

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2009

Committee Members Present: Fluhr, Roeder, Bowers, Richardson, Wieland, Niflot, Shafer
NPS Partner: Martinez
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: D. Keesler, F. Peckham

The committee chairperson George J. Fluhr called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A motion by Wieland seconded by Shafer to approve the April 28 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie reviewed her written report handed out. Grants: there are 4 NYS grants with a deadline of Aug. 31, 2009. Two state contracts have been held up at the Division of Budget. Once they and other agencies sign-off, the contracts will be sent to UDC. A project extension could be secured. The current UDC member town grants are nearing completion date. Hancock has submitted a request for reimbursement, and the other towns will be reminded of the deadline, which cannot be extended. The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Digital Map Subcommittee will be meeting at the UDC office May 27, and the Marketing Subcommittee will meet at the UDC office prior to the regular Byway monthly meeting June 1. Two news releases were issued for the Delaware River Sojourn event; the early registration release was handed out for information. On May 20, Ramie and Schultz took a field trip to Port Jervis and Milford to meet with caterers to provide services for Day 1 and 2 of the Sojourn in the Upper Delaware. Ramie will be assisting with land support during the Sojourn in the Upper Delaware. Due to the length of the days and the traveling distances, Ramie requested permission to stay overnight in Milford. After discussion, a motion by Bowers seconded by Wieland approving one overnight stay was carried.

Ramie provided publicity assistance with the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Minisink. Attended the D & H Transportation Heritage Council meeting April 29. Attended the NPS Core Ops workshop May 13-14 with other UDC staff, as well as Al Henry's retirement luncheon. The UDC will have a booth at the July 26 Narrowsburg RiverFest. The annual family raft trip sponsored by UDC will be Aug. 2 from Ten Mile River to Barryville. The fall/winter newsletter will go to the printers Aug. 11. Douglass and Ramie will be attending the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting May 28. The commercial printer that has been producing the Council's map and guide has closed its doors. The account executive is with another firm and will be trying to obtain the digital files for the map work. The map updating will come due again this fall. A new printer will need to be chosen.

Executive Director's Report: Douglass reported he conducted staff evaluations May 26, and the Personnel Subcommittee will meet with staff June 4 at 6:30 p.m. Soete is on vacation and Personnel will meet with him June 16 at 6:30 p.m. The Technical Assistance Grants Program application packet information will be available on the UDC's website, www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. Interested applicants will be notified by email and regular mail. A news release has been issued. The grant pool for 2009 is \$20,000. The application deadline for member towns is July 31, 2009.

Old Business

UDC health insurance: The committee requested that the health insurance broker be notified to attend the June 23 committee meeting to provide information on different types of health coverage and estimated costs in order to have that data on hand when preparing the fiscal year 2010 Council budget.

New Business

Summary of pending bills/financial statements: The committee reviewed the pending bills. A motion by Wieland seconded by Bowers to approve the bills for payment was carried. The financial statements for period ended April 30 were handed out for review.

NPS Report: Martinez reviewed some of the discussion held at the Upper Delaware River Safety Committee meeting April 29. Canoe liveries and the NPS Regional safety officer attended. There was a feeling that the safety message provided to river users by the commercial liveries was not clear enough. The need to wear life jackets and location of safety hazards, like eel weirs, should have a more focused delivery. NYS DEC's Region 3 fisheries manager Mike Flaherty also attended the meeting and will look into regulations covering the eel weir operators using the Delaware River. The National Canoe Safety Patrol offered to help train livery personnel in order to have a consistent and complete safety message for river users. NPS personnel were also asked to make more contact with river users and provide safety information as well. NPS did that and 383 contacts were made at Lackawaxen River; 261 at Skinners Falls; and 81 at Mongaup area. The Canoe Safety Patrol had a full complement of volunteers out as well providing their usual safety patrols on the River.

The NPS Core Operations project had another workshop May 13-14 and UDC staff attended. Martinez said it was thought provoking and offered the opportunity for all participants to understand what tasks are conducted by both NPS and UDC staff. This helps make operations run more efficiently.

There is a controversy with the Barryville river access and the farmers' market held at that location. The market seems to prevent access for river safety responses by NPS, fire department and other personnel. A test was conducted to see if access was hindered while the farmers' market was going on and it was. The town passed a resolution to move the farmers' market and not allow other such uses at the access site. The town is also looking into the parameters of the deed for the property.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Wieland seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager