

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2008

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Bowers, Shafer, Fluhr
Committee Members Absent: None
Partner: Martinez
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: S. Schultz

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:54 p.m. A motion by Richardson seconded by Fluhr to approve the March 25 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report The committee reviewed the Discussion Items Report; some highlights:

Millennium Pipeline (various NY towns): According to news reports, the Millennium pipeline crew has temporarily pulled out because of adverse weather conditions after five months of unsuccessfully trying to drill under the East Branch of the Delaware River and NYS Rt. 17 east of Hancock. By one estimate, at least 11 attempts had been made to bore under the river. The crew will reportedly return to try again when weather conditions improve.

Town of Delaware-NYS DEC fishing access, Callicoon, update: As of April 22, the NYS DEC fishing access road in Callicoon is still blocked by gravel deposited by high water in the flood relief channel located by the Delaware Youth Center.

PennDOT's former Shohola Stockpile #6, hazardous materials cleanup, update: The U.S. EPA has completed its work at the former PennDOT Shohola Stockpile #6 site that involved a hazmat investigation. The soil test results are still pending.

Lackawaxen Township, Holbert Bros. quarry expansion conditional use public hearing: The National Park Service sent a letter dated Apr. 2 to the Lackawaxen Township Supervisors appealing the Township Supervisors decision not to recognize the NPS as an interested party during the March 11 conditional use hearing. A copy of this letter was provided to the committee. At the Apr. 10 continuance of the conditional use hearing the NPS was recognized as an interested party by the two Township Supervisors. Both the NPS and UDC will be represented by their own legal counsels in this matter. Because only two of the three supervisors were present, the hearing was continued until May 15 at the Lackawaxen Fire Hall. It had been agreed that all three Township supervisors should be present to hear all the testimony before rendering a decision.

Natural gas leasing/drilling activities: On March 27 NPS and UDC personnel attended a Penn State Cooperative Extension sponsored gas leasing seminar. A *New York Times* reporter was at the seminar and produced an article entitled "There's Gas in Those Hills" for the April 8 edition. The March Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District newsletter included an article about gas and oil leasing tips, which were handed out to the committee. It was reported that the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance (PA) represents land holdings of more than 70,000 acres. The acreage has been put out to bid and the group is waiting for gas company offers. A similar group in Sullivan County (NY) represents land owners with approximately 50,000 acres. PA DCNR has announced its plans to auction approximately 75,000 acres (Lycoming, Tioga, Sullivan counties) of state forest lands for Marcellus Shale and Trenton-Black River deep gas exploration. The department also released a new position on leasing, one which emphasizes the development of deep reserves due to increased production potential, wider well spacing and reduced surface impact. It is expected the auction announcement and bid package release will be held July 1 with the hope of conducting the sale around Oct. 1, 2008.

The NPS and UDC are partnering to provide a comprehensive gas leasing/drilling informational seminar in the River corridor some time in May.

According to news reports, 781 willing property owners have signed leases in Wayne County. Penn State Cooperative Extension will hold a workshop entitled "Managing Natural Gas Lease and Royalty Income" on April 24 in Honesdale, PA. The Damascus Citizens group is sponsoring a public information forum on May 3 in Callicoon, NY.

Following discussion of the issues, a motion by Richardson seconded by Bowers to send a staff letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission inquiring if they have procedures in place for water quality impacts due to gas lease drilling or water withdrawals was carried. It was noted that so far it looks like the states and local municipalities do not have any control over these gas explorations other than soil erosion and sedimentation permits through the state.

Town of Delaware-Big Island mass gathering proposal: As of April 22, the applicant for a mass gathering permit on the Big Island in the Town of Delaware has not submitted any additional information to the Town ZBA.

Town of Highland-Ascalona Campground issue: On April 10, the UDC and NPS received a citizen's complaint that gravel fill was being placed in the floodplain at Ascalona Campground in the Town of Highland. The NYS DEC was to investigate the matter.

Old Business

TAG extension requests: The following Technical Assistance Grants Program final project extension requests were received:

- TAG 2006-03 Town of Fremont-develop comp plan
- TAG 2006-06 Town of Lumberland-water quality monitoring 32 tributaries

Upon review, a motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the extension requests was carried.

NPS report: Martinez reported that work has started on the Roebling Bridge remediation project.

New Business

TAG procedure review: Due to the lateness of the hour, the committee did not start the TAG procedure review. Ramie noted that the new round of TAGs would commence the end of May and a new procedure should be in place. Coney suggested that since the committee was provided with individual file folders with information for their review, they could forward suggestions to her for staff to collate and provide to all.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager