

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2026

Committee Members Present: Evan Padua, Bill Dudko, Jim Rodgers, Al Henry, Christine Martin, Jim Serio
Committee Members Absent: Bob Lindquist, Pat Jeffer
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Stephanie Driscoll
NPS Partner: Michelle Stevens (Zoom)
Guests: Ginny Dudko

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2026. Chairperson Padua called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Ramie introduced the new Town of Hancock UDC Representative, Jim Serio, who previously served on the council as rep from March 2003 to December 2004, and subsequently from January 2008 until 2009. He then served as alternate from 2009 to 2011. He has formerly served as Chairperson of the WU/RM Committee as well. We will formally introduce Serio at the May full council meeting. WU/RM Committee members welcomed Serio.

Approval of the March 17, 2026 meeting minutes: A motion by B. Dudko seconded by Rodgers approving the 3/17 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on Agenda: None.

New Business:

5/13 NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Meeting: Ramie said this is a notice to let members know this annual meeting is scheduled for May 13 both in person in Dunmore, PA and virtually. She will attend in person on behalf of the UDC. We look forward to that meeting for updates, particularly on the Skinners Falls Bridge PA abutment, the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge renovation status, the Matamoras Bridge work, and other projects for the nine bridges in the corridor under the Commission's jurisdiction.

B. Dudko said that they finished the one side of the Matamoras Bridge and the center. They have recently moved to the last section and are working on scraping the paint off there. Padua said they are making progress on the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge as well. Ramie said work on the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge is scheduled to go through November of 2027.

5/21 Water Safety Partners Meeting: Stevens said this is the first re-structured "enhanced" Water Safety meeting that will be held on May 21 at 10am. Ramie said Superintendent Kurnath sent out invitations to approximately 120 different people, organizations, fishing guides, liveries - anyone that has anything to do with water safety - including law enforcement and emergency services. The meeting will be held at the Tusten Town Hall Community Room. The UDC and its members are invited to attend; just let her know if you'd like to go so she can RSVP. Rodgers said he would like to attend.

Registration Open for 6/8 Citizens Emergency Preparedness Seminar: Driscoll said this is the second Citizens Emergency Preparedness Seminar we will be offering after the first seminar was extremely popular on March 11. This seminar, like the last, will be held at the Tusten Town Hall. We decided to move the time to 2pm on a Monday to reach a different audience. Ramie said both NY and PA residents are invited to attend. When registering through the online registration, if you live in PA, just put Sullivan County as your county since this isn't a PA program. We haven't started advertising for this seminar yet, as it's probably too early. We will start posting the flyer included in tonight's packet as we get closer to June 8.

Delaware Flow & Storage Report: Padua said that things look good and total storage is over 100%. Serio said there has been a shift. Under the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP), there are multiple operational "tables" that dictate release levels based on overall water availability. These tables essentially act as management tiers, adjusting how much water is released depending on how much is stored in the system. The system has moved into Table G, which is one of the highest water-availability tiers—indicating that there is plenty of water in storage. However, even though water availability is high, releases are not necessarily maximized right now. This is due to New York City's operational goal of entering June 1st - the start of the water year - with reservoirs as close to full as

possible. Because of that goal, unless reservoirs are actively spilling (meaning they are exceeding 100% capacity and physically overflowing), release rates are intentionally held back below their maximum potential. On the West Branch, instead of releasing up to 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs), releases are currently capped at a lower level. Serio highlights a “nasty” aspect of this management approach. About ten days prior when spilling conditions ceased, the East Branch experienced a dramatic and rapid drop in release—from 600 cfs down to just 85 cfs. This reduction is problematic, not just because of how low 85 cfs is, but because of how quickly the change occurred. Padua said that during May these restricted release levels can create difficult conditions. Even when environmental or thermal needs might suggest higher flows would be beneficial, the system constraints tied to reservoir refill goals limit flexibility.

Other: B. Dudko said the Town of Deerpark’s 1863 Schoolhouse Museum will present "Wood, Coal and Water: Three Essentials that Changed the River Valley", a historical talk by Glenn Pontier, on Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m. at the museum in Huguenot, NY.

Henry asked if Serio had heard any updates on the Cannonsville Reservoir expansion? Ramie said DRBC’s Executive Director Kristen Bowman Kavanaugh said she would follow up with more information to the UDC but has been busy. Padua said this idea has been around since 1986; the idea of putting floodgates at the top of the dam. Ramie said she first heard about it at the DRBC’s Water Management Advisory Committee meeting. We are conscious of it and will wait to hear more information.

Driscoll acknowledged Ramie’s 29-year work anniversary with the UDC today. She thanked Ramie for her dedication and hard work. The committee members gave Ramie a round of applause and thanked her for her 29 years of service to the council. Cake was served after the meeting to celebrate.

Old Business:

2026 Litter Sweep Update: Driscoll said we’ve had to place two additional t-shirt orders (one for 50 and another for 65) after the initial 410 order, totaling 525 shirts this year. It’s been an amazing year for the Litter Sweep; with the most volunteers we’ve ever had. We’ve had the largest number of kids involved. The last few years we’ve allowed groups along the tributaries of the Delaware River, but we may need to reconsider that next year. We may be spreading our wings a little too far and have to bring it back into the corridor. We had enough supplies from last year; we only had to place one order for 400 pairs of gloves and 1,500 garbage bags. For next year, we’re going to have to apply for grant funding, solicit more donations, or seek sponsors again. We want to make sure we have enough money to keep this moving forward. We have \$2,000 coming to the Litter Sweep from Sullivan County Legislator and UDC Lumberland Representative Nadia Rajsz’s donation from her Sullivan County Discretionary Funding. The application for the discretionary funds has been submitted. Driscoll followed up with Sullivan County this past Friday and they responded saying it’s in the final stages and will send the contract to be executed soon. So far, we’ve spent \$150 of that funding with the last order of t-shirts. Platform Industries in Honesdale has been amazing; they’ve been able to get us those last two orders within a couple of days, which is a huge ask. We greatly appreciate that.

2026 Litter Sweep artwork artist Jeff George of Jeff George Design in Honesdale, PA has donated the original artwork (shown in its matted frame during the meeting) to the UDC to use for fundraising for the Litter Sweep. Driscoll said she has started an online auction which is currently at \$120. We were thrilled that George offered to donate his original signed pen and ink drawing.

Driscoll reported that so far for 2026, we’ve had 6 Litter Sweeps, with 2 getting postponed due to weather, and 15 scheduled, totaling 21 Litter Sweeps for this year. She thanked Christine Martin for Litter Leader for the Town of Highland’s Litter Sweep which had almost 100 volunteers. The Town of Delaware with serving as Litter Leader Tess McBeath had its largest group so far at 30 volunteers, and Litter Leader Larry Richardson’s group in the Town of Cochection had approximately 15 volunteers. Berlin Township met this morning for their Litter Sweep, with Litter Leader Al Henry gathering 9 volunteers. Roscoe Family Nature Club held their Litter Sweep around Crystal Lake in the Town of Fremont with 18 volunteers, including a bunch of kids. Four youth groups are holding Litter Sweeps for Earth Day in Lumberland (Homestead School), Honesdale and Hawley (The Cooperage Project Pop-up Afterschool Program), and a homeschool group from Shohola Township. We have some large sweeps coming up this weekend like the Town of Tusten, Westfall’s Jr. Ranger group, Damascus Township, Jeffersonville, and the Earth Day

Celebration at The Callicoon Depot in Callicoon led by Litter Leader Laurie Ramie. Padua said he was at the Roscoe Family Nature Club Litter Sweep and it was a wonderful event.

G. Dudko said she'd like to recognize two people tonight. First, Andy Boyar for starting the UDC's Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. Without his advocating for the river valley and talking about the trash up and down the river corridor, this program wouldn't be available. And second, Driscoll for her hard work taking over and spearheading this program. Driscoll thanked the group. She said this year has been a wild year, but it's a good kind of wild.

Padua said he noticed a group on Route 97 picking up trash along the road. Driscoll asked if they were wearing our Litter Sweep t-shirts, out of curiosity. Padua said no, but he noticed they were using a reusable type of burlap bag. It would be great if we could look into some type of biodegradable/reusable bag for next year. B. Dudko said maybe check the paper bags they sell at Home Depot for lawn waste. Grace Church in Huguenot picks up trash along Route 55 and they don't use our supplies. Martin asked if the people along Route 97 were with the Tusten Community Heritage Garden? Padua said he didn't stop to ask. It's good to see people out there doing something about the litter.

Driscoll said she has created a "Litter Resources" page on the UDC website that has tarp load regulations and other trash/litter resources in both NY and PA. Padua said he saw a '\$100 fine for littering' sign locally that was so small in size, he wished it was a little larger. He thanked Driscoll and the UDC staff for their hard work on the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep and especially the Town of Highland for such great numbers.

3/23 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting: Ramie reported that the byway is submitting an application for \$45,000 through the Sullivan County Discretionary Funding program for 2026. They are seeking to extend the byway's Program Manager contract for another year (the contract is currently due to expire on July 15th), for \$10,000 for costs related to the UDSB Visitor Center at The Callicoon Depot, and for \$5,000 to seed the four grant programs the byway offers.

The byway awarded a \$500 Signage Grant to Callicoon Depot Inc. for interchangeable banners to promote events at the depot. That will be up to \$500 since that grant does have a 50% match unlike the other byway grant programs that do not. A \$300 sponsorship was approved for an application to the Cochetton Preservation Society for their 20th Annual Coffee, Tea, and History program that will take place on September 20th. at the Cochetton Station along the byway from 1:00pm until 3:00pm with the program "Wood, Coal, and Water: Three Essentials That Changed the River Valley" by Glenn Pontier. The UDC had Pontier here for that presentation last year that must have sparked lots of interest in other communities, since the Town of Deerpark is having the same presentation on Sunday (4/26) as B. Dudko mentioned earlier.

Ramie said the Town of Cochetton Byway Representative Larry Richardson reported that Cochetton has created a new Semi-quincentennial Committee for presentations in each of the town's five hamlets (Skinners Falls, Cochetton, Cochetton Center, Fosterdale, and Lake Huntington). They are seeking speakers for each of those hamlets to discuss how things "used to be." On May 3rd they will be opening up a 1976 time capsule at the Cochetton Town Hall at 1:00pm.

The byway's photo contest opened on April 1st and will run through November 1st. This is the first time that this effort has been undertaken. A press release with all that information is included in the packet. There are no categories to this contest; just images along the byway. The idea is that after winter, there will be an exhibit put together for a spring gallery opening. There are prizes involved and a voting process.

At the 3/23 meeting on, a company called Overlook Maps gave a presentation on a map-based contest, proposing to highlight 10 to 15 places of interest along the byway, turning it into a game like a scavenger hunt which the byway did last year successfully. This program would not be through an app; you would use your browser and go to the physical location of each site and it would recognize your location. Once you are on-site, you would answer a question. There are prizes involved. However, the byway hasn't committed to this year. Byway Program Manager David Krantz plans to look into the particulars. It's described as free to the byway but the UDSB would be responsible for securing the prizes and doing promotion. They discussed sharing the marketing and email lists with Overlook Maps. They also pointed out that wi-fi signals are not guaranteed along the byway. That can be worked around by sending people where it isn't a cellular "dead-zone".

The byway submitted an application for the Sullivan Catskills Tourism Events Grants Round 2. As we know, the UDC's application was successful in the first round, but not the byway's. The application was revamped after some consultation with the CEO of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association to emphasize lodging and retaining visitors. The round 2 deadline was 4/14 and Krantz submitted the revised application. The application is seeking marketing materials for the Visitor Center. The awards will be announced on 5/15, with funds to be disbursed in June.

As Driscoll mentioned, The Callicoon Depot is holding an Earth Day Celebration this Saturday (4/25) from 10:00am-4:00pm. There will be exhibits, children's activities, a performance by Farm Arts Collective, two guided walks by Laura Silverman from the Outside Institute along River Rd. to check out local biodiversity, and the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep will happen from 11:00am-1:00pm during that event.

A Birds and Bees program is in the works being developed by Krantz and others. The date for that is still being confirmed. The second Saturday of every month there will be a "Depot Market" for crafts and artisans (not to compete with the Callicoon Farmer's Market). Also every Saturday, unless another event is scheduled, there will be a used book sale in the freight room of the depot. These programs and activities will hopefully bring people into the site and get familiar with the new community asset.

