

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2015

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

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Ritter called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

A motion by Henry seconded by Ritter to approve the July 21 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

D&H Transportation Heritage Council July 22 Meeting Update: O'Dell stated that Ramie is the UDC representative to the D&H THC. The minutes of the July 22nd meeting were provided in members' packets in lieu of a verbal report due to her absence.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway July 27 Meeting Update: The minutes of the UDSB July 27th meeting were provided in members' packets.

Eastern Shale August 10 Teleconference Update: O'Dell reported that the primary topic of this teleconference was the proposed pipeline in Preston and Buckingham townships. The proposed pipeline would cross the West Branch of the Delaware in the Town of Hancock to connect the Millennium and Tennessee pipelines. O'Dell noted that this proposed project is outside the corridor. He referred to the August 15-17, 2015 *Wayne Independent* article titled "Townships Hear Pipeline Pitch" provided in members' packets. This meeting did take place after the teleconference. O'Dell shared some details of the proposed project. He noted that some of the township citizens are concerned with the siting of a compressor station in the area. He reiterated that the project is not in the corridor, but that he is paying attention to it.

Sullivan County Trail Committee August 11 Update: Ramie's written report of the August 11th Trail Committee meeting was provided in members' packets.

Other: Ritter questioned if a response to the July 23rd letter to NYS DOT inquiring about the ownership of the property on the immediate downstream side of the Barryville NY – Shohola PA interstate bridge had been received. O'Dell said not to date. Henry noted that Bill Rudge of NYS DEC said in his response that DOT would be responding. Henry asked if Penn DOT was copied on the letter. O'Dell said they were. Henry believes Penn DOT may have a survey of that area. Ritter hopes a response from NYS DOT will be received by September 3rd full Council meeting.

New Business:

NYC DEP Cannonsville Reservoir Update Meeting: August 27, 6 p.m. UDC Office: O'Dell reported that as the NYC DEP moves closer to rectifying the issue at the Cannonsville Dam they will be holding another series of public meetings in the upcoming weeks. One of these meetings is scheduled for August 27th at 6 p.m. at the UDC office in Narrowsburg.

Referring back to Ramie's written report from the August 11th Sullivan County Trail Committee meeting, Henry noted it reads that Sullivan County is looking to produce Water Trail signs that the NYS DOT has agreed to install on the bridges at Skinners Falls, Narrowsburg, Barryville, and Callicoon. The four vertical signs will identify the bridges and river mile numbers. Henry is unsure how helpful it will be to have the

river miles displayed. Henry spoke of the July 3, 2014 presentation by Heather Jacksy on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program which included a water trail signage plan. Discussion about the designation of the Delaware River as a water trail took place. Hamilton stated he recalls that years ago there was an effort to be included in a water trail system. O'Dell said he will investigate whether such a designation was made. Discussion about the funding for the signs took place. Henry said he would like to see what the signs look like. O'Dell said he will seek the design concept from Sullivan County.

Pond Eddy and Narrowsburg Bridges Updates: Included in members' packets were an attachment from the Pond Eddy Bridge Project permit comment response package and Ramie's notes from the Narrowsburg Bridge Project July 29th public meeting. McKay questioned if the times were known for the 15 overnight closures of the Narrowsburg Bridge. O'Dell said he was not sure of the times. The overnight closures will be spread over the two construction seasons and will be announced via media outlets and message boards. Henry shared some details of the July 29th meeting which he had attended. O'Dell noted that a financial penalty will be imposed on the contractor if the number or duration of the closures is exceeded. Daytimes, weekends and holidays are prohibited from the closures.

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: Ritter referred to the handout in members' packets. He reported that total storage of 87.4% for August 18 is above the normal rate of 81.2%. He added that Cannonsville is at 70% while Pepacton is at 89%. They've been releasing 500 cfs from Stilesville. He reported that water temperatures at the end of the day have been reading 80 degrees at Barryville, 78 degrees at Callicoon and the East Branch is 75 degrees. Henry asked what the water temperature was at Lordville. Ritter told him it was 69 degrees at 4 p.m., but has been reaching 70 – 71 degrees by 6 p.m. O'Dell spoke of an email that he had received earlier in the day from Friends of the Upper Delaware River regarding the warm water temperatures. Ritter stated that it is his opinion that 500 cfs release does not save the main stem of the Delaware. He said the recent unprecedented releases from the Cannonsville were a good opportunity to see how cold the water could get in the middle of summer and still have insect hatches and active trout all the way down to Callicoon.

Other: Ritter commented that the Ten Mile River Access is one that gets used a lot. He noted that it is very, very muddy. He wonders what could be done to improve the access so users don't sink into the mud getting into or out of the water crafts. McKay asked who owns the property. He was told it is owned by the Boy Scouts, but leased and managed by the National Park Service. Henry suggested that an exploratory letter could be written to see if there is some way to improve that area for boat launch. Members discussed different options and funding for such a project. Henry made a motion to draft a letter to the NPS requesting appropriate measures to improve the boat launch access at Ten Mile River. He noted that maybe there is something out there that could work. The motion was seconded by Ritter. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Members shared opinions for where they felt a permanent ramp would best be situated at the TMR access. Hamilton said the NPS could look into possibilities, but noted that something working against it would be the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which prohibits the hardening of beds and banks of the river. O'Dell asked what the lesser of two evils would be; the sedimentation from constant use or the hardening of a concrete pad. Henry stated that the TMR access area is a flow back zone during high water events. He feels that maybe a compromise could be reached to make the area safer.

Also included in members' packets were a news release titled "Fracking Could Irreversibly Damage Economy, Drinking Water for Millions Along the Delaware River" and an article from the July 22nd Walton Reporter titled, "Giant Hogweed Spreads To Delaware County."

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Henry seconded by McKay to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 8/25/15