

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2015 (Re-scheduled from Jan. 20, 2015)

Committee Members Present: Tony Ritter, Andy Boyar, Pat Jeffer, Al Henry, Brian Stuart (6:52 p.m.)
Committee Members Absent: None
NPS Partner: Kris Heister, Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Travis O'Dell, Cindy Odell
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held a re-scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Ritter called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Election of Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2015: Henry made a motion to nominate Tony Ritter for Chairperson of the Water Use/Resource Management Committee for 2015. The motion was seconded by Boyar. Ritter was elected by voice vote. Ritter thanked his colleagues for another year of productive work. Henry made a motion to nominate Pat Jeffer for Vice-Chairperson for 2015 and Ritter seconded the motion. Jeffer was elected by voice vote.

A motion by Boyar seconded by Henry to approve the December 16 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

December 18 Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement Project Update: Ramie referred members to the notes from the December 18th meeting provided in their packets. She said they were distributed at the January full Council meeting at which time discussion was deferred to the WU/RM Committee. The meeting was arranged by PennDOT for the Upper Delaware Council specifically to give the organization a briefing to cover various concerns. Ramie said that those in attendance included herself, Travis O'Dell, Nadia Rajsz (Town of Lumberland), and George J. Fluhr (Shohola Township). Ramie reported that a contractors' consulting meeting to perform construction analysis and identify cost-effective alternatives took place Nov. 5, 2014. That input changed the original causeway design plans to use either two high bridges or install temporary, removable bridges in the river to constructing a causeway half-way across and working from below. The projected cost is currently at \$17.5 million. Peckham asked if it would be a "heavy haul" bridge. Ramie said it will be 40-ton capacity, 15'8" single lane roadway and 5' raised sidewalk. The contract letting is anticipated in April 2016 with the new bridge being open to traffic sometime in 2018. Ramie said that a public meeting is expected in the summer or fall of 2015 to give an update on the bridge as this has not been done recently. A September 5, 2014 final deadline for potential bidders willing to preserve the current bridge in a new location passed with no takers. The bridge will come under ownership of the successful contractor. There will be a recordation process to document the findings of archeological studies and D&H Canal remnants, and an interpretive panel will be developed, most likely to be posted on the NY side, due to the bridge's listing on the National Register of Historic Places, Ramie reported. Ramie's written notes contain a list of all the permits and authorizations needed for the bridge replacement project. The questioned was posed whether NYS DOT and PennDOT communicate with one another about the activities that go on with the Upper Delaware bridges. The DOTs do meet quarterly to discuss bridge construction and rehabilitation plans along the Upper Delaware River. Boyar asked how many homes or properties are served by the bridge on the Pennsylvania side. Ramie said it is approximately 26.

January 13 Sullivan County Trail Committee Meeting Update: Ramie noted that the agenda from the meeting along with a page from Sullivan County's Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2008 was in the packets mailed out to members on January 21. One of the actions of the Plan was to form a county-wide trail task force to coordinate local trail-building, maintenance and promotional efforts. Ramie said she was asked to participate on this committee to help represent Upper Delaware interests. Sullivan County Legislator Alan Sorenson is heading up this committee which is in the domain of the Sullivan County

Planning Division. An inventory of existing trails and their status is being undertaken. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for February 10th.

Ramie noted that a Western Orange County Trails forum will take place on March 26th from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Deerpark Town Hall. Ramie said she has been asked to attend this meeting to describe the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, which is a highway trail.

Ramie stated these are a couple of efforts happening which supplement the TrailKeeper.org website and National Park Service's Take a Hike program.

Other:None

New Business:

Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan Grant: Ramie reported that the Upper Delaware Tailwaters Coalition has succeeded in getting a grant for \$73,000 from New York State through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) program. The funding will be used to develop the Stream Corridor Management Plan specifically for the areas above the reservoir. The Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs will be the lead agency. Any future information will be shared with the committee.

Other: Ritter said he received snow pack information from Glenn Horton of the NYC DEP. As of February 4th, the snow pack at Cannonsville was between 14 and 17 inches; Pepacton between 14 and 18 inches; and Neversink between 18 and 22 inches. Last year at this time the snow pack at Cannonsville was 10 inches, Pepacton 12 inches, and Neversink 17 inches.

Total storage for the New York City Reservoirs is currently at 78%, Ritter reported, while normal for this date is 87%.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Boyar seconded by Ritter to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 2/11/15