

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Dec. 4, 2008

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008 at the Council office on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Alan Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. A motion by Fluhr seconded by Niflot to approve the Nov. 6 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Berlin Township Welcomed As Member of the Council: Chairperson Bowers welcomed Berlin Township Supervisors Chairman Paul Henry to the Townships first UDC meeting as a member and presented Henry with a UDC lapel pin. All Council members welcomed Henry with a round of applause and Bowers indicated we're glad to have you onboard. Berlin Township voted to become a member of UDC at its Nov. 18 meeting.

In attendance: Town of Hancock-Jim Serio, Town of Fremont-Jack Niflot, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder Jr., Damascus Township-Dolores Keesler, Berlin Township-Paul Henry, Town of Tusten-Charles Wieland, Town of Highland-John C. Sundholm, Town of Lumberland-Jay Shafer, Town of Deepark-Phil Chase, Shohola Township-George J. Fluhr, Westfall Township-Alan Bowers, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-Dennis DeMara, and National Park Service-Vidal Martinez. Other members present: Town of Hancock Alternate-Fred Peckham, Damascus Township 2nd Alternate-Jeff Dexter. Members absent: Town of Cocheton, Lackawaxen Township, State of New York, Delaware River Basin Commission.

Committee Reports: The committee reports for November were provided by the committee chairs and included: Nov. 18 Water Use/Resource Management by Wieland; Nov. 25 Operations by Bowers; and Nov. 25 Project Review by Roeder.

Roeder updated two items from the Project Review meeting—Millennium Pipeline finished NYS Route 17 north side but south side not completed; and six gas drilling permit applications have been submitted to NYS DEC up from the one application previously reported.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: The DRBC handouts provided to the members included the Delaware River Basin Flow/Storage Data and a news release "DRBC Expected to Withdraw Proposed Water Code Amendments Related to the Flexible Flow Management Program". The New York City Delaware River Basin combined reservoir storage was 81%, with Cannonsville at 72.7%; Pepacton at 87.3%; and Neversink at 84.5%. The average flow at Montague through Nov. 26 was 4,629 cfs which is above the normal mean for this time of year.

The Flexible Flow Management Program is expected to be withdrawn for adoption at the Dec. 10 DRBC meeting. Serio reported that there is more study information expected on the FFMP and they'll extend the interim FFMP for now. Once additional information is finalized, they'll re-vamp the FFMP. The model studies will include flood events.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: No Report

PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources: Dennis DeMara reported that on Nov. 18 Gov. Rendell announced \$44 million in grants for 316 conservation and recreation projects that are designed to help revitalize communities and protect natural resources. DeMara showed and left a copy for the Council of the "Growing...Naturally" Executive Summary, August 2008, Pike County Open Space, Greenways, and Recreation Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to craft a vision for strengthening and integrating protected open space, greenways and recreation into the rural character, community life, and patterns of Pike County. The goals of this Plan allowed for a basis for grant applications to carry out parts of the plan. DeMara announced the following grants:

- ◇ Pke County, \$891,000, Santos Property acquisition - payment toward the acquisition of approximately 96 acres off Routes 6 & 209 and along the Delaware River for open space and recreation.
- ◇ Pike County, \$30,000, Matamoras Borough and Westfall Township Joint Recreation Plan - prepare a multi-municipal comprehensive recreation, parks, open space and greenways plan.

- ◇ Pike County, \$30,000, Scenic Rural Character Preservation Bond Support - provide conservation education, training, technical assistance, and outreach to the municipalities in the County with work including a framework for negotiating, purchasing, monitoring, and enforcing conservation easements; assist in land conservation through fee acquisition and/or conservation easement acquisition.
- ◇ Delaware Highlands Conservancy, \$550,000, Beaver Run Hunting and Fishing Club easement - payment toward the acquisition of a conservation easement on approximately 853 acres along Beaver Run Road in Porter Township for watershed and open space protection.
- ◇ Delaware Highlands Conservancy, \$25,000, Education and Outreach for the Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape Initiative - provide conservation education and outreach to Pike and Wayne County landowners which lie within the Delaware River sub-landscape of Poconos Forest and Waters CLI to include coordination, planning, development and implementation of Delaware River Roundtable; conservation and education plan for the Milford Experimental Forest; regional map revisions with the creation of an internet tool; and educational materials for landowner outreach.

DeMara announced that the 2009 funding round would be open in January with an application deadline of April 22. DCNR will be having applications filed electronically for this new round of grants. A workshop about the grant application process held nearest to the River corridor will be Feb. 10 at Clarks Summit at the Inn at Nichols Village. Further information will be provided online (www.dcnr.state.pa.us) and via news releases.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Superintendent Vidal Martinez congratulated Berlin Township on its Council membership. He attended the NYS Public Service Commission's public statement hearings in Hancock and was impressed by the caliber of the public statements.

The Nov. 8 NPS 30th Anniversary Retrospective at Central House in Beach Lake was productive. All NPS-Upper Delaware Superintendents, current and past, were in attendance and provided special insights regarding preservation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. A Certificate of Special Recognition was presented to NPS-Upper Delaware for its anniversary from NYS Congressmen Hinchey and Hall and PA Representative Carney. The Retrospective was a good platform for reviewing the past accomplishments and reflecting on the current and future challenges for the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The Q & A panel following the speakers at the Retrospective touched on: the need to amend the River Management Plan to address current resource issues; to revisit the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and utilize authority to protect the River; the need for NPS to be more proactive on Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; to increase the base funding for the UDC; to continue civic engagement with local groups to protect the River; and to participate in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act symposium next spring. Martinez said he would have liked to have seen more Council members at the Retrospective.

Martinez said he attended the National Canoe Safety Patrol annual dinner to recognize their volunteer canoe safety patrols on the Delaware River that has been provided for many, many years involving countless volunteer hours. This group does an excellent job. He also said he would be participating in the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's Dec. 6 model signage dedication ceremony.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Bill Douglass said he would be participating at the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's sign dedication ceremony on Dec. 6 being held from Noon to 2 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY. NYS town members have been notified to submit project proposals to UDC by Dec. 12 under the \$75,000 state grant. The Flood Advisory Committee of the DRBC will be meeting on Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. at the DRBC West Trenton, NJ office. There is a Tennessee Gas Pipeline meeting Dec. 11 at Wallenpaupack High School from 6 to 8 p.m. regarding their proposed pipeline project that will run through southern Pike County. This is considered a loop project utilizing additional pipeline.

Douglass plans on attending the Hancock Partners meeting Dec. 8 regarding the economic plan for the Town of Hancock.

Old Business

NYC Delaware River Basin Reservoir Storage: Serio mentioned that with FFMP any of the reservoirs that go over 82% storage will kick them into the L1 release regime; and over 85% goes into the Lb-1 level release regime, and Pepacton Reservoir is at that level now.

Chase commented that he heard that the Delaware Aqueduct was now open. Peckham offered that it was on the NYC news that they just finished inspection of the Aqueduct.

New Business

Nominating Committee Report: Roeder provided the Nominating Committee report that included the 2009 slate of officers. They are: Chairperson – George J. Fluhr (Shohola Township); Vice-Chairperson – Harold Roeder Jr. (Town of Delaware); and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Niflot (Town of Fremont). Elections will be held at the Council’s annual meeting in January.

UDC Resolution 2008-10, Agreement FY 2009 Audit Services: Copy of resolution 2008-10 was provided to the members. This resolution authorizes the Council to enter into agreement with Eckersley and Ostrowski for audit services for fiscal year 2009 at a cost of \$8,425, which is lower than other years since an A133 OMB audit is not required. Following some discussion, a motion by Roeder seconded by Shafer to approve the resolution was carried.

UDC January Meeting date change: Douglass noted that due to the holiday, the Council will meet on the second Thursday of the month, instead of the first, which will be January 8, 2009. This is the annual meeting and will include election of 2009 officers.

Natural Gas leasing/exploration update: Serio reported that at the Town of Hancock Town Board meeting, it was learned that three permit applications to start and drill vertical test wells in January in the Town have been submitted. These applications will come under the DRBC’s review.

Public Comment None

Adjourn A motion by Roeder seconded by Chase to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager