

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMM. MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2011

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Rando, Richardson, Rajsz, Conway
Absent: Roeder
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney
Guests: D. Keesler

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m. A motion by Rajsz seconded by Rando to approve the Feb. 23 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report (Substantial Conformance/Project Review): Review by Soete

Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Project Update (Pike and Wayne Counties): It was reported that yard preparation continued at the Wayne Pike Yard and included installation of erosion control devices and rock access pads. Drainages within the pipe yard have been discussed with the Spread 2 Lead Environmental Inspector, which may include diversion, use "as is", and avoidance. The Wayne Pike Yard is located along Rt. 652 in Berlin Township.

Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region Update: News media reports are indicating that NYS DEC Commissioner Joe Martens says that the DEC plans to release its Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale this summer. The Environmental Protection Agency is also studying the issue; the DEC has not issued any permits for horizontal hydrofracking. The EPA study funding was cut and it is anticipated that they will look at water quality impacts only.

Town of Cochection Zoning Law Amendments Update: Soete is reviewing the zoning law amendments for the Town of Cochection. All references to natural gas have been removed. Richardson noted that the Sullivan County Planning review of the draft law is done and he wanted Soete to send the town his comments right away.

Damascus Township Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Update: The committee was provided with the draft of the amended zoning ordinance on gas drilling for Damascus Township. A public hearing will be held on March 31. The draft adds definitions, amends the schedule of regulations for the rural residential and industrial districts and adds a section on oil and gas wells and pads. It declares oil and gas wells and pads as a conditional use in the rural residential district, the industrial district and the Neighborhood Development Area. There can be no drilling in the township's river district. The committee discussed the River Management Plan and there was a feeling that a workshop and/or retreat could be held to re-focus discussion on what the Plan states, the reason for the River Management Plan, and what would constitute being in substantial conformance with the plan. During committee discussion, there was a difference of opinion on the intent of the Plan and what would constitute heavy industrial use. It basically came down to agreeing to disagree. A motion by Richardson seconded by Conway that staff issue a letter to the township stating that a comment letter would be forthcoming after action at the April UDC meeting.

Source Water Collaborative Forum/Delaware River Basin Water Resources Protection Forum: Soete reported he participated in the webcast of the Delaware River Basin Water Resources Protection Forum. The event was broadcast from six locations in the basin. Soete viewed the sessions from Loch Sheldrake, NY and Philadelphia, PA. The recorded proceedings can be viewed at www.delawarebasindrinkingwater.org. The focus of the forum was to identify and explore issues impacting water resource sustainability for the more than 15 million people who rely on surface and ground water from the basin. The forum ended with a summary of forum discussions and future direction. Peckham mentioned that he had requested a brief report on these types of things for the committee/council

members. Soete indicated a handout was provided at the Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting.

Deerpark Village (Town of Deerpark) Update: Media reports are indicating that the Deerpark Village project is back on the agenda. Now, Deerpark Village, a substantial senior housing project planned for the hamlet of Sparrowbush, is on the Town Planning Board's agenda again. Deerpark Village would be one of the largest residential housing projects in the town, with 900 to 1,500 units planned on 245 acres on Wilson Road. The developer recently sent its environmental review to the Planning Board for approval.

AT&T Proposed Cell Tower (Town of Fremont): The Council received a letter from EBI Consulting stating that they are preparing an environmental review on behalf of AT&T Mobility for a cell tower project as part of its permit process and regulatory review by the FCC. They are seeking comments on the effects of the proposed new telecommunications facility. The tower facility will include a 195-foot tall monopole tower, equipment shelter, equipment cabinet, and meter bank, located within a 50-foot fenced compound. Twelve antennas will be mounted to the monopole at the top height of 198 feet above the ground. AT&T plans to improve an existing logging dirt access road from Henderson Road to the tower area. The committee discussed some issues including viewshed protection, a balloon test, cumulative impact, among others. A motion by Richardson seconded by Rando that staff does a draft letter for the committee to review for action at the April UDC meeting was carried.

Old Business None

New Business

TAG project extension requests: The committee reviewed and discussed extension requests received from grantees and a motion by Rajsz seconded by Rando to approve the extension requests was carried. These included:

~~TAG 2009-01 Damascus Township, training & installation E-mail Document server, final 6-month extension, to 9-30-11.

~~TAG 2009-05 Pike Co. Commissioners, update and print map/brochure, final 6-month extension, to 9-30-11.

~~TAG 2009-07 Town of Cohecton, update zoning law, final 6-month extension, to 9-30-11.

TAG 2009-06, Lackawaxen Township, request for payment: Lackawaxen Township submitted documentation of its completed grant project, production and distribution two town newsletters on specific topics. Staff reviewed and accepted the project documentation. The grant was for \$1,800, and the amount expended was \$1,787.21; balance to be de-obligated. A motion by Rando seconded by Rajsz to approve payment was carried.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Rajsz seconded by Rando to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager