

WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022

Committee Members Present: Ginny Dudko, Andy Boyar, Al Henry, Evan Padua, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Pat Jeffer

Committee Members Absent:

Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

NPS Partner: Don Hamilton

Guests: Bill Dudko- Deerpark Alternate

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022. Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of August 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry, seconded by Boyar approving the August 16th, 2022 meeting minutes carried.

Old Business

Ten Mile River Access Segmented Ramp Follow-up with The Conservation Fund: Henry will contact The Conservation Fund representative whose information was provided by Don to discuss the segmented ramp concept for the Ten Mile River Access.

Striping and Signage Recommendations for Darbytown River Access to PFBC: Hamilton replied to the Ramie's Action Items saying, "Keith Winslow shared Evan's recommendations for striping/signage at the Darbytown Access with PFBC. They are considering some type of signage to prevent parking that interferes with the boat launching area of the access but are reluctant to designate parking spaces in the rest of the access."

Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Stations Update: Hall-Bagdonas spoke with Boyar for some further guidance on the next steps of the pilot project earlier in the week. Engelhardt will send letters to the site owners of the river accesses identified for the Upper Delaware River Litter Bag Stations pilot project to seek permission to proceed with their development.

8/17 NPS Water Safety Committee Report: Engelhardt attended the 8/17 virtual Water Safety Committee meeting. There were discussions on the safety signs we saw at the 34th Annual River Valley Awards printed in English; Spanish and Russian translation was to follow. All the "No Glass Bottles" signs have been put out. They are getting an E.M.I.L.Y. rescue robot. There was a long discussion on the loaner PFDs. They are handing a lot out and have received some good feedback about it; however, they are not getting all of them back. They discussed putting return boxes down river and other alternatives. They will be getting a lot of PFDs from Kittatinny Canoes when they change their branding. NPS is going to set up a program to meet with summer camps next year. Engelhardt did relay Padua's concerns to the Safety Committee. Regarding the rescue situation, it was six tubers that left from Skinners Falls, got separated and made it past Ten Mile River access. One woman made it back to the campground and slept by the side of the river; the rest they made it to Masthope. The reason why it may have seemed like the rescue started late was because they started landward. Hall-Bagdonas was asked to convey to the NPS Water Safety Committee Padua's suggestion to clip or otherwise secure the loaner life jackets at their stations to keep them from falling on the ground and flying or floating away.

8/22 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Minutes: A copy of the 8/22 UDSB minutes by Ramie was provided in the meeting packets. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has awarded to UDSB \$40,000 through a Legislative Initiative Grant via NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. Ramie had retrieved a \$25,000 check for the 2022 Sullivan County Legislature Discretionary Contracts Funds from the UDSB mailbox the same day as the meeting.

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A new application was received for a Signage Along the Byway grant from the Town of Highland, As the applicant, Town Supervisor Jeff Haas, sought \$500 to install electronic signs showing “Your Speed” along NYS Rt. 97 within the 40-mph speed zone, Barryville, one in each direction, pending NYS DOT approval. The committee agreed UDSB signage grants are to publicize the byway and its attractions, not to enforce speed limits and voted unanimously to deny the application.

National Park Service will be providing signage for the Highland River Access improvements. They ordered signs for entry, handicapped accessibility, interpretation, and river safety. Ramie shared that the project contractor has been identified and the project scope has been modified. They will set up a kickoff meeting after contract is executed.

Ramie said the Revised UDSB Director Position Description is still evolving.

After mentioning several upcoming holiday events including the 9/25 Fall Foliage Festival, 11/27 Kris Kringle Mart, and 12/3 Holiday Parade all in Port Jervis, the 11/26 Holiday Tree-Lighting and 12/10 Dickens on the Delaware events, both in Callicoon, and tree-lighting ceremonies held in Narrowsburg and Barryville, the idea of organizing an excursion between multiple events for the UDSB 20th Anniversary Celebration was pitched.

UDSB Chairperson Richard Lowe displayed floor plans for the UDSB Visitor Center at the Callicoon Depot drawn up by architectural consultant Jim Burden to assist with the placement and selection of furnishings. The USDA grant must be spent by the end of the year, but we are not allowed to start the bidding process for construction until the DASNY grant is activated. The plan is to work on the bathrooms first to get at least one operational to enable using the interior space.

An 8/16 memo on a Route 97 Slope Stabilization Project in the Towns of Delaware and Fremont was distributed. It will address three areas located between the intersection of Rt. 97 with Viaduct Road and with Baer Road. The work will also include installation of new guide rails on the southbound side of Rt. 97. Alternating traffic will be controlled via temporary traffic lights. It is anticipated to “begin work and be completed during the 2023 construction season”, and comments or concerns are being solicited.

Richardson reached out to Fossil Industries of Deer Park, NY as the manufacturer of the UDSB “You Are Here” interpretive map panels that UDSB had done for each byway community through a prior grant to request a quote on the cost to replace the Town of Cochection sign that had been vandalized, repaired, then went missing. The estimate for the 48 x 24” graphic panel with aluminum pedestal posts is \$1,503.00, including \$305 for shipping. Richardson said he would discuss this with the Cochection Pump House owners who now use the property where the sign previously was on the Rt. 97 pull-off as their business’s parking lot.

The Cochection Preservation Society will host a Coffee, Tea & History program on 9/25 from 1-3 p.m. at the Cochection Station featuring historian Frank Salvati.

The next UDSB meeting is September 26, 2022.

9/6 Pike-Wayne Conservation Partners Meeting: Engelhardt attended the Pike-Wayne Conservation Partners meeting in person on 9/6. There was a presentation by Melinda Card of the Wayne County Drug and Treatment Court. This program provides recovery opportunities for defendants who fully accept the responsibilities of their actions, their addiction, and are willing to voluntarily commit themselves to comprehensive treatment services an ongoing program of recovery. Part of this program is finding sober, pro-social events these people can help with. Engelhardt will be submitting an article for *Connections Magazine* for the January issue. Members discussed potential topics.

9/7 Eagle Conservation Committee Report: Engelhardt attended this 9/7 meeting via Zoom. Chainsaw Safety training was last weekend; Festival of Wood is this weekend; on 10/11 there is a presentation on Eagles and their Habitat featuring Paul Gamer and Hamilton at the Van Scott Preserve <https://delawarehighlands.org/events/eagles-and-their-habitat-presentation/> Delaware Highlands Conservancy has accepted all their submissions for their photo

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contest <https://delawarehighlands.org/2022-photo-contest-winners-announced/> The opening reception and gallery show for Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife will be held 11/12 at the ARTery gallery. The eagle watch volunteer training will be held at the Highlights Foundation on 12/10. Engelhardt said she really enjoys volunteering with the eagle watch.

9/13 Delaware River Sojourn Report: Engelhardt attended the meeting on 9/13. The 2023 Delaware River Sojourn dates will be Friday, June 16th to Friday, June 23rd and groups have started posting about next year's dates on social media platforms. Next year will focus more on the mid and upper sections of the Delaware river. They will also be giving awards for 1,000-mile paddlers on an honor system.

9/16 Local History Roundtable Report: Ramie attended the 9/16 Local History Roundtable meeting held at the Wayne County Historical Society. They discussed the summer season and the successes and needs for improvements that had come up regarding program facilities; technology use; fees; grant opportunities; etc. After a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, school groups have started to come back to their facilities which was always a big part of their educational outreach. It was asked what age to focus on for educational activities and the answer was 4th grade, when local history curriculum is introduced. On 10/8 at 2 p.m. Professor Paul King is giving a walking tour of the Roebling Bridge. On 10/16 NPS will host a vintage baseball game in Lackawaxen at veteran's Memorial Park at 12 p.m. There was a presentation by Sally Talaga, the retired executive director of the Wayne County Historical Society, talked about archival preservation procedures.

Other: Henry will represent the UDC at the 9/24 Delaware Riverkeeper Network's paddle, dinner and campfire advocacy program excursion for Pike and Wayne County high school students hosted at the Northeast Wilderness Experience campground.

Padua suggested for the new Highland River Access project to put estimated river hour signs up to let boaters know the distances between locations.

New Business

Sullivan County Fall Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck Event 9/19-10/31: Ramie will issue a news release and social media posts to publicize the UDC's participation in the Sullivan County Fall Roadside & Trails Litter Pluck through 10/31 by offering our t-shirts, supplies, and free disposal coupons to Sullivan County river town participants.

Reminder: Register for FUDR 10/11 & 10/12 Virtual Conference by 9/21: For those interested there is a 9/21 noon deadline to sign up for the Friends of the Upper Delaware River's "Water, Water Everywhere" Annual Conference if they would like UDC to pay for the fee. Contact Ramie who will submit the registrations.

Delaware River Flow & Storage Report: The 9/19 DRBC Hydrological Conditions Report noted combined storage is at 62.5%.

Other: Padua noticed large bridge timbers or railroad tracks he was looking down from the Callicoon Bridge. They were running lengthwise of the current. He wondered about their origin. Hamilton said he has spotted them underwater also.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. was carried.