

# The Upper Delaware

*A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA*

Volume 28 Number 1

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Fall/Winter 2015



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available on-line or by mail!**

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**DISCHARGE EXPLAINED:** New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush, at front, presented information about a discharge from the Cannonsville Reservoir at the first of two public meetings held at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg on July 20 and Aug. 27. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## *Reservoir Mishap Creates Concern*

While crisis was averted after the impacts of a July 8 drilling accident at the Cannonsville Reservoir were successfully managed, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) and others are calling for implementation of a better public alert system to protect downstream watershed residents.

Contractors for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) were drilling their third bore hole to prepare for construction of a hydro-electric plant when they noticed a turbid discharge muddying up the water adjacent to the West Delaware Release Chamber of the 1964 Cannonsville Reservoir.

Upon seeing the unexpected flow coming from the rock embankment below the dam, they immediately ceased all drilling.

Preliminary investigation indicated that the boring process tapped into a documented artesian aquifer located several dozen feet below surface level.

That pressure caused an upward flow of ground water and sediment, including the grout mixture that the drillers had used in an attempt to cap the collapsed hole.

The concern was how this condition



**WORK SITE:** This Cannonsville Dam aerial view shows the light-colored turbid discharge that seeped into the Delaware River's West Branch from July 8 to Aug. 1 before relief wells stopped it. (Photo by NYC DEP)

would affect the earthen dam's stability. NYC DEP maximized drinking water diversions and releases. Testing and monitoring of the turbid sediment to identify its origin and size were critical.

"Larger particles would indicate erosion undermining the dam," said NYC DEP Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush.

A Condition Orange alert, meaning "a  
**Please see RESERVOIR on Page 11**

## Upper Delaware Profile: Aaron Robinson

"As far as I remember, I was on the Delaware. It was always an integral part of my life," says Aaron Robinson, who was appointed to the Upper Delaware Council board on Jan. 3, 2012 as a 2nd alternate representative for Shohola Township.

He became 1st alternate in January 2015, and joined the UDC's Operations Committee and Project Review Committee on April 28 of this year.

Robinson's father Morris, a Lithuanian immigrant who manufactured artificial flow-ers in Manhattan, was a pioneer of the city dwellers who escaped to the beauty and serenity of the Upper Delaware region every chance they got.

"He started driving up in the 1930s, before the Hawk's Nest was built. He loved the countryside. I had the best of both worlds growing up, spending my summers and most every weekend here. We had a property in Barryville that bordered the river," Robinson says.

He explored every riffle and eddy, particularly after the family made the permanent move in 1969 when he was 14 years old.

Robinson graduated from Eldred High School in 1973.

Aspiring to become an environmental engineer, Robinson enrolled at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and completed its Agricultural and Life Sciences School program in an accelerated three years.

Robinson "got involved with a lot of projects that circled back to the Delaware", nurtured by his appreciation for the fact-based educational training and the vast professional resources of Cornell that were at his disposal.

Observing how the Delaware River and its fisheries suffered under the wild fluctuation of releases in the 1970s, Robinson became secretary-treasurer at the age of 18 of a group called Catskill Waters.

The activists determined to sue the City of New York to gain a more balanced release schedule, however, an out-of-court settlement averted the need for a trial.

The college student researched a report for NYS Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz to establish impairment benchmarks of biological and ecological effects for the case.

In the margin of a letter announcing that Gov. Carey had signed the Water Release Bill of 1976 into law, Lefkowitz penned, "Aaron, we could not have done this without you. We hope your effectiveness can be felt in other forums as well as this one."

With academic zeal to earn extra credits and an entrepreneurial spirit that identified local needs and opportunities, Robinson embarked on two more projects.

In 1975, he researched and wrote what is perhaps the first pamphlet of its kind, a 34-



Aaron Robinson, Shohola Township, PA

page brochure titled "White Water Boating on the Upper Delaware River: A Guide to Canoeing, Kayaking and Camping", with illustrations by Bernard Rowan under the copyright imprint of Upper Delaware Publications which he formed in Barryville.

Robinson produced a two-section set of "Recreation Maps of the Upper Delaware River" over the next year which he also sold through boat liveries and regionally.

He interviewed a number of "old timers" to discover the historically accurate names for every river feature, included types of services and facilities available at each access, offered tips on the prevalent fish species in an area, and recalls laying out the detailed maps with a literal cut-and-paste method on a pool table.

Robinson had worked throughout high school and college as a film projectionist whose skills were coveted since he could repair the machinery as well. There were 10 movie theaters in Sullivan County then.

After graduating from Cornell in May of 1976 amidst an economic recession with limited job opportunities, Robinson returned home to help his mother Gertrude and "see where it took me."

He began working for the Lovelace family, owners of Jerry's Three River Canoes and of a part-time sawmill operation in Barryville that he enjoyed working at so much, he accepted a challenge to buy it that September at the ripe age of 21.

Robinson's Sawmill became a thriving international enterprise, valued employer, and a business that welcomed youth group tours for 24 years until foreign competition, costly regulations, and a changing labor force prompted the difficult decision to

Please see ROBINSON on Page 3

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**The Upper Delaware** is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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close it in 2000.

Two inventions that Robinson helped develop to increase efficiency at the sawmill - a Dispoz-A-Blade planer knife and an Opti-Rip machine which projects laser lines onto wood - proved profitable off-shoots.

Robinson retains one element of the business, Firewood-on-Time, as a sole proprietor today. He cuts, splits, and delivers firewood that he manages at his 800-acre timber stand.

It's on the same property where he and his wife, Randy, have lived along the Shohola Creek in Shohola, PA for 17 years, "a piece of God's country" to him.

A previous member of the Town of Highland Zoning Board of Appeals and Eldred Central School Board of Education, Robinson joined the Shohola Township Planning Commission six years ago, and is a trustee and cemetery coordinator of Temple Beth-El Synagogue in Port Jervis.

He retired last year as both the youngest and longest-serving trustee of the New York State Lumberman's Insurance Trust Fund, one of only two surviving self-insurance groups in the state, but remains involved with its philanthropic endeavors.

Robinson's active role with the Upper Delaware Council evolved naturally.

He was a cautious supporter of the 1978 national designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River after witnessing how an increasing number of visitors were discovering and sometimes abusing this natural resource.

"I felt the Delaware should be managed but there were a lot of discretionary powers in the original proposal. I'm a big private property rights guy who believes the best management of land is through personal, private stewardship. I view private property rights as a right that needs to be protected but as with other rights in a free society, does not come without responsibility.

"I understand why the UDC exists. Really, the Council is the advocate for the townships and the National Park Service comes from a different viewpoint," he says.

"I come with an open mind but guarded because I think the townships might not have prospered the way they could have under the River Management Plan. I feel it would be helpful to do an economic comparison study, equally important to studying land use changes. We need to figure out ways that this park presence can benefit more than just the livery business.

"This area always survived by converting low value resources to higher value resources in terms of clean air, stone, timber, and the river itself. It's a rich area in many ways as a direct result from that legacy," Robinson adds.



**LITTER SWEEP:** Calkins Ag 4-H Club members and cousins Kaitlyn Gries, left, age 13, and Olivia Gries, 11, helped collect some 200 lbs. of trash at the Skinners Falls River Access on Sept. 3 in a UDC River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants project arranged by Damascus Township, PA. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## **UDC Funds Seven River Clean-ups**

The Upper Delaware Council disbursed \$4,072 through its 2015 River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants Program to help subsidize seven landscape beautification projects.

Approval was given at the May 7 UDC monthly meeting to designate that portion of the Council's federal funding allocation as received through the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River budget to help subsidize litter removal from the bi-state river and its banks.

Members that applied to participate were:

- Lackawaxen Township, \$736, township river trash patrols by contractor John Traver;
- Town of Lumberland, \$775, town line to Mongaup Access by contractor Ann Steimle;
- Damascus Township, \$250, Callicoon to Milanville July 26 run by Calkins Ag 4-H Club;
- Town of Highland, \$661, weekly river refuse patrols by canoe and foot;
- Town of Tusten, \$640, K&D Freda Enterprises and Ten Mile River Boy Scouts Camp;
- Town of Deerpark, \$750 for a litter pluck along the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway NYS Route 97 Hawk's Nest area by the Town Highway Department on Aug. 24-25; and
- Damascus Township, \$260 for a specifically targeted, summer's end clean-up at the popular Skinners Falls River Access by the Calkins Ag 4-H Club on Sept. 3.

The goal is to encourage the coordination of local clean-ups to help maintain the pristine quality of the 73.4 miles from the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Delaware below Hancock downstream to Railroad Bridge No. 2 near Sparrowbush that was designated for protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1978.

# National Park Service Ready for Centennial

"Find Your Park", urges the public awareness and education campaign leading up to the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) in 2016.

Launched this spring by NPS and the National Park Foundation, with First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush serving as honorary co-chairs, Find Your Park encourages everyone to discover that a national park can be more than a place. It's a feeling, state of mind, or sense of American pride.

"We invite our visitors and area residents to help us celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service by getting out to enjoy the resources within the Delaware River corridor



and to share their stories about that experience [at FindYourPark.com or #FindYourPark]," said NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister.

The Upper Delaware qualified as one of only 17 parks in the Northeast Region to offer a year-long, paid internship position for Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors through the Student Conservation Association.

Anya Shaunessy of Lewisburg, PA came on board at the end of May as Upper Delaware Ambassador, shortly after graduating from Bucknell University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology.

The current Tyler Hill, PA resident had job-shadowed NPS Upper Delaware Interpretation Division Chief Ingrid Peterec in 2010 as a high school student and was thrilled to return to the area.

"There are only 50 Centennial Ambassadors for the 407 parks across the country, so it is a privilege. It's a beautiful park and a great opportunity. We've got a lot of exciting events," she said.

Following a series of projects including river clean-ups, trail maintenance, and planting a pollinator garden to mark National Public Lands Day on Sept. 26, the most current Centennial activity is a photo contest that kicked off on June 1st and runs through October 31st.

Digital photographs may be submitted in the categories of Scenery and Landscapes; Plants and Animals; and Recreation Activities. There is a youth category for ages 13-18. Voting by an expert panel and via Facebook for People's Choice Awards will take place in December.

Cash prizes will be given and winning entries will be published in the Spring/Summer issue of "The Upper Delaware", at [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde), and in *The River Reporter*. See [www.nps.gov/upde/getinvolved/2015-photo-contest.htm](http://www.nps.gov/upde/getinvolved/2015-photo-contest.htm) for rules and entry instructions.

Increased public interactions at local festivals, functions, and schools; and development of a virtual park tour are other NPS endeavors.

"We want to raise awareness about having this great resource in their back yard which is a national park, not just a river. We're also trying to ramp up our volunteer efforts here," Shaunessy said.

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation to create the National Park Service.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced on Sept. 1 that the Obama administration has proposed the "National Park Service Centennial Act" for Congressional action.

The legislation would provide funding for critical infrastructure projects, leverage public-private donations and partnerships to enhance visitor experiences, and expand volunteer and job opportunities at NPS sites across the country.

Another nation-wide initiative is the "Every Kid in a Park Pass" granting free access to federal lands and waters to all fourth graders and three accompanying adults during the 2015-16 school year.

At the local level, a new NPS report released in late April calculated that 230,846 visitors to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in 2014 spent \$9,531,800 in communities near the park unit.

That spending supported 108 jobs and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$11,235,700.

Visit [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde), get on Facebook (updeNPS) or Instagram (UpperDelawareNPS), call Anya at (570) 685-4871, ext. 6610 or email [anya\\_shaunessy@partner.nps.gov](mailto:anya_shaunessy@partner.nps.gov) to explore Centennial opportunities.



**LOCAL HISTORY:** Shohola Township, PA Historian George J. Fluhr looks over the six, 20 x 30" panels on display at the Municipal Building that were created by Springhouse Design and funded by a UDC grant. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## Grant Projects Accomplished

The Upper Delaware Council's 2015 round of Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) enabled 11 projects to be completed by the August 21 deadline:

Town of Highland - Update zoning map with a river corridor overlay and purchase tax and soil maps, \$542; and Upgrade the town's website, \$1,500;

Berlin Township - Prepare and publish a sanitary sewer construction manual, and print the Sign & Subdivision Ordinances, \$2,312;

Town of Lumberland - Acquire, install and provide training for Property System Complaint Tracking Software, and create topographic maps, \$2,722;

Damascus Township - Revise the Township Communications Ordinance, \$2,500

Town of Fremont - Acquire, install, and provide training on a Building and Code Enforcement Software Program \$4,018; and print/distribute three issues of "The Echo" newsletter of the Basket Historical Society, \$1,130.17;

Town of Delaware - Codify local laws and ordinances in three phases, \$6,670;

Town of Tusten - Purchase topographic maps, \$552; Shohola Township - Create six kiosk panels on township historic subjects, \$3,900;

Sullivan County - Partner with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy on an eagle educational project, \$3,000.

The UDC has awarded \$774,325 in TAGs since 1988.



# Presenters Educate UDC Board

A variety of topics were addressed by speakers appearing before the Upper Delaware Council and its committees.

On April 2, **Geographic Information Systems** (GIS) consultant Shannon Thol, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River GIS Coordinator Jamie Myers, and NPS Chief Cartographer Roger Johnson, joining by telephone, presented a "Prototype of a Geographic Information System for the Upper Delaware River Region."

For her GIS Master's degree project at Penn State University, Thol proposed to work with NPS and the Upper Delaware Council to create a mapping system which will facilitate reviews of land use developments in the river corridor.

Considerations for design of the computer-based tools include accessibility, functionality, data accuracy, and timeliness.

Thol demonstrated how the inputted data layers for the 15 towns and townships in the Upper Delaware may be utilized as an interactive tool and how information from outside sources will automatically update.

The goal is to have the GIS mapping system ready for use in 2016.

Providing an idea of the value of Thol's volunteer work, Spencer DeVaul of the Delaware County Planning Department said at the April 2 meeting that it had cost \$10,000 to build their GIS program with an annual maintenance fee of \$3,000.

Town of Deerpark, NY Assistant Historian Norma Schadt presented on "**Historic Markers** of the Upper Delaware" at the May 7 UDC meeting.

The New York State Historic Markers Program began in 1926 under the State Education Department.

Deerpark has 54 of the familiar blue and yellow markers installed throughout town.

Schadt provided advice on grant funding, insurance, maintenance, sign replacements, and the importance of keeping an



**GIS MAPPING:** UDC Chairperson Al Henry of Berlin Township, PA and Geographic Information Systems project consultant Shannon Thol of Honesdale, PA share a laugh during her April 2 presentation to the board.



**GEOTOURISM:** John Beljeau, the new Delaware River Field Representative for the National Parks Conservation Association, introduced National Geographic's Geotourism Initiative for the Delaware River at the Sept. 3 UDC meeting. Pictured from the right are Beljeau, audience member Iris Helfeld, NPS Superintendent Kris Heister, NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell who was paying an official visit to the Upper Delaware, and New York State UDC Representative Bill Rudge. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

up-to-date historic marker inventory.

She said that there are many unrealized opportunities to proudly mark the cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley and how informative those signs are to the traveling public.

A presentation on the National Park Service's **Commercial Use Authorization** (CUA) permit program was provided at the May 26 UDC Project Review Committee meeting by Coordinator Bonnie Sheard and Acting Chief Ranger Larry Neal.

CUAs are issued to providers of commercial services on the river (not on land) to help protect the visitor, the resource, and the values of the park unit.

At that time, NPS was administering 74 permits for 57 fishing guide, 14 liveries, and three children's camps that reported 116,521 customers generating \$5,276,268 for the local economy. One dive school and one river guide were also permitted.

Sheard explained the various permit conditions, fees, and reporting requirements.

Four representatives of Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. attended the June 4 UDC meeting to discuss the operation of the **Masthope Mountain Community Wastewater Treatment Plant** which their company acquired in Lackawaxen Township in Jan. 2006.

While complaints had been made about the plant becoming overwhelmed at peak use periods, the PA Department of Environmental Protection last issued a Discharge Monitoring Report violation in 2013.

Aqua PA agreed to share information with and allow the National Park Service to

test water samples at the plant any time.

Enforcement of **Policies and Regulations at Delaware River Accesses** was the subject of a July 2 presentation.

Lt. David Clayton of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and PA Fish and Boat Commission's Northeast Assistant Supervisor Bryan Bendock and Waterways Conservation Officer David Kaneski shared their jurisdictions, the allowable activities, and illegal practices at the Upper Delaware River Accesses their respective agencies own and co-manage.

"In a nutshell, if you're not fishing, boating, hunting or trapping at one of those access areas, you are technically breaking the law," said WCO Kaneski.

Lt. Clayton noted that, in order to enforce a violation, it must occur in an officer's presence or have reasonable cause behind it. Public complaints must be accompanied by usable evidence.

A proposal to start a **Geotourism Project for the Upper and Middle Delaware Rivers** was introduced by John Beljeau of the National Parks Conservation Association at the Sept. 3 UDC meeting.

"National Geographic has said that this area is special and unique, but much of it goes unnoticed and unappreciated," he said, describing an approximate river area from Delaware to Northampton County.

A Stewardship Council will be established in October to develop a National Geographic-branded website and other tourism products targeted for May 2016.

Minutes of these meetings are archived at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org).

# Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-September 2015, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

## NO NYS FRACKING

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation officially prohibited high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State by issuing its Findings Statement on June 29, completing a seven-year review that garnered over 260,000 public comments.

Linden Energy Services has proposed the construction of a compressor station and a 600 PSI natural gas pipeline that would cross the West Branch of the Delaware River to connect the Tennessee and Millennium pipelines, targeted for operation by mid-2017. Approval was being sought from Buckingham and Preston Townships, PA at press time.

## UDC LETTERS

4/2 to NPS Superintendent Kristina Heister, UDC opinion on the pilot program to increase collaboration on law enforcement and emergency services between NPS Upper Delaware and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area;

4/2 to New York Susquehanna & Western Railway/Central New York Railroad, concern for transportation of hazardous materials through the river corridor;

6/8 to New York Outdoor News, commenting on the May 29 column titled "Delaware's low flows bad for business";

6/15 to Superintendent Heister, requesting a written explanation of the formal NPS process for making final determinations of substantial conformance based on UDC project review recommendations;

7/2, 7/2, 7/21, 7/21, respectively, for support letters issued for applications submitted to the New York State Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Round 5 grants program for Marketing the NYS Upper Delaware Scenic Byway; Implementation of a Schematic Design for the Skinners Falls River Access (project subsequently withdrawn); Town of Tusten Water District Improvement Project; and Upper Delaware Heritage Walking Trail by the Town of Lumberland;

9/15, to Superintendent Heister, requesting consideration of ideas to improve the muddy launch site conditions at the Ten Mile River Access in Tusten owned by the Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America, and co-managed by NPS.

## HAWK'S NEST NOISE

Westfall Township's April 8 letter requesting assistance with complaints by residents in the Mill Rift, PA area about "drivers racing their loud exhaust vehicles and motorcycles through the Hawk's Nest and the



**UDC RAFT TRIP:** The Nichols family from Jefferson Township, New Jersey were among the 88 guests who participated in the Upper Delaware Council's 27th Annual Family Raft Trip held under sunny skies and excellent paddling conditions on August 2. From back to front, parents Dan and Vickie, son-in-law Adam, and daughters Taylor, front left, and Ashley launch from Kittatinny Canoes' Luke's Landing Base in Barryville for their seven-mile float to Pond Eddy. The event promotes stewardship and enjoyment of the nationally-designated river that the UDC non-profit partnership organization works to conserve. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

noise becoming intolerable" resulted in the UDC facilitating a June 24 meeting to discuss this NYS Route 97 traffic issue.

Representatives from Westfall, the Town of Deerpark, NPS, UDC, and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. concluded that the main perpetrators appear to be local given the repetitive weekday timing.

NPS offered to loan decibel meters and consider providing law enforcement funding assistance to supplement the Town of Deerpark Police Department's targeted efforts, and to promote safety education.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

Development projects reviewed or discussed included:

- Town of Highland: proposed revisions to Town Code regarding Supplementary Parking Regulations;
- Shohola Township: amended zoning regulations submitted for the preparation of a Substantial Conformance review report;
- Town of Highland: permit history for the commercial operation of Reber's Livery adjacent to the Barryville-Shohola Bridge, with property ownership inquiries sent to the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation;
- Town of Tusten: Special Use Permit for a light industrial use redevelopment of a portion of the Narrowsburg School;

- Town of Lumberland: site plan review for Morry's Camp construction projects;

- Town of Highland: investigation of complaints about cabin construction at Indian Head Campground and tube take-outs by Lander's River Trips, both in Barryville;

- Town of Tusten: Special Use Permit for a home-based business, Natural Contents Kitchen, in Narrowsburg.

To fulfill its NPS reporting responsibility to annually review its 13 members' enforcement programs, the UDC reached out to towns and townships on April 7 to request all building permits issued, variances granted, and land use projects approved within their river corridor boundaries from Jan. 1, 2014 to the present.

A bid of \$16,412 by Environmental Planning & Design LLC of Pittsburgh, PA was accepted on 9/3 to help guide the UDC in updating the format and functionality of the 1988 Project Review Workbook.

## BASIN LEGISLATION

U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY) co-sponsored the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2015 on April 14. The bipartisan legislation, still under committees' review, would create a \$5 million non-regulatory program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate science-

**Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7**



## HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

based restoration and conservation/protection activities in the four-state basin.

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

Special meetings included: 3/26, Long Eddy River Access business stimulation discussion; 4/14-15, 2nd Green Tourism Conference at Woodloch Pines Resort, Hawley; 5/1, NPS Water Safety Partners at Konrad's Kitchen, Yulan; Delaware River Basin Commission One Process/One Permit webinar; 5/19, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Seasonal Staff Orientation for a UDC presentation; 6/16, DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee; 7/18, Zane Grey Festival; 7/26, Narrowsburg RiverFest; and 9/24, Water 101 Workshop: Fundamental Water Resource Challenges and Needs, Delaware Community Center, Callicoon.

### UDC RESOLUTIONS

2015-#04: Approving River Clean-up Grant Applications; #05: Approving Revisions to the UDC-NPS Cooperative Agreement for Fiscal Years 2016-2020 (executed on 9/9/15); #06, Approving a UDC Five-Year Operating Program for Oct. 1, 2015-Sept. 30, 2020; #07, Adopting the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget; #08, Adopting the FY 2016 Work Plan for the Water Use/Resource Management Committee; #09, Adopting the FY 2016 Work Plan for the Water Use/Resource Management Committee; #09, the same for the Project Review Committee; #10, and Operations Committee (with these preceding documents submitted to NPS as part of the FY 2016 Application for Federal Assistance by the 5/15 deadline); #11, Authorizing an Amendment to the Health Insurance Section of the Personnel Policy; #12, Adopting a NYS Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Policy; #13, Clarifying Corridor Boundary in Lackawaxen Township (to correct a map discrepancy in the River Management Plan by agreeing to deduct 425 acres); and #14, Amending the UDC Medical Insurance Provision Policy.

### ORAL HISTORIES

NPS reported at the Sept. 3 UDC meeting on the status of the 150 oral history interviews completed between 1986 and 2005, and the plans to index and transcribe them; as well as on securing \$532,785 in Federal Highway funds to rehabilitate the Roebling Bridge in the Summer of 2016. The UDC will review those work plans.

### WEBSITE UPDATED

The UDC accepted a \$7,000 bid by W Design of Barryville on June 23 to redesign and migrate its 2008 website.

Launched on Oct. 1, the mobile responsive format features a new content management system, visual presentation, and a public photo gallery. Check it out at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org).

## Upper Delaware Bridges to See Work

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) incorporated comments made by the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) into the **Pond Eddy Bridge** Replacement Project permitting process and held a July 29 meeting with arrangements facilitated by the UDC to update the public on the major rehabilitation plans status of the **Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge**.

PennDOT and its consultants released a Section 7 Authorization and Aid to Navigation Boater Safety Plan Permit Comment Response Package on August 11. The UDC had submitted five comments on April 2 concerning the equipment staging area, the flow elevation of the causeway, the types of rock material to be used for the construction of the temporary causeway and roads, the need for communication and coordination to minimize boater impacts, and a recommendation to install a river height gauge on the bridge abutment, which were all addressed in the document.

The contract for the estimated \$15.5 million, single-lane concrete Pond Eddy Bridge replacement is due to be advertised on March 18, 2016 and awarded on April 1, 2016. Construction for the 504-foot-long, two-span bridge to be located approximately 55 feet upstream of the current crossing is projected to begin that summer and be open for traffic by Winter 2018. The razing of the historic 1904 bridge, which was the subject of an unsuccessful marketing campaign to relocate it, should be complete by Fall 2019.

The 1954 Narrowsburg Bridge will continue as one lane with controlled traffic lights as has been the case since emergency repairs were done to the deteriorated deck in August 2013 until rehabilitation work starting in Spring 2017 is completed by Fall 2018. The contract to patch the substructure, replace stringers and floor beams, install a flush-filled concrete deck to replace the open grate system, put in a new sidewalk and railings, and repaint the bridge green will be advertised in October 2016 and awarded in December.

A steel barrier will be installed down the center lane, requiring 15 overnight bridge closures spread over the two construction seasons for its installation and removal. Detour routes and emergency response plans were announced at the July 29 meeting. No boating restrictions are anticipated, although paddlers will be directed away from the activity.

Also set for 2016, according to the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission which held its annual meeting on May 13, is a \$2.5 million rehabilitation of the 1953 **Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge**.

The Commission members allocated \$400,000 this fiscal year to subsidize final design of a rehabilitation plan for the 1901 **Skinnners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge**. That contract is due to be advertised in January 2017 with work proceeding in 2018.

That's also the year planned for rehabilitation of the 1961 **Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge**, which requires concrete repairs to the piers and abutments.



**PAN FOR GOLD:** At the 11th Annual Zane Grey Festival sponsored by the National Park Service and Zane Grey's West Society July 18 in Lackawaxen, three-year-old Thomas Mulken of Point Pleasant, NJ and Clayton DeFebo, 9, of Shohola, PA panned for gold under the watchful eye of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Seasonal Park Ranger Jessica Pease. The UDC also staffed an informational booth at the festival. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

# UDC Honors River Valley Contributors

One hundred guests gathered at the Upper Delaware Council's 27th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 26 to pay tribute to individuals, organizations, and communities that have acted to improve the quality of life or protect the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Director Dan Devlin served as keynote speaker.

"Our forests are vital to the economy, well-being, and state of being in Pennsylvania," he said.

Devlin cited conflicts among recreation groups as "our biggest issue" and added, "Kids of today are not as connected to nature and the outdoors as previous generations were. That's a big concern to me."

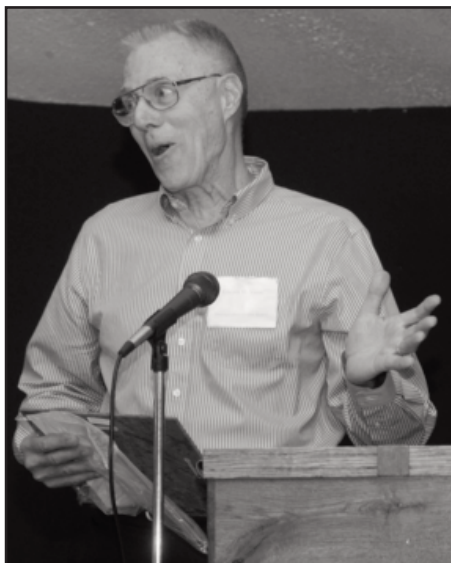
He lauded the UDC for taking a "landscape approach" to its work. "From our perspective, the Upper Delaware is a fantastic place in terms of resources. You have abundant forests and beautiful water. I'd like to congratulate the UDC for helping to keep it that way," he said.

Honored at the ceremony were:

**Andrew Boyar**, Oaken Gavel Award, for serving as UDC 2014 chairperson and as the Town of Highland's UDC Alternate or Representative from 1991-93, then again from 2010 to the present. (The sitting Town Supervisor was unable to attend.)

**Mikki Uzupes**, Special Recognition Award, for her outstanding community journalism work since 1986, including as News Director of the Bold Gold Media Group's Lake Region Office since 2009 and host of the "Wayne Pike News" Sunday morning public affairs program.

**Dr. Kelly O. Maloney**, Special Recognition Award, for leading a U.S. Geological Survey research project, the Riverine Environmental Flow Decision Support



Glenn H. Voss, Distinguished Service



**DONATES PHOTO:** The UDC donated a framed photo of the Upper Delaware River Valley taken by David B. Soete to the Delaware State Forest District Office in Swiftwater, PA in appreciation for Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Director Daniel A. Devlin delivering the keynote address at the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 26. Accepting the donation from UDC 2015 Chairperson Al Henry, at the podium, were, from the left, Tim Dugan, District Forester for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's appointed UDC Representative, and PA State Forester Devlin, center. (UDC Awards Banquet Photos by Scott Rando, pages 8 and 9)

System, to aid management efforts for fisheries in the Upper Delaware by evaluating how alternative reservoir releases affect potentially available habitat. Maloney is based at the USGS's Leetown Science Center Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory in Wellsboro, PA.

**Ginny Fiero**, Volunteer Award, for committing some 1,400 hours in 2013 and 2014 to assisting at the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and filling the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the Watershed Stewards Program, which educates the public about the importance of isolating and controlling aquatic invasive species. The Saugerties, NY native whose current address is Sioux Falls, SD travels the country in her motorhome to provide volunteer services.

**Sally Talaga**, Cultural Achievement Award, for dedicating herself to preserving and promoting the rich history of Wayne County, PA since joining the Board of Trustees at the Wayne County Historical Society in 1987, serving as its Executive Director from 1992-2012, and continuing to lead the Lock 31 D&H Canal Park project and act as Collections Manager and volunteer for the Wayne County Museum.

**Jeff Skelding and Sherri Resti**, Community Service Award, for their work with Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. as executive director since 2013 and executive assistant since 2010, respectively, to propel the non-profit organization and its

watershed protection mission forward.

**Tusten Energy Committee** (Chairperson Brandi Merolla, Star Hesse, Charles Blanchard, and Carol Wingert), Community Service Award, for their citizen action to assess the Town of Tusten's energy usage and devise strategies to reduce its carbon footprint, and to share their research findings with other municipalities.

**Damascus Township, PA**, Outstanding Community Achievement Award, for committing to using Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices on 21 of its unpaved dirt and gravel roads to benefit the natural landscape and hydrology.

**The Weather Project** (coordinated by the NACL Theatre, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, and Town of Highland), Partnership Award, for bringing art, science, and community together to engage the public about climate change through a symposium, programs, and a play with ongoing performances.

**Eric J. Mankowski**, of Fountain Hill, PA, the Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award, for saving the life of a 41-year-old man from Queens he observed drowning near Staircase Rapids on July 26, 2014.

**Glenn H. Voss**, Distinguished Service Award, for serving as Chief Ranger of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from 1984 to his 33-year National Park Service career retirement in 1999.

A souvenir booklet featuring profiles and photos of each award recipient is available.





**2015 HONOREES:** Accepting awards at the UDC's 27th Annual Ceremony held at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA on April 26 were, seated from the left: Eric Mankowski, Lifesaving Award; USGS scientist Kelly Maloney; Carol Roig and Tannis Kowalchuk for The Weather Project; Bold Gold Media Group News Director Mikki Uzupes; Sally Talaga, Cultural Achievement; and NPS Watershed Stewards Coordinator Ginny Fiero. Back row: Charles Blanchard, Tusten Energy Committee; Jeff Skelding and Sherri Resti, Friends of the Upper Delaware River; Brandi Merolla, Carol Wingert, and Star Hesse, Tusten Energy Comm.; Damascus Township Supervisor Steve Adams, and Glenn H. Voss.

## Delaware River Sojourn Celebrates Birthplace of America

The 2015 Delaware River Sojourn covered nearly 75 miles of the Delaware River and its tributaries from June 20-27.

Under the theme of "The Birthplace of America", participants enjoyed guided paddling trips, educational programs, meals, and the camaraderie of optional overnight camping.

Financial advisor Harris Reinstein, 69, of Ridgewood, NJ paddles a solo canoe nine months out of the year as a member of the Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club, but this was his first experience participating in the Sojourn.

"I decided to come and meet some new people. Getting outdoors is like heaven and I love it up here," Reinstein said.

