

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2014

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Andy Boyar called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland-Andrew Boyar, Town of Lumberland-Nadia Rajs, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township-Jeffrey Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Delaware River Basin Commission-Bill Muszynski, National Park Service-Carla Hahn. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist-Travis O'Dell, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Also in attendance: Debra Conway, Town of Highland alternate; Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark alternate. Absent: Lackawaxen Township, Shohola Township, Westfall Township, State of New York, & Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Boyar said it was his "privilege and pleasure" to introduce Kris Heister who is our incoming superintendent for the Upper Delaware. Heister introduced herself and noted she believes that the success of a partnership at some level depends on knowing each other and having trust in each other. She noted she is an honest person. She is a lifelong Pennsylvanian and has been all over the country with the Park Service, spending the last two years in the regional office in Philadelphia as the Chief of Natural Resources for the Northeast Region. Her background is biology. Heister shared her educational background, some of her family history and her leadership style. Heister said she does not come in with any pre-conceived notions of the group. She believes we have the most important thing in common which is the conservation of the Upper Delaware River. Heister noted that she is a first-time superintendent. Boyar asked Heister if we can expect her leadership for a long time. She said she and her husband do intend to purchase a home in the area, preferably on the river. They hope to make the area their home and she hopes to be a member of the community. Heister said that the last major effort that she was involved with was the writing of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan for Valley Forge National Historic Park. Richardson asked Heister if she has read the River Management Plan. Heister said she attended the Foundation Document workshop held in 2013 and is in the process of reading the Plan and digesting it. Boyar wished Heister a very successful tenure in the Upper Delaware.

Approval of May 1 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Rajs seconded by Peckham to approve the May 1 meeting minutes was carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Committee Reports: Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were May 20 Water Use/Resource Management by Al Henry, May 27 Project Review by Larry Richardson, and May 27 Operations by Andy Boyar.

Rajs thanked T. O'Dell for his May 6th presentation to the Lumberland Planning Board, noting it was well done and very well received. Boyar echoed Rajs's praise noting that O'Dell had been at the Town of Highland Planning Board meeting on June 4th to offer his Project Review presentation. Roeder, referring to Richardson's report of the Town of Delaware Code Enforcement Officer contacting O'Dell

about a project, stated it is very good for the UDC, the river, and the towns when a town official reaches out to the UDC to advise them of a project in their town/township. He feels O'Dell's presentation will bring about more of this type of communication between the municipalities and the UDC.

Henry suggested inquiring if a surge protector will be installed on the heat/air pump that will be installed at the UDC office.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Muszynski referred members to the hydrologic report included in their packets. He noted that the cumulative levels are tracking with the long-term median for this time of the year.

Muszynski reported that New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the City of New York announced that they have unanimously approved a one-year extension of the current Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) intended to meet water supply demands, protect fisheries habitat downstream of the New York City (NYC) Delaware Basin reservoirs, enhance flood mitigation, and repel the upstream movement of salt water in the Delaware Estuary.

Muszynski noted that Congress has approved the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). He noted that WRRDA contains language that would direct the federal government to fulfill its obligated funding towards river basin commissions that oversee the Delaware, Potomac, and Susquehanna Rivers – an obligation that has been met only once in the last 17 years. He explained that if the Secretary does not allocate funds for a given fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a notice that describes--(A) the reasons why the Secretary did not allocate funds for that fiscal year; and (B) the impact of that decision not to allocate funds on each area of jurisdiction. Dean asked Muszynski with what funds they operate now. Muszynski said the DRBC does receive funding from the states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Muszynski referred to the press release in members' packets dated June 4th titled "Recreation Maps for the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers Available for Purchase." Muszynski had some sets of the maps available for members. The Delaware River map set is \$25. Published in 2007, the 10-section, waterproofed Delaware River recreation map set covers the river's East and West Branches prior to their confluence at Hancock, N.Y., the entire 200 mile, non-tidal reach of the river from Hancock to Trenton, N.J., and an additional 25 miles of the tidal river from Trenton to just south of the Betsy Ross Bridge. For more information on the maps, visit the DRBC's website at www.drbc.net or call (609) 883-9500.

Dean asked Muszynski what the DRBC will do with the additional funding. Muszynski said more work will be accomplished with the additional funding. He noted that they have done less due to the lack of funding.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: No report in the absence of Representative Bill Rudge. Boyar noted that Rudge did ask that it be reported to members that the NYS DEC is actively working on the available Ferry Street property in the Town of Fremont with conservation partners.

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

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Hahn said that on May 28th, Regional Director Mike Caldwell announced the appointment of Kris Heister to the position of Superintendent of the Upper Delaware.

Hahn reported that on May 25, a recent graduate of New Jersey City College drowned at Handsome Eddy in the Delaware River after removing his life jacket before exiting his raft for a swim. He submerged immediately and shouts from his party attracted the attention of two rangers at Corwin Farm, who immediately launched a canoe and arrived at the scene within minutes. His body was recovered the following Friday in Pond Eddy, five miles downstream.

The Park Atlas developed in conjunction with the Foundation Document is now available at <http://imgis.nps.gov/dsc/viewer/> Hahn noted. Once at the site, click on the drop down list and choose "Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River". The Park Atlas, coupled with the ability to upload additional data layers from other sources such as zoning and tax parcel maps from municipalities, should

satisfy the UDC's request for technical assistance with mapping of the river corridor. O'Dell plans to demonstrate the Atlas at a future Project Review committee meeting.

Hahn announced that the Margold House, near the Pennsylvania end of the Roebing Bridge, will be used this summer as a small visitor information facility. NPS is working with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) to run the site. The Margold House is under a sharing agreement with the DHC, which used the facility as a field office during the winter months.

Regarding NPS employees, Hahn said that Chief of Maintenance Loren Goering has been asked to represent the Delaware Valley subcluster on the Northeast Region's Maintenance Advisory Group. Jessica Newbern has received a Northeast Region Natural Resources Career Development Grant to study wetland plant identification.

Hahn noted that Viewshed Analysis Training was held at Delaware Water Gap the week of May 19th. It was attended by Shohola UDC Representative Pat Jeffer, O'Dell, four UPDE staff and representatives of the Byway, Sullivan Renaissance and planners from Sullivan and Pike Counties. A follow-up meeting is being planned to discuss how the analysis can be used by the various groups who attended, and what our next steps are to make this tool available to municipalities and partners in the valley. If sufficient interest is generated, this training may be offered locally in the fall, adapted to the needs of those in attendance. The tool provided a systematic and defensible means of describing the visual resources that a community values and desires to protect. It is in the public domain and can be adapted by municipalities and others to meet their specific needs, such as in regulating cell tower placement. It is hoped that UDC representatives will encourage their towns and townships to consider how this tool might be useful both within and beyond the corridor boundary.

Hahn said the NPS 2013 Statistical Abstract has been released and is provided to members in their packets. She noted that data shows a continuing decline in visitation to NPS Upper Delaware facilities. Hahn said she feels the abstract should note what the weather was during a particular season and when facilities were opened or closed. She noted that when a facility is open five days, you will get more visitors than when it is only open one or two days.

Boyar asked if there will be more emphasis on life jacket use and if there is follow-up with liveries instructing their customers the importance of wearing their life jackets. Hahn said yes and deferred to Odell who sits on the Water Safety Committee. Odell shared some of the projects that are being discussed and happening including the Wear It! Pledge cards and a video message campaign. Individuals fill out and sign a card where they pledge to wear their life jackets and the card is used as an entry ticket in a raffle drawing. Livery employees are being asked to make short videos about the Wear It! message to submit to the Park Service who will combine them and edit them into one video. The finished video will be available for posting on Facebook and the livery web pages.

Henry suggested following up on the May 25 drowning to find out what went wrong. He questioned if the safety talks given by the liveries can be improved. Boyar agreed there should be some follow up and asked if a report could be given at the June WU/RM Committee meeting. A brief discussion about safety talks took place.

