

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2022

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Andy Boyar (Zoom), Al Henry, Fred Peckham
(Zoom 6:55), Pat Jeffer
Committee Members Absent: Evan Padua
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas (Zoom)
NPS Partner: Kara Deutsch (Zoom), Don Hamilton (Zoom)
Guests: Bill Dudko- Deerpark Alternate

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 18th, 2022. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Jeffer, seconded by Henry approving the September 20th, 2022 meeting minutes carried.

Old Business

9/26 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes: A copy of the 9/26 UDSB minutes by Ramie was provided in the meeting packets. Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association is requesting updates for the Sullivan Catskills 2023 Travel Guide Listing to limit them from the prior 420 to 200 characters due to the increased number of members and production costs. UDSB voted to renew a one-quarter page ad for \$1,410.

Ramie alerted the UDSB to an 10/1 deadline for the 2023 Sullivan County Discretionary Contracts Proposals. Members discussed focusing the proposal on advancing development of the UDSB Visitor Center at the Callicoon Depot along with additional operational projects. The UDSB voted to apply for the \$30,000 funding.

They received one new application for a Culture and History Along the Byway grant on behalf of the Barryville Farmers' Market and Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce jointly for a Halloween Harvest Festival on 10/29 during the last Farmers' Market of the season at the Barryville United Methodist Church grounds from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members felt that the UDSB Clean reusable cloth bags would be to perfect to provide for collecting candy for trick-or-treating. UDSB awarded \$750.

Ramie passed along a message from Debra Conway of The Delaware Company stating that the new Fort Delaware billboard that was subject of a UDSB Signage Along the Byway Grant is due to be installed on 9/27.

The topic of "Hawk's Nest Cameras Input Sought by Deerpark Police Chief Richard Szyndor" was discussed. The 9/1 message from Chief Szyndor to Ramie and her reply had been sent in advance and included in the packet. He wrote, "Over the past couple years there has been some talk by various groups about placing cameras in the Hawk's Nest Scenic Area. I have spoken to a number of different companies over the years about the feasibility of placing cameras there and the problems associated with that including the lack of a power source, poor internet connections, etc. The technology in the area has been catching up and I spoke to a company today about license plate readers mounted in a fixed position with the Hawk's Nest as one of the locations. The technology has brought the cost down and the other issues are addressed using WIFI and solar. As these advances are made it seems like the ability to place some cameras in the area is coming closer. This brings us a couple questions. The first being money. Is there any funding available through the UDC or the Scenic Byway that you are aware of that could be put towards such a project? Are you aware of any through the Park Service that we could solicit? The next question would be about permits or permission to place cameras or plate readers in the Hawk's Nest. Would this be something that would have to go through the UDC, Byway, NPS, or all three to get approved? I think having cameras in that area would benefit Law Enforcement, and the many visitors as well, in many ways." Ramie replied to express appreciation for the chief's ongoing research, replied from her perspective as Upper Delaware Council executive director, copied NPS officials, and UDSB officers and Deerpark delegates and offered to bring this up as a Discussion Item at the next UDSB meeting.

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For UDSB 20th Anniversary celebration ideas, Lowe said that he had spoken with Delaware County and Rolling V about bus transportation and can ask Sullivan County as well. He can price out closed top double-decker buses from the city. The idea was to incorporate holiday gatherings that have the largest participation into a traveling excursion to celebrate the Byway's 20th anniversary. Lowe suggested assembling a committee to brainstorm ideas in advance of the next meeting.

Lowe reported that Callicoon Depot Inc. (CDI) had been working hard at getting the list of equipment and furnishings together for the \$100,000 USDA grant which is required by the end of this year, with plans to phase in delivery of the purchased items. He has also secured the donation of several items including a desk and credenza that will be delivered within the next 10 days. Depot Historian Randy Bushar acquired an authentic railroad baggage cart that is now on-site.

A flyer for Sullivan County's Roadside and Trails Litter Pluck, which has been extended into the fall season, was handed out. Ramie noted that the UDC office has coupons for free disposal of collected litter at the county transfer stations through 10/31. She provided a news release noting that participants in the Sullivan County towns can receive Upper Delaware Litter Sweep t-shirts and supplies also.

The next meeting will be 10/24.

10/11-12 FUDR: Water, Water Everywhere Conference Report: Engelhardt attended the FUDR Water, Water Everywhere conference last week. It was from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, and 10 to 12 Wednesday. What she found most interesting was the discussion by Amy Shallcross from DRBC about the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP), which we'll hear more about at the 11/3 full Council meeting. Jennifer Garigliano from NYCDEP spoke with regards to temperature and the Delaware systems operations. Engelhardt said the fact that 90% of the system is unfiltered, is amazing. There was discussion about the thermal release program this year. They had discussion on Knotweed, and the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Job Bond Act, which is the one that's on the NYS ballot. Tom Shepstone went over the recreation plan and then Jeff Skelding, summarized the state of the river. Engelhardt was asked to request the meaning of the terms "impaired and nonfunctional" from the High-Definition Stream Survey conducted by Trutta Environmental Solutions as they apply to finding less than 3% of the Upper Delaware River in that condition, according to the presentation made at the 10/11-12 FUDR conference.

10/13 DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee Report: Engelhardt participated in the 10/13 meeting that featured an update on the Pennsylvania State Water plan. They have been water planning since the early twentieth century in Pennsylvania. The general theory is, if the water is on your land, it's yours, which is not necessarily how it's viewed, especially out west. First passage of water law was in the twenties and thirties, and then there were droughts in the northeast in the 1960s and then again in the late 1990s and early 2000s. An Act 220 was passed when PA was exiting the drought in 2002. There are different water planning regions throughout the State. In 2003 to 2,009 there was a State Water Plan Update and now there's another update happening. They are reviewing the existing State Water Plan, and incorporating elements of the 2018 and 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plans. They also had a presentation on the DRBC Storage Study Update. The goal is to explore the feasibility of additional freshwater storage to meet future water availability, climate adaptation, drought, management, and flow management needs in the Delaware river basin. They're looking at different areas within the basin they could possibly use for additional freshwater storage. They look at existing dams and see if maybe they could raise the dams and create more storage that way. They're also looking at quarries.

Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Stations Update: Engelhardt is awaiting responses to her messages outlining proposed locations and plans for the Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Stations.

Ten Mile River Access Segmented Ramp Follow-up with The Conservation Fund: Henry will pass along the pending response from Tom Duffus at The Conservation Fund about the possibility of installing a boat ramp at the Ten Mile River Access after Duffus discusses it with Jeff Rider at the NYS DEC as the eventual property owner agency.

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Other: None.

New Business

Article: Partners Introduce Innovative Trash-Capture Devices to Accelerate a Cleaner Delaware River Watershed: Engelhardt shared an article from the Estuary News newsletter about an innovative trash-capture device. She will reach out to the EPA Mid-Atlantic Region and/or Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to request more information on the Seabin™ river trash-capture device.

Sullivan County Fall Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck Event 9/19-10/31: A reminder that the Sullivan County Fall Roadside & Trails Litter Pluck is running through 10/31 and UDC is offering our t-shirts, supplies, and free disposal coupons to Sullivan County river town participants.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 10/17 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 62.1%.

Other: Henry updated the committee that the Peggy Runway Road repair completion has been moved to the end of November.

Ramie asked Boyar to email photos from the 10/15 Lackawaxen River Conservancy clean-up to her, check with Dr. Peter Kolesar on his availability to present on the topic of thermal releases at the 11/3 UDC meeting, and follow up on the potential Town of Highland UDC alternate vacancy due to Jim Gutekunst's retirement from the town board.

Bill Dudko asked how much the 2022 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep cost. *[UDC raised \$6,500 in cash donations plus \$700 through in-kind services; after paying for supplies, advertising, and \$2,700 for 400 t-shirts, we have a balance of \$1,488.31 in the Litter Sweep dedicated bank account, so \$5,011.69 directly.]*

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Jeffer seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. was carried.