

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2008

Committee Members Present:	Bowers, Roeder, Richardson, Wieland, Niflot, Shafer, Fluhr
Committee Members Absent:	None
Partner:	S. Schultz
Staff:	Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests:	None

Committee Vice-Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. opened the meeting for Chairperson Bowers at 6:41 p.m. A motion by Wieland seconded by Richardson to approve the Jan. 22 meeting minutes was carried. The Feb. 26 committee meeting had a weather cancellation. There was no public comment on the agenda. Bowers arrived and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie reviewed the written report she handed out. The Council's map and guide brochure update was sent to the printers; proofs have been reviewed and returned. Delivery is expected the beginning of April. A press release about the availability of the brochure will be issued when the brochure is received.

The UDC's spring newsletter went to the printers March 21. Delivery is expected April 11. This issue includes pertinent information regarding the current natural gas leasing activity taking place in the River valley.

The staff has been working on putting together the March 26 workshop on the RMP Land and Water Use Guidelines. All is in place and the workshop will be held at the Tusten Town Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. It's free and open to the public but is focusing on municipal planning and zoning boards and other officials. This workshop was made possible by a grant from NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther.

The Awards Subcommittee held its meeting and the honorees for the Council's annual awards ceremony have been chosen. They will be notified immediately. The awards ceremony will take place in Hancock, NY on April 27.

The Gunther grant tasks are being handled by staff: workshop ready, hot water heater ready, web site proposals received, painting project in process. The deadline for this grant is July 31. The Bonacic grant project for transmission line tasks has been completed and State reimbursement is forthcoming. The paperwork is in process for Bonacic's \$75,000 River towns' grants.

The Council's FY 2007 annual report will be done a little later due to work load and the fact that the final audit was received from the auditor later than usual.

Executive Director's Report: Douglass reported that the Delaware River Greenway bill has passed the NYS Assembly and is now in the NYS Senate. He mentioned that if the bill passes both houses and is signed by the Governor, the UDC needs to consider now what role it will be taking in this project, as that role has been mentioned by Bonacic in the past. A meeting with Gunther and Bonacic should be planned to explore any tasks needed of the UDC. Richardson added that it was his understanding that either the Greenway would be under the UDC umbrella, become an entity in itself, or would be managed by the State. Wieland mentioned that originally the local River municipalities were to have a stake in management. Douglass mentioned there are four state agencies involved at this point. Funding for the project is another question mark.

Douglass apologized for not getting his work plan functional budgets to the NPS on deadline which has held up our FY 2008 cooperative agreement funding. He will have the Council bookkeeper assist him next year with an eye toward getting the material in on time on Oct. 1

He reported that the Council has been accepted as an official "party to the hearing" by Lackawaxen Township relative to the ongoing public hearing for the Holbert Bros. mining expansion application. An attorney that handles environmental issues will probably be provided to the Council by the Dept. of Interior.

Old Business

20-30-40 Anniversaries Committee Update: Douglass noted the NPS and UDC are working together on the planning of events for this anniversary year---the 20th anniversary of the UDC, 30th anniversary of the River designation, and 40th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Schultz added that they are planning a calendar of events, Expo (Oct.), and Symposium (Nov.). They are putting the programs together now. She noted Ramie did a good job in her press release handed out about the UDC's 20th anniversary.

UDC March 26 workshop RMP Land & Water Use Guidelines: Douglass reminded the members that the UDC's workshop is March 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg. It should be a good program. The theme is the *River Management Plan's* Land & Water Use Guidelines relative to local land use. He urged the UDC members, the public, and the River corridor municipal officials to attend.

Berlin Township interest in joining UDC: The news media has reported that Berlin Township is to send the Council a letter of interest in joining the Council. The township is interested in the Technical Assistance Grant Program the Council offers. The 2008 round for the Council's grants starts this spring. The committee looks forward to hearing from the Township.

New Business

Approval Feb. 26 summary of bills: The committee's Feb. 26 meeting was cancelled due to bad weather forecasts. The Council follows a standard procedure to be able to pay bills when this situation occurs. To formalize approval, a motion by Roeder seconded by Fluhr to concur on the approval of the Feb. 26 bills was carried.

Summary of pending bills March / financial statements: The committee reviewed the summary of pending bills dated March 25. Douglass mentioned some of the larger expenses, i.e., heating fuel which has gone up and this winter we spent more. A motion by Wieland seconded by Fluhr to approve the bills for payment was carried. The committee received the financial statements for period ended Feb. 29, 2008 for review.

Policy Decision – proposed farmers' market, potential use of UDC parking lot: The committee discussed the farmers' market proposed for Narrowsburg since the UDC parking lot was included on the list of potential sites. Following discussion, a motion by Wieland seconded by Shafer to respectfully decline use of the UDC parking lot as a potential site for this activity. A letter will be issued to the farmers' market committee explaining this and the Council's concerns with liability issues among others. The committee made a point to say that they supported the group looking into this type of activity as an economic tool for the Town.

Website Proposals: Coney provided the committee with a breakdown of the six website proposals the Council received. There was discussion of the various different cost factors. Roeder as chair of the PC subcommittee agreed with Schultz when she suggested that the Council have a consultant review the proposals and she suggested using the DRBC. A motion by Roeder seconded by Wieland to have the review was carried. Coney will make the contacts and correspond with the subcommittee on the results. The website project was made possible through a grant from NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Roeder seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager