

# The Upper Delaware

*A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA*

Volume 35 Number 1

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. since 1988

Spring 2022



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available on-line or by mail!**

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**FISCAL STRAIN:** Upper Delaware Council (UDC) 2022 Chairperson Andy Boyar, right, makes a point to U.S. Representative Mondaire Jones (NY-17th District) about the threat posed to the effective administration of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River by the UDC's unsustainable funding when the congressman visited the non-profit organization's Narrowsburg office on Feb. 22. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## **Fiscal Plan Report Reinforces UDC Funding Unsustainability**

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) has reached the point of financial atrophy, attempting to survive on 1988 dollars while meeting its unique non-profit organizational obligations to oversee administration of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*.

"By all accounts the river corridor has been superbly managed. We have upheld our end of the bargain," 2022 UDC Chairperson Andy Boyar says. "Now we need intervention and advocacy."

For the UDC to effectively operate, the Final RMP adopted in 1986 outlined a 60% Federal/40% States cost-sharing ratio with a \$500,000 annual budget and five full-time staff positions with contractual help.

Thirty-four years after its 1988 incorporation, the UDC receives the same \$300,000 Cooperative Agreement allocation from the National Park Service (NPS) since day one. Neither state has ever provided its \$100,000 shares. The former staff of four was downsized 10 years ago to three.

If adjusted for inflation, that \$300,000 would be worth \$717,000 today but instead has shrunk to the equivalent of \$123,458.

"Can you imagine any federal or other governmental agency operating at a 1988 funding level without a single cost of living increase? There are none and for that matter we are headed for failure without intervention," Boyar told U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in a March 3 letter.

To quantify the impacts and offer recommendations, the UDC invested in hiring environmental economist Michael Crane of Burlington, VT to conduct an independent analysis over a six-month period.

Crane Associates' "Building a Sustainable Business Model for the Upper Delaware Council" report released in early December 2021 revealed that the UDC will be forced to eliminate another full-time

*Please see FUNDING on Page 11*

## **Last Newsletter?**

One UDC cost-savings option under consideration is to discontinue "The Upper Delaware" to focus on fundraising, reduce the publication schedule, or stop its mailed distribution, for which 10,000 copies are currently printed, three issues per year. Share your thoughts and ideas at [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org).

# Upper Delaware Profile: Bill Dudko

Working for the betterment of the Upper Delaware River Valley is becoming a family tradition for Bill Dudko.

His wife of nearly 50 years, Ginny Dudko, has actively served on the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) for 11 years, initially as the Town of Deepark alternate. Ginny's father, Lew Schmalzle, was a two-time UDC chairman and a 12-year Town of Highland delegate until his passing in 2006. Bill often accompanied his father-in-law and/or his wife to the Council's meetings and events.

It seems natural that when David Dean retired as Deepark's UDC representative since 2011 and Ginny stepped up to the "1st chair" position, Bill was tapped by the Deepark Town Board to take the 2nd chair seat as of January 2022.

Dudko can trace his family roots in the Upper Delaware back before the Civil War on his mother's side. The river was always his home turf.

He attended elementary school in Sparrowbush, NY and graduated from Port Jervis High School in 1967.

"I've lived here all my life. When the National Park Service came in, I have to admit that I was totally against it. I'm a big private property rights guy. Some of the younger folks don't know the history. We saw examples of parks that we didn't want to be," he says.

The 72-year-old says that, over time, "My opinion has changed. The river has gotten better, less dangerous. I feel like a lot of it depends on the leadership of the superintendent and whether that person really believes in the partnership concept."

Growing up, Dudko never liked being stuck indoors and gravitated towards hand-on work with machinery.

He became an equipment operator and truck driver for regional companies.

In a dream job for a railroad buff, Dudko worked as a diesel engineer for the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad for seven years until Conrail took over the line.

Staying on would have required leaving his beloved home and moving to Virginia. He returned to trucking and, after retiring, drove a school bus for his alma mater.

Bill and Ginny, an elementary teacher, met in 1967 and married in June 1972. Today, the couple resides on a 30-acre property behind the famous Hawk's Nest.



William Dudko, Town of Deepark

Dudko is a 53-year member and former captain of the Sparrowbush Volunteer Fire Department who has participated in his fair share of emergencies and river rescues.

He chairs the Board of Trustees for the Pond Eddy United Methodist Church which recently celebrated its 160th anniversary.

With an avid interest in history, he belongs to the Town of Deepark's 1863 Schoolhouse Museum. He looks forward to volunteering his services and knowledge to the new Port Jervis History Transportation Center which will debut a festival at the Erie Turntable and Railyard on May 28-30. Dudko learned how to create Power Point presentations and has delivered railroad history programs to groups including the Schoolhouse Museum, Cocheton Preservation Society, and the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society.

He enjoys the opportunity to travel the country by train and highway with Ginny, as well as hunting and fishing.

The Town of Deepark appointed Dudko to join the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) board at the same time that his UDC alternate role began.

He again had familiarity with that non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement and safety of New York State Route 97 and its communities from attending its meetings in an unofficial capacity.

"The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is in a unique position to be within a national park unit. We need to publicize the area from Hancock to Port Jervis, but the balancing act there is to make sure we're prepared to handle these visitors," he notes.

"With the UDC," Dudko says, "there is a balancing act between protecting the river corridor and being a watchdog for the property rights of individuals. Our biggest issue now is to fight to get the money we need."

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*The Upper Delaware* is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

### 2022 Officers

Chairperson.....Andrew Boyar  
Vice-Chairperson.....Aaron Robinson  
Secretary/Treasurer.....Alan F. Henry

### New York Town Representatives

Hancock.....Fred Peckham  
Timothy Newman, Alternate  
Fremont.....James Greier  
Pamela Reinhardt, Alternate  
Delaware.....Vacant  
Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Alternate  
Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson  
Sean Nearing, Alternate  
Tusten.....Susan Sullivan  
Evan Padua, Alternate  
Highland.....Andrew Boyar  
James Gutekunst, Alternate  
Lumberland.....Nadia Rajsz  
Alternate-vacant  
Deepark.....Virginia Dudko  
Bill Dudko, Alternate

### Pennsylvania Township Representatives

Damascus.....Jeffrey R. Dexter  
Steven Adams, Joseph Canfield &  
Scott Rutledge, Alternates  
Berlin.....Alan Henry  
Paul Henry, Alternate  
Lackawaxen.....Doug Case  
Alternate-vacant  
Shohola.....Aaron Robinson  
Roger Saumure, 1st Alternate  
Patricia Jeffer, 2nd Alternate  
Westfall.....Michael Barth  
Alternate-vacant

### State & Regional Members

New York.....Vacant  
Michael DiSarno, Temporary Alternate  
Pennsylvania.....Timothy Dugan, DCNR  
Christine Detorre, DCNR, Alternate  
Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting).....Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director;  
Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Deputy Director

### Partner

National Park Service- Gay Vietzke, Director,  
North Atlantic-Appalachian Region 1; Joseph  
A. Salvatore, Superintendent, UDS&RR

### UDC Staff

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Resources and Land Use Specialist:

**Kerry Engelhardt**

Secretary: **Ashley Hall-Bagdonas**

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# Upper Delaware Council Elects 2022 Officers

The Upper Delaware Council elected Town of Highland, NY Representative Andrew Boyar as its 2022 chairperson at the organization's annual meeting held virtually on Jan. 6. He succeeds Damascus Township, PA Representative Jeff Dexter.

UDC Representatives Aaron Robinson of Shohola Township, PA was elected as vice-chairperson and Alan Henry of Berlin Township, PA continues a 9th, non-consecutive term as secretary-treasurer.

Andy Boyar was appointed as the Town of Highland's first representative when the town joined the UDC on March 15, 1990.

He has served as the town's alternate or representative for 19 non-consecutive years from 1990-1994 and 2010-2022.

It is his second stint as UDC chairperson, having served in that leadership role in 2014 after being vice-chair in 2013.

Originally from Long Island, Boyar earned a 1969 degree from Brooklyn Law School, formerly served as Town Justice and Town Attorney in Highland, and fulfilled two tenures as Town Supervisor from 1981-1994, then from 2010-2015. He also chaired the Sullivan County Board of Supervisors for two years.

Boyar was a practicing attorney for over 50 years. His love of nature, the outdoors, river activities, and fishing have inspired him to be active in environmental conservation issues.

He was an early architect of Sullivan County's recycling program, has long advocated for cleaner energy and more thoughtful water releases on the Delaware River, serves as president of the Upper



**TAKING OATHS:** At the UDC's first non-virtual meeting of 2022 on March 3, Town of Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas, left, officiated at a formal swearing-in ceremony for UDC officers elected by their peers on January 6, from the left, Vice-Chair Aaron Robinson; Chairperson Andy Boyar; and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Henry. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited with its numerous youth engagement and cold-water fisheries protection programs, and was Highland's first "Litter Leader" for the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep which debuted in 2021 at Boyar's suggestion.

A former angler columnist for the *River*

*Reporter*, Boyar is a member of Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Beaverbrook Rod & Gun Club, and Trout Unlimited.

The UDC recognized him with the 2021 Community Service Award and 2003 Life-saving Award shared with his son, Matt.

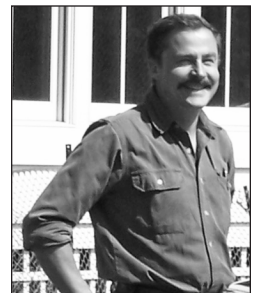
## Long-Time NYS Delegate Rudge Retires

William J. "Bill" Rudge retired on Feb. 25, 2022 from a 35-year career with the New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation and a 21-year tenure since 2001 as the State's voting representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

The board approved a Resolution of Commendation extolling his professional accomplishments capped off by his Natural Resources Supervisor position for DEC Region 3 since 2001, his personal attributes, and support of the UDC's mission.

Other recent UDC transitions were: Town of Delaware - Rep. Tom Dent resigned on 11/10/21 after serving since 6/10/20; Town of Deerpark - Rep. David M. Dean retired 12/31/21 after serving since 10/21/2011; Town of Highland - James Gutekunst and Andy Boyar switched 2022 roles to alternate and representative; Lackawaxen Township - Alternate Judy Kuhn Conklin departed 12/31/21 after serving since 2016; and Damascus Township - Alternate Scott Rutledge replaced Daniel Rutledge.



**Bill Rudge** (2007 photo)



**UDC BOARD:** The 2022 roster includes, seated from the left: officers Al Henry (Berlin); Andy Boyar (Highland); Aaron Robinson (Shohola); and standing, from left to right: Jeff Dexter (Damascus); Cody Hendrix (National Park Service); Mike DiSarno (New York State); Bill Dudko (Deerpark); Joe Salvatore (NPS); Doug Case (Lackawaxen); Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland); Susan Sullivan (Tusten); Larry Richardson (Cochecton); Ginny Dudko (Deerpark); Jim Greier (Fremont); and Harold Roeder, Jr. (Delaware). Absent from the photo were Fred Peckham (Hancock), Mike Barth (Westfall), Tim Dugan (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), and Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Delaware River Basin Commission).

# Litter Sweep Begins on Earth Day

The Upper Delaware Council will coordinate the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep on April 22-30, 2022.

Land-based clean-ups will take place in all 15 New York towns and Pennsylvania townships surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Led by local Litter Leaders who will determine their schedules and pick-up sites, volunteer crew participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt; supplies to use including safety equipment, bags, and pickers; and disposal information for their collected trash.

Since this year's event is wholly supported by donations, the UDC sought sponsors in the categories of Litter Enemies (\$100), Litter Avengers (\$250) and Litter Slayers (\$500) to subsidize purchasing team t-shirts and more supplies.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals who contributed by March 18 will be listed on the 400 neon t-shirts that feature original Litter Sweep artwork designed by Dan Nelson of Happy Tattoo and will be screen-printed by Platform Industries, both of Honesdale, PA.

All sponsors, including those who donat-



Artwork by Dan Nelson of Happy Tattoo

ed goods and services, will be acknowledged in the next newsletter issue.

Contact Litter Sweep Coordinator Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022 or ash-

ley@upperdelawarecouncil.org, and check the UDC's website and social media outlets for the latest information.

At the suggestion of 2022 UDC Chairperson Andy Boyar, the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee is exploring a pilot project to install river litter bag stations at popular public accesses to assist with pollution control.

Reusable mesh bags would be available in a dispenser for recreationists to gather their belongings, collect litter they find, and keep their own trash out of the river.

Feedback from agencies, groups, and the public on this idea is welcome.

\*The 2022 Countywide Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck funded by the Sullivan County Legislature will take place from April 1 through June 30.

To help beautify Sullivan County and in support of National Earth Day (April 22) and National Trails Day (June 4), litter plucked from any public roadside or trail located in Sullivan County between those dates will be accepted for free at all county-operated transfer stations.

Free disposal coupons are required and may be obtained at local municipal offices and other locations available by contacting the Sullivan County Parks & Recreation Office at (845) 807-0287 or [scsparks@sullivanny.us](mailto:scsparks@sullivanny.us). For a list of Sullivan County trails, visit [www.trailkeeper.org](http://www.trailkeeper.org).

\*In Pennsylvania, Waste Management (WM) company will offer free disposal of waste removed from woodlands, roadsides and wetlands to registered groups.

Free disposal will be available from April 1 through the 29th. Register clean-ups at [www.keeppabeautiful.org/programs/pick-up-pa](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/programs/pick-up-pa) so that WM knows when and where to expect deliveries of litter.



**RIVER LITTER:** In Montana, litter bag stations are offered to help river users pack out their garbage or pick up trash they find in reusable bags. The UDC is exploring a similar program for the Upper Delaware River. (Contributed Photo by Andy Boyar)

## Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Announces Anti-Litter Initiatives

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) Committee will extend Earth Day into Earth Month during April with the installation of new anti-litter signage, distribution of free "rag bags", and a \$500 Litter Slayer sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

UDSB, Inc. is marking its 20th anniversary in 2022 as the non-profit organization which represents participating communities along New York State Route 97 for economic development and highway safety enhancements.

Eight 24" round signs featuring the byway logo and reading "Please Keep [community name] Beautiful and Clean, No Littering", as designed by Nicole Camacho of Finehand Signs in Glen Spey, will be installed in Hancock, Callicoon, Cohecton, Narrowsburg, Barryville, Pond Eddy, Deerpark, and Port Jervis.

UDSB ordered 5,000 10x13" biodegradable bags from Earthly Goods that can be used for litter then cleaning rags.

In a summer pilot project with Sullivan County, UDSB hopes to introduce four solar-powered, WIFI-enabled "Big Belly" compacting trash receptacles at locations including the Rt. 97 Lumberland rest area, Town of Tusten, and Town of Highland.

The UDSB also has 10,000 commercial-free placemats depicting the byway corridor map available for use by eateries and groups that host public meals.

As another upcoming project, UDSB will assist with coordinating an Upper Delaware River Shad Fest on May 20-22, with fun, historic, and educational activities to be hosted along the byway corridor to celebrate the significance of the shad fishery.

Contact [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org) or the 866-511-UDSB hotline.



Rag Bag logo design by Eve Fisher





**RIVER VIEW:** Northgate Resorts General Manager Rocco Baldasari, left, shows National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Joe Salvatore the view from the porch of one of the park model RVs (pictured below) that will be available to rent at Camp Fimfo in Barryville (Town of Highland). (UDC Photos by Kerry Engelhardt)

## Camp Fimfo Development Underway

By Kerry Engelhardt, UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist

Big things are afoot at Kittatinny Canoes.

An institution on the river since 1941, Kittatinny Canoes was purchased by Northgate Resorts in December 2020. The ±222 acre campground was operated as usual in the 2021 season and will be in 2022 as well, but construction has already begun to renovate the existing structures – which is just the first in an ambitious development plan of three phases.

Northgate is expecting to spend \$40-\$50 million over the next few years to modernize and reorganize the campground and add amenities. They received a \$1.5 million grant last December from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council to ease the burden.

The company has also acquired the nearby Cedar Rapids livery and campground, whose restaurant will be open this summer (with minor renovations) – but is expected to have a completely renovated interior for the 2023 season.

Proposed amenities on the Kittatinny Canoes property (which will be rebranded as Camp Fimfo – which stands for “Fun Is

More Fun Outside” – for the 2023 season) include a miniature golf course, bounce pillow, splash area, and a “mountain coaster” ride.

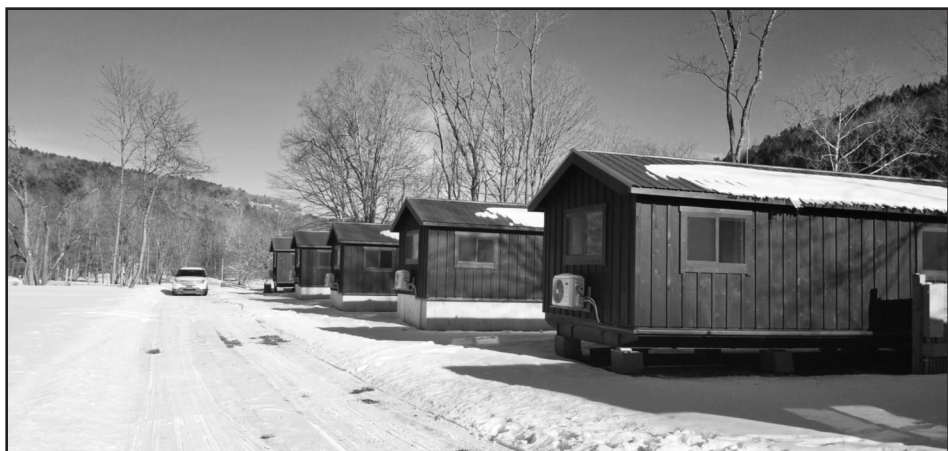
The existing check-in building will be renovated and become a malt shop, and it and the renovated Cedar Rapids restaurant will be a focal point of the amenities along Route 97. The plan is to eventually have the restaurant open year-round.

The existing bathhouses are to be completely gutted and modernized – that construction has begun, to be ready for the 2022 season.

Most of the other development requires permitting, both environmental and from the Highland Planning Board.

The UDC and NPS will also review the plans to ensure their compliance with the River Management Plan. They have received plans for review, and construction of the various amenities will happen in phases.

Many of the campsites will be replaced by “park model RVs” – they look like tiny wooden cabins, but are in fact built on



## Save Dates for UDC Raft Trip & Awards Banquet

Plan to join the Upper Delaware Council for its 34th annual public events of the Family Raft Trip on August 7 and the River Valley Awards Ceremony on September 18.

Reservations for the paddle from Skinners Falls to Narrowsburg will be due by July 29 at a cost of \$29 adults and \$19 for children ages 5-12.

Participants will arrive between 9-10 a.m. at Lander's River Trips Narrowsburg Campground to check in then board a shuttle up to the launch.

Rafts, paddles, mandatory life jackets, and safety instructions will be provided. Four is the minimum raft occupancy.

Nominations for River Valley Awards in multiple categories are requested by July 29, with the slate of honorees to be announced in early August.

The Sept. 18 ceremony will take place at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. Festivities will include a 3 p.m. reception, 4 p.m. buffet dinner, a keynote address, and presentation of awards to those who have contributed to the quality of life in the bi-state Upper Delaware River Valley region.

Visit [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org), or call (845) 252-3022 for additional event and reservation details.

truck bodies with wheels. After full build-out, there will be 300 of these units on site.

This includes 23 units installed on the south side of Route 97, where about half of them will have porches overlooking the Delaware. About ten of these riverside units are already in place.

The owners hope to provide an upscale camping experience that is family friendly, to draw visitors to the region.

They estimate that the future Camp Fimfo will bring \$100M annually to businesses outside the resort.

The owners of Camp Fimfo are taking safety seriously, particularly after an especially tragic season in 2021 when there were five drownings on the river.

They are looking to move as much river trip-related activity to the south side of Route 97 as possible (registration, parking) to reduce pedestrian crossings of the highway as of 2023.

And while they now own the former Cedar Rapids site, they will not be launching boats or rafts from that area, and instead will launch all boats upstream at a calmer area of the river.

# Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-November 2021 to mid-March 2022, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

## DRBC REGULATIONS

The UDC submitted comments 1/6 on the Delaware River Basin Commission's draft water rule amendments associated with High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing.

"We agree that basin waters have limited capacity to assimilate potential pollutants from chemicals used in 'frack water' without threatening the health and safety of people and the aquatic ecosystem. We support the DRBC's policy to discourage, limit, or place conditions on exportations of water from the Delaware River Basin on the basis that water must be available to meet in-basin needs, especially during periods of low flow and drought conditions," the letter stated after a 9-1-1 vote.

## PA DCED GRANT

Administration of the \$100,000 PA grant secured for the UDC by Representatives Jonathan Fritz, Mike Peifer, and Senator Lisa Baker was successfully completed by the 12/31 contract deadline.

The UDC allocated \$72,123.09 for projects by its five PA township members; \$10,678.47 towards the UDC Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Plan; \$7,198.44 for UDC technology and public presentation upgrades; \$3,000 for Upper Delaware Litter Sweep coordination; and \$7,000 for the required audit by Eckersley & Davis which must be completed within 120 days.



**DAMASCUS PLAYGROUND:** This is one of \$75,226 worth of Playworld brand children's recreational playsets that will be installed at the Damascus Township Park's expanded playground thanks in part to a \$15,000 allocation from the Upper Delaware Council's "Townships, Technology & Sustainability" grant administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The park sits on a 78-acre wooded property that overlooks the Delaware River and includes Damascus Township's municipal and road facilities, a pavilion, trail, baseball field, volleyball court, and heritage barn. More grant-funded park improvements are planned. (Contributed image by George Ely Associates, Carlisle, PA)



**NEW DISTRICTS:** As a result of population shifts in the most recent United States census, the boundaries for numerous Congressional and State Legislature districts are due to change as of January 2023. Incumbents and candidates are meeting potential new constituents. The Upper Delaware River corridor will be in the NY 17th and 19th Congressional Districts (currently 18 and 19), and the PA 8th District. Congressman Mondaire Jones (NY-17), pictured third from left, was interested in learning about river valley issues and the work of the UDC when he visited on Feb. 22 with Andy Boyar (Highland), Jeff Dexter (Damascus), Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland), Ginny Dudko (Deerpark), Larry Richardson (Cochecton), NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Supervisor Joe Salvatore, and Harold Roeder, Jr. (Delaware) for a presentation that also included Al Henry (Berlin), Susan Sullivan (Tusten), and Bill Dudko (Deerpark). The UDC has compiled a Redistricting Impacts Report for federal and state-level representation of the 15 NY-PA towns and townships in five counties. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## RIVER ACCESSES

**Ten Mile River** - The NYS DEC is looking to purchase 9,500 acres of the subdivided Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camps property from the Greater New York Council Boy Scouts of America via a transfer from The Conservation Fund to manage as state forest land. The TMR river access and trail is expected to remain publicly available.

**Long Eddy** - The DEC shared a site plan of access improvements with the Fremont Town Board that await public release.

**Highland** - A 2nd round of bids as of 3/11 for river access upgrades came in over-budget for the \$500,000 grant that Sullivan County secured and are being reassessed.

## SELECT LETTERS

Support letters were approved on 12/2 for the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed's \$1 million budget line item request in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, and on 12/10 for the Trust for Public Land's application to the Land Trust Alliance for Callicoon Riverside Park.

Other letters went to: NPS Superintendent Salvatore, substantial conformance definition follow-up, 12/2; *River Reporter* Skinners Falls Bridge guest editorial, 1/14; Gov. Hochul, 30-day Executive Budget amendment appeal for UDC funding, 1/24; Senator Martucci, State-wide Zoning Reform Senate Bil impacts on the river corridor, 2/23; and NYS Forest Management Strategic Plan 10-year update, 3/3.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

Town of Cochecton - Site plan to build

Cochecton Cottages, NYS Rt. 97 (NPS determined substantial conformance 1/26).

Damascus Township - Heron Hill Hunt Club, variance to replace a riverside house destroyed by a 2014 propane explosion (recommendation provided to NPS 1/6).

Town of Tusten - "Art Shop" use variance (denied by Tusten ZBA on 2/14); Ten Mile River Scout Camp property subdivision (no UDC review required); Big Eddy Brewing, application for light industrial use, Main Street, Narrowsburg (review underway).

The Town of Tusten submitted its Mid-Term Progress Report on 2/9 for its \$4,700 UDC Technical Assistance Grant for zoning updates and open space planning, for which project completion is due by 8/19.

## FLOOD FORECASTING

On 3/15, Jim Brewster from the National Weather Service reported that he received approval to add flood stages and prediction data for the USGS Delaware River gage at Lordville based on the UDC's request and reviews, and noted that the public forecast and warning services model should be calibrated and launched by late summer.

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

UDC staff regularly participates on the NPS Water Safety Committee, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee, DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, and Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership.

A sample of other meetings included:

Please see **HIGHLIGHTS** on Page 7



#### HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

12/7 - Invasive Jumping Worms webinar;  
12/15 - US EPA Delaware River Emergency Tabletop Exercise;  
12/15 - National Parks Conservation Association for UDC funding support;  
1/4 & 1/31 - Northgate Resorts Camp Fimfo development plans and site tour;  
1/19 - Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan Strategy Workshop for Municipalities;  
1/19 and ongoing - PA Land Use Webinar series by Penn State Extension;  
1/19-20 - Invasive Species Research Institute's Climate Change Symposium;  
2/2 - NPS Electronic Records Transfer requirements, with 7/30 UDC deadline;  
2/9 - USGS Drought Prediction webinar;  
2/10 - Taking Advantage of Land and Water Conservation Fund Full Funding for the Delaware River Watershed webinar;  
3/3 - Upper Delaware Recreation Plan public meeting in Hancock;  
3/7 - *Delaware Currents* interview for: "Starved of funding, the Upper Delaware Council sees an unsustainable future"

#### UDC RESOLUTIONS

2022-01 (1/6): Enter Into Contract with Eckersley & Davis for UDC's Fiscal Year 2022 Audit; -02 (1/6): Authorizing Signatories for Council's Bank Accounts in 2022; -03 (1/6): Reaffirming Sexual Harassment Policy; and -04 (2/3): Commendation for William J. Rudge, NYS DEC.

#### ADMINISTRATION

An unexpected \$7,105 expense arose in December when the UDC had to replace its deteriorated outdoor fuel oil tanks with a 500-gallon, double-walled, steel tank surrounded by concrete barriers.

The UDC submitted a Fiscal Year 2021 24-page Performance Progress Report to the National Park Service on 12/28.



**RAILROAD RESPONSE:** The U.S. DOT Federal Railroad Administration thoroughly investigated the UDC's concerns about a potentially damaged culvert pipe along the tracks in Hankins, NY, finding functional drainage after a Dec. 10 on-site inspection, and looked into the accumulation of discarded railroad crossties in Narrowsburg, shown above. A state grant was awarded to Central New York Railroad to retain a contractor, RailWorks, to properly dispose of those creosote-treated ties by December, which did occur. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



**PURPOSE & NEED:** Closed since October 2019, the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge awaits a determination of repair, replacement, or removal. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## UDC Proposes Tapping Federal Bridges \$\$

Following President Joe Biden's January 14 announcement that the federal Department of Transportation has launched the Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program as part of the approved \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law, the Upper Delaware Council wrote the governors of Pennsylvania and New York to encourage them to invest in the rehabilitation of the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge.

The program will provide \$26.5 billion over five years to address the conditions of approximately 15,000 bridges, with the Federal Highway Administration immediately ready to distribute funds of a needs-based formula. States are allowed to allocate these monies to projects of their choosing with no matching funds required.

A Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study is currently underway to determine the transportation need and purpose for this bridge, closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic since failing an emergency safety inspection on Oct. 16, 2019.

"Our non-profit organization, which includes among its 15 member municipalities the Town of Cohecton, NY and Damascus Township, PA that are linked by the single-lane, timber-planked bridge, strongly opposes the potential study alternative to tear down this locally treasured bridge to either eliminate the crossing or replace it with a standard-issue modern structure," wrote UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie on Feb. 1.

"We favor rehabilitation of the existing

467-foot bridge to preserve its nationally-recognized, outstandingly remarkable cultural value, the rarity of its pin-connected Baltimore truss, unique ornamentation, tourism appeal, and facilitation of local commerce, emergency response, and daily living in the Upper Delaware River Valley. The availability of this bridge program funding offers the opportunity to save this historic gem that fits so perfectly into the rural setting that it serves," she wrote.

PennDOT District 4-0 Executive Richard Roman replied on March 1 that the Department is reviewing the federal bill.

The Council also submitted comments to a draft Purposes and Need document that PennDOT had issued on Dec. 8, 2021 as lead agency for this crossing owned by the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission.

The UDC itemized complaints over its "faulty assumptions and glaring omissions" in a four-page Jan. 6 letter.

In citing deviations from the solicited public survey results, inaccuracies, downplaying of the bridge's cultural significance, and agency conclusions that would appear designed to influence against historic rehabilitation, the letter noted, "The draft Purpose and Need Statement must objectively reflect the true will of public input and information gathered from the study."

After the PEL study is completed and an alternative is advanced, the project will undergo evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act. The timetable for that process is unknown.

# UDC Hosts Informative Presentations

The Upper Delaware Council schedules presentations at its 1st Thursday monthly public meetings when time permits. Copies of Power Point slides or posted meeting recordings are generally available.

**Dec. 2, 2021** - "Northern Snakehead Invasive Fish Threat" by Daryl Pierce, fisheries biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

These predatory fish became established in the lower river basin but their range has expanded into the Upper Delaware as they seek new habitat.

Northern Snakehead have been documented to swim 15-20 miles per day, can breathe air, and survive up to four days on land as long as their gills stay moist.

They favor shallow, slow-moving water with plenty of aquatic vegetation and can tolerate 32-86 degree temperatures.

It's against regulations to sell, barter, possess or transport these fish. Harvesting and reporting them is critical.

**Jan. 6, 2022** - "DRBC Microplastics Study" by Jacob Bransky, aquatic biologist at the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Through a Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant, the DRBC used three methods to collect microplastics, defined as less than 5 mm in size, with the goal of



developing models to identify high plastic-loading tributaries to target for clean-ups.

Bransky noted the dire prediction that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

Plastic can take more than 400 years to decompose. In the U.S. since 2012, only about 9% of plastics are recycled. Ninety-one percent of all plastic ever made was not recycled worldwide.

**Feb. 3** - "Crash Course in Workplace Sexual Harassment", a training video by Michael H. Haynes to coincide with reaffirmation of the UDC's Sexual Harassment



**LEARNING LESSONS:** Dangers posed by the invasive Northern Snakehead fish, left, and microplastic particles in our waterways were the subjects of recent UDC programs.

Prevention Policy for the board and staff.

**March 3** - "Status Update on Modernization of Decision Support System (DSS) for Habitat Evaluations in the Upper Delaware" by John Yagecic, P.E., Water Quality Assessment manager, DRBC.

This project's goal is to recode the USGS 2007 DSS into a modern, modular platform for ease of use and expandability to evaluate how flow management impacts available habitat. The updated tool will allow consideration of different scenarios, time periods, flow comparisons, new species and data to assist with interpretation.

## The River Rocks for 2022 Sojourn

The 27th Annual Delaware River Sojourn will take place from June 18-25.

The theme is "The River Rocks!" and programming will focus on the local geology surrounding the river.

The eight-day guided paddling and camping trip starts at the Ten Mile River (TMR) near Narrowsburg, NY and finishes up in Crosswick Creek, New Jersey.

There will also be a "Day 0" river-based Sojourn clean-up on June 17 between Lackawaxen, PA and Barryville, NY.

On Saturday, June 18, Sojourners will launch from the TMR Access and take out

at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, where they can camp overnight.

On Sunday, June 19, participants will have a long day on the river, paddling from the Zane Grey Access all the way to Knights Eddy, which is 15 river miles!

Sunday night camping will be at the Worthington State Forest as the Sojourn continues down river.

The purpose of the Sojourn is to heighten awareness of and appreciation for the Delaware River and its watershed, which flows for 330 miles through New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The Sojourn combines canoeing or kayaking, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and some meals.

It is for novice to experienced paddlers of all ages. Participants can sign up for the whole event or for the section(s) of their choice. The Sojourn is fully insured and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association. A safety team comprised of members of the National Canoe Safety Patrol accompanies the group each day.

Fees are \$90/day adults and \$60/day for children 15 and under, with a \$25 discount for first-time paddlers. Visit [delawareriver-sojourn.com](http://delawareriver-sojourn.com) for registration details. ~KE



Sojourn T-shirt design by Sandra S. Schultz



Founded on the belief that theater and the arts are essential to the fabric of our lives and play a critical role in its well-being, the River Rep Arts Center announces its launch in April 2022, based out of the historic hamlet of Callicoon, NY.

River Rep's team of local and international artists and instructors will bring audacious theater and intensive arts training classes and workshops to underserved communities throughout Sullivan County and the Upper Delaware region.

Artistic Director Christopher Peditto notes that the River Rep Arts Center will support a year-round repertory theater ensemble that will perform at the Delaware Youth Center, schools, and regional venues.

The schedule of online and in-person classes in acting, dance, writing, and movement is available at [www.riverrep.org](http://www.riverrep.org).



## Plans for 27 Dams On Upper Delaware

If original plans had come true in the 1960s, there would have been 27 dams built between Hancock and Port Jervis.

Instead, the Delaware remains one of the longest undammed rivers in the United States and its inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System will forever protect that status.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum hosted a series of virtual talks in February and March focusing on the region's history.

Glenn Pontier of Minisink Ford, NY, co-director of the TMR Scout Museum since 2019, former Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum director, prior Sullivan Renaissance executive director, journalist, and history buff, delivered a March 1 presentation on "Delaware River and the Catskills Mountain Streams."

He spoke of the 12,765-square-mile Delaware River Basin in four states, honoring in on the Catskill/Delaware watershed.

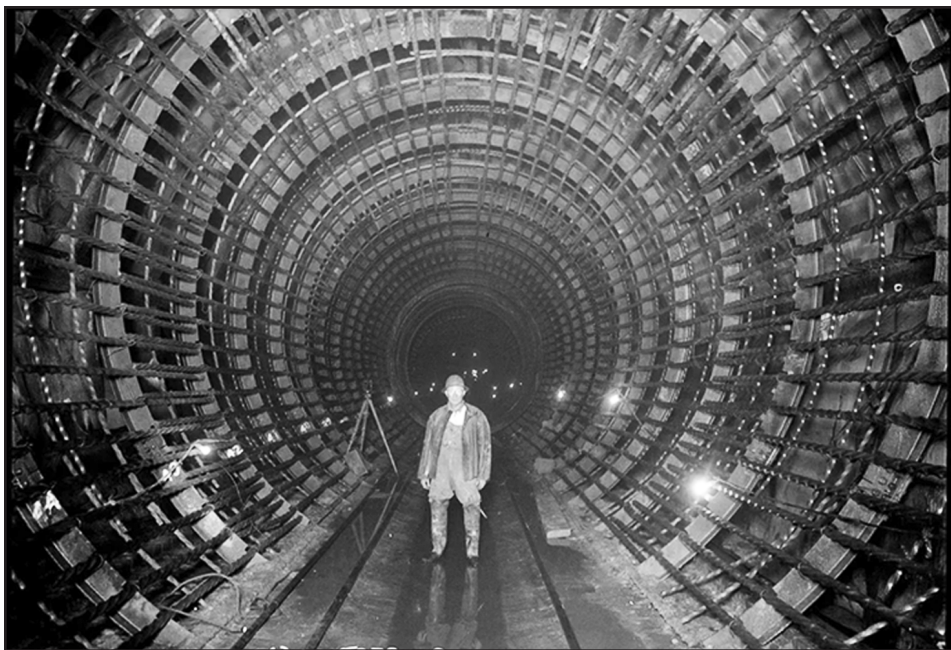
"There is an incredible amount of water flowing out of the Catskill Mountains thanks to a combination of geology and weather patterns. There's no place like it in the world," Pontier said.

The Delaware River is considered the birthplace of American dry fly fishing. It spawned numerous industries such as timber rafting and recreational boating.

But its use as the largest unfiltered drinking water source in the country through a massive reservoir and tunnel distribution system is an engineering marvel made possible by a bounty other places envy.

"We're fortunate to live in an area with an abundance of water...enough to give it away," Pontier said.

The Supreme Court Decree of 1954 capped the New York City diversions of Delaware basin waters at 800 million gallons per day, while requiring compensating releases to maintain a flow of 1750 cubic feet per second at Montague, NJ under the



**RESERVOIR TUNNEL:** The massive infrastructure that New York City built in the Catskills allows the distribution of up to 800 million gallons per day of pristine, unfiltered Delaware River Basin water to meet the metropolitan area's drinking supply needs. (Archival photo)

responsibility of a position within the USGS known as the Delaware Rivermaster.

In 1961, the four states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) signed a federal compact which became the Delaware River Basin Commission, an agency requiring unanimous decisions to enact its regulatory authority.

In 1962, the ACOE presented a plan to Congress to construct a total of 58 reservoirs to meet water demands for 50 years.

The centerpiece of the proposal was the Tock's Island Dam, which the federal government approved and began acquiring 35,000 acres of property below the Delaware Water Gap and up to Port Jervis.

Armed marshals were dispatched to move "squatters" out of buildings to tear them down as a wary Upper Delaware populace witnessed it all.

However, a lack of funding for the build-out and a philosophical change led to the Tock's Island Dam deauthorization. The

emptied acreage became the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

"But New York City and Philadelphia were still thirsty," Pontier said, and the modestly populated Delaware River valley looked mighty tempting.

"To be part of the conversation, we needed a gunslinger to represent us at the table," Pontier said.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 was established to declare that rivers which possess outstandingly remarkable values should be protected and preserved in their free-flowing condition to benefit present and future generations.

The 73.4-miles of main stem Delaware headwaters were added as the 19th component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on Nov. 10, 1978 and the National Park Service arrived. Their task was to manage the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River while leaving 95% of the 55,574.5 designated corridor acres privately owned and under the stewardship of local municipal zoning.

"The question then became, if you're not going to buy the land, how do you protect it? And how do we control the gunslinger?" he asked.

The answer: craft a hard fought but carefully negotiated River Management Plan to outline federal-states-local cooperative management responsibilities, and establish an Upper Delaware Council to oversee the partnership.

As a result, Pontier said, people can continue to own the land where they live and the river is protected against threats.

Ten Mile River Scout Camps' YouTube channel offers recordings of the webinars.

## Congressional Caucus Seeks \$12.5M

The Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus requested a 25% increase from last year to \$12.5 million for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) in the Fiscal Year 2022 funding bill. On March 8, they also announced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize DRBRP through 2030. That bill would increase the federal share of projects in small, rural, or disadvantaged communities to 90% and would allow the Secretary of the Interior to waive the cost-share requirement entirely if a grant recipient is determined to experience significant financial hardship, in line with provisions in the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that included \$26 million of supplemental DRBRP funding.

"The Delaware River is a critical resource for our communities and local economies," said Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY). "As a proud co-founder [in 2021] of the bipartisan Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus, I am glad to help introduce this legislation supporting essential conservation programs. I will keep working with my colleagues to protect this great natural resource for decades to come."

Since 2018, DRBRP has provided \$26.2 million for 123 projects across the watershed.





**BIRD WATCH:** Rick Keyser searches for birds to count at the Wayne County property that hosted the 2021 Upper Delaware BioBlitz. (Photo by Chris Fischer)

## BioBlitz Identifies 727 Species

By Kerry Engelhardt, UDC

The biannual Upper Delaware BioBlitz persevered through a 2020 COVID postponement to return in 2021 with a different format that yielded some exciting new discoveries.

Traditionally, a “BioBlitz” consists of scientists and amateur naturalists on various species focus teams converging on a chosen site that contains diverse habitats.

Each team tries to identify as many species as possible in a 24-hour period. And then, after the cataloging is done, the public is invited to see the results and learn about the unique features of the site.

This time around, due to the pandemic, each team visited for a different 24-hour period – and the public, unfortunately, was not invited.



**SNAKE SPOTTED:** This immature Eastern Ribbonsnake found on site is a Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania. (Photo by Andy Weber, Aquatic Biologist, NPS Upper Delaware)

But although the participants missed out on the camaraderie (and competition!) between teams, there were some benefits. Teams were free to choose dates that served them best – the Fungi team, for example, chose to visit in September (usually the BioBlitz is held in the summer) and identified three times their usual count! And the Birds team chose to count in mid-May; the birds were in their breeding plumage and singing their mating songs, and the trees weren’t fully leafed out, which led to faster and better IDs.

The BioBlitz folks discovered 18 species never previously recorded in Wayne County, at the first BioBlitz location that was not directly adjacent to the Delaware River. The privately-owned Wayne County, PA site featured different habitats on its expansive 80+ acres, including a small headwater stream, and wetlands overlooking the river.

The BioBlitz used the iNaturalist app for the first time, which allowed the teams to view each others’ results as well as their own, even if they couldn’t gather in person.

The final counts were as follows: Birds, 80; Botany (plants), 158; Bryology (mosses, algae, lichens), 63; Fish, 0; Fungi (mushrooms & molds), 173; Herps (reptiles & amphibians), 18; Invertebrates (insects, worms, & snails), 230; and Mammals, 5; for a total of 727 species.

The entire catalog is available at [www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com](http://www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com).

## Passport to Your National Parks



Since 1986, national park visitors across the country have turned to the Passport To Your National Parks program to preserve cherished memories of their park travels by collecting ink cancellations at every national park they visit.

Locally, memories can be preserved by collecting three cancellation stamps available for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, including a special Junior Rangers passport for kids.

Two outdoor, handicapped-accessible, self-service stations await at NPS headquarters, 274 River Road, Beach Lake, PA 18405 and the Zane Grey Museum, 135 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen, PA 18435.

The stations are available to the visiting public any time of day and every day of the year. They are supplied with an ink pad, scrap paper, and the cancellation stamps.

Visit [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde) for trip planning.

## 2021 Weather Trends

2021 ended as the 5th warmest and 23rd wettest for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since 1895, according to the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network’s assessment.

They averaged weather data for the five NY-PA counties against the period of record (1895-2021). Annual average temperatures and precipitation both increased (by +0.22 degrees Fahrenheit and +0.47” per decade, respectively). Models estimate by 2100, average temperatures will increase by 3.2-9.5 degrees F. and there will be 7-14% more total precipitation.



## FUNDING, continued from Page 1

position in 7-8 years, despite no decrease in the workload to address the 57 broad tasks assigned to the UDC across every element of the River Management Plan.

"The results of not taking significant action is imminent dissolution," he said.

Crane acknowledged the efforts that the Council has made to appeal its stagnant federal funding and seek the anticipated state contributions.