Six-year-old Ally Burmeister of Florham Park, NJ was ready to raft the 11 miles from Narrowsburg to Lackawaxen with her large family group. "I like the water guns best," she shyly shared.

The fervent wish of Alana Stanton and Harry Christen from Riverdale, NJ was to spot some Upper Delaware eagles.

"I always get shocked by how beautiful it is up here. It's important to save this area. There's not that much wild left," Stanton said.



**SOJOURN BOATERS:** Ninety paddlers with the Delaware River Sojourn launched from the Ten Mile River Access on June 22 after a break for lunch and an Upper Delaware Geology program presented by NPS Interpretive Ranger Keith Gortowski. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)

Each day, the Delaware River Sojourn bestows the title of Lord or Lady High Admiral to recognize the moniker given to Daniel Skinner for floating the first raft of logs down the Delaware in 1764.

2015 admirals named for the Upper Delaware section were Dan Corrigan, proprietor of Northeast Wilderness Experience, on Day 1; fishing expert Clem Fullerton on Day 2; and NPS Upper Delaware Management Assistant Carla Hahn on Day 3.

"Thank you all for caring about this river," said Hahn in accepting the salute bestowed by National Canoe Safety Patrol Commodore DeJay Branch of Lackawaxen and her nominator, retired Upper Delaware Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz. "Unlike Daniel Skinner's tradition though, you passed my house on the way down here and I did not get any wine or any whiskey."

The Delaware River Sojourn will hold its 3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner on October 4 from 5-9 p.m. at The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort featuring keynote speaker Martha Capwell-Fox, collections manager at the National Canal Museum in Easton. Please visit [www.delawareriversojourn.org](http://www.delawareriversojourn.org) for ticket information.



**ADMIRAL SALUTE:** Carla Hahn of Callicoon, NY, center, was saluted by DeJay Branch and Sandra Schultz as "Lady High Admiral" on Sojourn Day 3 in Lackawaxen, PA. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



# Historical Happenings in the Upper Delaware



**MINISINK BATTLE:** Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kris Heister served as keynote speaker at the Annual Commemoration of the 236th Anniversary of the Battle of Minisink on July 18. Pictured from left are Sullivan County Historian John Conway, Heister, Elektra Kehagias in colonial costume, and Debra Conway, executive director of The Delaware Company which organized the observance at Sullivan County's Minisink Battleground Park. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



**CANAL SONGS:** National Park Service Law Enforcement Ranger Kevin Reish led a sing-along with 4th grade students from Western Wayne School District's EverGreen Elementary School during D&H Canal Days held mid-May at sites surrounding Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct, built in 1848 to accommodate the Delaware & Hudson Canal.

## 'This Place Matters' Highlights Sites

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. encourages people to show appreciation for historic properties, interesting attractions, museum sites, community scenes, and beautiful vistas throughout the Upper Delaware River Valley by participating in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign.

It's a fun and easy way to bring potentially international attention to the local region.

Visit <http://savingplaces.org/this-placematters> to download and print a sign (or make your own), take a photo while holding that sign in front of one's personally favorite place, and share it online using #ThisPlaceMatters.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation also spotlights favorite shots @SavingPlaces on Instagram and Twitter.

Any photos of sites taken along or near New York State Route 97 from Hancock to Port Jervis are welcome to be posted on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's Facebook page or to the gallery of the updated [www.upperdelaware-council.org](http://www.upperdelaware-council.org) web page as well.



**IT MATTERS:** Luke Harrie of Tyler Hill, PA shows his support for preservation of the 1840 Ten Mile River Baptist Church located on the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, south of Narrowsburg. Under the care of the non-profit Tusten Settlement Association, the historic property hosts an annual, non-denominational Memorial Day service which on May 24 featured veteran Ralph Huebner, pictured at right, as guest speaker. Gravesite services were conducted by the Tusten-Highland VFW and Gary Skotch performed on bugle. A 175th anniversary celebration of the church's chartering took place Aug. 23. (Photo above by Cindy Odell)



**UNKNOWN SOLDIER:** Doreen Bensen from the Wayne Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Lackawaxen, PA on July 18. The gravesite holds the remains of a militiaman killed in the 1779 Battle of Minisink across the river but not discovered until 1847. An annual observance is organized by Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr and sponsored by the Ecker-Haupt Post and Mountain Laurel Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.





## RESERVOIR, continued from Page 1

potentially hazardous situation exists at the dam, however failure is not imminent" in the NYC DEP's Emergency Action Plan for the Cannonsville Dam, was declared.

A drawdown of about 1.2 billion gallons (BG) of water per day from the 95.6 BG capacity reservoir began July 15 "out of an abundance of caution to prioritize public safety while the condition is being repaired," according to NYC DEP Director of Public Affairs Adam Bosch.

Those releases caused higher flows, increased turbidity, and colder temperatures in the Delaware River.

Corrective actions took place from July 23 to Aug. 1, when four active relief wells reduced the pressure in the underground aquifer, stopped the mobilization of sediment, and allowed normal reservoir operations to resume on Aug. 2.

The three original bore holes were sealed shut with compaction grouting as of Aug. 25 to complete the second stage of repairs. Intensive monitoring continues.

"There is no turbid discharge whatsoever. This is giving us confidence that the repair was successful," Rush reported at an Aug. 27 meeting held at the UDC office.

As to the fate of the proposed \$70 million hydroelectric plant for which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a license in May 2014, Rush said that NYC DEP has asked FERC for "time to consider all input and factors to reach a decision on whether to go forward."

Rush wryly added, in alluding to the high price for the repairs and monitoring, "The cost estimates associated with that project are going to be more than expected."

### Lessons Learned

Asked what lessons had been learned from this incident, Rush said that the Cannonsville Dam "is a city asset, something that we are 100% responsible for."

"This should not have happened. There was ample information available and a different boring technique should have been used," he said, noting that the City of New York has filed a Notice of Claim against the allegedly errant drilling company.

Rush candidly said that he feels NYC

DEP has become too reliant on outside consultants rather than its own engineers.

This situation also revealed to him that, "beyond Delaware County and some of Sullivan, we didn't have the relationships further downstream and in Pennsylvania that we should. We need communication and contact with communities downstream of the dam before any incidents happen."

Despite this admission, the UDC and audience members at the traveling series of public meetings NYC DEP held throughout the watershed gave high marks to the agency for transparency and accountability during and after the incident.

The length of time it took to notify the public initially, however, was questioned.

"The issue at the Cannonsville Dam, although not life threatening, occurred on July 8, but no public notifications were made until July 14," the UDC pointed out in an Aug. 25 letter addressed to Rush.

The Council asked four questions:

"1) How would visitors and residents who are facing imminent danger be notified?

2) Who monitors the emergency notification process when NYC DEP facilities are involved?

3) What written plans or emergency warning systems are in place for emergency situations?

4) Could a test of these systems be arranged to assure that all residents that would directly be affected by a dam breach are informed and aware of who would contact them and of their individual responsibilities in an emergency situation?"

A set of 44 inundation maps newly posted on the NYC DEP website shows that flooding from Cannonsville would reach Deposit in 25 minutes, Hancock in 90 minutes, Long Eddy in four hours, and Narrowsburg in six hours.

At the Aug. 27 meeting, Janet Threshman of Callicoon said, "This is a wake-up call for all of us. You have 87,000 residents in the dam system. Something has to be solidified for all of us. We need a warning system much more than an evacuation system. We're a voided area for cell service here in this river valley so we need something else that's immediate and is



**UP & COMER:** Upper Delaware Council Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell, 30, of Long Eddy, NY received a New York State Legislative Resolution sponsored by Senator John J. Bonacic for being named as one of the *Sullivan County Democrat* newspaper's Young Professionals and Business Leaders of Sullivan and Wayne Counties in its "Up and Comers" section which published on April 10, 2015. O'Dell is also a licensed real estate agent, farmer, and president of the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

only for the dam."

Adam Bosch replied, "We've committed to sitting down with all these counties to make sure we're feeding our information into their local plans and see what else we need to do. There won't be a panacea where one solution works for all."

Narrowsburg resident Iris Helfeld said, "It's critical that you realize the severity a [drilling] mistake of that magnitude has on this river valley. Please just keep that in mind."

Mickey Gulino of Beach Lake added, "I really think it's all our responsibilities to make sure this doesn't lie dormant. It's our lives that are at stake."

## Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail [cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org).

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Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359  
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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) for specific meeting dates.

## Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

### Water, Water Everywhere

The 6th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere" Conference organized by the Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. will be held October 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the West Branch Angler Resort in Hale Eddy, NY.

Earlybird registration is \$45 per day or \$80 for both days up to Oct. 4. After that, the fee is \$50 per day or \$90 for both.

Don't miss the only event in the region that ties together all of the important work underway to protect the unique cold water ecosystem of the Upper Delaware River watershed.

Congressman Chris Gibson (NY) will be the keynote speaker on Oct. 19. There will also be presentations from Project Healing Waters and the Upper Delaware Council, a conference sponsor, among others.

For more information, visit [www.fudr.org](http://www.fudr.org) or call (607) 637-4499.

### Best Autumn Drives

USA TODAY's '10Best' travel experts nominated the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) to compete in its "Best Scenic Autumn Drive" Reader's Choice

contest to enjoy fall foliage splendor.

The designated NYS Route 97 corridor from Hancock to Port Jervis was the only road in New York State to make their list.

On-line voting to rank the drives was taking place through Sept. 28, with UDSB at #4 as of press time.

Check [www.10best.com/awards/travel](http://www.10best.com/awards/travel) for results. Call (866) 511-UDSB or visit [upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://upperdelawarescenicbyway.org) to request a UDSB brochure.

### The Future of History

The Delaware Company presents the first annual Fall Forum, "The Future of History: Roles, Resources, and Relating Our Stories" on Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake.

The program, which includes lunch, is free and open to the public.

Presentations will cover such topics as the New York State Municipal Historians Law, Heritage Tourism, Teaching Local History and Common Core, Opportunities for Promotion and Professional Development, Using Social Media, and Doing More with Less.

Please e-mail The Delaware Company's executive director at [debrarconway@hotmail.com](mailto:debrarconway@hotmail.com)

mail.com for the required pre-registration.

### Train for Eagle Watch

A training session to become an Eagle Watch Volunteer will take place on Dec. 5 at The Lackawaxen Inn.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy sponsors the program. New volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Upper Delaware Visitor Center, 176 Scenic Dr. in Lackawaxen, PA. They'll join with existing volunteers for training from 10 a.m. to noon at the Inn, followed by field visits to monitoring sites from 12-1 p.m. Dress warmly and bring a bagged lunch.

To register, please contact Patricia via [volunteer@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:volunteer@delawarehighlands.org).

### Building Resilience

The Common Waters Partnership and Pinchot Institute for Conservation have developed a "Building Resilience" booklet which summarizes the full plan titled, "Adapting to a Changing Climate: Risks and Opportunities for the Upper Delaware River Region".

Both documents may be viewed or downloaded at [www.commonwatersfund.org](http://www.commonwatersfund.org).