

The Upper Delaware

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

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SUMMIT STATEMENT: Upper Delaware Council 2023 Chairperson Aaron Robinson (Shohola Township), flanked by Vice-Chair Virginia Dudko (Town of Deerpark) and Secretary/Treasurer Al Henry (Berlin Township), warned that the organization is “running on fumes” due to its flat federal funding and no PA or NY operating aid since 1988 at the Feb. 23 State and Federal Partnership Summit held at the UDC office and recorded virtually. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Upper Delaware Council Pursues Funding Changes as Clock Ticks

A first-ever Upper Delaware Council State and Federal Partnership Summit took place Feb. 23 to sound the alarm about the organization’s funding crisis.

2023 Chairperson Aaron Robinson explained the history and objectives.

“I particularly chose the word ‘partnership’ for a reason. We are partners not only because it is a convenient way to describe our relationship.

“We are partners by virtue of a 1978 legislative Act of Congress that designated 73.4 miles of the majestic Upper Delaware River Corridor as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. I would say that the UDC, Federal Government and the States of NY & PA are joined at the hip, legislatively. And only another Act of Congress can separate us.

“This 55,574-acre corridor incorporates 2 State boundaries, 5 County borders and 15 municipal divisions. The legislation called for the development of a management plan based on a formal partnership of local, state and federal governments to collectively manage and administer the Upper

**“Unless our partners fulfill their funding obligation as stated in the RMP, it will be the end of the road for a functional UDC in 5 years or less.”
~ UDC Chairperson Aaron Robinson**

Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

“As a component of the RMP, the Upper Delaware Council was formed in 1988 to retain local control, alleviate the threat of eminent domain by the Federal Government, and protect the river through the cooperative efforts of local governments, the states and federal agencies.

“What sets this River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the resources on their own private property, as opposed to federal ownership of the land in the river corridor. Private property remains private. This structure not only preserves an exceptional natural resource for the public to enjoy but, as we will discuss later, is an enormous revenue producer that keeps this

See **FUNDING** on page 5

Upper Delaware Profile: Lindsey Kurnath

With 15 years of federal government experience including deputy and acting National Park Service superintendent details on both the West and East coasts, Lindsey Kurnath had her eye on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

"The Upper Delaware was always on my radar as interesting. I am naturally a collaborative partnership person. In this cooperative management realm, when a team really comes together to get consensus and you get that energy behind building relationships, I love that," she says.

Effective Jan. 15, 2023, Kurnath became the eighth permanent superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) since the unit's 1978 designation.

She came to UPDE from Fire Island National Seashore, where Kurnath served as deputy superintendent since Nov. 2020 and was acting superintendent for four months in early 2022.

Prior positions included Chief of Administration and Business at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state from 2016-2020 that included two deputy superintendent details. Her tenure was recognized with a Department of the Interior Honor Award for Superior Service.

She had Management Analyst roles at the Pacific West Regional Office in 2018 focused on improving workforce management functions after being based in Washington, D.C. from 2010-2016. Accomplishments there included redesigning the National Park Service Scorecard, which is an internal performance metrics tool used in all parks across the country.

Kurnath pivoted to the National Park Service in 2010 after working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an environmental scientist with the Office of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. for two years.

She had been accepted as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2008 during which she had a six-month assignment with the Council on Environmental Quality's Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, tasked with "greening" government initiatives under President Obama's term.

Kurnath grew up in Rochester, NY and originally planned to follow in her father's footsteps to become a physician.



**Lindsey R. Kurnath, Superintendent,
National Park Service Upper Delaware
Scenic and Recreational River**

After embarking on pre-med courses at Boston College where she earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology, she found that her minor in environmental studies was compelling her career choice.

Add to that her love of exploring the great outdoors which her parents instilled in their three kids as well as engaging in community service such as her volunteerism with Habitat for Humanity, Kurnath worked odd jobs in Boston for a year before heading to Duke University in Durham, NC where she earned Master's degrees in Environmental Management and Public Policy.

Internships with the EPA focused on pesticide risk assessment, with the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund, and a summer spent in Geneva, Switzerland working with the World Health Association fueled her desire to contribute to society by joining the federal government ranks.

After residing in the nation's capital for eight years working with the NPS Business Management Group analyzing data for the 423 national park units, she enjoyed moving to Tacoma for all the opportunities that Mount Rainier offered.

But having spent so many memorable summer family vacations in Cape Cod, the East Coast seashore of Fire Island headquartered in Patchogue, NY beckoned to her when a vacancy opened. That boundary encompasses 26 miles of the 32-mile barrier island, encircling more than 4,200 privately owned homes in 17 communities and involving seven layers of jurisdiction.

The Upper Delaware boundary has 55,574.5 acres of land surrounding a 73.4-mile-long river with 15 communities in 5 counties and two states.

Kurnath faced an unusual challenge of coming into the position without guidance

Please see KURNATH on Page 4

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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.

2023 Officers

Chairperson.....Aaron I. Robinson
Vice-Chairperson.....Virginia Dudko
Secretary/Treasurer.....Alan F. Henry

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Timothy Newman, Alternate

Fremont.....James Greier
Brian Brustman, Alternate

Delaware.....Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
Alternate-vacant

Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson
Sean Nearing, Alternate

Tusten.....Evan Padua
Susan Sullivan, Alternate

Highland.....Andrew Boyar
Alternate-vacant

Lumberland.....Nadia Rajsz
Frank Guzman, Alternate

Deerpark.....Virginia Dudko
Bill Dudko, Alternate

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Steven Adams, Joseph Canfield &
Scott Rutledge, Alternates

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Paul Henry, Alternate

Lackawaxen.....Doug Case
Alternate-vacant

Shohola.....Aaron Robinson
Roger Saumure, 1st Alternate
Patricia Jeffer, 2nd Alternate

Westfall.....Michael Barth
Alternate-vacant

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Alternate-vacant

Pennsylvania.....Timothy Dugan, DCNR
Christine Detorre, DCNR, Alternate

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Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Deputy Director

Partner

National Park Service..Gay Vietzke, Director,
North Atlantic-Appalachian Region 1;
Lindsey Kurnath, Superintendent, UDS&RR

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Kerry Engelhardt

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UDC Elects 2023 Officers

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) board elected Aaron Robinson to serve as its 2023 chairperson at the January 5 annual meeting, with Shohola Township Board of Supervisors Chairperson Gregory Hoeper swearing him in along with Vice-Chairperson Ginny Dudko and Secretary-Treasurer Al Henry on February 2.

2023 board roster changes include the retirement of Highland alternate James Gutekunst, Tusten's Susan Sullivan and Evan Padua switching roles as representative and alternate, and the replacement of Fremont alternate Pamela Reinhardt with Supervisor Brian Brustman.

Chairperson

This marks Robinson's second tenure as chairperson, having served that role in 2018 and vice-chair last year.

Shohola Township appointed Robinson on Jan. 3, 2012 as its 2nd UDC alternate, became the 1st alternate in 2015, and took over as representative in 2016.

Robinson graduated from Eldred High School in 1973 after his family made the permanent move from New York City to river-side property in Barryville in 1969.

He earned an accelerated 1976 degree in Agricultural and Life Sciences from Cornell University in Ithaca.

Robinson has long been active in river valley issues, starting as the 18-year-old secretary-treasurer of Catskill Waters, whose work prompted New York City to settle a lawsuit out-of-court to compel more balanced reservoir releases in support of the Delaware River fishery.

In 1975, he researched and composed a 34-page booklet titled, "White Water Boating on the Upper Delaware River: A Guide to Canoeing, Kayaking and Camping", and then produced a two-section set of "Recreation Maps of the Upper Delaware River" over the next year which he also self-published and sold.

After working for Jerry's Three River Canoes, Robinson at the age of 21 bought a business in Barryville that became Robinson's Sawmill which he successfully operated for 24 years and has two international patents for wood-related equipment.

For 25 years, Aaron and his wife Randy have lived along the Shohola Creek in Shohola Township, PA, where he manages an 800-acre timber stand and Firewood-on-Time, a business for which he cuts, splits, and delivers firewood. The couple are the parents of a son and a daughter.

Robinson has served on the Shohola Township Planning Commission since 2009, is a trustee and cemetery manager



USHERING IN NEW YEAR: Gathered at the Feb. 2, 2023 Upper Delaware Council meeting were, seated, Vice-Chair Ginny Dudko (Deerpark), Chairperson Aaron Robinson (Shohola), and Secretary/Treasurer Al Henry (Berlin). Standing from the left: Jeff Dexter (Damascus), Roger Saumure (Shohola), Lindsey Kurnath (National Park Service), Bill Dudko (Deerpark), Tim Dugan (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), Frank Guzman (Lumberland), Mike Barth (Westfall), Larry Richardson (Cochection), Harold Roeder, Jr. (Delaware), Doug Case (Lackawaxen), Jim Greier (Fremont) and Andy Boyar (Highland). Participating by Zoom were Ryan Coulter (State of New York), Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Delaware River Basin Commission), Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland), and Fred Peckham (Hancock), while Evan Padua (Tusten) was absent. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

for Temple Beth-El Synagogue in Port Jervis, and is a retired trustee of the New York Lumberman's Insurance Trust Fund.

He is a former member of the Highland Zoning Board of Appeals and the Eldred Central School Board of Education.

Vice-Chairperson

"Ginny" Dudko is serving her first term as a UDC officer after being appointed on October 17, 2011 as an alternate for the Town of Deerpark, then becoming its voting delegate in January 2022.

She was elected to chair the Water Use/Resource Management Committee again this year.

Dudko carries on a family legacy of UDC service, given that her father Lew Schmalzle was the Town of Highland Representative for 12 years and she often accompanied him to meetings.

The Minisink Ford, NY native is a 1968 graduate of Eldred Central School who earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Oneonta in 1972 and Master's degree in the same field from SUNY Cortland three years later.

Dudko taught Kindergarten in her home school district from 1972-2002 before retiring, then resumed her time in pre-K through 6th grade classrooms as a volunteer and substitute teacher in 2004.

She also began representing the Town of Deerpark on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee in 2011, filling the vice-chair office in 2021 and switching to that board's alternate position last year.

Dudko serves on the Town of Deerpark Board of Assessment Review, the Bon Secours Hospital Ethics Board, is active with the Pond Eddy United Methodist Church, and belongs to the women's edu-

cational society, Delta Kappa Gamma.

Ginny and her husband since 1972, Bill, live on a 30-acre property behind the NYS Route 97 Hawk's Nest in Sparrowbush.

Secretary/Treasurer

"Al" Henry was appointed by the Berlin Township Board of Supervisors as its UDC delegate on Jan. 3, 2012.

He chaired the Council in 2015 after having served as its secretary/treasurer from Aug. 1-Dec. 31, in 2013, 2014, and consecutively for the past eight years from 2016-2023. He sits on all three UDC standing committees, chairs its Personnel Subcommittee, and is a member of the Telecommunications and Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee.

A native of Beach Lake, PA, Henry was employed by the National Park Service for 32 years, all but three years of that tenure with the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, before retiring on June 1, 2009 as Chief Ranger.

The Honesdale High School graduate earned a 1976 Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Parks from Penn State University and studied Outdoor Education at the University of Northern Colorado before joining the NPS ranks in 1977.

In addition to extensive law enforcement credentials, Henry earned certification as an NAUI Divemaster, served as a volunteer firefighter, and coached baseball and soccer locally.

Henry helps maintain his family's 300-acre Village View Farm property in Beach Lake and is a member of the Beach Lake Hunting and Fishing Club.

Al and his wife, Karen Carlson, are the parents of Dr. Alana Rickard and Dylan Henry, Esq. They have four grandchildren.

from a predecessor after UPDE Superintendent Joseph A. Salvatore passed away on July 27, 2022 at the age of 53. He had served in that role since Dec. 20, 2020.

Kurnath credits the “exceptional, talented and dedicated” employees at UPDE for keeping operations running smoothly during the trying times of COVID-19 and the unexpected loss of their leader.

“I want to be a stabilizing force for the staff and our partners,” she says.

Kurnath attended her first Upper Delaware Council (UDC) meeting on Feb. 2, saying that she is eager to work together as she continues to listen and learn.

“I felt very welcomed by all of you. This cooperative management is a really interesting model and everyone is at the table for a reason. It helps to get the full picture of everybody’s ideas and issues in order to make the best decisions,” she says.

Kurnath gets satisfaction in helping to organize workplaces and develop creative solutions. That’s why she was enthused over an assignment last August through December to serve full-time on the Partnerships & Civic Engagement Directorate to recommend improvements in how NPS manages the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant program following the significant increase in available funds from the Great American Outdoors Act’s 2020 passage.

