

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2014

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

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to approve the August 19 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway 8/25 Meeting Update: Ramie reported that Susan Hawvermale, Orange County Tourism Director, attended this meeting to provide promotional guidance. Hawvermale advised the members to pinpoint their audience by finding answers to a series of questions which she asked. She suggested that targeted marketing be directed to the defined audience that leads them to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway website, and that the website should list members of the local chambers of commerce so that visitors will know in advance of services that are available in the area. Ramie noted that several action items were developed as a result of this discussion. One is to develop an asset inventory of businesses that provide services to Byway visitors as a first step toward creating seasonal itinerary packages for promotion.

The annual contract renewal with Catskill-Delaware Publications for brochure distribution was approved at this meeting, Ramie reported. Other avenues for distribution of the UDSB brochure will be looked into to cover a wider area.

Ramie said a draft press release for the September 22nd "Estimate of Tourism Visitation to the UDSB" presentation meeting was reviewed. This presentation will take place at the Tusten Town Hall beginning at 7 p.m.

All members agreed to a chapter-by-chapter review of the Byway Enhancement Plan commencing at the October 27 meeting.

Heather Jacksy will make a formal request to the Sullivan County Department of Public Works to request technical assistance from Recycling Coordinator Bill Cutler to help the Byway litter committee develop strategies for addressing the trash issue along Route 97.

Ramie said that 2015 budget requests for Municipal Contributions were sent out on August 15th accompanied by a list of accomplishments and invoice to ease processing of payment.

Port Jervis Mayor Decker will attend the October UDSB meeting and provide an update on the whitewater park project.

Sullivan Renaissance "Preserving Scenic Views" 9/3 Seminar Report: O'Dell stated that back in May, he and a group from the Upper Delaware participated in a Viewshed training to learn how to objectively rate viewsheds using a viewshed assessment tool. The September 3rd seminar built on this training. Presenters were Helen Budrock, Heather Jacksy and O'Dell himself, O'Dell noted. Budrock gave an overview of the three-day training that took place in May. Jacksy presented on ways and tools that communities can use to preserve any viewsheds that they like. O'Dell presented on the UDC Design Handbook. He spoke of how to use the design guidelines and how they correlate with zoning requirements.

O'Dell reported that approximately 40 people attended the seminar. The National Park Service may hold the same three-day viewshed assessment tool training locally if the interest exists, O'Dell said.

Boyar asked what the status is on the update of the UDC Design Handbook. O'Dell said that Dorene Warner continues to work on it. Ramie noted that Warner is aware of the September 30th deadline.

Eastern Shale 9/8 Webinar and NPS 9/15-18 Gas Summit: O'Dell said he participated in the 9/8 webinar and noted that the subjects covered were irrelevant to the Upper Delaware region. He said that he

has been participating in the National Park Service Gas Summit. He shared details of his day on Monday which included a presentation by Carla Hahn of the National Park Service, a presentation by Dave Messersmith of Penn State Extension, and a float down the Delaware River from Lordville, NY to Soaring Eagle Campground at Kellam's Bridge. O'Dell said on Tuesday, the group went to see the pipeline in Hancock, NY and then had a tour of the Hancock Compressor Station. They then traveled to Bradford County, PA to observe well pads. Ramie shared a map of how many wells exist in that area. Ramie said that on Wednesday, the group will travel to Dimock, PA for a tour by Cabot Oil and Gas. Boyar spoke of his Town Board's visit to Bradford County, PA. Ramie intends to schedule a more formal presentation of the Gas Summit for a future committee meeting. Henry noted that the summit was set up as a training session for the Park Service. Ramie said the UDC was invited along as a courtesy. Boyar questioned if anyone from the DRBC attended. Ramie told him that Executive Director Steven Tambini and Kenneth Najjar were both there on Tuesday. Henry asked if the Hancock Compressor Station is fully operational now. O'Dell told him it is.

Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition (UDRTC) 9/12 Conference: Ramie referenced the agenda from the conference in members' packets. She said three panel discussions took place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The conference was attended by Congressman Gibson who gave a very impassioned speech, Ramie said. She shared some details of his speech. Assemblyman Crouch was also in attendance, she added. One session included a presentation of the Upper Delaware River Cold Water Fishing and Boating Economic Impact Study; another session included discussion by locally elected officials of the UDRTC on their perspectives and concerns about what flooding and the suite of recreational activities mean to their communities; and the third session covered water releases and Stream Corridor Management Plan. Ramie noted that the Coalition is looking to expand their membership. They are targeting the communities below the reservoirs. Ramie said Paul Rush of New York City DEP also attended and was a speaker at the conference and that he was well received. O'Dell reiterated that the Coalition is looking to expand its membership, specifically looking for participation from the Townships of Buckingham, Manchester, and Damascus on the Pennsylvania side and the Towns of Fremont and Delaware on the New York side. He said their focus at this point is primarily on the cold water fishery, but he believes that in the future they will look to develop a Stream Corridor Management Plan to help address flooding impacts. Ramie said they currently have such a plan in place for both the East Branch and West Branch.

2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz Final Report: Ramie said the final report from this June 28 – 29 event was provided in members' packets for their information. The total number of species identified was 884, including 123 first occurrences for Sullivan County, adding considerable publicly accessible biological data and field research for this area of the Upper Delaware watershed. Photos from the event and press can be found on the BioBlitz website at www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com.

Other: None

New Business:

Bridge Signage RFQ; Narrowsburg Bridge 9/18 Meeting: Ramie noted that the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan contains three components. Those are the plan itself; designs for identified river access sites and; installation of water trail signage on select bridges over the Delaware River. Ramie reported that Sullivan County is preparing to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to get graphic design services for these signs. There will be five signs, although the RFQ does not identify which bridges they will go on. The model template from the Delaware River Water Trail signage will be used. Sullivan County is the lead agency, but it does include the three-county territory from Hancock to Port Jervis. When the contract is released, there will be five months to complete the project. Henry asked where on the bridges the signs will go. Ramie said the signs are for river users to her understanding.

Ramie said Penn DOT is holding a meeting this Thursday, September 18th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Narrowsburg Fire Department to make design plans available and answer questions on an informal basis regarding the Narrowsburg interstate bridge rehabilitation project. Ramie said she will attend the meeting and report back to members.

Delaware River Flow and Storage Data Report: Henry reported that NYC Water Supply System total storage as of September 16 is at 81.4% and normal for this date is 74.6%. He said that actual average precipitation was above normal for July and is currently below historical for August and September.

Other: Henry questioned if any action was required by the WU/RM Committee for the letter regarding the concerns raised about the Pond Eddy Bridge that was directed by the full Council at its September meeting. Boyar said that staff was directed to draft the letter stating the UDC's concerns. O'Dell said he had prepared a draft for Ramie's review and it would be sent out shortly. A brief discussion took place about the Pond Eddy Bridge.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 9/23/14