Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2010

Committee Members Present:	Peckham, Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Rando
NPS Partner:	McGuinness
Staff:	Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests:	D. Hamilton; J. Serio; E. Grund

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Committee Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. Coney provided a clarification to the Jan. 26 meeting minutes that Rudge presented: Under the topic of NPS Mongaup Visitor Center, page 1, second sentence, it should read: "…on a Cooperative Agreement with NYS DEC to allow for the temporary use of the NYS DEC's Mongaup/Delaware River Access Site." A motion by Richardson seconded by Roeder to approve the Jan. 26 meeting minutes as amended was carried. The committee's Feb. 23 meeting was cancelled due to snow. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report he handed out; some highlights—

Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Expansion Project: Soete reported the Environmental Assessment for the proposed 300 Line Project dated February 2010 is posted on the FERC website. He is reviewing the assessment. He displayed a map of the proposed project loops. The project involves going to a thirty-inch pipe. The PA DEP would like Tennessee Gas Pipeline to assist in local wetland/stream restoration projects as a form of mitigation to impact incurred during the project. The UDC received a letter from the company asking the Council's assistance to provide them with information on any wetland/stream that needed to be restored.

Columbia Gas Transmission Line 1278/Line K pipeline replacement: Columbia Gas Transmission is proposing to replace about 17 miles of its existing Line 1278Line K pipelines through Pike County, PA and Orange County, NY, as part of their commitment to continue safe and reliable natural gas transportation to meet the energy needs of the region. Douglass attended an informational open house on March 10 in Matamoras regarding this project. Columbia has received permission from FERC to use the Pre-Filing Process in order to formalize the outreach to stakeholders within the project areas at the same time that the FERC begins its environmental review in anticipation of Columbia Gas filing a formal application later this year. Line 1278 will cross the Delaware River in Mill Rift, PA and no new work on the river crossing should be done. In November 2008, Line 1278 ruptured near where it crosses Interstate 84 and Route 6. Portions of the line are 60 years old.

Natural Gas Drilling/Leasing in Region Update: There are 10 gas wells in the works for Wayne County, PA in Damascus, Buckingham and Manchester. The U.S. EPA has announced that it will conduct a comprehensive research study to investigate the potential adverse impact that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health. Douglass and Soete have been invited by the Wayne County Gas Task Force to participate on the Planning, Outreach, and Environment subcommittees. They have attended an introductory meeting.

Proposed Telecommunications Tower - Lackawaxen Township: The UDC received a request from EBI Consultants who asked if the UDC would like to review the plans for the proposed telecommunications facility in Lackawaxen Township at Masthope Mountain. EBI is preparing an environmental review on behalf of Innovative Engineering for the project as part of its permit process and regulatory review by the FCC. Soete reviewed the project with the committee and comments were discussed. A motion by Richardson seconded by Keesler to recommend the UDC send a comment letter to EBI and also asking them if they could establish if the tower/pole was visible from the Delaware River was carried.

NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Update: It was announced to the committee that the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission will hold its annual meeting on May 12 at the NYS DOT Region 9 office in Binghamton, NY commencing at 10 a.m. UDC staff will attend.

Old Business None

New Business

TAG 2008-04 Pike County, Westfall Township/Matamoras Borough Joint Comp Plan and Open Space Plan: The Council received correspondence from Pike County Commissioners requesting a second 6-month extension for its Technical Assistance Grant project for the Westfall Matamoras Joint Comprehensive Plan. The committee considered the request. A motion by Roeder seconded by Richardson approving the extension was carried.

NPS Report: McGuinness informed the committee that the use of the NYS DEC Mongaup/Delaware River Access for a temporary Mongaup Visitors Center for the River corridor has run into lots of roadblocks concerning ancillary facilities and NPS has reached dead-ends all the way to get something done long-term. The site was also a flood inundation area even though NPS was working on an evacuation plan in case of an emergency. Given these considerations, NPS has decided not to pursue the visitors center at this time.

Public Comment

~ Jim Serio informed the committee that as Chairperson of the WU/RM Committee he was to ask the NYC DEP to attend a committee meeting to review the West of Hudson Hydroelectric Project. He has put out that request but has not yet received a reply from DEP.

Adjournment A motion by Richardson seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager