

## UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 7, 2015

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Alan Henry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont-Jim Greier, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland-Debra Conway, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township-Jeffrey Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township-John McKay, Shohola Township-Patricia Jeffer, State of New York-Bill Rudge, National Park Service-Kris Heister. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist-Travis O'Dell, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Also in attendance: Carla Hahn, NPS, Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark alternate, and Steve Adams-Damascus Township Alternate. Absent: Town of Cochection, Town of Lumberland, Westfall Township, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Delaware River Basin Commission. Media: Dave Hulse, Peter Becker. Guests: Willard & Norma Schadt, Cheryl Korotky.

**“Historic Markers of the Upper Delaware” Presentation by Norma Schadt, Town of Deerpark Assistant Historian:** Henry introduced Norma Schadt who showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding historic markers in New York State. The State Historic Marker Program began in 1926 as a program of the State Education Department. She noted the Town of Deerpark has 54 historic markers and spoke of her involvement with their program. She spoke of the importance of conducting a historic marker inventory. She stated that grants are available for the funding of historic markers and explained that if a town gets an inventory of their markers and makes them a part of their property inventory, damaged signs may be eligible for insurance coverage. Schadt spoke of the helpfulness of the Town of Deerpark’s highway department in the maintenance of these markers and of the repair and maintenance process itself. She added that much of the work is done by volunteers. She spoke of a young man who repaired signs as his Eagle Scout project. The book he compiled is being used as a pilot program for other scouts looking to take on a similar project. Schadt said if a new historic marker is needed or one needs to be replaced, Catskill Castings of Bloomville, NY can be contacted. She explained the ordering process. She spoke of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation which will commemorate historic people, places or things within the time frame of 1740-1915 by awarding grants to install historic markers. Additional information is available on their website at [www.wgpfoundation.org](http://www.wgpfoundation.org). She spoke of the few historic markers along Route 97 noting there is a lot of history in the area and suggested there could be a lot more markers installed. She noted a self-guided historical automobile tour could be a possibility up and down the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. Conway questioned if the William Pomeroy Foundation still rotated the regions available for grants. Schadt told her yes. Dudko suggested the Byway towns could apply for a Technical Assistance Grant to produce a brochure which lists and explains all the historical markers up and down the Byway. Ramie asked if the colors used on the signs are regulated ones. Schadt told her yes, you may use standard Rustoleum® colors royal blue and sunburst yellow for gloss finishes on exterior metals. Greier spoke of the signs the Town of Fremont purchased. Hahn asked Schadt if she had any information on the Path Through History program. Rudge explained that the program is a statewide roadmap that ties historically and culturally significant sites, locations and events throughout New York State. Signs are placed along the New York State Thruway and other major arteries to direct travelers to historic sites in the area. He added that he believes

that any size cultural resource can apply for one of these signs. Schadt spoke of the history of the Historic Marker program and the funding and lack of funding associated with it. Rudge noted that the historical markers actually mark a historic location whereas the Path Through History sign is essentially a directional sign. Henry thanked Schadt for her presentation and presented her with a UDC lapel pin.

**Approval of April 2 Meeting Minutes:** A motion by Greier seconded by Conway to approve the April 2 meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

**Public Comment on the Agenda:** None

**Committee Reports:** Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: April 21 Water Use/Resource Management by Henry, April 28 Project Review by Conway and April 28 Operations by Roeder.

McKay stated that the sewage discharge issue discussed at Project Review is at the Mast Hope Mountain Community, not at Mast Hope.

### **Status Reports**

**Delaware River Basin Commission:** The DRBC was absent, however, the hydrologic report was provided. The NYC Delaware River Basin Storage as of May 1, 2015 was at a combined capacity of 98.1% with Cannonsville at 100.4%.

**NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation:** Rudge referred to the press releases provided in members' packets. The first is titled "Governor Cuomo Announces \$1.8 Million in Conservation Grants to Boost Tourism, Farmland Protection and Public Access for Recreation". The grants will be funded through New York's Environmental Protection Fund. Locally, he stated that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was one of the recipients of this funding. The second release issues guidance to homeowners to avoid problems with bears. Rudge noted that with spring comes a more active bear population. He said they are receiving a lot of nuisance reports. He reported that to date, they have received more nuisance bear complaints this year than they ever have in the same time frame. Rudge said that bears are looking to obtain food, and if the food isn't there they will move on.

Greier said he read that this year's New York State budget provided a \$15 million increase to the Environmental Protection Fund. Rudge explained that the Environmental Protection Fund is financed primarily through a dedicated portion of real estate transfer taxes.

**PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources:** No report in the absence of Representative Tim Dugan.

**National Park Service-Upper Delaware:** Heister reported that a successful joint law enforcement river operation on the upper portion of the Delaware with New York, Pennsylvania, and the National Park Service took place. She noted that 150 fishermen and 50 boat operators were contacted. She added that the guides seemed happy to see the operation. They have been asking for this for some time. Heister stated that the Park Service did not issue any citations. Pennsylvania did issue some citations, primarily for fishing with no license.

Ramie referenced the NPS press release included in members' packets which was titled, "Tourism to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River creates \$11,235,700 in Economic Benefits". She questioned how this figure compares to last year. Heister said her guess is it was higher, as across the Service they were almost all higher in anticipation of the Park Service Centennial. Heister feels this information is valuable as it is compared over time; it shows a trend. Peckham spoke of the results of the Upper Delaware River Coldwater Fishing and Boating Economic Impact Study conducted by Tom Shepstone.

**UDC Executive Director's Report:** Ramie stated that at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting, a letter from Westfall Township about noise pollution at the Hawk's Nest on NYS Route 97 was discussed. She referred to the copy of that letter along with copies of the response letters sent

by the WU/RM Committee, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, and the National Park Service. She noted there is an offer on the table for the UDC to arrange a meeting among the involved parties, including the Town of Deepark and law enforcement agencies, to discuss the complaint and how it could be addressed. Peckham commented that Westfall Township was not present again at this meeting. Ramie stated that their stipend will be suspended as they missed three consecutive meetings and the letter was sent issuing advance written notice of the suspension and a majority vote to do so was cast at the April full Council meeting.

Ramie referred to a *River Reporter* article handout regarding a writing contest co-sponsored by The Delaware Company and *The River Reporter*. The contest with the theme of the "Upper Delaware's Timber Rafting Heritage" is open to youth and adults. Submissions can be either historical fiction or a well-researched non-fiction essay. Entries are due by May 27<sup>th</sup>. Categories and prizes are listed in the article, Ramie added.

Ramie referred to the press release titled, "Registration Open for 2015 Delaware River Sojourn: June 20-27." The three days on the Upper Delaware take place on June 20, 21, & 22. The press release contains an outline of which sections of the river will be covered each day. Costs are also provided in the press release along with other pertinent information.

Ramie reported that a "Building Resilience in the Upper Delaware River Region" guide was provided in each member's packet. This booklet serves as a summary of the plan, "Changing Climate: Risks & Opportunities for the Upper Delaware River Region" that Common Waters and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation produced in 2013 under the coordination of Susan Beecher and with O'Dell's participation. That publication is currently available at [www.pinchot.org/adapt](http://www.pinchot.org/adapt). She noted that Dorene Warner of W Design in Barryville was the graphic designer of this guide. Peckham said he noted some errors in the guide. Ramie told him to share those with her and she would pass them on.

Ramie referred to the May calendar of UDC Meetings, Activities and Deadlines. She said the NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission annual meeting will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the PennDOT headquarters in Dunmore, PA. Ramie said the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is looking for a recording and corresponding secretary. Ads have been placed in *The River Reporter* and the *Sullivan County Democrat*. Interested parties are to submit an application by May 24<sup>th</sup> she noted. Ramie stated that upcoming presentations include: May 26 Project Review – Larry Neal and Bonnie Sheard of the National Park Service will provide information on the NPS Commercial Use Authorization program; June 4 – Aqua Pennsylvania, the operators of the Mast Hope Mountain Community Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lackawaxen, will address the Council; and we are awaiting confirmation of speakers on the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2015 for the July 2 UDC meeting.

Ramie noted that the UDC has an offer from the Narrowsburg Beautification Group to tend to our existing garden plot where the interpretive sign in front of the office is located and to fill our currently empty flower barrel. They would purchase the necessary items and take care of the planting for us, and have asked staff to take care of the watering. For this service, Ramie requested consideration of a donation of \$100 to the group to cover their costs. She added that Narrowsburg fares well in the annual Sullivan Renaissance beautification contest and we don't want our property to be an eyesore. A motion to provide the Narrowsburg Beautification Group with a \$100 donation to tend to the UDC office garden plot and flower barrel was made by Conway, seconded by Dexter and carried.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Personnel Subcommittee Report**

A motion to go into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. for personnel reasons was made by Conway, seconded by Dean and carried.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. was made by Peckham, seconded by Dean and carried.

A motion to approve what was done in Executive Session was made by Conway, seconded by Jeffer and carried. Henry commented that the appropriate notifications will be made.

**Other:** None

**New Business:**

**Draft Resolution 2015-04: Approving 2015 River Clean-up Grant Applications:** Ramie noted that the original resolution contains recommendations for four grant awards. She said we received a fifth request from the Town of Highland after the deadline, but that was due to circumstances beyond the Supervisor's control. A letter of request from the Town of Highland for \$661 was provided. Ramie said there was a hardship involved with the Town of Highland meeting the deadline request and she reported a balance of \$661 remains in the TAG budget line that was unexpended as the total amount was not allocated. She recommended the granting of the five applications totaling \$4,072. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-04 amended to include the Town of Highland at \$661 was made by Sullivan, seconded by Conway and carried.

**Draft Resolution 2015-05: Approving Revisions to Cooperative Agreement**

**P11AC90818/H4870110001:** A motion to approve Resolution 2015-05 was made by Dexter, seconded by Conway and carried with Dean and Peckham abstaining.

**Draft Resolution 2015-06: Approving a Five-Year Operating Program for Oct.1, 2015 to Sept. 30,**

**2020:** Ramie said she received additional comments regarding this document from McKay and Henry. Those edits were noted in an email sent out earlier in the day, a copy of which was provided in members' packets. Ramie said there was no substantive change to the content of the document. Dean questioned if tonight was the absolute deadline for approving these documents. Ramie stated that May 15 is the deadline to submit the federal assistance package. Heister explained that the Park Service has a deadline to submit this kind of information, which is May 15. Failure to meet this deadline could mean a delay in the funding. Henry said he feels this document has been scrutinized pretty closely. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-06 with the suggested changes to the Five-Year Operating Program was made by McKay, seconded by Jeffer and carried.

**Draft Resolution 2015-07: Adopting the FY 2016 Budget:** Ramie said if any decisions made during Executive Session affect any budget lines, it would be helpful to know that as our bookkeeper is waiting for final figures in order to start preparing the SF-424 paperwork for submission to NPS. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-07 was made by Conway, seconded by Sullivan and carried.

**Draft Resolution 2015-08: Adopting the FY 2016 Work Plan for the Water Use/Resource**

**Management Committee:** Ramie noted there have been no changes to this document since the WU/RM Committee reviewed it on April 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-08 was made by Dexter, seconded by McKay and carried.

**Draft Resolution 2015-09: Adopting the FY 2016 Work Plan for the Project Review Committee:**

Ramie noted there have been no changes to this document since the Project Review Committee met on April 28<sup>th</sup>. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-09 was made by Roeder, seconded by Conway and carried.

**Draft Resolution 2015-10: Adopting the FY 2016 Work Plan for the Operations Committee:** Ramie said this document does contain three suggested changes on page 5 of the document under Fund Raising. She explained those changes. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-10 with the proposed revisions to the Work Plan for the Operations Committee was made by Conway, seconded by Jeffer and carried.

**Discussion of RMP Boundary Discrepancy in Lackawaxen Township:** Heister projected on the screen pictures of maps from the River Management Plan (RMP). She said work continues on the river corridor boundary and explained that discrepancies on the map pages were discovered. One of the discrepancies discovered is addressed in the Errata of the RMP in 1986. The two additional discrepancies are in Lackawaxen Township in the Mast Hope Mountain Community and are located on pages 5 & 6 of 8 in the RMP. The differences identified are approximately 450 acres and 22 acres, Heister stated. She spoke of the

boundary currently being used in GIS. Henry questioned if the township or property owners are aware of the discrepancies. Heister sent the information to the township secretary. She has heard that the Township would like less property within the designated boundary. Heister said she is looking for concurrence to use the boundary that is depicted on page 5 in the RMP which would be approximately 425 acres less in the corridor than the boundary which is depicted on page 6. McKay commented that the zoning within the community may be stricter than that within the river overlay, but wondered how it may affect the Township zoning. Henry asked if a decision is needed tonight. Heister said that would be best and reiterated they would like to use the map on page 5. She noted this is the boundary which has been in use. Henry questioned what the process is for remedying this discrepancy. Hahn stated this is not making a change, it is making a decision as to which of the two published boundaries in the RMP is the one that would be used. Henry questioned how it would affect the total acreage within the designated boundary as stated in the RMP. Dean questioned if the property owners have been contacted. Henry questioned if these are the only discrepancies. Heister said they were the only two found that had not been addressed. Hahn explained how she believes the discrepancy happened. Heister said that the original map can not be located, but that after much gyration, it was concluded that the map that is in the RMP, is the correct map. Dean reiterated he feels the property owners where the discrepancies are should be contacted. Heister said what she is looking for is clarification of which map should be used in the RMP. A motion to table the discussion for further investigation was made by Henry. The motion was seconded by Dean. After a brief discussion, Heister was asked to formally contact Lackawaxen Township about the discrepancy and request guidance on how the township would like to proceed and then provide the UDC with results of the further investigation before seeking concurrence on which of the two disputed boundary lines to accept. The motion was carried.

**Other:** Greier said the Town of Fremont's 131<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day parade is set for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. The veteran's service will take place at the Veteran's Park at 9:30. This parade is the second longest running parade in New York State.

**Public Comment:** Dave Hulse questioned if in terms of the Executive Session and the resolution that came out of it, did it involve funds being spent. He wonders why it can't be discussed as they're working on tax money. Roeder said it's in the budget and nothing has changed in the budget. He asked if what the resolution was will be discussed in the future. He was told no.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Dean, seconded by Roeder, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. was carried unanimously.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 5/18/15*