Ramie said bids were due by March 11th for the renovation of the 1896 railroad station. Two bids were received, both over the available funding. One was non-compliant while the other was potentially compliant with negotiations. They are working with that contractor to see what can be deferred or cut out of the project to bring it to the scope of the grant funding that is available of \$250,000. That contract should be able to be negotiated within a week. They plan to start work this summer and expect work to last 3 months. When they asked the other interested contractors why they didn't submit a bid, they indicated that it was an availability issue and the expertise required to deal with a historic property.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway has been chosen by the National Scenic Byway Association for the Upper Delaware Scavenger Hunt receiving the National Partnership Award. This is a testament to Krantz's work on that project. The press release is included in tonight's packet. The award will be formally presented in October at the National Scenic Byway Conference in Arkansas. The UDSB is invited to attend. Back when the Upper Delaware Shadfest won the National Partnership Award, John Pizzolato, then UDSB Project Manager, went to that conference to accept the award.

B. Dudko arranged for the Town of Deerpark Deputy Police Chief Mike Worden to talk about the mobile surveillance trailers that will be deployed at the Hawks Nest Overlook at this upcoming byway meeting (4/27). He will describe the training they've had, what the trailers are capable of, and when they will be used. B. Dudko said they will be used all over the town, not just at the Hawks Nest. Martin asked why they are putting these at the Hawks Nest specifically? G. Dudko said it's for law enforcement purposes like speeding and other trouble on the Hawks Nest. B. Dudko said they've had complaints come through the byway about the Hawks Nest for almost as long as the byway has existed. Padua said the trash along the banks of the Hawks Nest you can see from the river is horrible. B. Dudko said that's privately owned land; the state needs to get permission from the landowner to work on the wall.

Ramie said that Driscoll sent the byway a thank-you letter for their \$500 donation to the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. The byway, along with the DRBC and Rajsz, are the two major sponsors of the Litter Sweep this year.

This coming meeting on the 27th is the annual meeting with the election of officers at that time. It will take place at 7:00pm at the UDC office.

Henry said if there is \$250,000 available for renovations on The Callicoon Depot, they should start with the roof. Renovations should hold off until the roof is repaired. The railroad owns that building; you should check with the railroad to see if you can get some funding from them. It's their structure. If this Visitor Center goes bad, they will want the structure to still be sound. B. Dudko said if this plan fails, the railroad will likely demolish the depot. Henry said if you don't repair the roof first, the whole building may be on his way to falling down. Ramie said there is a loophole in the state funding; there is no roof replacement in the statement of work, it's for historic renovations only to the Visitor Center portion of the building. Henry said it's all bureaucracy. B. Dudko said the foundation isn't

stable either. He's been bringing up those issues at every byway meeting. Henry said they should reach out to someone and ask if part of the \$250,000 can be used to fix the roof.

3/25 D&H Trustees Meeting: Ramie said that they didn't have a quorum at this meeting, but they set up the meeting for the full D&H Council tomorrow (4/22) at the Mamakating Environmental Education Center in Wurtsboro. Videographer Bill Bollinger will be showing his first cut of the 6th video in the historic DVD series covering the Ulster County, NY portion of the D&H Canal.

They decided to postpone the popular bus tour of the D&H Canal from spring to fall of 2026 because the bus company was not available.

Tomorrow will be a business meeting from 1:00pm to 3pm, preceded by a hike at the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on June 24th.

B. Dudko asked if the 6th video will be the last of the series? Ramie said there was a question mark next to the topic on tomorrow's agenda, indicating there would be discussion of another one possibly.

3/26 Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership Meeting: Engelhardt said she attend the spring meeting of the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership where all members gave updates. This year in Pike County, they are offering spongy moth spraying at a cost share and people can inquire about that on the DCNR website. The DCNR Forest Management Resource Center is open with all displays up. The conference room is available to hold events for up to 50 people. Someone with the SEEDS program reported things are going well. UPDE Community Planner Carly Marshall announced that positions are open for NPS and are being advertised for in Pike and Wayne counties. The next Science on Tap event was scheduled to be at Grey Towers in Milford, PA, however they ran into a scheduling snafu and they will have to either reschedule or change the programming. They discussed the Pennsylvania Legislative Breakfast posters and how fewer organizations were having posters made, so this year they are doing a handout. They discussed how to make sure legislators were still working their way through the room and not just sitting in one place with the handouts. Engelhardt reported to the group on the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

They decided to hold the Homeowners Resource Fair at the Hawley Farmers Market in October this year, which happens on Fridays from May to October.

4/10 Fishing Guides Meeting: Driscoll said that Superintendent Kurnath started out the meeting while displaying a new sign for river accesses featuring a QR code that takes people directly to the CUA program website. The sign is currently at select launches. Natural and Cultural Resources Manager Tom Kearns reported that a Creel Study had started on March 1st and will run until the end of August. They will be asking anglers about their experience on the river. The last time this study was done was in 2002. Padua said there was a joint fisheries study done about 6 or 7 years ago, so there has been one since 2002. Driscoll said Kearns reported on the mussels inventory in the Upper Delaware; they identified 7 different mussel species, contributing to the water quality in the Upper Delaware. They will be doing another mussels inventory this year. He warned anglers to keep an eye out for traps, and that they may leave them out overnight. A NYS DEC representative said they have a dispatch number if needed. A few guides said they've been dealing with harassment from landowners for some years. The NYS DEC rep said unless it escalates to a dangerous level, they can't interfere. NPS CUA Coordinator Cecilia Skopec said they are aware that the arrowhead stickers are poor quality this year. They plan to order new, better quality arrowheads, but until then just keep that in your boat if it falls off. People have been accidentally submitting CUA applications via the online portal with a non-refundable \$350 fee when they have already submitted applications. She said if you feel something is off or are confused, stop and ask for help. There have been 100% submission rates on annual reporting, so she thanked the group for that. Chief Ranger Keith Winslow said UPDE has two full-time NPS Rangers at this time; Ranger Pete Bizjak and Ranger Ryan Schumacher. Bizjak asked anyone out on the river after dark to please put a light on the boat. Schumacher said there has been an uptick in clients not having fishing licenses, so please make sure your clients have their fishing licenses before taking them out to fish on the river. He said there has been some damage at the Ten Mile River Access, and they are only allowing hand-launching there at this time. Padua said that's been the same issue as always, TMR Access has historically been a mess. They ask people not to put your trailer wheels in at the launch and just push the boat into the river. They just don't want you to get your truck/trailer stuck there. That launch is in better shape than it was 35 years ago. Padua said they discussed motorboats on the river as well. The NPS seems reluctant to enforce wake laws on the river, which concerns the fishing guides. The law says no one can

cast a wake within 100 feet of shore or other anglers/boats. The river is around 200-300 feet wide in some places. NPS said they are getting a pulse on how people feel about motors in the river and most of the people at this meeting said they don't want outboard motors allowed on the river. There could be some guides forming associations that push back. There is no horsepower law currently in the Upper Delaware. Law enforcement and safety organizations need to have motorized boats for emergency situations. NPS is reluctant to enforce any kind of regulations on motorboats, though guides and residents have expressed concern. Martin asked if this is the first time motorboat issues have come up in the Upper Delaware? Padua said there has been an uptick in motorboats in the last 5 years or so. A few commercial fishing guides have started to use them regularly. You see them the most in Narrowsburg since that's one of the few places you can run an outboard motor without getting stuck. Getting a law is a difficult process, but if it were to happen, it would need to start with Friends of the Upper Delaware River, a guide, or individual through the NPS. A lot of people, organizations, and entities would need to be involved. Henry said the NPS can't change hunting and fishing regulations in the River Management Plan, but Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and NYS DEC won't be in favor of outlawing motorboats. Padua agreed and said it's more of a regulation enforcement issue. Henry said with two NPS Rangers that will be difficult. From what he understood from the NPS Monthly Report, the NPS is still able to hire law enforcement rangers with other positions still in a hiring freeze. G. Dudko asked Padua what they pay for their CUA fees? Padua said it's hard to say since it goes by park-dependent receipts now. G. Dudko asked what guides get in return for their CUA fees; what do you get for that money? If there are only two law enforcement rangers on the Upper Delaware, resources are thin. Padua said the NPS has done a great job on the river over the years to prevent power lines, gas lines, commercial properties, etc. But things like law enforcement shouldn't fall strictly under CUA fees. He said he personally wishes that more fishing guides would show up to these meetings; it's always the same 5 or 6 guys and most of them are on their way to being fully retired. G. Dudko clarified that there isn't really any direct benefit to the CUA fees then; part of those fees are supposed to go toward protection. Stevens said she'd like to make a clarification: there are two permanent law enforcement rangers, two seasonal law enforcement rangers, and the Chief, bringing the total to 5 rangers. It's not as many rangers as we would like, but still more than two. Padua said that's great. Driscoll said she found out about the two seasonal rangers at the Livery & Recreational Operators meeting and planned to report on that then. G. Dudko said that's still not a lot for the Upper Delaware River. Padua said overall, he was happy that the NPS hosts this meeting and that they encourage NYS DEC and PFBC to attend (though PFBC didn't show up). Henry said when the NPS first started here, there were approximately 16 law enforcement rangers. There were law enforcement rangers, two district rangers, and a Chief Ranger. It was a lot of work to hire them. Eventually they would furlough permanent employees. Ranger Bizjak lives locally and is an asset to UPDE, but it's hard to hire people – especially seasonal. The whole premise of the NPS being here was to protect the river. With four rangers, it's hard to do that. It would be nice to get a report on what they actually plan to do on protecting the river. Padua said at least four rangers is better than two. Driscoll reported they discussed having a cross meeting between fishing guides and liveries where they could discuss river etiquette. Many of the guides thought that would be a good idea. Henry said we should talk to the NPS about regulations on motorboats. It would be a lot easier to get some regulations than to get a law passed through Congress.

Additional information/corrections by NPS Natural and Cultural Resources Program Manager Tom Kearns, sent via email 4/28: This is the first Creel study that will be consistent with the Delaware River Creel Study that DRBC and CO-OP conducted in 2002. NPS is aware other entities have conducted Creel surveys in the corridor since 2002.

No traps will be left out overnight for the mussel inventories. Colorful ropes might be left at the bottom of the river overnight to identify survey transects, but no traps. Anglers can expect to see those transect markers around Callicoon, Hankins, and Equinunk.

4/14 Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee Meeting: Engelhardt said we are getting closer to the Sojourn. At this meeting, they decided to go with We Transport for transportation. They are honoring the same price as last year and they are very grateful for that considering the current gas prices. They are currently finalizing day plans so they can get registration open by the end of the week. The lead safety Jerry Donati through National Canoe Safety Patrol, plans to start scouting trips in May and plans to be scouting Ten Mile River Access to the Highland Access on May 8th, Skinners Falls Access to Ten Mile River Access on May 13th and to Airport Park on May 18th. She hopes to join him on the river on the upper days but at the very least will try to meet him at the accesses to see how it's going. They are still finalizing the t-shirt design. Funding is going well.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th, then June 9th, and then we'll be at the Sojourn starting June 20th. Padua asked if they are planning to take out boats at the Highland Access? Engelhardt said yes. Padua said that will be a nightmare, since it's so small. Engelhardt said they are aware and are planning around that. They will have three busses. Henry asked if they've inquired with a livery such as Silver Canoes or Landers to take out? Engelhardt said they plan to use Highland and will figure it out. They don't want to go any farther upstream since that day is a little shorter than they'd like as it is. Padua said he hopes the Sojourn goes well.

4/16 Livery & Recreational Operators Meeting: Driscoll said both she and Ramie attended this Teams (virtual) only meeting. This meeting is separate from both the Fishing Guides meeting and the Water Safety Partners meeting. The Water Safety Partners meeting is scheduled for May 21st at the Tusten Town Hall, as we discussed earlier.

At this meeting they talked about the new signage with the QR codes. Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec reported that there will be 8 seasonal rangers; 4 returning and 4 new, so you can expect to see more interp rangers out this summer. They will also have a Fish and Feathers Intern and a Volunteer Ambassador who is already here, Sophia McKinistry. They will be applying for two more interns as well through the Pike County Workforce Alliance. Peterec reported that there were 20,489 contacts made on the river in 2025 with 62 rescues and 11 boat overs. National Canoe Safety Patrol had 3,000 hours on the river with 74 members and approximately 12,000 contacts. May 2nd and 3rd will be the training days for the NCSP. They will send around an Excel spreadsheet to order safety signage as they did last year, and NPS will drop the signs off directly to those who request them. They have a new Safety Talk book with the safety speech in Spanish, German, Chinese, Russian, and English.

Chief Ranger Winslow asked if liveries could give 72 hours advance notice if they have a 100-plus person group going out on the river. They recognize that may not be possible since the liveries themselves might not have that 72-hour notice. He asked to just let them know as soon as possible so they can arrange law enforcement rangers. Someone asked if there is a main calendar for large events, so some people, like small camps, can try to avoid the river on those days/times. Superintendent Kurnath said not at this time, but it was a great suggestion. Kurnath said letting the NPS know about 100-plus groups is not a requirement; they just strongly prefer it.

They discussed river etiquette, respecting others, avoiding collisions, and watching waders. They said there may be an increase in motorboats on the river as well. Ramie said the UDC has been invited by the NPS to make a presentation at their seasonal and interns training day on May 4th at 2pm at headquarters in Beach Lake. She will tell newcomers and return rangers about our unique circumstances of the cooperative management and about the UDC and what we do here.

An invitation for the fall meeting will be sent out.

4/21 Upper Delaware River Network Meeting: Ramie said this meeting was at 11am today with 14 participants. They have a Science Advisory Committee that is working on a Watershed-based Science Plan. They are currently reviewing the outline to try to make it as effective of a resource as possible. They are asking for photos that could be featured in the plan. The Upper Delaware River Network (UDRN) is currently only funded through the NYS DEC and only on the NY side of the river. They hope to expand into Pennsylvania. The UDC put forth to our PA members the offer to submit a letter of support for a capacity building grant due by March 26th. Ultimately, we received 3 support letters out of our 5 PA townships. Only one of the three came in before the deadline since many of the township meetings were after the deadline for the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant. Shohola Township submitted their letter of support on March 12th. Berlin Township submitted a support letter on April 3rd, and Westfall on April 6th. These letters are good information for the Friends of the Upper Delaware River to have; to know three townships are open to the idea of participating in this network in the future.

There was a proposal to change the bylaws to add advisory committee members onto the subcommittees that got missed the first time around the bylaws were drawn up. They are going to send a clean copy of the bylaws out for an e-vote. Ramie said she is a part of the Re-grants Subcommittee, as the UDC doesn't typically have an application, so therefore has no conflict. That subcommittee will probably meet in August to look at the RFP that will go out to seek applications through this program, see if there are any changes for this year, and then get the review started for when people are ready to submit applications.

The UDRN puts out a newsletter and they are always looking to feature watershed partners to do a blurb of what their organization does. It's good exposure for everyone. Sullivan County, Trout Unlimited, and FUDR have partnered on a grant application to create a Watershed Management Plan for the Mongaup Reservoir for the various tributaries. This is the second submission after being unsuccessful last year. Kurnath reported that the Water Safety Partners meeting will be on May 21st at the Tusten Town Hall. FUDR will host River Fest at the Hancock Town Square; a conservation-oriented festival with interactive children's activities, etc. The UDC participated last year, but this year it is planned for September 12th, the day before the River Valley Awards Banquet, and unfortunately that would be too much for the UDC staff. The Upper Delaware River Rendezvous will be on October 21st and 22nd at the Villa Rome Resort Conference Center in Callicoon. They will be putting out an RFP for presentations and poster sessions for that.

Other: B. Dudko said that he was sad to report that UDC Westfall Township Representative Mike Barth's father has passed away. Ramie said Barth had been taking care of his father for some time.

Serio said the Flexible Flow Management Plan (FFMP) 10-year plan is set to expire in 2028. Peter Kolesar was instrumental in producing the data to get the FFMP put in place in the first place. They are trying to combine the thermal mitigation and the rapid flow mitigation banks. Thermal mitigation usually happens in the summer, and if doesn't get used, it isn't available later in the year. It would be nice to use that when rapid flow happens more often in the fall and have extra water available for that. The FFMP has to be voted back in to be reinstated and then if there were to be an amendment, that would need to be approved. It needs to be worked on now so it's ready by the time it's up for renewal. Henry said there's more than 40 million gallons of water bubbling up in the Hudson River that NYC DEP still hasn't fixed yet. Someone could use that 40 million gallons over on this side of the river. Remind them we are not the West of Hudson (something they refer to the Delaware River as.) Serio said they have completed the tunnel to put the bypass in, they need to connect it. They've tried to connect it for the last 3 years, but it never worked out. Because the work plan expired, the next possible date to make that connection is in 2031. Rodgers said he thinks Kolesar would be happy to come and make a presentation on combining the banks. Serio said there is very minimal risk to the NYC DEP to combine the banks. Ramie said this would be handled through the DRBC's Regulated Flow Advisory Committee and the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows. Serio said now is the time to start reaching out to the right people; 2028 is not that far away.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn: A Motion by Henry seconded by B. Dudko to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. was carried.

Meeting minutes prepared by Stephanie Driscoll, 4/27/2026