

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2019

Committee Members Present: Evan Padua, Jim Greier, Fred Peckham, Al Henry, Ginny Dudko
Committee Members Absent: Andy Boyar, Pat Jeffer, Doug Case
Staff : Pete Golod, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton
Guests: Bill Dudko, Cheryl Korotky

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 16th, 2019 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-Chairperson Padua called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

A motion by Dudko, seconded by Greier, to approve the June 18th meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business

6/20 Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Report: Golod participated in the quarterly meeting of the Water Management Advisory Committee on 6/20. The Hydrological Conditions Report, to date, is that the Basin has experienced higher than normal amounts of precipitation. Currently, the Upper Basin is more susceptible to flash flooding. Larger amounts of rain are required for flash flooding in the lower Basin. Stream flow with the USGS gauges in the Basin indicate that the flows are normal or are above normal. The combined NYC reservoir storage is 100% of usable capacity. The lower Basin storage pools in Beltzville, Blue Marsh and Merrill Creek reservoirs are also at 100%. Currently the salt front is at River Mile 64 compared to its normal location at River Mile 69 this time of year. As of June 2019, ground water levels at the USGS monitoring wells indicate normal or above normal levels. Regarding the water use update, in 2016 total water withdrawals in the Basin were 656 million gallons per day comprising of thermal electric which utilized 3,792 million gallons a day and is the largest water use sector followed by public water supply, which is 1,003 million gallons a day. Public water supply was 100 million gallons a day which accounts for one-third of the total consumptive use or 362 million gallons. Transfer monthly water withdrawals for the three major water use sectors: thermal electric, public water supply and industrial in the Basin showed overall water use is decreasing over time.

DRBC staff are preparing a Water Conservation Survey to understand the current status of public water supply management practices through metering, leak detection and repair in water audits. The DRBC is aiming to distribute the survey in 2020. They are also working on a Water Audit Survey for 2020 to assist in shaping the Water Audit program. The survey will be web-based. The last Water Management Advisory Committee meeting of 2019 will be 10/22. Golod said he would forward a copy of his Report to committee members.

Hamilton asked if they have considered going out of the Basin for consumptive use? Evaporation is considered consumptive use and Hamilton was thinking of NYC diversions. Golod believes they are focusing on the thermal electric, public water and industrial. Peckham asked what thermal electric was? Golod said he imagines Hydropower. Hamilton said it is the cooling towers, the evaporation.

6/24 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting Report: A copy of Ramie's UDSB 6/24 meeting minutes was provided to the committee for individual review.

7/10 Subcommittee on Ecological Flows Water Management Protocols: A handout was provided in the meeting packet from Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR). Golod shared that FUDR hosted the meeting in Hancock on 7/10. On 3/14/18, the DRBC reestablished the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF). SEF's first meeting was held on 10/4/18 and the committee met a total of eight times. Their objectives included: development, adoption, and implementation of a thermal mitigation bank using NYC reservoir water to cool temperatures within the Delaware River main stem reach of Hancock downriver to Lordville. The proposed bank would attempt to mitigate

excessive warming of main stem waters from days of high air temperatures which would include such issues as heatwaves which cause heat stress on the cold water fishery of the Upper Delaware below the reservoirs. They will also be reviewing the efficiency of the FFMP's established Rapid Flow Mitigation Bank, which addresses water releases from the NYC reservoirs known as directed releases which are made to ensure the 1750 cfs minimum flow target required at Montague. After a great deal of work, modeling and discussion, a general consensus was met among the active SEF members for a recommendation to RFAC for the Simple 75° Policy. This Policy has a single stress trigger. If waters at the Lordville gauge are predicted to reach 75°, NYS DEC will call for a thermal release out of Cannonsville to keep the maximum water temperatures at Lordville below 75° through the summer season. The amount of water in the thermal bank is set to 1250 cfs days beginning at the start of the Water Year (6/1-5/31). If it's not exhausted the bank it carries over to the next year. The proposed 75° program is a one-year pilot program with additional recommendations and modifications expected to be delivered by SEF to RFAC by the following 2020-2021 water year. New York has already implemented and used the Simple 75° program within the Upper Delaware and RFAC is currently awaiting approval of the remaining Decree Party members. Jen Garigliano was in attendance representing NYC DEP and she has full faith that the other decree parties will have no issue in approving the Simple 75° program. Rapid Flow Mitigation Bank analysis is another charge for SEF. They analyze the directed releases from the reservoirs which meet the Montague flow target and determine a way to gradually ramp the rampant and drastic water releases to mimic a more natural river event. SEF continued working on this protocol, however, they didn't make the deadline and have proposed to RFAC a work plan which included additional changes by April 2020. In the meantime, the interim protocol is still in effect. Padua said the 75° mark will not only help what they are trying to achieve with the anglers but also with many of the liveries. When it's below that level it's terrible canoeing conditions. Everyone is hitting rocks, stopping constantly, and walking their canoes and a little extra water will help.

Greier said in addition to Golod's handout, Greier provided a handout from the *New York Outdoor News* on the same subject of water management protocols. They also mention the fast-growing new invasive water species Hydrilla. Hamilton said NPS went to a workshop on Hydrilla and they are keeping an eye out for it. Padua asked if it is something that would thrive in cold, flowing water? Hamilton said it does better in slow or standing water. It can exist in part of the Delaware. Hamilton said it looks like Elodea.

Henry asked who was in charge of making the Simple 75° release? Golod said NYS DEC; he's not sure what region but Mark Klotz of DEC was in attendance at the meeting. Henry asked Golod to find out the procedure and who has control of the valve.

Upper Delaware River Corridor Clean Up: Hall-Bagdonas said Ramie had provided in the meeting packets an updated Agenda for the 7/30 River Corridor Cleanup roundtable meetings. One meeting will be held at 3 p.m. and the second meeting at 6 p.m. at the UDC office.

Other: None.

New Business

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: A copy of July 15th NYC Current Reservoir Levels was provided in members' packets. Total combined storage was at 94.1%, normal is 93.1%. July's precipitation was .43 and historical was 1.78.

Other: Henry said Hamilton did research relative to Orange County and the Sparrowbush access. Henry said he appreciates the feedback. According to Hamilton and Jennifer Claster it is owned by Orange County since 2014 with a DEC easement.

Golod said that Pat Thomas stopped by the UDC tent at the Zane Grey Festival inquiring about updates on the Holbert Quarry. He lives in St. Vincent's Pointe in Lackawaxen and has heard constant noise from Holbert Quarry day and night, seven days a week. Golod called him this afternoon and spoke to him briefly. He is a second homeowner and heard that Holbert Quarry has leased their land to QM (Quarrying Mining International). Golod said UDC has received nothing from the Township in regard to permitting or extension of lease. He advised Thomas to

contact the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer as well as the building inspector. He also recommended that Thomas go to a Township Supervisors meeting.

Padua said he will not be here from mid-September through April 2020. That could be an inconvenience for the committee. He's not sure if an alternate will need to be found? He is an alternate for the Town of Tusten. Dudko asked if Tusten would appoint someone to the WU/RM committee? He said yes, probably.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Greier, seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 7/23/19