

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2014

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham, Debra Conway,
Jeffrey Dexter, Nadia Rajsasz, David Dean
Committee Members Absent: George Fluhr
NPS Partner: Kris Heister, Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Andy Boyar, Tony Ritter (6:45 p.m.)

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

A motion to approve the November 25 meeting minutes was made by Peckham, seconded by Conway and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Highland: O'Dell said last month he spoke of the proposed archery range and mini golf course projects in the Town of Highland. He reported that he received the permit applications for both of these projects and a site plan for the mini golf course on December 8th. O'Dell noted that while neither use is specifically addressed in the Land and Water Use Guidelines, they would both fit under either "Other Recreational Uses" or "Intensive Use Recreational Facilities". Both are compatible within hamlet areas of the river corridor, he added. Peckham questioned if the NYS DEC is involved as one project involves archery. He recommended checking with the DEC in regards to their regulations for such a project. O'Dell said he will do that.

Town of Lumberland: O'Dell reported that on November 19th at approximately 5:00 a.m., a leak developed in a new 4-foot diameter penstock pipe at Rio Reservoir, which is operated by Eagle Creek, LLC. The 4-foot pipe is an extension off of the existing 11 foot diameter pipe. The 4-foot pipe normally delivers minimum flows to the Mongaup River. The leak washed out the gravel bed and cut into hillside resulting in turbidity downstream of the incident. The initial turbidity issue was discovered by a NPS Ranger and the incident was under control by 8:30 a.m. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officers and fisheries staff have been evaluating the impacts of the incident. The DEC permitting staff expects to hear from Eagle Creek soon regarding plans to stabilize the eroded bank to re-establish flow in the penstock as soon as possible. The issue is also being reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), O'Dell said. Rajsasz said the Town received notification of the incident around 10 a.m. that morning and was assured that everything is fine.

Damascus Township: O'Dell stated that after seeing a legal notice for a proposed RV campsite in the Township's River Zone, he requested more information from Code Enforcement Officer Ed Lagarenne. According to Mr. Lagarenne, the proposed campground has been a grandfathered non-conforming use since 1984. The upcoming public hearing is because of the FEMA and DEP requirements to move the site out of the floodway. There are to be 10 sites measuring 50' x 100' for RV trailers. The public hearing has been rescheduled for sometime in January. O'Dell stated that it is a 90 acre site and the Land and Water Use Guidelines call for gross density of 10 sites per acre.

Masthope Sewage Discharge: O'Dell reported that he, NPS Superintendent Kris Heister, NPS Chief of Resource Management Don Hamilton, Lackawaxen Township Sewage Enforcement Officer Jim Dolan, Lackawaxen Township Supervisor Bob Cocchi, and Lackawaxen Secretary Camille James met earlier in the day to discuss the Masthope Sewage issue. O'Dell said that at the November full Council meeting a motion for staff to prepare a letter to the DRBC and PA DEP inquiring about the protocol for water quality

monitoring and enforcement at the Masthope Mountain Community Treatment Plant in Lackawaxen Township was passed. He continues to work on this letter. O'Dell noted that this issue has been ongoing at the community for many years. Heister said that she would like to meet with Aqua Pennsylvania, the owner of the sewer treatment plant at Masthope, first to give them a chance to address the issue. She said if this approach did not work, then she would work with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Rajs said she agrees with working with the treatment plant owner, but believes there needs to be a deadline by which to have the issue resolved and regular testing afterwards. Richardson said his concern with this issue is that it goes back many, many years. He feels the letter that is to be sent will initiate answers to more clearly identify the protocol for water quality monitoring and enforcement at the Masthope Mountain Community Treatment Plant. Heister noted that ownership of the plant has changed a number of times over the years. Boyar feels the Council needs to take a much stronger posture on the issue and let it be known that this issue is unacceptable. Richardson said one of the questions that should be posed in the letter that is to be sent out is who is conducting testing on weekends when the threat of exceeding the permit is most likely to happen. Dean said he does not see a problem sending a letter, but suggested it needs to be sent to the agency that has authority regarding the issue. Heister reiterated that she would like to start with the company to have this issue remedied. After more discussion, it was decided that staff should move forward with drafting the letter and sending it out.

Project Review Presentations: O'Dell stated that the next presentation is scheduled for December 18th at the Town of Cochection.

FY 2015 TAG Program: O'Dell said we still await signed contracts from the Town of Fremont, the Town of Delaware, and Berlin Township.

Training Update: O'Dell said he plans to attend a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) educational conference on January 14th in Rock Hill. The conference will review SEQRA basics and recent changes. The conference is sponsored by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development.

New Business

Design Handbook Distribution: Ramie said the new Handbooks were just received and a press release titled "Sullivan Renaissance Grant Helps UDC to Print Design Handbooks" issued. Members received their copies.

Other: None

Old Business

Use of the 1988 Project Review Workbook: Because of the condensed holiday schedule, members agreed to table review of the Workbook until next month.

Other: Peckham and Roeder suggested that it would be good for members to read through the River Management Plan.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Conway to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 12/24/14