However, he noted, "The National Park Service is not doing much better." If their 2021 budget of \$3.5 million had grown as fast as inflation, it would be \$4.1 million.

"The UDC and NPS are partners in managing the Upper Delaware River, each with unique and mutually supportive roles. For the UDC to request additional funds from the NPS under the existing policy structure of the River Management Plan is like digging a deeper well into a depleting aquifer. Both entities need a more sustainable funding source," he observed.

New York and Pennsylvania are voting UDC members with a vested interest in maintaining the river's water quality and coordinating management policies locally, yet they pay nothing for those services.

Crane further noted that the 13 local government members for whom the UDC provides a voice also pay nothing; in fact, they impose administrative costs on the Council which are not reimbursed.

### Operational Dissonance

Initially anticipating that he would be able to toss off a few suggestions for funding strategies to increase revenues and cost-savings measures to decrease expenses, Crane said his in-depth research suggested instead, "The problem is foundational. It's part of your organizational DNA."

"This report's central finding is that the UDC's day-to-day functions are misaligned with its intended purposes. In fact, its purposes and functions are working against each other in what is referred to as 'operational dissonance'. This operational dissonance is creating a threatening environment for both local governments and the National Park Service, and therefore pre-



**FISCAL PLAN:** Consultant Michael Crane, AICP, right, delivers his "Building a Sustainable Business Model for the Upper Delaware Council" report at the Dec. 2 UDC meeting. Pictured from the left are 2021 UDC Chairperson Jeff Dexter, NPS Superintendent Joe Salvatore, and UDC Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. (Contributed photo by the River Reporter)

vents the organization from having beneficiaries who value its services," he wrote.

Under the structure set up through Congressional legislation, the UDC plays sometimes conflicting roles of watchdog, buffer, intermediary, contracted project reviewer, advocate, and informant, but lacks any enforcement authority.

The UDC doesn't fit into the traditional non-profit organization mold in that the NPS controls how its \$300,000 budget will be spent, board members are appointed rather than recruited, its mission statement doesn't lend itself to tangible deliverables, and 44% of staff time is spent on administration of federal funding obligations and the work associated with holding approximately 50 meetings per year for the Council and its three standing committees.

Long-term, Crane proposed that the UDC explore models of a more independent, self-sustaining non-profit organization, a government agency, or an interstate commission - all of which would require rewriting the River Management Plan.

### Reactions and Actions

The UDC board firmly regards reopening the RMP as a non-starter. Reaching that compromise of cooperative management to retain local control took nearly 10 years of negotiations over 17 drafts.

"The development of the River Management Plan was fraught with high emotions and threats of violence. It was a very difficult chapter in our history and one that should not be repeated," Boyar reminded NYS Governor Kathy Hochul and PA Governor Tom Wolf in March 3 letters again seeking state operational funds.

"I'm convinced that the UDC is viable. We don't have an organizational problem. We have a funding problem. Our work is vastly underfunded," Boyar had reiterated at a Feb. 5 workshop convened to kick off ongoing discussions of the fiscal report.

Shohola Township Representative Aaron Robinson added, "I don't see the UDC as a fundraising organization. We need a predictability to our funding because we have ongoing management responsibilities. We're a legislatively-designated body but we can't get the money we need to perform those tasks. It's frustrating. We need a new strategy."

NYS Senator Mike Martucci on March 7 advocated for a \$100,000 NY budget line appropriation "to support the operations of the Upper Delaware Council by increasing its capacity to review zoning and land use developments, expand grant programs, and provide flexibility beyond the scope of their federal funds."

## Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org).

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*Working together to conserve the Upper  
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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) for specific meeting dates.

## Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

### NCSP Spring Training

The National Canoe Safety Patrol welcomes new volunteers interested in providing safety and rescue services on the Upper Delaware River, as their organization has been doing since 1979.

Spring training will be held April 30-May 1 in Barryville, NY. No experience is needed.

To learn more, visit [nationalcanoesafetypatrol.wordpress.com](http://nationalcanoesafetypatrol.wordpress.com) or email Larry at [juliuspalmer638@gmail.com](mailto:juliuspalmer638@gmail.com).

### Port Jervis Railroading

A Port Jervis Transportation Festival will be held May 28-30 at the Erie Turntable and Railyard on Pike Street to mark the grand opening of the Port Jervis Transportation History Center.

The Center, which will operate on a nearly 10-acre, city-owned parcel featuring full-size vintage boxcars, cabooses, engines, and the turntable, was created by four non-profits: the Tri-States Railway Preservation Society; Operation Toy Train; the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis; and Friends of Port Jervis Art & History.

Activities will include a chance to eat in

its 1949 Lackawanna Railroad dining car using original recipes and menus.

For tickets and more information, visit [pjthc.org](http://pjthc.org) or [diningcarsociety.org/events](http://diningcarsociety.org/events).

### DHC Culinary Experience

"Foods of the Delaware Highlands", a June 3 riverside culinary experience with live music and an auction, will benefit the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

It will be held outdoors at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA starting with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner prepared with seasonal ingredients from local farms. Tickets are \$150 each.

See the full DHC summer events calendar at [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org).

### Fort Delaware Reopens

The Delaware Company will reopen Sullivan County's Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History at 6615 State Route 97 in Narrowsburg on May 21 and offer a series of programs through the Bold Gold Media Speaker Series.

"Patriots and Loyalists" Weekend will be observed July 9-10, including reading aloud the Declaration of Independence fol-

lowed by the Tory response, and an appearance by Noah Lewis of Upper Darby, PA, depicting African American Revolutionary War soldier Ned Hector.

Visit [www.thedelawarecompany.org](http://www.thedelawarecompany.org).

### \$2 Million DEC Grant

The Town of Delaware was awarded a \$2 million Climate Smart Communities Grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to build a new wastewater treatment plant.

The current facility has reached the end of its useful life and was constructed in what is now recognized as a floodplain.

The plant will be relocated to a recently purchased 5-acre parcel along Creamery Road in Callicoon.

### OSI Watershed Loans

The Open Space Institute has created a Delaware River Watershed Revolving Fund to provide short-term, low-cost loans to accelerate land protection and restoration, develop trails, and support environmental education centers, capitalized by \$2.6 million from the William Penn Foundation. Search for: DRWRF.