

Upper Delaware Council  
**WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2015**

Committee Members Present: Tony Ritter, Andy Boyar, Al Henry  
Committee Members Absent: Pat Jeffer, John McKay  
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell  
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Ritter called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

A motion by Henry seconded by Boyar to approve the February 17 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

**Upper Delaware Scenic Byway 2/23 Meeting Update:** Ramie provided the highlights of this meeting. She said a quarterly website report was provided. Dorene Warner of W Design reported that from the website's inception on July 1, 2007 to February 2015, there have been 141,556 visits. The highest visitation occurs in August and October.

Ramie noted that the draft 2015 budget was reviewed since the committee had not met yet this year. She said Treasurer Larry Richardson added a new budget category for "Pull-off Vista Enhancement" into which \$1,000 has been allocated. Richardson explained that he got the idea to set funding aside for this based on constant grumbles that people can't see the river from Route 97. \$5,000 was added to a new marketing line.

Greater Western Catskills/Delaware County Tourism Director Sonia Janiszewski was in attendance at this meeting. She has held this position since January. She had been working with Delaware County Tourism as a private contractor since 2012. Janiszewski was at the meeting to provide advice and insight to the Byway about what can be done for better marketing. She suggested that the Byway invest the \$5,000 marketing allocation into hiring a consultant to develop an integrated marketing plan.

Iris Helfeld attended this meeting to speak to the committee about the status of the Narrowsburg Bridge. Ramie said committee members felt that any closures of the bridge would have a negative impact on the Byway since the Narrowsburg Bridge is a conduit for tourism. It was agreed that a letter be drafted to send to PennDOT putting them on notice about why the bridge is important and what the potential negative ramifications are of this rehabilitation plan.

Ramie said the UDSB clerk resigned as of December 31. A motion was made to place newspaper advertisements for the UDSB clerk position if necessary.

Joan Santo attended the meeting and spoke about the survey initiated by the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce to assess interest in the use of a May through October bus service which would leave Manhattan on Fridays, travel to the Upper Delaware and return to the city on Sundays. Ramie reported that since the Byway meeting, we have learned that this Rolling V bus service will run four weekends on a trial basis.

Ramie reported that the Byway will share a booth with the Upper Delaware Council at the 2015 Green Tourism Conference that will take place on April 14 and 15 at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, PA.

Ramie said the Byway looked into a new brochure distribution service, the North Country Brochure Distribution Service, which has routes set up in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Canada to try and determine if it makes sense to get the Byway brochures into that area. Rates are currently being discussed.

Ramie said UDSB Chairperson Rajsz named a Nominating Committee to present a slate of candidates for the offices of chairperson, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer at the March 23 monthly meeting, who will then be voted on at the UDSB Annual meeting on April 27.

Ramie reported that the next monthly meeting of the UDSB is scheduled for Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**March 5 Upper DelAWARE River Roundtable Meeting Update:** Ramie referred to the handout provided by Travis O'Dell in members' packets. The focus of the March 5 Roundtable meeting was on agriculture, with an emphasis on local food production and distribution. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at which attendees will continue the discussion that was started at the March 5 meeting.

**March 10 Sullivan County Trail Committee Meeting Update:** Ramie said that the Planning Department is working on updating the maps that were enhanced by those who attended the February 10<sup>th</sup> workshop. It's been decided that subcommittees will be set up that will work on specific projects to move things along. This overall committee will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

**2015 Delaware River Sojourn Update:** Ramie referred to the draft 2015 Delaware River Sojourn Overview provided in members' packets. She noted that the river locations have been changed from what was originally planned. It was originally planned to spend one day on the Lackawaxen River, but because they were not able to secure a launch site, they've taken that off the schedule. The tentative schedule for the Upper Delaware days is June 20<sup>th</sup> Balls Eddy to Buckingham, June 21<sup>st</sup> Lordville Access to Red Barn/Hankins Access, and June 22<sup>nd</sup> Narrowsburg to Zane Grey Access. Ritter noted that the Red Barn/Hankins Access is now private property. Ramie said that was pointed out to the Sojourn Steering Committee. Ramie shared a picture of this year's logo for the Sojourn and noted that the theme is "Birthplace of America". Ramie said an article about the Sojourn will be in the upcoming Spring/Summer edition of the *Upper Delaware* newsletter.

**Other:** Ramie noted that the UDC has received the March 2015 edition of Penn DOT's *Pond Eddy News* newsletter on March 12. The newsletter is a source for progress reports on the Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement. It contains information on what to expect during construction as well as additional information on the project. Ramie said copies of the newsletter are available upon request and there was no change to the plans as reported back in December.

Henry recommended that it be requested of PennDOT that a recessed river height gauge be installed in one of the piers during construction of the new Pond Eddy Bridge. He noted that such a gauge was installed on the Shohola Bridge. He suggested that it be tied into a relative gauge such as the one at Barryville and be installed closer to the New York side so that it could be visible from Route 97. Henry said a river gauge can be one of the most beneficial tools to river users, informing them of the height of the river. He recommended that river gauges be recessed on every bridge slated for rehabilitation if it is feasible. Ramie said the UDC's pending letter to PennDOT on the Section 7 federal review would be a good opportunity to request this.

Henry asked if there was any update on the Mast Hope Development wastewater discharge issue. Hamilton said that NPS met with Aqua PA on March 13 and Heister is going to arrange for a representative from Aqua PA to come to a UDC meeting. Ramie said that is likely to take place at the June meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Delaware River Flow and Storage Report:** Ritter referred members to the Current Reservoir Levels handout in members' packets. He noted the release out of Cannonsville is at 83 cfs and there is still ice on the river all the way up to Hancock, but it is breaking up in some places. As of March 16, storage at Cannonsville is 57.6% and 65.6% at Pepacton. Current snow cover is in excess of 16" in some areas around those reservoirs, Ritter reported. Total NYC Water Supply System storage is currently 73.2% with the normal storage typically around 91%. Ritter attributes the storage being close to 20% below normal due to the fact that much of the snow has not melted. Boyar said these low levels do not bode well for the upcoming fishing season. Discussion took place about ice cover and the conversion of snow and ice to water and its effect on the levels of the reservoirs. The winter's temperatures and anchor ice were also discussed.

**Other:** Henry questioned if staff was working on any letters for review. Ramie noted that the Pond Eddy Bridge letter will be discussed at next week's Project Review Committee meeting, and the support for the NPS Law Enforcement collaboration and the DRBC federal funding letter will be discussed at the Operations Committee meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Boyar seconded by Henry to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 3/20/15*