

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2008

Committee Members Present: Bowers, Roeder, Richardson, Wieland, Niflot, Fluhr
Committee Members Absent: Shafer
Partner: Schultz
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: D. Warner

Committee Chairperson Alan Bowers called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Coney made a correction to the April 22 meeting minutes; last page under Berlin Township meeting, date should read May and not June. Motion by Wieland seconded by Niflot to approve the amended minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Presentation by website consultant-Dorene Warner, Wdesign: Dorene provided the committee with mock-up printouts of three pages of the in-process Council website design. She explained the results of three meetings with Council staff and how this was incorporated into the website design. The committee asked questions and offered comments. Dorene will add the Council's name and address info on the home page in a prominent location. She will also consider locating meeting cancellations on the home page for the public to know if a meeting on a given night is being cancelled. The committee was satisfied with the design and instructed Dorene to continue with the production of the website.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie reviewed her handed out written report. The Council awards ceremony on April 27 saw 91 in attendance at the Hancock location. The Council and NPS co-hosted the May 21 natural gas development forum held at the Wayne Highlands Middle School in Honesdale, PA. There attendance was around 700. A report was provided about the forum. Another forum on the New York side of the Upper Delaware River will be planned.

The NYS Grant TM71160 is almost complete—tasks completed are the land use planning workshop; installation of a tankless water heater; office hallway painting. The website development is the final task of this grant. The grant deadline is July 31, 2008.

Waiting in the wings is the Bonacic grant of \$75,000 and the towns are waiting for the go ahead. Douglass is working on the grant budget that needs to be returned to the State so that contracts can be signed. The Council has received the initial paperwork for new grant NYS #TM08104 for \$65,000 for the NY town members of the Council.

A response from NYS Gov. Paterson relative to the *River Management Plan* executive order update was received and the Governor's staff will be reviewing the request. Also received was correspondence from NYS Assemblywoman Gunther who will support the UDC request for an updated executive order and work with the Governor's office to that end.

The Technical Assistance Grant Program brochure for 2008 with application guidelines and a directory of grant projects since 1988 will be sent to the printers shortly in preparation of the grant announcement packets being issued. The Council's summer newsletter should be mailed July 11.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Douglass reviewed his handed out report. Along with a newspaper article handed out, Douglass and Fluhr reported on their visit, by invitation, with the Berlin Township Supervisors. They presented the benefits of joining the Council and answered questions. While no vote to join the Council was taken, it is hoped that the supervisors will attend a Council meeting in the near future to see how business is handled. Douglass will be conducting staff evaluations; the personnel subcommittee will meet June 5 at 6 p.m. It appears the Town of Highland has decided to research further being a member of the proposed Upper Delaware Greenway. The committee suggested that UDC staff contact NYS Senator Bonacic and NYS Assemblywoman Gunther, who are sponsoring the Greenway legislation in Albany, to come back to the River corridor and meet with the river Towns again to update them on the status of the Greenway legislation.

Old Business

NPS 40-30-20 anniversaries brochure: Members received the newly produced brochure by NPS reviewing 30 years of management on the Upper Delaware. Fluhr mentioned that the statement “only a few Wild and Scenic Rivers are managed like the Upper Delaware...” seemed inadequate since the Upper Delaware is “unique” in the country as being the first time a Wild and Scenic River was managed by local municipalities in partnership with federal and state agencies and not bought out by the federal government. The Upper Delaware has been the model for the few other areas in the country that are also now operating under the same management structure.

New Business

Summary of pending bills / financial statements: The committee reviewed the summary of pending bills. Douglass noted that the fiscal year 2008 federal funding was received on May 22 in the amount of \$310,000. An extra \$10,000 was for this fiscal for the Technical Assistance Grant Program secured by now retired NPS-Upper Delaware Superintendent Dave Forney. Fluhr requested that the \$75,000 reimbursement to Douglass reflected on the abstracts be explained in writing and attached to the abstracts that this was personal funds he provided to the UDC to cover certain bills until the federal funding was received. The committee agreed to this request. Schultz commented that internally NPS changed their process and all fiscal year 2009 paperwork from UDC requesting funds is to be received by NPS on Oct. 1. No longer could there be delays. Richardson requested that Douglass figure out and report back to the committee the amount of interest that was lost due to late receipt of the federal funding.

The financial statements for period ended 4-30-2008 were provided for review.

Delaware River Sojourn comp policy for members: Ramie mentioned that in the past the UDC comped its members who wanted to participate in the Delaware River Sojourn during the Upper Delaware section. Only a couple of members have taken advantage of this policy. The question was asked if this policy should continue. The cost per day for the Sojourn this year is \$60. A motion by Wieland seconded by Fluhr to continue the policy was made. The committee discussion following the motion was negative to continuing this policy. On vote, 2 yes; 2 opposed; 2 abstentions; the motion was not carried.

UDC annual family raft trip Aug. 3: Ramie noted as is the UDC custom, vendors for the livery services for the Council’s annual family raft trip supply a quote to the Council for discounted costs to participants. The quote provided by Lander’s canoe livery was acceptable to the committee and they requested Ramie to proceed with the event planning. This year the raft trip will be eight miles from Minisink Ford to Pond Eddy and will be held on Sunday, Aug. 3.

NPS report: Schultz announced that Sally Corrigan of the joint planning committee for the Matamoras Borough-Westfall Township comprehensive plan has requested NPS to participate in an interview. A number of stakeholders in the region will be asked to provide input to questions developed by the planning committee. Soete noted he also received a request to participate which will also include Douglass.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Roeder seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. was carried.