

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2008

(Annual Meeting)

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly/annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008 at the Tusten Town Hall on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, NY. UDC Vice-Chairperson John McKay called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Douglass introduced the newly appointed Representative from the Town of Lumberland, Jay Shaffer. A motion by Roeder seconded by Niflot to approve the Dec. 6, 2007 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

In attendance: Town of Fremont-Jack Niflot, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder Jr., Town of Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten-Charles Wieland, Town of Lumberland-Jay Shaffer, Town of Deerpark-Mel Decker, Lackawaxen Township-John McKay, Shohola Township-George J. Fluhr, Westfall Township-Alan Bowers, State of New York-Bill Rudge, Delaware River Basin Commission-Carol Collier, and National Park Service-Dave Forney. Also Town of Fremont Alternate-Jim Rodgers. Absent: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Town of Hancock, Town of Highland.

Election of UDC officers for 2008: The slate of officers for 2008 presented by the Nominating Committee in December included: Chairperson-Alan Bowers (Westfall Township); Vice-Chairperson-Charles Wieland (Town of Tusten); and Secretary/Treasurer-Jack Niflot (Town of Fremont). There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Wieland to close nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot to elect the slate was seconded by Richardson and carried.

Officers were sworn in by Town of Tusten Justice Al Smith. Smith thanked the Council for asking him to perform the oaths of office, for two years now, and he considered it an honor to do so. The Council appreciated his assistance. McKay passed the gavel to Bowers and wished him good luck in his new role.

UDC Committee Reports: The committee reports were provided from the meeting minutes. They included: Dec. 18, 2007 Water Use/Resource Management by Bowers; Dec. 18 Operations and Project Review by Roeder.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC): DRBC Exec. Dir. Carol Collier referenced her handouts in her report. The NYC Delaware River Basin reservoirs are 90% full. They are 8.7 bg less than last year at this time. The higher reservoir release rate is now in effect.

The next FFMP (Flexible Flows Management Program) public meeting will take place Jan. 8 in Philadelphia. The public hearing will be Jan. 16 in West Trenton. The comment deadline for FFMP is Jan. 18. The RFAC (Regulated Flows Advisory Committee) will hold a meeting to discuss the FFMP on Jan. 16 at 12:30 p.m. at the same location as the hearing in West Trenton. She handed out the information sheet "Explanation of Reservoir Operating Curves in Proposed DRBC Rulemaking to Implement the Decree Parties' Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) Agreement" for the Council members' review. She noted there was a PowerPoint download on the DRBC web, www.drbc.net that shows the changes made from original agreement to the FFMP.

She handed out a fact sheet/timeline, "Delaware River Basin Flood Analysis Model Project," that reflected facts and tasks relative to the flood analysis model for the basin. They did some very preliminary reports. The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Weather Service are in the process of modeling with different scenarios. Fifteen reservoirs are included in the model and it would cover the whole basin. At the December DRBC meeting preliminary information on the model work was provided for Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs. The Flood Advisory Committee will be meeting on Feb. 6.

As to the Special Protection Waters from the Gap to Trenton, the comment period is closed and they are now working on the response document. They hope to have this on the DRBC's March meeting agenda.

There will be a joint meeting of the Monitoring Advisory Committee and the Water Quality Advisory Committee on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) at the DRBC office in West Trenton. Two years ago at

a federal forum the coordination of water monitoring was brought up. There will be a Monitoring workshop in March and a federal forum again in May.

At the December DRBC meeting there was a presentation by Cornell University on improving roadside ditch management. She handed out a fact sheet from this presentation to the Council members. This is an interesting management program and Cornell and the NYS DOT will be working to change ditch management to provide for vegetated strips intact in the downhill part of the ditch to capture sediment; reconfigure ditch dimensions to allow regular mowing; and use of biofilters where herbaceous growth can trap sediment, reduce erosion, and support some chemical filtering. Cornell's PowerPoint presentation on this issue will be on the DRBC web site. Collier mentioned that this program has generated a lot of interest within the basin states. Douglass offered it might be a good idea to have Cornell provide its PowerPoint program on ditch management to the River corridor municipalities.

Collier noted that Congressman Hinchey secured \$700,000 in funding for the Upper Delaware flood study. The USACOE got \$235,000 for a flood warning system and funding for other projects, and COE will be meeting with the river basin commissions regarding projects and funding amounts.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC): Natural Resources Supervisor of DEC Region 3 Bill Rudge reported to the Council that DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis has announced the formation of a new office within DEC, Office of Invasive Species. The Office will focus attention on invasive species and provide for an integrated approach to problem solving. Hundreds of non-native plants and animals have invaded New York State, especially in the last decade, posing threats to ecosystems and the economy.

Rudge provided an update on the Barnes Landfill in the Town of Highland. The DEC attorney has scheduled a meeting with the NYS Attorney General's office on this issue along with other issues.

Douglass asked if any leachate was being taken out and Rudge said no, that the mitigation funding to do that is depleted. Douglass wondered if the leachate in the ground was a problem. Rudge noted repairs to the cap and road to the tanks were made. The bad road contributed to the problem and now that has been mitigated. Wieland asked what the difference was between the Cortese Landfill in Tusten and the Barnes Landfill. He said the Cortese Landfill has a program of monitoring by the Town and repairs made as needed and he couldn't understand why the Barnes Landfill wasn't handled the same way. Rudge responded that Barnes was not a municipal landfill like Cortese. It has no owner now and DEC has expended the escrow funds it had for the Barnes Landfill maintenance.

PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources: No report

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: NPS Supt. Dave Forney provided his final report before retirement effective at midnight. Upper Delaware River Valley GIS group: Leslie Morlock will now serve as chairperson of this group. Pike County will be the first to have its growth model completed and will present it to the GIS group.

PA Wild and Scenic Rivers workgroup: Presentations on the DCNR's Rivers Registry were made to Buckingham and Manchester Townships. A follow-up letter will be issued. The new NPS Superintendent will provide presentations to Berlin and Damascus Townships. Forney noted township officials seem to be interested in this program.

Interpretation Division: Loans of "traveling trunks" exhibits were made to various schools and included topics such as the Lenape, Birds of Prey, and Wildlife and Animal Tracks. The schools involved were Stourbridge Primary, Sullivan West, Homestead School, and Delaware Valley Central School.

Volunteer Report: A total of 8,193 volunteer hours were clocked for all divisions within the Upper Delaware unit for fiscal year 2007. NPS offers many thanks for this assistance.

Division of Resource Management: Attended a meeting on Humphries Brook stream restoration project; attended a meeting on natural gas leasing in Wayne County at the Damascus Township Building; met with Harpers Ferry Center regarding the Zane Grey Museum exhibit project with a target date for installation of the exhibit in Spring 2009; set up a booth and answered water quality monitoring questions from students at Sullivan County Community College's "Water Event"; participated in NY state PRISM conference call on "Rock Snot"(didymo) invasive species; participated in conference call with PA Natural Heritage Program regarding a Delaware River Basin aquatic vegetation survey.

Forney commended and thanked Sandy Schultz, Assistant Superintendent, for her assistance to him over the past five years and for her dedicated work regarding the Upper Delaware. The Council applauded that effort.

Forney announced that the new NPS-Upper Delaware Superintendent Vidal Martinez will be at headquarters on Feb. 3 and will attend the UDC meeting on Feb. 7.

Forney made a special presentation to each UDC staff member and thanked them all for their dedication to the River valley and for making his tenure at the Upper Delaware an enjoyable and supportive endeavor. The Council members applauded as well.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Bill Douglass referenced the UDC press release handed out that announced the 2008 UDC officers. He noted that it included mention that the four Wayne County PA townships along the River corridor are still eligible to join the UDC at any time.

The UDC will have a booth at the Narrowsburg EagleFest on Jan. 19. It will be located in the Tusten Town Hall. There are numerous venues for activities planned from 9:30 to 4:30 during the event.

Douglass read a farewell note from former Town of Lumberland UDC Representative Nadia Rajsz. "It's been a great pleasure working with all of you and the UDC staff over the last eight years. My best wishes for continued success and a very happy new year to you all." The Council returned the compliment.

Old Business

Presentation to retiring NPS-Upper Delaware Superintendent Dave Forney: On behalf of the Council, Bill Douglass presented a plaque of recognition and thanks to retiring NPS-Upper Delaware Superintendent Dave Forney. Douglass noted Forney has been an excellent partner in the work of the Council and he wished him best of luck in his retirement. The plaque read, "In Appreciation to David C. Forney, For exemplary service to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River during your July 1, 2002 – January 3, 2008 tenure as National Park Service superintendent. Thank you for your dedication to our river valley and congratulations on your retirement, Presented by the Upper Delaware Council." Al Bowers noted Dave would be sorely missed and that he had been very easy to work with over the years, which was appreciated.

New Business

UDC Resolution 2008-01 Authorizing Corporate Resolutions for FY08 Bank Accounts: The members reviewed the resolution to open bank accounts with the new officers as signatories for funding received during fiscal year 2008. A motion by Roeder seconded by Niflot to approve the resolution was carried.

UDC Resolution 2008-02 Authorizing Agreement with Eckersley & Ostrowski for FY08 audit/accounting services: The resolution for fiscal year 2008 audit services came out of the Operations Committee who recommended Council approval. It was noted that the cost would be the same as last year, \$9,925. However, if an OMB A-133 audit is not required, then the cost for services would be reduced to \$8,200. A motion by Wieland seconded by McKay to approve the resolution was carried.

UDC Resolution 2008-03 Accepting Quote Morrison Printing, reprint map & guide: The resolution for approving the quote for a reprinting of the Council's popular map and guide brochure came out of the Operations Committee who recommended Council approval. Morrison Printing Company of Tenn. has been producing the map and guide for many years and has offered excellent service and fair pricing. The quote for 30,000 brochures was \$3,866. The Council updates and reprints the brochure every two years. A motion by Richardson seconded by Fluhr approving the resolution was carried.

Public Comment Bowers noted that the Council meetings for the remainder of the year will be at the Council office on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg.

Adjourn A motion by Roeder seconded by Niflot to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. was carried.