

Upper Delaware Council  
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 26, 2011

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Rajs, Roeder, Rando  
Committee Members Absent: Richardson, Conway  
NPS Partner: McGuinness  
Staff: Soete, Coney, Ramie  
Guests: None

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 8:59 p.m. A motion by Rando seconded by Rajs to approve the March 22 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report:** Soete briefly reviewed the discussion items report handed out that contained information on project review/substantial conformance. Highlights as follows.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Expansion Project:** It was reported that work at the Wayne Pipe Yard is continuing, and signs and flagging have been placed along the proposed pipeline route.

**Columbia Gas Transmission:** Columbia is continuing to apply to the PA DEP for water obstruction and encroachment permits for its natural gas pipeline system in Pike County.

**Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region Update:** Soete reported the DRBC's comment period on their proposed Natural Gas Development Regulations expired on April 15, 2011. On April 19, the PA DEP called on drillers to stop using riverside treatment plants to get rid of the millions of barrels of ultra-salty, chemically tainted wastewater from gas wells. Chesapeake Energy Corp. lost control of the Atgas 2H well in LeRoy Township, Bradford County, PA April 19 when a blowout of the well occurred.

**Town of Cochection Zoning Law Amendments Update:** On April 11, having addressed most of the Sullivan County Planning comments, Tom Shepstone emailed revised versions of the Town of Cochection's proposed Zoning Law, Subdivision Law, and Comprehensive Plan. Soete said he'll be reviewing these revised versions. Peckham requested that Soete email the latest versions to the committee.

**Pond Eddy Bridge Update:** On April 5, PennDOT emailed an update of the Pond Eddy Bridge project to interested parties. It included: ~The Section 4(f) Alternatives Analysis has been commented on by NYS DOT and agreed upon between NYS DOT, PennDOT, and FHWA-PA. ~An updated Draft Determination of Effect document is planned to be submitted to NYS DOT for submission to NYSHPO. ~PennDOT, NYS DOT, and FHWA are scheduled to meet with NYSHPO on April 27. ~The emergency bridge repairs are planned to commence this spring on the Pond Eddy Bridge. ~PennDOT and NYS DOT met with the NY Scenic Byways people and NY Scenic Byways wish to be part of the Design Advisory Committee and have requested to become Consulting Parties for the project. ~There is a planned project team teleconference on May 3 to update everyone on the outcome of the April 27 meeting.

**NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Meeting Set:** The committee was informed that the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission's annual meeting will be held May 19 at the PennDOT district office in Dunmore, PA UDC staff will attend.

**Damascus Township Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment:** Soete reported that Damascus Township Supervisors approved the Zoning Ordinance Amendment at their April 18 meeting. The amendment dealt with oil and gas wells and pads. The UDC did offer comments on the proposed amendment to the township.

**Open Space Institute new report:** Soete reported that the Open Space Institute released a new report that charts ideal growth areas in the Catskills entitled "Private Lands, Public Benefits". The study identifies

more than 520,000 acres of privately owned land without physical impediments, restrictions against development or important open space resources. McGuinness noted it was a good report but some items were lacking, which the OSI realizes.

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

**TAG 2009-08 Town of Tusten, mapping services for a town natural resources and open space inventory database:** The committee received a request for payment for the Town of Tusten's completed TAG project. Staff has reviewed the documentation and approved. A motion by Rajsiz seconded by Rando to approve payment of \$3,000 was carried.

**NPS Report:** McGuinness reported that Richardson had asked him at the UDC meeting to write up some information on the NPS "9b" gas regs. He is still working on this. If gas drilling does go in, NPS will have regulations they will have to follow. They're not saying no drilling but will have regulations. The 9b regs are not about to drill or not, just about resource protection.

**Public Comment** None

**Adjournment** A motion by Rajsiz seconded by Rando to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager