

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2012

Committee Present: Nadia Rajs, Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Jack Niflot, George J. Fluhr, Fred Peckham
Committee Absent: None
NPS Partner: Sean McGuinness
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Dave Soete, Cindy Odell
Guests: Chuck Barscz, David Peters, Debra Conway (7:02 p.m.)

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on July 24, 2012 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Rajs called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Approval of June 26 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Fluhr, seconded by Niflot to approve the June 26th meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

McGuinness introduced Chuck Barscz, the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator for the Northeast Region. He noted that he has been involved with the Upper Delaware since 1989. Soete added that Barscz did the substantial conformance reviews for non-participating towns and townships. Barscz remarked that was his first job with the Park Service. Ramie noted he has contributed to a lot of the UDC's River Management Plan Workshop panels over the years. She appreciates the insight he can provide as one of the early people. Barscz said his current job is Division Chief of the Wild & Scenic Rivers program and they are still conducting Wild and Scenic River studies in the region that stretches from Virginia to Maine. He said at last count they are managing 15 rivers in the northeast. The designations of all those rivers are based on the work that was done here, so that model is continuing to grow. Richardson questioned if the rivers are federally owned. Barscz said no, they all try to have a management committee just like the UDC. McGuinness asked who manages the river bed and bank. Barscz told him it depends on each state; the legal jurisdiction does vary from state to state. The process of designating rivers Wild and Scenic was discussed. In regards to free flowing, Barscz explained that the designated section has to be free flowing and noted there are many rivers in the system above and below major hydroelectric dams. Fluhr asked if there is a full time federal Park Service presence on each of these rivers. Barscz said in some form, yes. McGuinness said the rivers with minimal federal presence are known as "partnership" rivers and the managing of those was discussed. Barscz noted that the Delaware River is a unit of the National Park System therefore there is a Superintendent and rangers, whereas some of the other Wild and Scenic Rivers are not part of the park system and as a result are not managed the same. McGuinness said there are a few other rivers managed like ours. Roeder said we are funded here by the federal government through the Park Service. Both states signed on to the River Management Plan and agreed to fund also, but have never done so. He wondered if Barscz had any advice for convincing them to do so. Barscz did not. McGuinness noted that Barscz is in the area for three days looking at issues and will be commenting on the Park Service's Outstandingly Remarkable Values report. Barscz said they participated in the river clean-up on Monday with Kittatinny and reported they recovered a mattress, 10 feet of guardrail, and the rear axle of a car. McGuinness noted that many golf balls are being hit into the river.

Executive Director's Report & UDC Calendar: Ramie reported a first draft of the Five-Year Plan for FY 2013-17 is done and was sent out on July 18th. She asks for written comments back by August 15th. She will compile anything that is received, bring that feedback to the committees in August for review, and then place the final draft on the agenda of the September 6th UDC meeting for an adoption vote. Ramie said she spent approximately 24.5 hours writing the report. She incorporated information from many sources. The document went out to all the UDC board members, local municipalities including our two non-participating townships, members of the Upper Delaware River Roundtable, and numerous conservation groups and river valley stakeholders. Ramie said the document will not be changed as a result of the comments we receive unless it is by the direction of the board. Richardson suggested if there are comments worth noting, perhaps they should be added as an addendum. Peckham commented that the Five-Year Plan is really an

internal document. Ramie noted that one of the priority issues in the voting at the June 23 workshop was to foster more public input into the process. That was the point of sharing the document, she added.

Ramie said we received 16 applications for the Resource Specialist position in response to our advertisements. The Personnel Subcommittee met this evening at 6:00 p.m. and will be giving a report under new business. She noted that Soete has ten weeks left before his retirement.

Ramie reported that Schwatz & Mall Electric has tentatively scheduled the UDC's lighting upgrade project for the week of August 6th. Chorba Consulting has tentatively scheduled installations of the four new desktop computers and associated hardware on August 7th. Ramie said at Jeff Dexter's suggestion, she followed up with Chorba Consulting about the Windows 8 operating program and he advises strongly against it as there is currently no timetable for its release and it is untested now. He recommends letting them work the bugs out first.

Ramie reviewed the Status of UDC FY 2012 Surplus Purchases report provided in members' packets. She said that by the August 2nd meeting she will meet with the Council bookkeeper and get an idea of where we stand in terms of any remaining surplus. Additional purchase ideas, if funding permits, were discussed. Peckham suggested a surge protector for the office to protect the computers and conference room air conditioner should be a priority.

Ramie said we have received our funding advance from the Park Service for July and have submitted our August request as of today. She reported on the bank account balance.

Ramie noted we are about to pay out on the 2012 TAG projects that are completed. They will appear on next month's abstract of bills.

Ramie reported that MVP Health Care has filed for a 5.30% premium increase for 2013. The UDC will receive a notice at least 60 days prior to its insurance policy renewal date confirming the final approved rate and offering plan options. Peckham wonders if the new federal health care program will impact us in any way. Ramie said that at the time our health insurance renewal is due, we could ask our broker to come in to address that.

Ramie announced the UDC's Annual Raft Trip is coming up on August 5th and that reservations are due by July 27th. Odell reported that there are currently 15 individuals signed up for the trip. Ramie said people typically wait until the last minute to make their reservations, but we do need to know at least a week in advance so that the host livery can plan.

Ramie reported the UDC participated recently in two festivals: the Zane Grey Festival in Lackawaxen on July 14th and the Narrowsburg Riverfest on July 22nd. She said that people did stop by the booth and pick up our raft trip flyer, brochure, newsletter, and signed up for our newsletter.

Ramie said that upcoming news releases, grants administration, special meetings or events for this period, and documents produced by her are all listed in her report. Copies of the documents are available by request as always, she added.

Ramie referenced the calendar for August provided in members' packets and highlighted some of the dates. She noted that on July 31st from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Hortonville VFD, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) Public Visioning Workshop will be held. August 1st will be the LWRP Charette Public Review and it is to be held at the same time and place. People are encouraged to attend these two evening sessions to provide input about their vision for the Upper Delaware River corridor.

Old Business

Proposed UDC Bylaws Changes: Rajszyk asked members if they had a chance to review the proposed Bylaws changes. The proposed amendments were written in 1994 and reviewed by Attorney Rosen. Members began reviewing the changes collectively from the beginning. After some discussion, Peckham suggested that all members should have a copy of the complete Bylaws to refer to. Copies were provided. Because these proposed amendments had been initiated back in 1994, Richardson suggested starting with the original document and beginning the amendment process from square one. All were in agreement. Rajszyk began reviewing the original Bylaws with Article I, Section 1. A proposed amendment was made to Article III to change the wording "either within or without the Commonwealth..." to "either within or outside of the Commonwealth...". During discussion of Article IV, Section 3, it was determined that members were looking at two different sets of Bylaws; one from February 1988 and one from February 1992. Fluhr asked if the 1992 minutes indicate that set of Bylaws was adopted by the Council. Ramie said we will research that. Rajszyk asked if copies of the 1992 Bylaws could be provided to all members and that they would review them before the next Operations meeting at which time discussion of this topic will

resume. McGuinness said we need to find out if the 1992 Bylaws were voted on and accepted and if not then we need to work off the one that is the legal one. Peckham noted that any changes that may be made, should be reviewed by an attorney. McGuinness asked if before the next Operations Committee meeting, a reminder could be sent out to all committee members that we will be resuming review of the bylaws.

New Business

Personnel Subcommittee Report: Niflot reported that staff will be contacting two out of the 16 applicants and that we plan to re-advertise for the position with a greater emphasis on the planning and zoning aspect.

Summary of Pending Bills 7-24-12/Financial Statements: A motion to approve the bills as listed on the abstract was made by Roeder, seconded by Nilfot and carried. Financial statements as of June 30, 2012 were provided for individual review.

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Odell, 7/26/12