

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2008

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

Committee Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:16 p.m. A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the May 27 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

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

Millennium Pipeline (various NY towns): Soete displayed a photograph of the Millennium Pipeline project in the works upriver showing a swath of trees cut on the mountainside to accommodate the line. He mentioned that news reports indicated that a mudslide, following a heavy rain, closed a Town of Hancock road along the East Branch Delaware where the pipeline was being installed. The road was reportedly covered in 5 to 6 feet of mud.

PPL proposed power line expansion: PPL has released three possible routes for the proposed Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line project which will run from Berwick, PA to Roseland, NJ. Alternate Route B basically follows the existing power line running through Wayne and Pike Counties. Alternate A would be a new route through Pike County and is opposed by Shohola Township. The Shohola Township Supervisors have asked the UDC to support their opposition to Alternate A. Douglass and Soete did attend the PPL public information meeting on the power line on June 18 at the Wallenpaupack High School.

Holbert Bluestone Quarry Update (Lackawaxen Township): The UDC was notified that the application for a Conditional Use filed for the expansion of the Holbert Quarry in Lackawaxen Township was withdrawn without prejudice. The hearing on this matter was closed on May 29 by the Township. The UDC and NPS would like a transcript of the public hearings that were held in this matter.

Sullivan County Casinos Update: The NYS Senate has passed legislation that will provide a number of incentives to Louis Cappelli's company for partnering with Empire Resorts and building a new hotel, convention center, racino and harness racetrack at the old Concord Hotel site in Kiamesha Lake, NY. The companion NYS Assembly bill is also expected to pass.

Big Island Riverfront Property Mass Gathering proposal (Town of Delaware): Soete reported that the Town of Delaware ZBA's last meeting with a property owner that was proposing to hold a family-oriented music festival on a 4-acre portion of his riverfront property on an annual basis was in February 2008. The ZBA had requested additional information from the applicant. As of today, no additional information has been received from the applicant.

Town of Fremont Draft Zoning Amendments: Soete reported that the UDC has received a copy of the draft zoning amendments for the Town of Fremont for review.

Old Business

TAG procedure review-summary from last meeting: At the request of the committee, Coney prepared and handed out a summary of the points made during discussion at the last meeting concerning the procedural review of the Technical Assistance Grants Program. Also included was a list of staff talking points on the issue that had been distributed at an earlier date. Soete suggested the committee review the material and think about possible changes. He reminded the committee that the fiscal year 2008 TAG applicant interviews would be held in August.

New Business

Shohola Township Request-support letter township opposition to PPL power line Alternate Route A:

The committee was provided with copy of a resolution passed by Shohola Township Supervisors on June 12. The resolution laid out several issues the township had with PPL's new power line Alternate Route A proposal that would impact over 200 landowners in the township as well as the preservation of open space free from commercial or residential developments. The Council received a letter from the township requesting support from UDC for their position based on the negative impact that a project of this magnitude would have on the waters of the Commonwealth that ultimately empty into the Delaware River. Following committee discussion, a motion by Bowers seconded by Richardson to approve the support letter was carried. Instead of a committee letter, it was suggested that a recommendation to approve the letter go to the full Council meeting in July. A motion by Bowers seconded by Richardson to rescind the motion and replace with full Council approval was carried.

UDC support letter – Sullivan County Planning NYS grant application: The draft support letter to Sullivan County Planning was referred to the Project Review Committee from Operations since Project Review can produce correspondence in addition to the Council, and it was necessary to meet a NYS grant deadline. The support letter was in reference to a County grant application to the NYS Dept. of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to develop a Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor. As the same Council members serve on both the Operations and Project Review committees and were familiar with the issue, a motion by Bowers seconded by Shafer to approve the support letter through committee was carried.

Rio Conservation Releases: Bowers put in a request from Phil Chase resulting from Chase's comments at the May 20 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. Chase had asked that the Delaware River Master be contacted to see if Alliance Energy had increased the Rio system conservation release back up to 100 cfs from its current rate of 60 cfs now that FERC has okayed this license mandate be restored since the Swinging Bridge dam repair is completed. Bowers said Chase was requesting that a letter be issued to the River Master, NYS DEC, FERC, Alliance Energy, etc. asking that if the conservation release was still at 60 cfs, why hasn't it gone back to 100 cfs. A motion by Bowers seconded by Shafer to approve the letter be issued was carried.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Richardson seconded by Bowers to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager