Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2010

Committee Members Present:	Peckham, Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Rando
NPS Partner:	McGuinness
Staff:	Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests:	N. Rajsz

The UDC Project Review Committee's monthly meeting was held Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Committee Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m. A motion by Keesler seconded by Rando to approve the May 25 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: Soete reviewed the monthly Discussion Items Report with the committee; some highlights—

Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region, Update: The U.S. EPA has announced a schedule of public information meetings on its proposed study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts on drinking water. The meetings will provide public information about the proposed study scope and design. EPA will solicit public comments on the draft study plan. The closest meeting to the River valley area will be on Aug. 12 at the Andersen Performing Arts Center in Binghamton University at Binghamton, NY for three sessions – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

On June 14, DRBC Executive Director Carol Collier announced that she has supplemented her May 19, 2009 Determination to include natural gas exploratory wells effective June 14, 2010. The Determination allows for a Commission application and approval process for sponsors of natural gas extraction projects in shale formations. Details are on the Delaware River Basin Commission website, www.drbc.net.

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission voted to approve the wastewater regulation aimed at protecting public drinking-water supplies and ensuring that pollution levels don't rise in streams and rivers so that existing businesses would be forced to pay more for water treatment. This proposed PA state rule to limit pollution in well wastewater from new natural gas drilling operations has now cleared the IRRC's review.

The Sullivan County (NY) Legislature in association with the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management will present a series of public forums on natural gas development of the Marcellus Shale within Sullivan County and the surrounding region. The three-part series of panel discussions involving various professionals familiar with the issues will take place at the Monticello High School, Rt. 42, Monticello, NY with topics covering Property and Landowner Issues-June 29; Environmental and Health Concerns-July 15; and Economic Development and Community Impacts-Aug. 19. Peckham noted that IDA's from Sullivan, Wayne, and Delaware Counties are putting together a partnership to look at economic development as a result of gas drilling. Rajsz indicated at a NYS meeting she attended one of the comptrollers said they'll be reviewing the functions of the IDAs.

Bluestone Mountain Estates (Damascus Township), Update: The June 12 issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* shows that PA DEP has issued a NPDES Discharges of Stormwater Associated With Construction Activities Individual Permit for Robert Wiegers, developer of Bluestone Mountain Estates in Damascus Township.

Town of Cochecton Zoning Law Amendments, Update: The committee directed Soete at the last meeting to draft a comment letter to the Town of Cochecton Planning Board relative to the proposed Zoning Law amendments. That draft letter was handed out and discussed by the committee. The item will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

Draft Comment Letter to PA DEP Bur. of Mining - Proposed General Permit for Bluestone (5 acres or less) Mining: The committee reviewed a draft comment letter prepared by Soete to the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining and Reclamation. A general permit is proposed for use by

eligible persons for the extraction of noncoal minerals, specifically bluestone and other fine grained sandstone predominantly found in the northeast and northern tier counties of Pennsylvania on a mining area that is 5 acres or less. Including support area, the size of the general permit must not exceed 10 acres. The maximum highwall height allowed under this general permit is 100 feet. The public comment deadline is June 29, 2010.

Following the discussion, a motion by Richardson seconded by Rando to recommend full Council approval of the letter. The Council would be meeting after the June 29 comment deadline. Richardson and Rando amended the motion to include having staff issue a letter to PA DEP putting them on notice that the Council would be submitting a final comment letter based on committee review and Council vote at its July 1 meeting. The motion carried.

Old Business

Draft FY11 Committee Work Plan, finalize: The committee had been provided with the draft fiscal year 2011 committee work plan at the last meeting for its review. There was discussion and some amendments made. A motion by Rando seconded by Richardson to recommend full Council approval of the work plan as amended was carried.

As a sidebar of the conversation, McGuinness offered to have NPS put the out-of-print Upper Delaware River Valley *Design Handbook* (produced, printed and distributed years ago based on River Management Plan guidelines) on a CD-ROM for Soete to upload to the UDC website.

New Business (Letters covered under Discussion Items Report)

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Keesler seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager