

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2014

Committee Present: Andy Boyar, Harold Roeder, Jr., Larry Richardson (7:10 p.m.), David Dean,
George Fluhr, Fred Peckham
Committee Absent: Jeffrey Dexter, Nadia Rajsz
NPS Partner: Kris Heister, Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Travis O'Dell, Cindy Odell
Guests: None

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Boyar called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Approval of June 24 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Dean, seconded by Fluhr to approve the June 24 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Executive Director's Report: Regarding funding, Ramie reported on the balance remaining in the ASAP account, noting we will need to draw it down by September 30th.

Ramie noted that the UDC has been offered a time to meet with Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19). She said that one of the major motivations for having this meeting is to introduce new Superintendent Kris Heister. Ramie said an agenda would be developed and spoke of some of the issues that could be covered. After a brief discussion, it was decided to have Ramie accept the meeting offer, send out an email to Council members inquiring about interest in attending, and come up with a list of talking points. Boyar said it is a good idea to open up the communication between the Congressman and our Superintendent. Dean suggested keeping the talking points list to three or four items.

In terms of membership issues, Ramie stated that a letter was sent to Westfall Township on July 9th notifying the Board of Supervisors of the stipend suspension as per terms of the Member Participation Policy; appointment of a 2nd alternate for Lackawaxen Township is pending at the initiative of UDC Representative John McKay; and an invitation was received for the Administration of the Oath of Office to Steven J. Tambini as Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission on August 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, NJ followed by a luncheon at the DRBC office in West Trenton.

Ramie reported that the UDC's current health care plan under MVP will be discontinued as of 11/30/14 as a result of the Affordable Health Care Act. She said staff has been researching options through Tri-States Benefits broker Nancy Yoder, Mike Preis Insurance, and the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. Rates for any new plans effective on December 1st will not be released until mid-August. Plan proposals will be offered at the August 26th Operations Committee meeting if available.

Ramie said the National Parks Conservation Association is conducting a "Delaware River National Parks Business Survey" to help provide insight into how the proximity to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River impacts the local economy. Ramie has been assisting by meeting with the Northeast Region manager Oliver Spellman on July 14th, reviewing the survey questions, helping to arrange NPCA's focus group meeting on July 31st at the UDC office, circulating the survey to a wider audience on July 17th, and offering suggestions for potential invited participants from the 5-county river business and tourism community.

Ramie noted that we still await the report of recommendations from the National Park Service Archives Survey Team which completed their inventory of UDC records and files on April 2, 2014.

Odell reported that 68 individuals have signed up to date for the UDC Family Raft Trip scheduled August 3rd with Lander's River Trips from Skinners Falls to Ten Mile River. Check-in is from 9 – 10 a.m. at Lander's Skinners Falls Campground. Pre-registration is due by July 25th.

Ramie said she issued three news releases in the past month and was interviewed by WJFF public radio station on July 14th about the UDC Raft Trip for their "Making Waves" show which was broadcast on July 21st. She said she was also interviewed by Hank Gross from Mid-Hudson News on July 16th about the UDC's advocacy for the eel fishery.

Ramie said upcoming UDC information booths will be staffed at Narrowsburg RiverFest on July 27th and The Weather Project Community Pageant Expo on August 9th in Yulan.

Ramie mentioned that August 4th is the deadline for payment requests for the four towns and townships receiving river clean-up grants this year. A news release will be issued announcing the program's accomplishment at the end.

Ramie noted the rest of her written report is self-explanatory and referred members to the August calendar of UDC Meetings, Deadlines and Activities. Members should feel free to contact her if they have any questions.

New Business

TAG 2014-02 Town of Delaware, Request for Payment, \$3,000: A motion to approve payment for TAG 2014-02, Town of Delaware, in the amount of \$3,000.00 was made by Peckham, seconded by Richardson and carried.

TAG 2014-05 Town of Lumberland, Request for Payment, \$1,500: A motion to approve payment for TAG 2014-05, Town of Lumberland, in the amount of \$1,500.00 was made by Peckham, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Review of RMP Review Proposals: Ramie stated that July 21st was the deadline to receive bids for this project. She referred members to a report and copies of the proposals in their packets. Ramie said the two bids were also sent out to committee members in advance of the meeting. She noted that the recommendation of staff is EP & D Environmental Planning & Design, LLC based on the firm's active knowledge of the River Management Plan and Upper Delaware region through their work on the LWRP River Accesses Design Project administered by Sullivan County and their stated understanding of our project scope. She reminded members that the project is to review the Plan and present a report on the Plan's congruency with current state and federal laws, regulations, Upper Delaware Council Inc. bylaws, work plans, and associated documents. Richardson commented that he was more intrigued with the other proposal submitted as they have been involved with a number of watershed management plans, although he does not lean heavy in either direction. Peckham commented that neither proposal lists private property owners as stakeholders. Boyar stated it is the UDC representatives' job to convey the importance of the balance between all the interests. Boyar reiterated that this review is only to determine discrepancies in the Plan. After a lengthy discussion, a motion to recommend EP & D Environmental Planning & Design to the full Council with recommendation that the consultant will emphasize input from landowners, local municipalities, and the National Park Service was made by Richardson, seconded by Boyar and carried with Dean and Peckham abstaining.

Ramie suggested that with the money remaining in the FY 2014 UDC Outside Consulting Services budget line, we look for a graphic designer to update and reprint the "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Design Handbook" prepared for the UDC in 1990 by Hoffman, Williams, Lafen and Fletcher. Modern photos and illustrations would be used; the text as derived from the Land and Water Use Guidelines does not require major revisions. The number of copies of the new publication would be predicated on the availability of funds, Ramie noted. She said the audience for the handbook would be UDC member governments, representatives and alternates, planning and zoning officials, river valley property owners, and developers. Heister questioned if this book would follow along with T. O'Dell's UDC Project Review presentation to the municipalities. Ramie said yes and added it would be a great handout for him to bring along on those presentations. After some discussion, a motion to seek prices for updating and digitizing the book and inquire about printing costs was made by Richardson, seconded by Boyar and carried.

Status of FY 2014 Budget & Expenditure Proposals: Ramie referred to the two reports in members' packets regarding finances. The first provided the budget surplus projection and the second an update on contracted work, along with an action item and anticipated additional work or purchases. Referring to the Update on Contracted Work, Ramie noted that many of these projects were the result of our energy audit. A new bid was received for painting the exterior of the building, repairing the bluestone patio, wire brushing and painting the patio railing, and removing the current shrubs and replacing with new vegetation.

Members shared project ideas. A motion to approve the bid of contractor Tom Coacci of Damascus for outside office work was made by Richardson, seconded by Boyar and carried.

Summary of Pending Bills 7-22-14/Financial Statements: The committee was provided with an abstract of bills dated July 22 to review. Ramie noted that the bill for Narrowsburg Electric should be \$300, not the \$50 listed on the abstract. A motion by Roeder, seconded by Dean to pay the bills listed on the abstract with the noted change, was carried unanimously. Financial Statements as of June 30, 2014 were provided for individual review.

Other: Roeder reported that the Towns of Delaware and Callicoon and the Village of Jeffersonville met with Senator Bonacic, Assemblywoman Gunther and representatives from the NYS DEC concerning the damage done in those areas as a result of storms in the beginning of July. He said the meeting lasted for hours and he shared some of the details of that meeting.

Richardson questioned if a response regarding the letter about the Member Participation Policy has been received from Westfall Township. Ramie said no response has been received.

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Odell, 8/1/14