

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 27, 2009

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Bowers, Shafer, Fluhr, Keesler, Peckham
Partner: Martinez
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: None

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. A motion by Fluhr seconded by Shafer to approve the Dec. 16, 2008 meeting minutes was carried with one abstention. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Election of 2009 Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Richardson nominated Shafer; Shafer declined. Bowers nominated Roeder as Chairperson seconded by Richardson. Vote held; Harold Roeder Jr. was elected as the Committee Chairperson.

Fluhr nominated Shafer as Vice-Chairperson seconded by Richardson. Vote held; Jay Shafer was elected as Committee Vice-Chairperson.

Discussion Items Report - Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report with the committee; some highlights:

Millennium Pipeline Project Update: The Council understands that the Millennium Pipeline Project was completed around Dec. 15, 2008.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline TGP 300 Line Expansion Project (various Pike and Wayne County, PA townships): As promised by Tennessee Gas Pipeline company, a public open house was held Jan. 6 at the Settler's Inn regarding the proposed pipeline expansion. UDC staff could not attend this session but did attend one held on Sept. 30, 2008.

New York Regional Interconnect proposed power line, update: Jan. 9 was the deadline to submit expert testimony to NYS PSC about the proposed NYRI power line. CARI, along with many other groups and state agencies, submitted testimony. An article in the Jan. 23 *Utica Observer-Dispatch* states that the NY Power Authority opposes the NYRI Marcy-South alternative route.

On Jan. 26, the NYS PSC released a Notice of Evidentiary Hearing. The hearing will be held March 16 in Albany. On Jan. 26, the NYS PSC released a Ruling on Scope, Hearing Procedures and Schedule. The purpose of this ruling is to address Communities Against Regional Interconnect's (CARI) request that its Thruway Alternative be considered a reasonable alternative to NYRI's proposed routes; briefly address burden of proof issues; provide filing and service protocols for the March 2 filings of rebuttal testimony and exhibits; re-establish the list of Active Parties upon whom all litigation documents must be served; establish protocols and procedures for the evidentiary hearings; modify the procedural schedule; and address on-site visits. The Marcy South alternative will be considered. CARI has suggested that the line be underground. The Ruling indicated the Thruway alternative would not be considered due to time and resources constraints.

PPL Corp. proposed nuclear power plant: An article in the Sept. 30, 2008 *Sunbury Daily Item* states, "PPL Corp. has taken another step toward constructing a new nuclear power plant near Berwick by submitting an application to the U.S. Dept. of Energy for a federal loan guarantee."

Natural gas leasing/drilling in region, update: At the UDC meeting on Jan. 8, the Delaware River Basin Commission gave an update on their role in the natural gas drilling application review process for both NY and PA. On Jan. 13, the PA DEP received an application from Chesapeake Appalachia for a proposed natural gas well in Oregon Township, Wayne County, PA located just south of Kellows Pond.

On Jan. 17, the Pike County Citizens for Clean Water and the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy co-sponsored an educational event entitled, "Is Fracking Coming to Pike County" at the

Delaware Valley High School. The Delaware Riverkeeper was in attendance. Soete from UDC also participated.

Recent news stories indicate that several water wells in Dimick, Susquehanna County, PA are contaminated and natural gas drilling activities may be the cause. A water well housing even blew up. Investigations are on-going.

Pond Eddy Bridge update: PennDot has scheduled an informational teleconference regarding the Pond Eddy Bridge project for Feb. 3. UDC staff will participate.

Upper DeLAWARE River Roundtable: The next Upper DeLAWARE River Roundtable meeting is scheduled for Feb. 5. UDC staff will participate. PA DEP may make a presentation on natural gas drilling for this ad hoc group.

NPS Mongaup Visitor Center (Town of Lumberland), update: NPS Superintendent Vidal Martinez briefed the members about a Concept Design Charrette held Jan. 22 regarding the proposed Mongaup Visitor Center. Bill Douglass of UDC was invited to the meeting.

The agenda for the Charrette covered Overview of Project Scope, Intent and History; Project Programming and Design Constraints; Site Condition Briefing & Discussion for Both Site Locations; Review of Preliminary Design Concepts for Both Sites, including Pros and Cons; Discussion of Sites and Preliminary Design Concepts; and Next Steps/Project Schedule.

Martinez provided a handout to the committee that reviewed the pros and cons of the Tri-State Diesel Site and the NYS DEC River Access Site. He also displayed and reviewed the Conceptual Site Plans for each proposed site and answered committee questions. The committee provided input to NPS regarding some issues of concern they had. This welcome center site would involve mobile facilities since both project locations are in a flood inundation zone. The process continues as no definitive site has been chosen.

Little Joseph Sand & Gravel Mine Proposal (Town of Cochection): The Town of Cochection Planning Board will consider the application for the Little Joseph Sand & Gravel Mine at its Jan. 29 meeting. The NYS DEC has reviewed this project and the UDC has offered comments based on the River Management Plan guidelines.

Matamoras Borough and Westfall Township comp plan: A community meeting to discuss the future growth and development of Matamoras Borough and Westfall Township is scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Matamoras Borough Hall. The Borough and Township are working together on a comprehensive plan. Draft Plan sections and additional details are available from the Borough Secretary and the Township Secretary.

Old Business None

New Business

TAG 2008-05 Damascus Township: The committee reviewed a request for payment from Damascus Township regarding its TAG 2008-05 grant, print SALDO and comp plan for officials. The project is completed and UDC staff have reviewed the request and submitted documentation. A motion by Bowers seconded by Shafer approving payment of the \$2,000 grant was carried.

NPS Report: Martinez briefed the committee on a complaint that NPS received regarding snow plowing of the curbs at the Roebing Bridge. NPS does not have the funds or manpower to clean the snow as they'd like from the Bridge. The resident who complained offered to write letters to the congressional representatives that resources are needed here to keep the Bridge and curbs snow-free. Martinez said NPS would have to close the bridge to manually clear the snow as the resident wanted, but they don't have the manpower and would prefer not to close the Bridge. Fluhr felt area residents would be opposed to a Bridge closure. He suggested that NPS bring the matter to the Lackawaxen Supervisors regarding any closures.

Martinez announced with regret the passing of Laura Sletner, the NPS Dispatcher, who was only 39 years of age. NPS-Upper Delaware staff attended the service for Laura yesterday. Martinez commented that it was very sad to see such a young person go. She had been a great asset to NPS.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager