

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Nov. 25, 2008

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Richardson, Bowers, Shafer, Fluhr, Keesler
Partner: Hamilton-NPS
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: None

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the Sept. 23 meeting minutes was carried. The Oct. 28 meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: The committee reviewed the Discussion Items Report; some highlights:

Millennium Pipeline Project Update: The Council has not heard if the Millennium Pipeline project is completed. The target date for completion had been Dec. 1. Roeder thought Rt. 17B was completed. Richardson said now we have the roads damage assessments. Shafer thought that Rt. 55 in Eldred was completed. Soete indicated he had checked the Millennium website but that has not been updated since last spring.

NYS PSC NYRI Public hearings: Soete reported that UDC staff attended the NYS Public Service Commission's public statement hearings on New York Regional Interconnect's proposed power line application in Sullivan County and the Town of Hancock. UDC made comments at the Hancock hearing. On Nov. 24 CARI issued a news release that the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has found that the NYRI project will have an adverse impact on historic and cultural resources along the 190-mile long route. On Nov. 25 NYRI released their November 2008 "NYRI Update" newsletter responding to some of the most frequent public comments made at the NYS PSC public hearings. The NYRI website for information is www.nyri.us.

Natural gas leasing/drilling in region, update: The committee was provided with copy of an article from the Nov. 17, 2008 *Scientific American* entitled, "Drill for Natural Gas, Pollute Water" for their information. The committee was provided with a "1st Draft Outline, November 18, 2008, Upper Delaware Council Position Paper on Natural Gas Exploration in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor" as produced by UDC staff for the committee's review and input. The position paper was also provided to the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee. According to news reports, Congressman Maurice Hinchey vowed to aggressively press for passage of bill H.R. 7231 that would close a legislative loophole which exempts hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas exploration and drilling from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. A workshop "How to Participate in the Gas Drilling Scoping Hearings" will be held Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg. The community workshop is designed to provide a foundation of understanding of the current NYS DEC Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on gas drilling in NYS and to highlight issues that are being reviewed as part of the Supplemental study. The NYS DEC hearing on the supplemental scoping document is Dec. 4 at the Sullivan County Community College. The comment deadline is Dec. 15.

DRBC news release, FFMP and Dec. 10 meeting: On Nov. 25, the Delaware River Basin Commission issued a news release announcing that the five-member agency comprised of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York State, and the Federal Government is expected to withdraw its proposed regulations to codify the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) at its public meeting on Dec. 10, 2008. While no action to approve the Water Code amendments is scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting, a discussion of future steps concerning the Water Code and a status report on the FFMP are on the agenda for the informal morning conference of the Dec. 10 meeting.

Farmland Protection Plans, Towns of Callicoon and Delaware: A press release was issued by Sullivan County that indicated the Towns of Callicoon and Delaware will host two upcoming events to aid in the development of their Farmland Protection Plans. Both events, a public workshop and a farmers' focus

group, will be held on Dec. 13 at the Jeffersonville Inn in Jeffersonville, NY. For more information contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management in Monticello.

Old Business

TAGs due Sept. 30, status: The committee reviewed the status of Technical Assistance Grant projects that were due by Sept. 30, since requests for extensions and/or final reports were not received by the Sept. 30 deadline. The Council has not heard from the Town of Fremont (TAG 2007-03) or the Town of Hancock (TAG 2007-05). Shohola Township completed its project but submitted it late, and the Town of Tusten provided an extension request passed the deadline. Following discussion, it was decided that all grantees would receive a letter from the UDC saying no more reminder notices will be issued by the UDC and that quarterly reports are due and if not received from now on, the grant will be terminated. The quarterly reports that were due by Sept. 30 have until Dec. 16 to reply. If a town is unable to send quarterly reports, they may opt-out of the TAG program without prejudice or the grant awarded. Richardson put this in the form of a motion and Bowers seconded and it was carried. A motion by Bowers seconded by Shafer to accept the Town of Tusten's (TAG 2007-08) late request for an extension and to accept Shohola Township's (TAG 2007-04) late request for payment of its completed project was carried.

New Business

New committee member: Dolores Keesler, Damascus Township Representative, announced she would be attending the Project Review Committee meetings for the township.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Bowers seconded by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager