

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMM. MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2009

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Shafer, Fluhr, Keesler, Peckham
Committee Members Absent: Richardson, Bowers
NPS Partner: Martinez
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: S. Schultz

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. A motion by Fluhr seconded by Shafer to approve the March 24 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: The committee reviewed the Discussion Items Report prepared by Soete, some highlights follow.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Expansion Project: An article in the April 20 edition of the *Wayne Independent* indicates that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company feels that the expansion of a major natural gas pipeline in the northeast United States, which cuts through Wayne County, is in the best interests of the Nation's energy plan. The company is responding to the need for improved infrastructure to transport gas.

New York Regional Interconnect follow-up: On April 21, 2009, the NYS Public Service Commission officially dismissed the application of the New York Regional Interconnect to build a 190-mile transmission line from upstate to downstate New York, and furthermore stated that a new application must be filed if NYRI seeks to pursue its project. A "Goodbye, NYRI" celebration will be held Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m. at the Narrowsburg Bridge and Veterans Park Gazebo. FERC is still trying to reinforce by appeal its nationwide electric transmission siting power which would override state authority although a Court case has indicated otherwise. There are indications that new power lines are being proposed across the country and this region.

Fluhr felt UDC should keep in contact with our state and federal government representatives on any power line matters. Soete indicated that NYRI used a fly-over video during the NYS hearings to show the proposed transmission line route. He thought that video should be on file in the UDC office and hopes to obtain a copy. The video was taken prior to the Millennium Pipeline expansion work so some area landscapes have already been changed.

Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region update: The DRBC has received two water withdrawal applications for natural gas drilling from Chesapeake and Stone Energy, as reported during the Water Use/Resource Management Committee April meeting. Sullivan County Planning is sponsoring a panel discussion open to the public regarding municipal governance and natural gas drilling on April 30 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY. Information on natural gas activities is also provided through Soete's listserv to numerous individuals, agencies and organizations.

Peckham noted that he heard that the NYS DEC would be releasing the draft supplemental GEIS either June 6 or 9. There will be a public comment period. He mentioned that the gas companies are looking for road maintenance agreements with the towns instead of bonding. The companies will be doing things fast in the beginning of well drilling and they won't stop their truck traffic just to have the state or municipality fix roads. The state roads should be able to handle the truck weights but the municipality roads will be impacted. PennDOT is putting a 10-ton weight limit on some state roads. The gas companies don't care what road protection the towns choose, they just want something in writing so they know what the process will be to repair local roads.

NPS Mongaup Visitor Center Update: The NPS is seeking state funds through the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway non-profit organization for site preparation work at the NYS DEC access site in Mongaup where the two visitor center mobile units will be located temporarily until the process to use the Tri-State Diesel land is finalized.

Sullivan County Open Space Plan update: The Sullivan County Planning department will be holding a series of workshops throughout the year to explain the County's "Open Space Plan" and illustrate how it can be used at the local level, and explore many of the topics covered in the Plan in more detail. The upcoming workshops include: April 29-Open Space Planning in Your Town; May 6-Stream Management Solutions; July 1-Making Trail Connections; Sept. 9-Farmers Marketing; and Nov. 18-Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard. For further information or to register call Planning at 845-807-0527.

Town of Highland – Barnes Landfill: Soete reported that NYS DEC had responded to his request regarding the status of the Barnes Landfill. Bill Rudge of DEC said there was no change in the Landfill status—they still have not identified a responsible owner. DEC had repaired the cap and road before the money ran out. The road had contributed to the buildup of leachate prior to its repair. The site will most likely need future maintenance.

Millennium Pipeline update: Millennium Pipeline Company has agreed to pay \$200,000 in fines and to spend \$1 million to pay for independent specialists to monitor the work of the company as it finishes work on the pipeline this spring and into next year. According to NYS DEC information, Millennium committed hundreds of violations of federal and state regulations while constructing the line. Many of the violations were related to the protection of water quality. UDC staff will be reviewing the violations report.

Old Business None

New Business

Town of Lumberland – Circle Park: Fluhr took the time to advise the committee of what a great job the Town of Lumberland did with the new Circle Park. He mentioned he had a chance to visit the area lately and was very impressed with the beauty of this community park. He urged the committee to make a visit to the Park. Shafer remarked that the Town won a Sullivan Renaissance grant and secured state funds to match that in order to develop the Park. Ramie reinforced Fluhr's remarks as she managed the Council information booth at the Earth Day Festival held at the Park.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Shafer seconded by Keesler to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager