

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Oct. 27, 2009

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Keesler, Peckham, Fluhr
Committee Members Absent: Bowers, Shafer
NPS Partner: S. Schultz
Staff: Soete, Ramie
Guests: None

The committee chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. A motion by Fluhr seconded by Peckham to approve the Sept. 22 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report he handed out. Some highlights included:

New York Regional Interconnect proposed power line project Update: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an Order on Oct. 15 denying NYRI's request for a rehearing of the 3-31-2009 FERC Order on the issue of the reporting requirement. FERC also ordered that NYRI's motion to reopen the record is dismissed as moot. The Council received copy of a news release issued by Congressman Hinchey on Oct. 16 that lauded the final decision filed by FERC that effectively killed NYRI's efforts to keep alive its suspended power line proposal. Hinchey, along with U.S. Representatives Arcuri and Hall, had written to FERC in July expressing strong opposition to NYRI's rehearing request and reiterating their opposition to the project.

Pond Eddy Bridge Update: The project committee of PennDOT's Pond Eddy Bridge project held a teleconference on Oct. 13. Ramie and Douglass participated. Ramie read aloud statements in a letter from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation dated Sept. 25 on the issue. The letter stated in part: "Thank you for seeking the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO) on the proposed Memorandum of Agreement for the removal and replacement of the Pond Eddy Bridge, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is our opinion that reasonable alternatives to avoid the adverse effect proposed have not been adequately explored as required. We realize that numerous studies have been conducted related to the condition of the bridge and needs of the project, but despite these efforts, basic questions remain that call into question a good faith exploration of alternatives that could protect the National Register listed bridge while meeting transportation needs. Therefore, the NYSHPO cannot support the proposed Memorandum of Agreement at this time." Fluhr noted that his township's first letter to PennDOT on the Bridge's condition was in 1982 and given the deterioration of the bridge over the years there's even more concern over its safety even though some rehab work has been done by PennDOT. It was noted that the next meeting of the project committee will be Nov. 10.

Old Business None

New Business

Draft UDC comment letter to NYS DEC regarding draft SGEIS, natural gas activities: Given that the same committee members sit on Operations and Project Review Committees, the UDC draft comment letter on NYS DEC's dSGEIS had been discussed and amended at Operations so there was no need to rehash the same discussion. A motion by Peckham seconded by Richardson to approve the draft letter as amended for the full Council was carried.

Technical Assistance Grants Program Correspondence/Actions: The committee reviewed requests for payments and project extensions from TAG recipients. The following actions were taken:
~TAG 2007-03 Town of Fremont, print comp plan – project completed; request for payment \$1,000

~TAG 2007-05 Town of Hancock, revise subdivision law and develop driveway and road standards – project completed; request for payment \$5,000.

A motion by Fluhr seconded by Keesler to approve above payments was carried.

~TAG 2008-01 Town of Delaware, zoning standards for alternative energy sources – project update received; request for a 6-month extension.

~TAG 2008-03 Town of Hancock, develop a local law for site plan review – project update received; request for 6-month extension.

~TAG 2008-06 Town of Fremont, update zoning laws to coincide with comp plan – project update received; request for 6-month extension.

A motion by Fluhr seconded by Keesler to approve the above extensions was carried

PA Fish & Boat Commission River Management Plan Outline for fish and fisheries: Schultz informed the committee that the PA Fish and Boat Commission is looking at a river management plan outline for fish and fisheries. The Council should be aware of this and should also make the Commission aware that there is an Upper Delaware River corridor *River Management Plan* that should be reviewed as well. UDC staff will look into this matter.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Peckham seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. was carried.

Prepared by Carol Coney, Office Manager, from notes submitted by Ramie and Soete