

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
Sept. 11, 2012

Committee Members Present: Richardson, Peckham, Conway, Fluhr, Rajs, Roeder, Jr.
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Soete, Ramie, Odell
Guests: F. Schwarz, A. Fusco, N. Dickerson, G. Maas, K. Porter, G. Conklin,
C. Wingert, K. McElroy, T. O'Dell

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the Fiscal Year 2013 Technical Assistance Grants Program, rank projects and recommend funding levels. In recognition of September 11th, Richardson started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

TAG Applicant Interviews

The committee received nine grant applications totaling \$44,485. Each applicant presented their grant project description and answered questions. The applicants included:

-Town of Lumberland – Frank Schwarz, Grants Coordinator, stated the proposed project is an update to the comprehensive emergency management plan. The project will address risk reduction, impacts by three 100 year floods in recent times, and address the Senior Citizen Center with regard to the existence of an emergency generator and its presence as an emergency evacuation center. The plan will also address current and relative Identifications and Analysis of Potential Hazards. Fire alarm systems have recently been updated at the Lumberland municipal buildings. Procedures for emergency drills and protocols at the town evacuation center and the Lumberland Town Hall will also be addressed. Amount requested, \$5,000.

-Town of Deerpark - Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., Town Engineer, said the Town of Deerpark proposes to update the subdivision ordinance. It was last done in 1993 with an update in 2005 and it again needs to be updated to meet the current standards. He noted they are very much in tune to the River Management Plan goals, particularly for development along the river and in the river zones. He noted a schedule was provided to show that the project will meet the Council's time requirements. Fusco said the town is very much in favor of property owners' rights, but at the same time, very much in tune to the environment. Fusco said that money in the town is tight, as it is everywhere, but that the project would proceed with just partial funding or no funding from the Council. Amount requested, \$5,000.

-Pike County, PA – Nicholas Dickerson, Pike County Community and Natural Resource Planner, said Pike County is looking to do a re-print of their "Greetings from Pike County, Pennsylvania" brochure, a project the Council funded last year. He noted they had 5,000 of them printed last month and they have already gone through a significant portion of them. The brochure was developed to inform residents and visitors of the present activities related to natural gas exploration in Pike County and the Upper Delaware River. He noted any funding would go to reprinting the brochure without any design changes. Amount requested, \$3,000.

-Town of Cochection – Gary Maas, Town of Cochection Supervisor, noted that their proposed project is to codify the existing local laws to provide easy access to accurate and up-to-date information to the public, and to help courts and officials to enforce laws with confidence and consistency. The purpose is to keep their laws current and accessible to protect the community from costly legal actions, and to be able to respond quickly and accurately to questions and fulfill needs for future growth and development which are goals of the River Management Plan. Maas added that the result should be that their local laws will be in one place, up to date, cross referenced, footnoted and indexed for immediate access for everyone that needs to reference their laws. This will include five printed code books and an on-line version is being looked into. Amount requested, \$8,000.

-Sullivan County, NY – Kristin Porter, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Beautification for Sullivan County, noted that their project is to improve preservation and interpretation of the county's historic Minisink Battleground Park, the site of the only Revolutionary War battle fought in the Upper Delaware. It is a 52-acre park south of Narrowsburg across Route 97 from the National Park Service Roebbling Bridge. Funding would help accomplish historical research and make interpretive and site improvements. Porter covered other forms of funding, in-kind services and partnerships. Amount requested, \$9,500.

-*Town of Fremont* – George Conklin, Town of Fremont Supervisor, stated their proposed project is to purchase a software program with training for their town clerk. The program would enable the town to operate in a more efficient manner thus offering the town residents and visitors to the area more information on the natural beauty in the town such as the Delaware River. Conklin said the town clerk currently works in an archaic manner and due to budgetary constraints, they may not be able purchase this program without the funding. Amount requested, \$2,100.

-*Town of Tusten* – Carol Ropke Wingert, Town of Tusten Supervisor, said the Town of Tusten’s proposed project is to finish the zoning re-write and have the book printed and put into binders as well as on cd’s. She noted that after the first re-write, issues were identified and the board determined that there were enough issues to warrant the re-write committee reconvening. Amount requested, \$6,117.

Town of Delaware – Kara McElroy, Town of Delaware Grants Coordinator, said that the Town would like to complete two projects utilizing funds through the Technical Assistance Grant program. The first is to purchase tax maps depicting topography and soil types. The purpose of these maps will be to more fairly assess and value land within the town, provide guidance to the Building Inspector as they oversee construction projects, and help the Assessor determine whether a piece of land can be developed and value it at the appropriate rate. The second project is to pay for a domain name and develop a website for the Town’s cultural history. The purpose of this project is to tell the story of how the township was settled and emphasize the historical importance of the Delaware River. Amount requested, \$2,768.

-*Damascus Township* – Although no representative from Damascus Township was available, the application stated that their proposed project will involve indexing the Damascus Township Zoning Ordinance to make it more user-friendly for both the public and local officials, facilitating a better understanding of the Ordinance and achieving better usage of the document. Amount requested, \$3,000.

Following the interviews, the committee went through the process of ranking each project and applying a monetary value based on the overall budget (\$32,905.81) the Council had available for this grant program. After substantial discussion, the following projects and grant awards (total \$32,905) will be recommended to the full Council for approval at its October 4th meeting based on a motion by Roeder, seconded by Rajs and carried:

- Town of Lumberland – Update Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, \$5,000.
- Town of Deerpark – Update existing Town Subdivision Ordinance, \$3,600.
- Pike County, PA – Reprint “Greetings From Pike County” brochure related to natural gas exploration, \$500.
- Town of Cochection – Codify Local Laws, \$7,000.
- Sullivan County, NY – Improve preservation & interpretation at Minisink Battleground Park, \$6,205.
- Town of Fremont – Purchase “Town Clerk Plus Software” program with training, \$2,100.
- Town of Tusten – Finish Town’s Zoning Law re-write and put in binders and on CD’s, \$5,000.
- Town of Delaware – Purchase Tax Maps depicting topography & soil types and develop a website for Town’s cultural history, \$1,500.
- Damascus Township – Index Damascus Township Zoning Ordinance, \$2,000.

Other Business

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Rajs, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the special Project Committee meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Odell, 9/17/12