

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2010

Committee Members Present: Serio, Chase, McKay, Keesler, Rando, Ritter
Committee Members Absent: Boyar; Shafer
NPS Partner: D. Hamilton
Advisory Members: None
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Committee Chairperson Jim Serio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Serio made a correction to the meeting minutes: under DRBC's Regulated Flow Advisory Committee Meeting, 2nd paragraph, 6th line down, sentence starting with Hale Eddy peaked close to 16,000 cfs...should read 10,000 cfs and earlier releases helped to reduce the peak. A motion by Rando seconded by Chase to approve the amended minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business

Delaware River Sojourn Update: The committee received copy of a Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee news release announcing early bird savings for participants registering by June 4 for the 16th Annual Delaware River Sojourn taking place June 20-26, 2010. The cost for Sojourners that register by June 4 is \$60 per day for participants 16 and older and \$40 per day for ages 15 and under. There is a one-time insurance fee of \$5 per person. Participants can register online using Pay Pal at www.delawareriversojourn.org. The Upper Delaware River section of the event will take place June 20-21-22. The Steering Committee is finalizing day plans for the website. Letters of invitation have been issued to the Lord High Admiral honorees. The final meetings regarding event preparation will take place June 1 and 15. Ramie will be providing land support in the Upper Delaware section.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. Update: Ramie reported the Byway held its elections and Nadia Rajsz is chairperson; Rosie DeCristofario is Vice-Chairperson; and Larry Richardson is Secretary/Treasurer. A quarterly website report was provided by Wdesign and enhancement proposals for the website business listing were offered. The Byway board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with Sullivan County regarding placement of the Byway visitors center at the county-owned Fort Delaware site in Narrowsburg. Letters will be issued to the City of Port Jervis regarding continued representation on the board and to the Village of Hancock regarding toll-free hotline administration. A comment letter to NYS DOT Region 8 was issued regarding proposed repairs to the Hawks Nest parapet wall to start this fall. A letter to the editor will be issued by Rajsz relating concerns regarding littering on the Byway. Six grant programs are ongoing with Orange County completing its project. The next meeting of the Byway group will be May 24 at the Upper Delaware Council office.

D & H Transportation Heritage Council Update: Ramie reported the D & H group will be sending reminder letters to memberships that lapsed. There was discussion on the grant that was denied on the rebuilding of a waste weir and bridge reconstruction over the Neversink River in Cuddebackville. The National Railway Society convention will be in Scranton this year and 500 people are expected to attend and hopefully visit the D & H sites in Honesdale and Waymart. The next meeting is July 21 in either High Falls or Huguenot.

New Business

Draft FY 2011 Committee Work Plan: The committee was provided with the fiscal year 2011 draft committee work plan for their review and finalization at the June meeting. The committee was informed that all tasks on the work plan are those that can be completed in the fiscal year. Soete noted that the staff

is not suppose to be doing anything that's not in the River Management Plan functions of the UDC, such as the Byway, D & H, and others. Ramie noted the RMP is a 25-year-old document now so it's hard to adapt current tasks to it. Coney explained that the RMP was to see a 20-year review but no monies have been included in the NPS-Upper Delaware budget to mount that project. There was discussion as to spending of TAG funding that needs to be re-allocated as there is not enough time for the towns/townships to complete any projects by the Sept. 30 end of fiscal under the new financial policies. The committee discussed possible re-allocations of the funds. The TAG Program for FY 2011 will commence soon and funding will be awarded on Oct. 1, 2010 for one-year projects with no project extensions permitted. Soete offered that maybe a letter should be sent to NPS registering disappointment with the new financial system UDC now has to follow.

Upper Delaware River Safety Committee Meeting April 30: Soete reported that he attended the Upper Delaware River Safety Committee meeting at the NPS on April 30. There were representatives in attendance from the canoe liveries but no fishing guides came. The National Canoe Safety Patrol will be doing river safety programs with the canoe liveries. They're refining PFD use and river height procedures with the liveries. NPS hopes to have morning conferences with the canoe liveries regarding river conditions each day. NPS is seeking updated data from the canoe liveries on visitor use under their permits. Hamilton noted that NYS DEC requires mandatory PFD use before May 1 during cold weather. There will be a more personal contact by the NPS Rangers with the canoe liveries.

DRBC's Regulated Flows Advisory Committee Meeting May 13: Serio gave a report on the RFAC meeting at DRBC May 13. A white paper was presented on increased summertime flows in the West Branch. There was a suggestion to implement in final year of FFMP (Flexible Flow Management Plan). No serious consideration was given to that. They may increase under ERQ (Excess Release Quantity) to increase flows in the West Branch. The dwarf wedgemussel studies are not completed. Hamilton interjected that the USGS staff will pick up objectives of the study. There's some money in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant that may go to USGS to finish this study. There was not enough public comment on the FFMP performance. Serio mentioned that the FFMP expires Sept. 30, 2011 and if there's nothing to replace it, we'll revert back to the old Revision 1 procedures. Serio said he inquired of NYC DEP if they combine aqueduct water will there be more water for us and he was told there would be more "flexibility". Serio felt that the joint NYS DEC/PA FBC white paper on flow needs for trout habitat had some real good information contained in it on flow needs. Soete inquired if Serio felt they would adopt the FFMP and Serio responded he hoped there would be further improvements to FFMP, but they may renew it another three years.

Ritter said he was looking at DRBC Executive Director Carol Collier's column in the *River Reporter* that was handed out where it mentioned DRBC would hold off on permitting gas well pads and Ritter asked how long it would take to do regulations for that. Soete indicated he heard six months to two years. Ritter wondered if that applied to the tributaries, and Soete noted it would apply to the whole watershed. The DRBC can still consider water withdrawals. Hamilton offered that DRBC is concerned about trib pollution going into special protection waters. Soete indicated that the water withdrawals will be considered by DRBC under the old regulations. Hamilton said DRBC also mentioned permit by rule to move dockets ahead because the DRBC only meets four times a year. DRBC has begun cumulative impact assessment "in-house" since lots of public comments to have this assessment done were received. Douglass commented that vertical test wells don't need a DRBC permit.

NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Annual Meeting May 12: Ramie announced that a UDC news release was issued, copy handed out, regarding the annual meeting of the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting on May 12. She noted that all bridge projects are being deferred as there's no money for them, unless funding was already obligated. Douglass noted there was \$28 million unobligated on the work chart so those projects will just sit. The UDC news release can be viewed at the Council's website: www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Battle of Minisink Commemoration Planned: Ramie reported the 231st anniversary of the Battle of Minisink will be held Sat. July 17 at Sullivan County's Minisink Battleground Park located in Minisink Ford across from the Roebing Bridge. At 2:30 p.m. there will be an educational talk, "So Many Brave Men: A History of the Battle at Minisink Ford", and at 4 p.m. there will be a memorial service at the hilltop

monument. In Pennsylvania, there'll be a ceremony on July 22 at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Lackawaxen.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Chase seconded by Keesler to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager