

Upper Delaware Council  
**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 23, 2014**

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Debra Conway, Jeff Dexter (7:06p.m.), Nadia Rajsz George Fluhr, Andy Boyar, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham, David Dean  
Committee Members Absent: None  
NPS Partner: Kristina Heister  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell  
Guests: Cheryl Korotky

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairman Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the August 26 monthly meeting & September 9 special meeting minutes was made by Rajsz, seconded by Conway and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report**

**Project Review Update**

**Town of Fremont:** O'Dell reported that New York State continues to work with a conservation organization to acquire the downstream property adjacent to Ferry Street in Long Eddy, N.Y. Tentatively, as part of the recommendations from the Sullivan County Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the property would be used as parking for the river access. Nothing formal regarding this acquisition has been released to date. O'Dell said he will keep members updated on any developments.

**Pond Eddy Bridge:** O'Dell noted that at the September 4<sup>th</sup> full Council meeting, staff was directed to send a letter to PennDOT expressing a number of concerns regarding the planning and construction of a new Pond Eddy Bridge. A copy of that letter, dated September 18<sup>th</sup>, was provided in members' packets. Boyar asked if there has been a response to this letter. Ramie said a response has been received from Paul DeAngelo, Pond Eddy Bridge consultant, and that email message will be shared with members.

**Narrowsburg Bridge:** O'Dell said that Penn DOT held an open house on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Narrowsburg Fire Department to discuss future plans and answer questions regarding the bridge's proposed repairs. Ramie attended and a written summary of the project was included in members' packets.

**Basket Bridge (Rt. 97):** The Route 97 bridge over the Basket Creek in the Town of Fremont is reduced to a single lane for the purpose of sandblasting and painting, O'Dell reported. The project is expected to last less than one month.

**Roebing Bridge:** O'Dell noted that storm water drainage issues at the Roebing Bridge have been identified. NYS DOT has submitted a work plan, but no date has been set for when the work will begin. Heister said that NYS DOT is waiting for Park Service to complete their review and she will keep members updated on this project.

**Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project:** O'Dell said that at the December 18, 2012 Project Review Committee meeting, it was reported that the Department of the Interior commented on New York City's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) application for its proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric project. At that time, primary concerns were flows, fish passage, and the protection of migratory bird and bald eagle habitat. An article in the September 15, 2014 New York Times states that the city is building the \$72 million plant, which is expected to produce about \$2 million a year in revenue from the sale of electricity. The plant is projected to generate 14 megawatts of electric power, which the city would sell to

the New York power grid. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016. A copy of the New York Times article was provided in members' packets.

**NPS Gas Summit:** O'Dell reported that UDC staff participated in the NPS Gas Summit September 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately thirty people attended, including NPS staff from the Washington and Regional offices, Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) staff, Penn State Extension staff and the Army Corps of Engineers. The tours included an introduction to the Upper Delaware on Monday and tours of the Hancock Compressor station, Millennium pipeline river crossings, water withdrawal locations, and both active and inactive well sites in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties in Pennsylvania on Tuesday and Wednesday. UDC Board members Steve Adams of Damascus Township and Al Henry of Berlin Township also participated on the bus tours. O'Dell stated the Summit was very educational. Heister said that Thursday activities also included an introduction to the Upper Delaware and participation by a panel of local people including farmers, an excavation company owner, a livery owner and a realtor. More information on the summit will be offered at the October Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting, O'Dell noted.

**Design Handbook:** O'Dell said that UDC has received a rough draft of the updated Design Handbook from consultant W Design. The updated color photos and illustrations are a major contributing factor and the layout is in a format that is much easier to follow. Staff will proofread text and recommend a few additional photos/illustrations before a final project is produced. Ramie noted that the core text is the same as the Guidelines have not changed.

**Upper Delaware Mapping:** O'Dell said that in August he reported about Shannon Thol's proposal to create GIS maps of the Upper Delaware complete with zoning information. Thol is a student in Penn State's GIS Master's Program. On Thursday, September 25, UDC and NPS staff will meet with Thol to further discuss the mapping project.

**TAG Update:** O'Dell noted that on September 9, 2014 the UDC Project Review Committee held a special meeting for the purpose of hearing from TAG applications and recommending FY 2015 projects to the full Council on October 2, 2014.

### **New Business**

**Narrowsburg Bridge 9/18 Meeting Report:** Ramie referred members to her written report. She noted the anticipated \$10 million rehabilitation schedule for the Narrowsburg Bridge sets Spring 2017 as the beginning of the construction with Fall 2018 as the completion when traffic would be restored to two lanes. Ramie listed the work to be performed which includes replacing the existing the open grid deck with a flush filled, steel grid reinforced concrete deck, replacing the sidewalks and railing, repairing the substructure, replacing brackets, and cleaning and painting the structure. Ramie reported that short duration detours will be necessary at select times, limited to evenings, weekends, and off-peak hours as much as possible.

**Sullivan County Request for Allocation of Remaining TAG Funding:** Ramie referred members to the letter from Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Associate Planner, requesting reconsideration of their Technical Assistance Grant application for the Confluence project. Ramie said the request was circulated in advance via email. The letter was considered and the decision of the committee was to deny the request.

Fluhr questioned if it should be a matter of policy that proof of support of a TAG project by a member municipality be required with the application. O'Dell had researched this matter and found that it currently only states that, "The town or township or county government body must approve the contract for the grant." Ramie noted that a TAG applicant is supposed to be a member municipality. O'Dell feels this proof of support is accomplished when the contract is sent to the applicant (member municipality) and they sign it and return it. He added there is currently no requirement that a resolution or letter of support be submitted with a TAG application. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Technical Assistance Grants program criteria be amended to require any sub-contractor applicant who is not a UDC member or county to provide proof of support for that application via a letter or resolution from the municipality's governing body.

**Other:** Peckham asked O'Dell if it was mentioned how the power would be transferred from the proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project. O'Dell said he has not heard anything definitively. Peckham suggested looking into this.

**Old Business**

**Use of 1988 Project Review Workbook:** Members resumed their page-by-page review of the workbook beginning on Page SP-27 (Review of Significant Projects) and ending at page SP-32.

Richardson commented on the difficulty in defining the 15% grade referred to in the workbook. A brief discussion about this issue took place.

Heister noted that the Park Service is currently reviewing their set of Conditional Use Permit conditions. These permits govern what is done on the water. Heister suggested sharing the conditions with the committee to get some suggestions on language. O'Dell said that would be great.

**Other:** Richardson asked O'Dell if he could arrange to set up a UDC Project Review Procedures presentation for the Town of Cochection Planning Board. O'Dell agreed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Peckham, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. was carried unanimously.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 9/29/14*