Boyar told Hahn that the Town of Highland sent a letter to NPS asking if they could get an overlay for their zoning map to see how the river corridor bisects it. He questioned if the Park Atlas is in place of that overlay. Hahn told Boyar he can upload his zoning map to that site and suggested that he explore the site. Boyar noted it would be much more helpful if a physical map with the corridor boundary on it were available. O'Dell suggested the GIS shape file of the corridor be made available to the counties in order to accomplish this. Hahn said she will see if that is available. Henry spoke of discrepancies with maps. Richardson asked O'Dell if he could demonstrate the Park Atlas at the next Project Review Committee meeting. O'Dell said he is planning on it.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie welcomed Heister and expressed her appreciation for the advance notice of the announcement on May 28th from Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell and the introductory call from Heister the same day. She noted that Malcolm Wilbur will continue in the Acting Superintendent position through July 13 and will attend our July 3rd meeting.

Ramie said regarding the Emergency Response Workshop, a planning committee is being formed and board members are invited to participate. The first planning meeting will be on Wednesday, June 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the UDC office. Ramie stated that the objective of the Workshop is to bring together the

chief emergency coordinators from the five river valley counties with local municipal leaders, invited presenters and guests in a guided, interactive meeting to address preparedness and public outreach practices for emergency situations occurring in the Upper Delaware region. She said that July 16th or 17th are being considered as dates for this workshop. Ramie asked members to provide contact information for their local fire departments for workshop invitations.

Ramie referred members to the June calendar of UDC Meetings, Deadlines, and Activities in their packets and reviewed some of the highlights with them. A press release containing information for the Delaware River Sojourn and a press release regarding prizes for the Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby were also provided in members' packets.

Ramie said the UDC received a reply letter from New York City Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush in response to the board's May 1st correspondence on the topic of the Flexible Flow Management Program for reservoir operations, which was extended for a year as of the June 1 renewal date. This letter was referred to the WU/RM Committee for further discussion.

Ramie requested approval for staff to purchase flowers for the front plot and barrel and a flag pole for the building. A motion to allow staff to spend up to \$150 for flowers and a flag pole for the building was made by Henry, seconded by Rajs, and carried.

Old Business

Personnel Subcommittee Report: A motion to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel Issues was made by Rajs, seconded by Richardson and carried.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. was made by Rajs, seconded by Roeder and carried.

A motion to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Subcommittee was made by Rajs, seconded by Henry. Hulse asked what the recommendation was. Boyar told him the recommendation "pertains to salary which we don't discuss." The motion was carried.

Other: Boyar referred to Paul Rush's letter and noted that the City is not hearing us. He said we're trying to demonstrate that thermal events can be more efficiently and effectively dealt with by using a formula that was proposed rather than by a case-by-case basis. He agreed that the matter should be referred to the WU/RM Committee.

New Business

2014 River Clean-up Program Funding Allocations: Boyar reported there were four requests totaling \$4,010 received for the \$3,000 allocated for the River Clean-up Program. Applicants were Damascus Township, Town of Highland, Town of Lumberland, and Lackawaxen Township. A motion to allocate \$750 to each of the four municipalities that submitted proposals was made by Rajs, seconded by Henry and carried.

Energy Efficiency Improvements and Capital Project Bids: Boyar referred to the handout provided in members' packets containing information on the projects and staff recommendations. Ramie noted that we do await a quote for the purchasing and installing of carpet in the UDC office. A motion to accept staff's recommendations on the Energy Efficiency Improvements and Capital Projects was made by Rajs, seconded by Henry and carried.

Boyar reiterated the suggestion that an inquiry be made if the new heat pump will include a surge protector.

Draft Resolution 2014-07: Adopting the FY 2015 Budget: A motion to adopt the FY 2015 budget was made by Rajs, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Draft Resolution 2014-08: Adopting the FY 2015 Water Use/Resource Management Committee Work Plan: A motion to adopt the FY 2015 Water Use/Resource Management Committee Work Plan was made by Rajs, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Draft Resolution 2014-09: Adopting the FY 2015 Project Review Committee Work Plan: A motion to adopt the FY 2015 Project Review Committee Work Plan was made by Rajs, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Draft Resolution 2014-10: Adopting the FY 2015 Operations Committee Work Plan: A motion to adopt the FY 2015 Operations Committee Work Plan was made by Rajs, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Other: Henry recommended that the Council draft a letter of appreciation to the NPS Regional Office regarding Wilbur's tenure here in the Upper Delaware. Members agreed.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Roeder, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 6/13/14