

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Oct. 27, 2009

Committee Members Present: Fluhr, Roeder, Niflot, Richardson, Wieland
Committee Members Absent: Bowers, Shafer
NPS Partner: S. Schultz
Staff: Soete, Ramie
Guests: F. Peckham, D. Keesler

The committee chairperson George J. Fluhr called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. A motion by Wieland seconded by Roeder to approve the Sept. 22 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie indicated that she needed approval to open a dedicated bank account for NYS grant M080103-UDC and to be authorized to be the account signatory as the Council's grants coordinator. A motion by Wieland seconded by Richardson to approve was made. Further discussion indicated that the committee preferred a back-up signatory. The motion was amended to add the Council's Secretary/Treasurer as the back-up account signatory if Ramie was not available. Vote taken and motion carried.

Ramie provided a status report on the grants she is administering for both the Council and the Scenic Byway. She noted the committee could read her written report for further information on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway and her administrative duties for the Byway. In answer to a question, she noted that Douglass is still working on the functional allocations for the 2010 work plans that are to be submitted to the NPS as part of the paperwork for the Council's funding request. (Note to minutes: Congress had imposed a continuing resolution regarding funding to various agencies including NPS as it was deliberating the appropriations bill. This meant funding for the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 was delayed. As of Nov. 2 the appropriations bill was passed by Congress. This eliminates the time delay and additional paperwork required for a partial payment request by the UDC for its FY 2010 funds.)

Richardson noted that under grant M080103 the Town of Cochection would like to change its scope of work to the hiring of an attorney and engineer to develop a road maintenance agreement relative to gas drilling activities and asked Ramie if this would be possible. Part of the original grant request was able to be completed under the Multi-Municipal Gas Drilling Task Force project under the TAG program. Ramie indicated that the state was somewhat flexible but a formalized letter of request was needed. Richardson would provide that letter.

Old Business

Draft UDC Conference Room Policy: The committee decided to table this discussion to November since they are awaiting more information from the subcommittee appointed.

New Business

Summary of pending bills / financial statements: The committee reviewed the summary of pending bills. A motion by Wieland seconded by Niflot to approve the bills for payment was carried. The financial statements for period ended 9-30-2009 (end of fiscal year 2009) were handed out for review. The Council's annual audit will take place Nov. 2, 3, and 4 and a draft audit report will be provided by the auditor at the Dec. 15 meeting instead of the November meeting. The Council's office will be closed Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving Day.

Draft UDC comment letter to NYS DEC regarding draft SGEIS, natural gas activities: The committee was provided with a draft comment letter to be issued to the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation. The comment letter outlined the issues of interest to the UDC regarding the state's draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program. The comments included pertinent guidelines in the *River Management Plan* for the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River and referenced the staff's Dec. 15,

2008 letter to DEC on the scoping document for the dSGEIS that covered 28 topics of concern. The committee reviewed the draft letter and offered amendments. Following discussion, a motion by Wieland seconded by Richardson that the Operations Committee has reviewed and approved with amendments the draft letter for the full Council.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Roeder seconded by Wieland to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. was carried.

Prepared by Carol Coney, Office Manager, from notes submitted by Ramie and Soete