“Whatever team I’m on, one of my superpowers is identifying opportunities for things to work better. I like to think, and hope, that makes the team, office, park, or relationship stronger,” she notes.

While she had only driven through the Upper Delaware area previously, she finds solace in its geography and happily just bought a house in Damascus Township, PA, saying, “These towns feel like home and what I’m used to. The vibe feels very similar. I’m looking forward to exploring the area.”

A lot of that will be with her dog, Kautz, (named after a Mount Rainier glacier).

The 40-year-old who was on her school’s cross-country running, Nordic skiing, and track teams continues to enjoy athletic pursuits as an avid hiker, cyclist, rock climber, skier, kayaker, paddleboarder, and a prior spinning instructor.

She looks forward to planting and tending a large vegetable garden and using some of what she grows in her kitchen with her love of cooking and baking.

Kurnath also makes time to visit her family in Rochester and Colorado, and travels to see friends around the country as well as exploring other cultures internationally.

“I have an adventurous spirit,” she agrees. “I love being out in the field and am really enjoying the diversity of this job.”

Brush Up on 3rd Litter Sweep

Volunteers and sponsors are needed for the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep that will take place in every Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor community starting on Earth Day, April 22, and running through April 30.

Participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt; supplies to use including safety equipment, bags, and pickers; and disposal information for their collected trash.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) will work with designated Litter Leaders in the Towns of Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cocheton, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, and Deerpark (NY); and Buckingham, Manchester, Damascus, Berlin, Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall Townships (PA) to coordinate a series of land-based clean-ups.

Anyone willing to help provide labor or services, please contact Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org or (845) 252-3022 to provide their contact information and where in the river valley they would like to focus.

The appropriate Litter Leader for that community team will then reach out to confirm local pick-up dates, locations, and other arrangements.

Please note that the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep is wholly funded by donations from partners, businesses, and those who love the river corridor. The UDC provides administrative support services.

Needs include ordering approximately



300 safety-colored t-shirts with a fun new turtle logo designed by Maggie Clauss from Platform Industries Custom Screen Printing of Honesdale, PA for volunteer team building; advertising; and purchase of litter pick-up equipment and supplies.

Individual and business sponsors at \$50 or more who contribute by April 15 will be recognized in UDC publicity outreach, including our next newsletter.

The Sullivan County Legislature awarded a \$1,000 Discretionary Contract grant.

Donations via credit card may be made through a “Donate Now” button on the UDC website’s home page. Mail checks to: UDC, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, indicating “2023 Litter Sweep.”

Delaware River Sojourn: Running Free

This summer’s Delaware River Sojourn will be the 28th annual. The theme is “Running Free,” referencing the Delaware River’s status as the longest undammed river in the United States east of the Mississippi.

The paddling and camping excursion takes place over eight days on June 16-23. This year the Sojourn will focus on the Upper and Middle stretches of the Delaware River.

There are three Upper Delaware paddling days, plus a river cleanup on Friday, June 16. Participants can camp at Northeast Wilderness Experience in Equinunk, PA.

Kayakers and canoers will launch in Hancock, NY on Saturday, June 17, paddling 5 to 13 river miles each day to reach Callicoon, PA on Monday, June 19. (Campers will be shuttled to and from the campground each afternoon after paddling). Then the Sojourn shifts to the Middle Delaware section of the river, starting in Dingmans, PA on Tuesday June 20, and finally concluding in Phillipsburg, New Jersey on Friday, June 23.

Meals are provided each day, as well as evening programs about history, ecology, and local issues. Boats are available to rent, or paddlers can bring their own. Participants can choose to camp with the Sojourn, find a local place to stay, or just join the paddling for the day. Experienced volunteers from the National Canoe Safety Patrol will be on hand to lead safety talks each day and guide the group down the river.

This year, the Sojourn is recognizing 1,000-mile paddlers! Some paddlers have been participating for years and have been really racking up those river miles, and we’re happy to acknowledge their amazing accomplishment!

The Sojourn is an amazing and unique way to really get to know the Delaware River, and make some like-minded friends in the process! Registration is \$100 for ages 16 and over and \$70 for youth, plus a mandatory American Canoe Association insurance fee of \$10 (one time) for non-ACA members. Visit delawariversojourn.com to register. ~ By **Kerry Engelhardt, UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist**

Round-up of Presentations to the UDC

December 1, 2022

A “3D Visualization of Land Use in the Upper Delaware Corridor” presentation was given by Dr. Claire Jantz and Alfonso Yanez Morillo from the Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University, introduced by Sharon Davis, the Delaware River program manager of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) which subsidized the project.

The modeling tool they created shows what full build-out to existing zoning might look like in the future, using Lackawaxen Township, PA and Town of Tusten, NY as representative communities.

3D maps enable using topography and landscape elements based on LiDAR data.

January 5, 2023

David Yoxtheimer, Ph.D., P.G., assistant research professor and Extension association with the Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research at Penn State University, presented “Water Resource and Environmental Considerations with Shale Gas Development in the Appalachian Basin.”

Marcellus is one of the largest shale gas basins in the world with an estimated 500 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas spanning across the Southern Tier of New York through much of northern and western PA into Ohio and down through western West Virginia. There have been around 13,000 natural gas wells drilled in PA in both the Marcellus and Utica shale plays.

Dr. Yoxtheimer reviewed the phases of shale energy water management, the



NO BAD FISHING DAYS: Pennsylvania Director of Outdoor Recreation Nathan Reigner, Ph.D., addresses the UDC board at their March 2 meeting. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

potential environmental risks for each, and how they are managed.

March 2, 2023

“The Tree of Outdoor Recreation” was the topic for Nathan Reigner, Ph.D., Pennsylvania’s Director of Outdoor Recreation working under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The social scientist reported that the Commonwealth’s outdoor industry generated \$13.6 billion worth of value in 2021, creating 152,000 jobs and elevating PA as the sixth largest outdoor recreation econo-

my in the United States.

The tree of outdoor recreation bears the fruits of economic, community, health, and environmental benefits as well as contributing to green infrastructure.

“It can be built into our lives in all kinds of different ways. Outdoor recreation connects us and builds a sense of shared community,” Reigner said.

These presentations are typically available to watch as recordings on the UDC’s YouTube channel, with copies of Power Point slides available upon request.



ZOOMING IN: Participating remotely in the UDC’s Feb. 23 Summit were, bottom left, U.S. Senator John Fetterman’s (PA) Deputy State Director Emilee Joseph; Sullivan County Democrat editor Derek Kirk, center; UDC Shohola Township alternate Roger Saumure, top; NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther; and Hancock Herald reporter Kristin Barron. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

FUNDING, continued from Page 1

area economically viable.

“To quote the RMP, ‘the purpose of the Upper Delaware Council is to ensure the effective implementation of the plan and oversee its administration on a continuing basis, utilizing the existing authority of its members who will work together in the cooperative fashion envisioned by P.L. 90-542 as amended by Section 704 of P.L. 95-625. The Council must be the driving force behind this plan; it must maintain an active presence in the river valley, and it must be the primary entity through which local, state, and federal agencies resolve their differences and agree upon joint actions affecting the river valley’.

“The RMP sets out well defined responsibilities for each of the plan’s partners. By design, the UDC has the most diverse and complex set of tasks ranging from the review of projects and zoning within the river corridor to evaluating water safety and assisting in efforts to preserve its rich local history.

“In 2021, 269,810 visitors came to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor to boat, camp, eat, and explore our unique areas. They spent \$13.3 million that supported 128 jobs with a \$6.9 million payroll. That generated approximately \$800,000 in sales tax between the 2 states. And the trend is self-evident. This is a 6.5% increase in the number of visitors and a 23% increase in spending since 2017.

“Although the RMP specified the scope and sources of the funding of the UDC by its partners, neither New York nor Pennsylvania have

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Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-November 2022 to mid-March 2023, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee continued to meet monthly to develop criteria to guide the review of cell tower projects and ordinances in the river corridor. A first draft position paper was introduced at the Feb. 2 meeting and further refined on Mar. 2. When ready, it will be distributed for public review.

SELECT LETTERS

The UDC agreed on 11/22 to sign on to a letter sent to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul by the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed requesting the reappropriation of a \$300,000 (or more) line item in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget through the Environmental Protection Fund, as first established in April 2022.

Welcome letters were sent to 7 newly elected federal and state legislators representing the Upper Delaware region, and appreciation letters to retired NYS Senator Mike Martucci and PA Rep. Mike Peifer.

3/7 letters on the subject of "Flaws and Remedy to Federal Funding of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan" were sent via certified mail to U.S. Senators Schumer-NY, Gillibrand-NY, Fetterman-PA, and Casey-PA, and Representatives Molinaro-NY, Ryan-NY, and Cartwright-PA.

Letters to the Editor were sent to two local newspapers on 3/10 and 3/17 to express appreciation for pro-UDC New York funding efforts by Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Robert Doherty and NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther.

Support letters for Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grants were provided by the 3/16 application deadline to the Town of Tusten for an Open Space Plan and Delaware River Basin Commission for its proposal entitled "Water Quality Research to Benefit Humans and Habitat."

RIVER ACCESSES

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (future property owner of the Ten Mile River Access in the Town of Tusten) and The Conservation Fund (current holder) agreed to consider the UDC's proposal to construct a low-profile, concrete, segmented ramp to facilitate boat launching at the silt-prone site as part of the management plan that will be put out for public review. It's expected that the property transfer will take two years, during which time the access remains open.

A 12/13 site visit at the Highland Access took place to monitor the grant-funded improvements that are underway along NYS Rt. 97 with oversight by Sullivan



VISITOR CENTER: New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, left, whose 51st District now includes the Towns of Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, and Lumberland in the Upper Delaware River Valley, took a March 6th tour of the Callicoon Depot in the Town of Delaware that will house the future Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) Visitor Center after the 1896 Erie Railroad station under lease to the Callicoon Business Association is historically renovated. UDSB Chairperson Richard Lowe III from the Village of Hancock, center, and UDSB Program Manager John Pizzolato of Barryville talked about the plans in the old passenger waiting room and ticketing office. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

County. Construction work shut down on 12/22 and will resume in April.

A NYS DEC conceptual plan to improve the Long Eddy River Access owned by the Town of Fremont is currently under review.

INTERSTATE BRIDGES

Skinnners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA: A third meeting of the Project Advisory Committee was held on 1/19 under the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study that has been underway since Feb. 2021 after the 1902 bridge was closed to all traffic on 10/16/19 on an emergency basis.

PennDOT and its consultants reviewed a Coordination Plan for Public and Agency Involvement (for which the UDC's request to be elevated from a stakeholder to a Participating Agency was denied by the FHWA) and the study schedule, which includes releasing a Phase I Alternatives Assessment in Fall 2023 and Phase II in

early 2024, simultaneous to completion of a Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis.

A second public meeting is projected for Winter 2024 with another survey and comment period to follow.

Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA: PennDOT will replace the steel deck with a concrete deck and new sidewalks with some substructure repairs, installation of new expansion joints, and painting the entire bridge. Construction will start in Summer 2024 and extend to 2025, with no disruption in traffic expected.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Lackawaxen Township - Substantial Conformance Review 2022-11: Zoning Ordinance amendment to add Boat, Golf Cart & RV Storage/Winterization Businesses as a conditional use in certain zoning districts; UDC recommended on 2/2; NPS

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HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

requested additional information on 3/16.
Town of Highland - Short-Term Rental permitting consultations; 1/26 letter to Michael Sussman, Esq., re: Camp FIMFO review; and ongoing FIMFO research.

Shohola Township - Attended meetings for a Conditional Use electronic recycling and storage facility proposed business.

DRBC - Docket for Sun NG Kittatinny RV LLC (Camp FIMFO Catskills); campground upgrade will generate 29,080 GPD of wastewater to be disposed through 9 existing and 16 proposed septic systems.

Town of Cochecton - Comprehensive Plan Supplement approved by Town Board on 2/8, raising no UDC comments.

Lackawaxen Township - Substantial Conformance Review 2023-01 for a Masthope Plank Road home construction 128' from river's edge, approved at 3/2 UDC.

Pike County - Participated in a 2/9 Resource Management and Future Land Use Focus Group for the Comprehensive Plan update being prepared for Spring 2024.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2023-01 (1/5): Authorizing Signatories for UDC Bank Accounts in 2023; -02 (1/5): Reaffirming UDC's Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy for 2023 (annual training occurred at 2/2 UDC meeting); -03 (2/2), Approving Contract with Eckersley and Davis LLP for FY 2023 Financial Review.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

In addition to numerous natural and cultural resource and event-oriented committee liaison roles, UDC staff attended a series of meetings to initiate development of a Neversink Watershed Management Plan; these webinars: 11/9 - Outdoor Regional Economy; 1/18 - Our Shared Waters (DRBC); and 2/14 - Powerful Advocacy Tips for 501(c)(3) Organizations; and contributed information for a series of railroad-related emergency response planning articles in the River Reporter.

NPS PERSONNEL

Two key employees at the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River were recognized by the UDC with commendation letters upon departing in January for new jobs.

Community and Land Use Planner Cody Hendrix held that position since Dec. 7, 2020 before moving on to join the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Reclamation in Billings, MT.

Administrative Officer Michelle Blockberger worked at UPDE since December 2013. She started a new position with the northeast NPS Regional Office.

A new UPDE Natural Resources biologist, Michelle Stevens, started work 1/29.

The UPDE Acting Superintendent detail for Kara Deutsch that began Sept. 25, 2022 was completed on Jan. 21.



TUSTEN MAP: Susan Sullivan, right, presented the Town of Tusten's river corridor map at the Dec. 13, 2022 board meeting to (from left to right): Councilman Gregg Triggs, Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, Supervisor Ben Johnson, and Councilmen Kevin McDonough and Bruce Gettel. (Photo courtesy of Liam Mayo, River Reporter)

Maps Show River Corridor Boundaries

By Kerry Engelhardt

Where exactly is the river corridor? How can one tell whether a property is located within it?

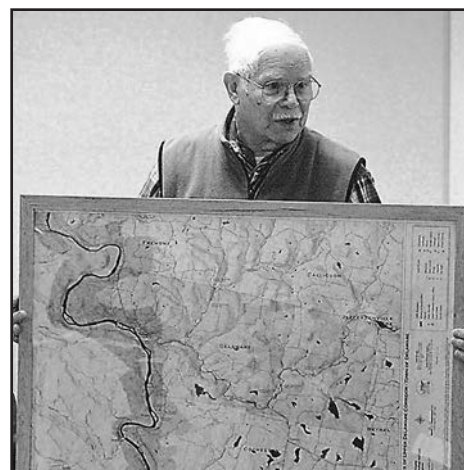
The concept of the boundary of the river corridor is that it runs from "ridge to ridge" and includes all areas that drain directly into the Upper Delaware River, from the confluence of the East and West branches of the Delaware in Hancock, to its terminus at the railroad bridge slightly downstream from Cherry Island near Mill Rift.

The original boundary established in the 1978 Upper Delaware legislation encompassed approximately 86,000 acres. That was adjusted when the River Management Plan was adopted in 1986 to 55,574.5 acres. In 2015, the Lackawaxen Township boundary was adjusted to remove 425 acres that were erroneously included.

All of that can cause confusion! To assist local officials and residents of our member municipalities, the UDC, at the behest of the Project Review Committee, has been soliciting maps of each member municipality from their respective County GIS Departments. The five counties (Delaware, Sullivan, Orange in NY; Wayne and Pike in PA) have been extremely helpful and responsive in this project.

Each township is receiving a 24" x 36" framed map of the entire municipality depicting parcel boundaries and the official outline of the Upper

HANCOCK: UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie, 2nd from right, presented the Town of Hancock's map to Delaware County Planning Department Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett, Supervisor Jerry Vernold, center, and Councilman Pat O'Brien on Jan. 31. (Photo courtesy of Kristin Barron, Hancock Herald)



DELAWARE: Harold G. Roeder, Jr. gifted the Town of Delaware's map at the town board's Dec. 14 meeting. (Photo courtesy of Derek Kirk, Sullivan County Democrat)

Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Now planning board members, as well as residents visiting their town or township halls, can refer to a clear and unambiguous map to see whether a particular property is located within the river corridor, and therefore subject to the requirements of the River Management Plan.

PDFs of the maps will be posted to the UDC website as well, for convenient online access from home.



D&H Bus Tour Planned May 20

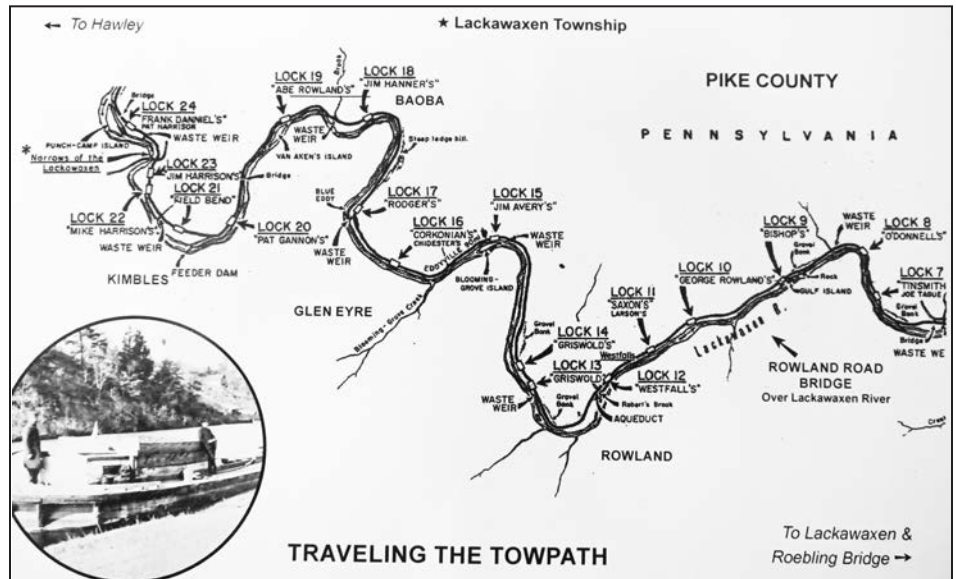
The D&H Transportation Heritage Council will host a historic bus tour from Port Jervis to Phillipsport, NY on May 20.

The tour will start at 10 a.m. and make multiple stops en route to Phillipsport to explore locks, abutments, a telegraph house, and other canal era features, with an expected 3 p.m. return to Port Jervis.

The cost is \$55 per person and includes the transportation, guided narration, and lunch. At the end of the tour, a DVD produced by DHTHC about this section of the 1828-1898 canal will be available for purchase at \$10.

"Our previous tours have been very enjoyable as well as educational," says DHTHC Vice-President and bus tour coordinator Cliff Robinson, Jr.

To reserve seats on the bus, please contact DHTHC Secretary Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or laurie@upperdelaware-council.org. Details including rendezvous location and advance payment instructions will be shared upon confirmation in early April of the bus tour's viability.



