

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

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

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

Approval of May 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes (no quorum for June 21 meeting: A motion by Boyar, seconded by Padua approving the May 17th, 2022 meeting minutes carried.

Old Business

NPS Water Safety Committee – 5/19 WU/RM Letter, 6/22 & 7/13 Committee Reports: Hall-Bagdonas said she reached out to Ron Babus again and he kicked some of the questions from the 5/19 letter up the chain. She will follow-up with him to get any outstanding answers from that letter.

At the 6/22 Water Safety Committee meeting the committee reviewed the top 3 or 4 new river safety signs to go to print. Hall-Bagdonas and Jessica Weinman mentioned one should be about swimming safety. Glass Bottle signs have been placed at all accesses. At the 7/13 the new WCO Shane Casey attended his first meeting. The committee discussed the Water Safety video NPS is working on. A few topics include: float entrapments; proper life jacket wear, rapids, eel weirs, staying hydrated, etc. Corrine Hinton from NPS gave the Water Safety posters a 2nd go. Hall-Bagdonas said they are easier to read, cleaner and they listened to UDC and Jessica Weinman in using a swimming safety sign. Hall-Bagdonas noted that NPS said there have been some complaints to NPS staff about liveries not enforcing safety briefings. Hall-Bagdonas suggested to NPS that they make the Water Safety images shareable on social media since they have such a big base. Susie Kaspar from NPS was interviewed by WJFF for water safety.

6/1 Delaware Highlands Conservancy Eagle Committee Report: Engelhardt is on the Eagle committee at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC), and they've recently changed their meetings to be quarterly and during the workday. Sara Velazquez was the Education and Development Associate at the DHC for the past few years, and she has moved on and taken positions with the American Forest Foundation. At the time of the meeting, they were looking for someone. She said they are also looking for a Grounds Supervisor. At the meeting they discussed the training date and location for next year and it will likely be in-person. With a supplementary virtual training for those who can't make it. They also discussed the bus tours. They had 5 bus tours in 2022, and they all were sold out and very popular. They have some great volunteers that narrate the tour and give eagle facts. They are looking to increase to 6 to 8 tours next year. Engelhardt said there have been observations and documented evidence of eagles fighting each other a lot more recently, and it is suggested that this is due to increased eagle population numbers and competition for territory.

6/7 Wayne-Pike Conservation Partnership Report: Engelhardt attended this quarterly meeting in-person on 6/7 at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Education Center. There were just four other people who attended. Members of the partnership contribute articles to Connections Magazine and Engelhardt will be contributing an article later this year. The Legislative Breakfast, which UDC has attended in the past will be held in the fall, likely October. This year the Science on Tap events will be held at the Wallenpaupack Brewery in August and November. She shared with the partnership upcoming UDC events like the Delaware River Sojourn, the Lackawaxen River Cleanup, the UDC Raft Trip, and the River Valley Awards. She also gave them a rundown of all the Narrowsburg

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events like the Deepwater Literary Festival, Riverfest, Big Eddy Film Festival and the Narrowsburg Honey Bee Festival.

6/10 Local History Roundtable Report: A copy of Ramie's report from the 6/10 meeting in White Mills, PA was provided in the meeting packets.

6/15 Sullivan Renaissance "Putting Trash in its Place" Roundtable Report: Hall-Bagdonas shared that Sullivan Renaissance held the second installment of its Renaissance Roundtable series on Wednesday June 15th via Zoom with 30 people in attendance. The program featured litter warriors from Sullivan County and beyond who are tackling litter in creative ways. We heard from Erin Dudley E.D. of Hurleyville Performing Arts Center; Kelly Buckta co-owner of Dette Flies; Frank DeMayo, Supervisor of the Town of Liberty; and Sgt. Joe Poppo from the Village of Liberty. Dudley discussed tackling illegal dumping on her own property. She raised \$3,500 mostly with the help of neighbors and installed safety cameras. She said policymakers need to prioritize the issue of littering. Buckta spoke of practicing stewardship. Since Dette moved to Livingston Manor 4 years ago they have partnered with groups like TU, Pig Farm Inc, Red Rose, Theodore Gordon and UDC. Fill your net with trash and be part of the solution. Sgt. Poppo talked about everyone picking up litter because the community belongs to everyone. He said that finding drugs on cleanups can be a teachable moment with children because they will be part of the community in a few short years. DeMayo shared that the Liberty Town Board unanimously approved federal funds for a 2-year major cleanup focusing on illegal dumping and littering which will involve summer help and the highway dept. The panel also discussed the importance of major signage, talking to camps, and the availability of education about littering.

6/25 Lackawaxen River Cleanup Report: Hall-Bagdonas provided an infographic from the event in the meeting packet. There was a great turnout for the cleanup with many groups involved. Keep Hawley Honesdale Beautiful (KHHB) focused on White Mills. Dan Santoro from Housefly Fishing had groups all over Hawley. Santoro said: "You have something really special and unique here." Hopping Eagle Brewery in Hawley hosted the afterparty and created a special IPA called "Hazy Vibes for River Rides". Harrison Signs and KHHB had shirts made with all sponsors featured. Local band Phunk Musket played at Hopping Eagle. Hall-Bagdonas thanked MMM for removal of trash at the three different locations.

6/27 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes: A copy of the 6/27 UDSB minutes by Ramie were provided in the meeting packets.

6/29 DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee Meeting Report: A copy of Ramie's report was provided in the meeting packet. Engelhardt also attended the 6/29 virtual meeting.

Other: None.

New Business

Outcome of Delaware River Sojourn: Engelhardt said the Sojourn went very well. The cleanup was supposed to happen on Day 0 but was unfortunately cancelled because the river was very high from the storms earlier in the week. Sojourners set up their camps at Zane Grey, and most people did some of the many hikes in the area. By Saturday the river was at a good level. There were 94 participants, including the safety and logistics people. There was some response back from the event and many people said the food in the Upper Delaware was the best during the Sojourn. They had breakfast from Konrad's Kitchen. Ingrid Peterec (NPS) made a speech of welcome. Amanda Subjin from DHC presented the High Admiralty Award to John Jengo, the geologist who presented the evening program. Participants were shuttled up to Ten Mile River, where they received the safety briefing, and then paddled six river miles back to Zane Grey, and took out there. They had dinner and the aforementioned program, Sandy Schultz who has been a sojourner, since the beginning, said that was possibly the best program the Sojourn ever had. On Sunday, 6/19 they broke camp first thing in the morning and made their way to the Indian Head base at Knight's Eddy. Nadia Rajsz was presented with the High Admiral Award. Engelhardt was supposed to do that but had car trouble unfortunately. Peterec presented her with a hat and she received a certificate at the UDC meeting earlier this month. Sojourners were then shuttled back to Zane Grey, where they had their safety briefing and put in At around 10 a.m. They paddled 9 river miles to the Landers Pond Eddy Base where they had lunch and there was a program by NPS. They paddled an additional 6 miles in the afternoon and took out at Indian Head, Pond Eddy base a little

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before 4:30 p.m. Engelhardt had an information table set up for the UDC. There were 6 boat overs among 4 people. That night sojourners traveled to Worthington State Park for a 13-river mile trip. On day 4, they were scheduled to paddle from Worthington to Ramsayburg, and the last day from Bordentown Beach NJ to the Crosswick Creek. Engelhardt said they have been having positive responses.

NPS 7/16 Zane Grey Festival Report: Engelhardt and Hall-Bagdonas did a split shift to cover this event. Hall-Bagdonas said this was the first Zane Grey Festival since COVID and there was a great turnout. We saw some board members throughout the day and a lot of the people attending make sure this is an annual summer event. Staff talked to members of public about the historic bridges, education programs, Technical Assistance Grants, and our newsletter, among other things.

Progress with Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Stations: The committee discussed moving this project forward. Engelhardt will prepare a proposal for NYDEC, NPS, etc for litter bag stations with respect to location, bag type, signage, and size and construction of storage box. She will also look into possibly sourcing litter bags from Agway, and into local littering laws and fines.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 7/18 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 83.1%.

Other: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Henry seconded by Padua, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. was carried.