshop Report: Golod said he attended this workshop at the beginning of the month. He compiled a written report that was provided in members' packets. The workshop focused on climate change with presenters from the Pinchot Institute, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District, and representatives from consulting firm Milone & MacBroom. Golod said it was a very interesting workshop at which he learned a lot. The second half of the day, participants took a field trip to the Neversink Preserve for a firsthand view of how a mature floodplain forest and a floodplain restoration project are helping improve climate resiliency along the Neversink River in Orange County, N.Y. Golod said the workshop was "topnotch" and he hopes members get something out of the report. Hamilton told Golod he did a nice job on the report and requested a digital copy of it. Peckham questioned who conducted the scientific research. He was told Common Waters. Hamilton added that it was a culmination of work that has been done by a lot of people and organizations. Ramie noted that the "Adapting to a Changing Climate: Risks & Opportunities for the Upper Delaware River Region" report by Susan Beecher is available at www.pinchot.org/adapt and the "Building Resilience in the Upper Delaware River Region" report is available at www.pinchot.org/resilience. Hamilton said that some very convincing evidence about rainfall and how that has increased over the last several decades was given at this workshop. Case noted that you don't get a half an inch of rain anymore; you get two inches or you don't get any. Members briefly discussed the extreme weather events. Golod said that a comparable workshop is going to take place in Pennsylvania. He will share that information when it becomes available.

Water Safety Committee June 8 Meeting Update: Odell reported that NPS Ranger Kevin Reish announced that Jennifer Proctor and Ina Hysi from the Office of Risk Management (ORM) are planning a

visit to the Upper Delaware July 19th through the 21st. Detailed information will be sent to them to review and they will make recommendations to enhance the current program. Reish stated that “the ORM has been very supportive of our drowning prevention efforts and we all look forward to their visit.” The draft agenda includes a presentation by Ramie here at the UDC office the morning of July 20th on partnership building and working with multiple towns and townships.

Odell said the current status of funds available to the Water Safety Committee was discussed and a “wish list” for end-of-year spending was created.

It was reported that the loaner life jacket stations are not in place yet due to a set-back in getting the life jackets. The stations are built, printed, paid for, and ready for installation. Discussion about making the stations removable took place.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for August 10th.

Scenic Wild Delaware River Stewardship Council June 19 Conference Call Update: Ramie reported on a couple of upcoming events that are being planned by the Stewardship Council. One is a program on “Conservation Success Stories in the Scenic Wild Delaware River Region” to be held next Thursday, June 29 at The Columns (Pike County Historical Society) in Milford, PA. A date and location has been set for the Fall Geotourism Conference, Ramie noted. It will be held on Thursday, September 28, at the Woodloch Resort in Hawley, PA. This in-person meeting is geared towards all of the businesses and attractions that are listed on the MapGuide and new businesses to show how to capitalize on the National Geographic listing. A survey had been circulated to ascertain topics of interest from participants.

Ramie said the Appalachian Mountain Club has recently joined the Stewardship Council and they are interested in assisting with the hiking trails component for the whole nine-county region.

Sullivan County Trail Committee June 20 Meeting Update: Ramie noted that this meeting took place earlier today at Lake Superior Park in the Town of Bethel. She stated there are currently no established trails at this Sullivan County owned park which is located next to the Palisades Park property and New York State property. The Palisades park system has been expanded over the years to include 19 state parks and nine historic sites, covering over 100,000 acres along more than 20 miles of Hudson River shoreline and beyond. Sullivan County is working on a proposal to get some trails in at Lake Superior Park. She spoke about the hike the committee took today. The date for the next meeting has not yet been set, Ramie added.

NYS Trout Fishing Regulations Update: Ramie stated that Golod reached out to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4 Fisheries Manager Chris VanMaaren about presenting at the July 6 full Council meeting on New York State trout regulations. She said VanMaaren has accepted the invitation and will present at the start of the 7:00 p.m. meeting at which time we can ask him if there is something specific in the regulations for trout that NYS is proposing or not. Peckham shared details of a discussion regarding trout regulations that took place at the Town of Hancock June 6 Board meeting.

Cortese Landfill (Town of Tusten) & Barnes Landfill (Town of Highland) Updates: Ramie stated that at last month’s WU/RM meeting when the committee was reviewing the draft FY 2018 Work Plan for WU/RM a couple of questions were raised concerning these two landfills. Odell stated that a copy of the Superfund site profile for the Cortese Landfill was provided in members’ packets to read at their leisure. In regards to the Barnes Landfill, Odell said she researched the three parcels tied to the property and learned that the owner of record for one parcel is Barnes Landfill, Inc. and the owner of record for the other two are Emmet Barnes. All three parcels appear on the Real Property Wholly Exempt Section of the Roll, she added.

Other: None

New Business

NPS Restoration of the Zane Grey House Cultural Landscape Proposal: Ramie referred to the NPS June 13 letter provided in members’ packets. She noted the letter was also sent out in advance to consider what comments the Council might want to make. The public scoping is going on through July 11, so any recommendations can go through the full Council at its July 6th meeting, she added. It was reported at the

June full Council meeting and stated in the letter that the three structures - the Ida and Josephine Grey House, Moran House, and Cottage Kitchen - are considered to be in poor condition, are non-historic structures, and are non-contributing elements to the Zane Grey Cultural Landscape. The removal of these structures would restore the cultural landscape, enhance the visitor experience, improve the visual scene from both the road and river, and promote long-term fiscal sustainability. Boyar said he has never seen these particular buildings, but stated that structures that have structural integrity and something "neat" about them could be moved within a reasonable distance. Ramie said Henry sent an email as he was not going to be in attendance at this meeting saying that he supports having the structures removed. After more discussion of particular comments to offer, a motion to draft a letter to NPS Superintendent Heister commenting on the proposed Restoration of the Zane Grey House Cultural Landscape for advance review and action at the July 6 UDC meeting was made by Greier, seconded by Case and carried.

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: A copy of the June 19th NYC Current Reservoir Levels was provided in members' packets. Total combined storage was at 98.9%, normal for the same date is 96.5%. Peckham commented that the spring has been a little wetter than normal.

Other: Peckham said that James R. Leone, Geologist and Museum Scientist, of the New York State Museum and New York State Geological Survey (NYSGS) and interns were on his property to obtain a core sample. He reported that were down to 172' before they hit structural stone. He shared the results of the 4" core sample noting that the first 90 feet was silt and sand, followed by approximately 82 feet of glacial till. Peckham said that Leone said he will take the bottom core and have it dated to find out when the first glaciers hit the river valley. Case asked how far from the river the drilling took place. Peckham said he estimates the drilling took place 50 to 60 feet from the river on the upside of the railroad tracks. He said he will update members with any further information that he receives.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Boyar, seconded by Jeffer to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 6/26/17