D&H 200TH: Milestones of the Delaware & Hudson Canal will be commemorated in a multi-year series of 200th anniversary events, including a kick-off held in Rowland, PA on March 12 to mark the March 13, 1823 date that the Pennsylvania Legislature voted to "canalize" the Lackawaxen River, thereby providing the PA route for the D&H Canal. The Lackawaxen River Conservancy, Rowland Cooperative, and D&H Transportation Heritage Council sponsored a history talk by Kenny Christianson, canal music by Dan Engvaldsen, and exhibits including this map which shows Locks 7-24 along Towpath Road from Kimbles to Rowland running parallel to "the Lack" in Pike County. Many canal remnants and lock houses can still be seen along the route today. Construction of the canal began on July 13, 1825. The first "test run" aboard the canal boat Orange Packet occurred on October 16, 1828 from Rondout, NY to Honesdale, PA to transport anthracite coal. (Contributed image)

FUNDING, continued from 5

ever delivered. The UDC has only received annual funding from the NPS, fixed at the grossly deficient 35-year-old level of \$300,000.

"That \$300,000 funded in 1988 has the purchasing power of \$116,645 today. It doesn't take an accountant to realize that the UDC is running on fumes.

"We like to talk about sustainability. It's a catchword that we can all relate to. In this instance, environmental sustainability of the Upper Delaware corridor directly translates to the financial sustainability of the UDC. Now here is the SHOCKER. Unless our partners fulfill their funding obligation as stated in the RMP, it will be the end of the road for a functional UDC in 5 years or less!

"Why fund the UDC? Let me count the ways: 1. We are a Congressionally mandated organization that by current law must continue to exist to fulfill its duties.

2. The RMP contains no provision for an alternative organization to assume the responsibilities and role of the UDC, particularly as it relates to its member towns.

3. Should the UDC become dysfunctional, it will destroy the entire structure of this highly successful unique partnership and undo the confidence that member towns have in the plan. It could very well replace the uniform environmental objectives of the RMP with its prior fragmented past.

4. Our Partners understand the purpose

of the UDC and intended to fund it from the onset.

5. The UDC has a 35-year track record of fulfilling its mandated responsibilities. Without question, it is time-tested.

6. The UDC is 100% transparent in all aspects of its operations and finances.

7. The UDC has provided uninterrupted certified audits of its finances.

8. Unlike many other funded organizations, there is no risk of a lack of performance or the squandering of public funds.

9. The UDC has exceptional staff and needs to retain them for the long term.

10. The UDC has been and is 100% trustworthy.

11. The UDC is the ONLY representative of member towns and townships in this partnership.

12. Funding the UDC is cost-neutral. As previously cited, the area provides an indisputable return on investment with its economic activity, generating many hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in sales tax revenue.

"How is this funding deficiency resolved? State funding must be immediately provided through a recurring line item commitment. In 1988, the plan presented a budget amount of \$100,000 from each State. This 1988 base funding level must be adjusted up by the CPI rate of change for the 35-year period. Federal funding must likewise be adjusted by the CPI over the

35-year period that the \$300,000 was first agreed to.

"What happens if funding is not realized by our Partners? Since the UDC is a legislatively mandated organization that is expected to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in the RMP, the organization would have no alternative and be compelled to seek relief any way possible, not excluding some form of litigation.

"It is our sincere hope that the irreplaceable value of the UDC is acknowledged and the funding that was intended 35 years ago is quickly appropriated," Chairperson Robinson said.

Taking up the cause on the NYS level is Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, who personally attended the summit, reviewed her prior efforts to secure UDC operational aid, and offered to set up a meeting with the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee that was being scheduled at press time.

U.S. Senator John Fetterman's PA and Washington, D.C. staff has taken an active interest as well in directly reaching out.

The UDC sent letters dated March 7 to its 7 Congressional representatives outlining a potential new mechanism to fund the UDC through a direct line-item appropriation by the U.S. Department of the Interior rather than coming through the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's budget. Reaction to that concept will be explored in the next issue.

Hancock Opens High-Speed EV Charging Hub

The Town of Hancock is now the site of the largest open-access, high-speed Electric Vehicle (EV) charging hub in the Southern Tier region.

New York State Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, New York Power Authority (NYPA) Acting CEO Justin E. Driscoll, Town of Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold, Hancock Partners, Inc. Director of Regional & Economic Development Richard Lowe III, and Geraldine Walsh, representing the conveniently adjacent Hancock Hounds Dog Park, helped cut the ribbon on January 31.

“Hancock is an innovative community and they have embraced a clean energy future by installing this charging bank in a centrally located area where residents or those passing through can conveniently charge electric vehicles,” Lt. Gov. Delgado said. “When I represented Hancock at the federal level, it was an honor to work in partnership to build a more sustainable future. Today, as Lieutenant Governor, I couldn’t be more proud of the town’s commitment to a cleaner environment and a clean energy economy.”

The hub includes eight EVolveNY universal charging ports installed by NYPA and eight Tesla Supercharger ports. They can charge most EV batteries in as little as 20 minutes and help alleviate ‘range anxiety’.

“Hancock is proud to be part of the EVolve NY program,” said Supervisor Vernold. “We have already seen dozens of EVs utilizing the station over the holidays.



ELECTRIFYING: New York State Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado asked the crowd how he did driving in to officially open the EV charging station located behind the Hancock Town Hall at 661 West Main St. off Interstate 86 and Route 17. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

During two snowstorms many were grateful for a safe place to charge that didn’t see them stranded in the cold and truly allowed us to better look out for our residents and neighbors.”

The chosen Hancock site once hosted

oil tanks owned by John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company. Development of the hub took 18 months.

Future plans to complement the new dog park usage include installation of vending machines and a community garden.

Federal Boost for Delaware River Funding

The 2023 federal budget included \$11.5 million for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP), a \$1 million increase approved in the omnibus spending plan legislation.

The program advances local projects that mitigate flooding, preserve ecologically sensitive areas, and improve outdoor access across the watershed in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

The boost is on top of \$5.2 million appropriated annually through 2026 thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which President Biden signed in November 2021.

Since 2018, the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant program created by the DRBRP has awarded \$40.4 million to 159 projects, which generated \$59.7 million in local matching funding.

PA State Game Lands Add Acreage

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded \$195,100 to the Nature Conservancy to acquire about 130 acres in Shohola Township that will be added to PA State Game Lands to conserve the ecosystem and protect it from development.

With funding partners including the PA Game Commission and Open Space Institute, the private non-profit conservancy acquired 1,071 acres downstream from Shohola Lake, including more than a mile of frontage on Shohola Creek as well as six tributary streams. The property includes a habitat area for several plant and animal species of concern known as Bald Hill. The new parcel links State Games Lands 116 and 180 together to create a 43-mile corridor of public land. The Nature Conservancy immediately transferred ownership to the PA Game Commission.



TALKING TOURISM: The New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association held its 2023 Catskills Legislative Networking Breakfast on Feb. 10 at Bernie’s Holiday Restaurant in Rock Hill, with NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (100th District) and U.S. Representative Marc Molinaro (19-NY) among the speakers. She pledged to make sure appropriate legislation and policies are in place to support tourism as the economic backbone of this region while Congressman Molinaro remarked on how the industry is rebounding after the pandemic, noting, “We are all tourists. Tourism is the story of us.” (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

National Park Service Weighs in on Camp FIMFO

By Kerry Engelhardt

The proposed Camp FIMFO Catskills project in the Town of Highland, NY continues to be a topic of discussion in the Upper Delaware region.

Located at the former Kittatinny Canoes Campground, the proposed redevelopment will boast swimming pools, a mini golf course, new administration buildings, and other amenities, as well as an increased focus on RV “glamping,” rather than old-school “primitive” tent camping.

The Town of Highland Planning Board continues to meet at the Eldred High School, in order to accommodate potentially large crowds (though that hasn’t been much of an issue in this calendar year).

The meetings have also been streamed on Zoom. The Board reviews correspondence and other agenda items before turning once more to the Camp FIMFO project.

The Chairman reads relevant letters into the record, the Board asks questions of the applicant, and the applicant responds. At a recent meeting, the applicant presented a video of a 3-D rendering of the streetscape of proposed improvements. (All correspondence and meeting minutes are available on the Town of Highland website.)

Chairman Norm Sutherland closed the public hearing portion of the application this past November, so no public comments have been heard since then though they are still accepting written comments.

Lindsey Kurnath, the new superintendent at the Upper Delaware National Park Service (NPS) unit, issued a letter dated Feb. 17, 2023 as a follow-up to the federal



FACILITY VIEW: This rendering of a new camp store for guests at Camp FIMFO Catskills in Barryville, NY appears on the developer’s kittatinnyrediscovered.com project website.

agency’s Nov. 9, 2022 correspondence seeking additional submittals.

“...NPS continues to have concerns and unanswered questions about the proposal. We request UDC engage with NPS, the Town of Highland, and the applicant to obtain the information noted below. Without this additional information, NPS cannot make a determination of substantial conformance to the RMP,” she wrote.

Specifically, Superintendent Kurnath requested hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; specificity on vegetation disturbance;

renderings of the proposed development between NYS Rt. 97 and the river, from the perspective of both the highway and the river’s surface; and a high-water evacuation plan for the 146 “park model RVs” that are located alongside the river.

The applicant has agreed to address the comments in her letter.

Concurrent with the UDC/NPS review, the applicant awaits approvals from the NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and other agencies.

The Planning Board is the Lead Agency in the SEQRA process, and is in the process of filling out Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment Form.

Depending on the analysis in Part 3, the Planning Board will decide whether the project can proceed with no adverse impacts on the environment, whether to impose conditions, or whether to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement process. These options were described in a letter prepared by Keystone Associates, the Planning Board’s engineering consultants.

The UDC recommended to NPS on Sept. 2, 2022 that the Camp FIMFO Catskills special use permit substantially conforms with the Land and Water Use Guidelines of the River Management Plan.

All subsequent information and documentation that the applicant has submitted to the Town of Highland Planning Board continues to be reviewed by UDC staff and brought before the Project Review Committee for evaluation.

DRBC Adopts Fracking Wastewater Rules; Lawsuit Filed to Challenge Exemptions

By a vote of 4-0, with the federal government abstaining, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) approved a final rule on Dec. 7, 2022 prohibiting the discharge of wastewater from high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) to water or land in the Delaware River Basin and clarifying the circumstances in which water may be exported from or imported into the 13,579-square-mile Basin.

The DRBC had held five public hearings and received thousands of comments and petitions which were reviewed and evaluated, along with scientific and technical literature. The new rulemaking to amend the Water Code was a follow-up to the DRBC’s Feb. 25, 2021 vote to ban the practice of HVHF throughout the 13,579-square-mile watershed.

Resolution 2022-04 discourages, limits and places conditions on water importation and exportation to protect the health and safety of Basin residents and preserve Basin waters for aquatic life and other uses. It recognizes the Delaware River Basin’s limited water quantity, susceptibility to drought, and limited capacity to assimilate wastewater.

Critics, however, claim that the DRBC did not go far enough, in part because the new rules do not completely prohibit exporting Basin water for use in fracking elsewhere.

“This issue is not over,” said Tracy Carluccio from the Delaware River Frack Ban Coalition and Delaware Riverkeeper Network at the Dec. 7 virtual meeting.

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) filed a legal complaint with the U.S. District Court claiming that the DRBC violated its own rule-making procedures and asking for certain “extra-regulatory exemptions” to be declared void in order to re-address “numerous loopholes that still allow for contamination,” according to DCS Director Barbara Arrindell.

In Memoriam

DIANE BANACH

March 17, 1935-February 18, 2023

Diane Joan Banach, who served as Westfall Township's alternate delegate to the Upper Delaware Council for six years, passed away at her home at the age of 87.

Diane served on the UDC board from 1995 through October 24, 2001 during Representative Alan Bowers' term. She was also Zoning Code Enforcement Officer for Westfall Township at one time.

Daughter of the late Clinton and Agnes (Hasbrouck) Allen, she was born in Newark, NJ. Diane married Joseph B. Banach on May 12, 1956. Their family lived in Port Jervis, NY and Mill Rift, PA.

Diane was co-owner and secretary of Banach Construction Company.

Survived by her husband at home, Diane was a devoted mother of six, with 8 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Knight-Auchmoody Funeral Home in Port Jervis.



KURT A. MUELLER

August 31, 1937-January 17, 2023

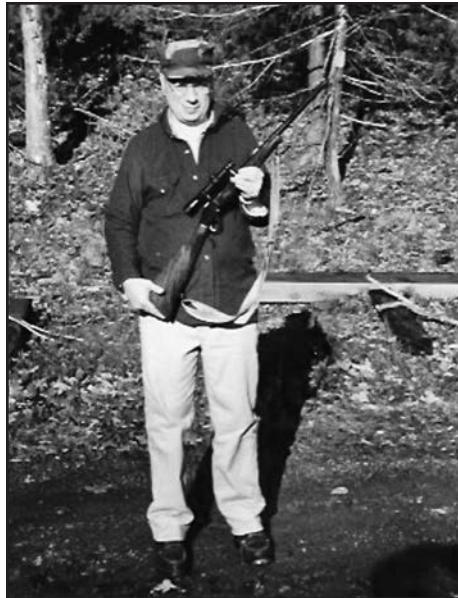
Kurt August Mueller, long-serving chairman of the Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors and a personal supporter of the Upper Delaware Council, died peacefully at the age of 85.

His great joy for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's recreational bounty led to his activism with the Equinunk-Lordville Upper Delaware River Association in the early 1970s.

The New Jersey native's red house on the river, a former hunting cabin with no heat or water, was reimagined into the beloved retreat for his family including his wife since 1959, Luitgard "Gardie" (Mayer), their 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company or the Equinunk Historical Society.

Arrangements were by the Henderson-Biedekapp Funeral Chapel in Hancock.



ROBERT CELLA

August 25, 1942-February 10, 2020

The Upper Delaware Council received a \$10,000 donation in memory of Robert Cella, a former resident of Barryville, NY who always took immense pleasure in the history, beauty, and environment of the Upper Delaware River region.

The donation was also provided "in honor of Aaron Robinson (an Upper Delaware Council Board Member and resident of Shohola, PA)" who was described as "a life-long family friend and guardian angel" to Buff - short for the Buffalo Bob nickname Aaron gave him in a nod to his marksmanship skills - "in his final days."

Robert Cella was a 3rd generation river valley resident whose Norwegian grandparents had bought an old D&H Canal house in Barryville in 1944. He was an exceptional outdoorsman and photographer who kept logs of river happenings and wildlife observations. Mr. Cella had worked as a metallurgist for Carrier and Timken Bearing in Syracuse.

The charitable trust check received on Jan. 4, 2023 is the largest private donation in the UDC's 35-year history. It has been invested in a newly established unrestricted funds account to bear interest.

Paddle Along on UDC Raft Trip

The 35th Annual Family Raft Trip sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council will take place on Sunday, August 6. Public reservations are due by Friday, July 28.

The 2023 river section to be paddled is a six-mile stretch from the Staircase Access in the Town of Lumberland, NY to Kittatinny Canoes' Matamoras Base in Westfall Township, PA.

Kittatinny Canoes will provide the rafts (four-person minimum occupancy), paddles, UDC-required life jackets, and safety instructions.

Arrive between 9-10 a.m. at 1147 Delaware Drive in Matamoras to park and check-in. Guests will be shuttled up to the Staircase Access to launch.

The average length for this trip is 3.5 hours, depending on the water level and the group's desired pace.

This segment of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River offers Class 1 & 2 rapids, with stretches of quiet pools. There are multiple sets of rapids at Staircase, Mongaup, Butlers Rift, and Mill Rift. Paddle beneath cliffs and spectacular rock formations, through lush vegetation, the dramatic gorge known as the Hawk's Nest, and go under a railroad bridge.

The UDC's deeply discounted group rate is \$29 for ages 13 and up, and \$19 for ages 4-12 (minimum weight of 40 lbs. and able to swim).

Advance payment (by cash, check or Paypal) is needed by July 28. Include full contact information, all guest names, and the ages of any minor children under 18 in the reservation.

Visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org to find a reservation flyer, or please contact Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022 or ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org to sign up or find out more information.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter online at 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 email info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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*Working together to conserve the Upper
Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*

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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 6:30 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 for details.

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

TMR Museum Talks

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum's webinar series returns with Museum Co-Director Glenn Pontier presenting "The World of Narrowsburg" on April 19 and "Monarch Butterflies" on May 10, both at 7 p.m. and available at the Museum's YouTube channel. Zoom pre-registration is required. Contact the Museum Chairman at Mitchell.Slepian@gmail.com.

Conservancy Fundraiser

Delaware Highlands Conservancy will offer "Foods of the Delaware Highlands", a farm-to-table four-course dinner by Chef Dan Corcoran, online and live auctions, music, art, and a raffle April 29 starting at 5:30 p.m. at The Inn at Woodloch in Hawley, PA. Tickets are \$185 per person with reservations due by April 20.

Call 570-226-3164, ext. 1 or email bethany@delawarehighlands.org.

Spring activities at the Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA include April 15, Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk with The Botanical Hiker; April 21, Earth Day Crafts; April 21, Ramps-U-Pick; May 10, Black Bears and the Woods; and May 24,

Boundin' Furbearers.

Cochecton Station

Join the Cochecton Preservation Society to celebrate 30 years after the shovel hit the dirt to rescue and preserve the Erie Depot with a Remembrance Dinner Buffet on April 30 starting at 3 p.m. at Central House Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

Mickey Barnett will perform songs from his album, "All Aboard!" and music from the '50s. There will be a collection of pictures and good stories for friends to share.

Reservations at \$45 per person are due by April 15 via PayPal at www.cochecton-preservation-society.com, or by check payable to Cochecton Preservation Society, Inc. mailed to 111 Bernas Road, Cochecton, NY 12726. For more information, call (845) 932-8923 or 932-8104.

Shadfest Back in May

Shadfest 2023 is in the works with activities being planned for May 20 (World Fish Migration Day) through May 28, sponsored by the Sullivan County Legislature, The Delaware Company, and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.

An opening event at the Barryville Farmers' Market with a celebrity chef, Shad Shindig evening dance party at Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg, angler's trade fair, kids' fishing event, movies, educational programs, and a potential Hancock to Port Jervis roundtrip bus with fun stops leading to a May 28 closing party in Hancock will be publicized.

Save these Dates!

June 16-19: 2023 Deep Water Literary Fest in Narrowsburg locations

June 17: Canal Boat Pavilion Dedication Dinner at the Wayne County Historical Society's D&H Canal Park at Lock 31

July 15: National Park Service's 17th Annual Zane Grey Festival, Lackawaxen

July 23: 33rd Annual Narrowsburg Riverfest celebrating art, music, and ecology

Aug. 19: 10th Annual Canal Festival at D&H Canal Park at Lock 31, Hawley

Sept. 10: UDC's 35th Annual River Valley Awards at Central House Resort

Sept. 23: 7th Annual Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: 12th Annual Big Eddy Film Festival, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance