

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2019

Committee Members Present: Harold Roeder Jr., Aaron Robinson, Larry Richardson, Jim Greier,
David Dean, Al Henry, Jeff Dexter
Committee Members Absent: Fred Peckham
Staff : Laurie Ramie, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas
NPS Partner: Marilou Ehrler, Carla Hauser-Hahn
Guests:

The UDC's Operations Committee held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Roeder called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m.

Approval of April 23rd Meeting Minutes: A motion by Greier seconded by Henry to approve the April 23rd meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Executive Director's Report and Monthly Calendar:

Financial Status:

FY 2018 Federal Funding: Ramie said UDC's NPS funding has finally come through. Bookkeeper Mike Poska was in today and checked that the account was credited for the amount Ramie requested from January through April. She asked for a settlement date of 5/28 because of the weekend and holiday, leaving UDC with a balance through 9/30 of \$162,765.68. Once Ramie knew the amount for the abstract of bills for May today she made the request to get that funding as well so UDC is completely up-to-date. The balance is now \$135,152.74. The UDC's FY 2019 2nd Quarter (Jan.-Feb.-Mar.) SF-425 financial and progress report was submitted to NPS on 4/30.

State Funding: Damascus Township Representative Jeff Dexter reported at the 5/2 UDC meeting that PA Representative Jonathan Fritz has introduced a \$100,000 appropriation for UDC operational funding by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be potentially diverted from the Delaware River Basin Commission's PA membership apportioned contribution. Ramie hasn't heard anything more about it nor anything negative about it. The Chamber of the Northern Poconos' Breakfast with State Legislators on 5/9 in Hawley was "cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances" and the UDC's \$28 payment was refunded.

Administration:

Building/Equipment: Henry noticed there are several wires from Frontier Communications behind the property of the UDC building by a shed that Frontier Communications uses but we are not certain of the boundaries of the property. Ramie found the survey but there were not stakes in the ground. Ramie thinks a friendly request to Frontier Communications may prompt them to clean it up. If reaffirmed, Ramie will schedule work on the 11/28/18 approved bid of \$591.30 by Cellex Building Services of Port Jervis to recondition the UDC office tile floors now that funding is available. A motion to proceed with the bid by Cellex made by Richardson seconded by Greier was carried.

Awards Banquet: There were 94 guests this year. Ramie will present Frosty Myers of Damascus with the Cultural Achievement Award since he was unable to attend now that he is back in the area.

Annual Report: A narrative report of UDC accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2019 was compiled over a total of 27.5 intermittent hours from 5/15 to 5/23 for on-line posting and distribution. That time included research, composition, proofreading, editing, and publicity. Please ask Hall-Bagdonas for a print copy if you'd prefer it over a PDF copy.

Publicity: UDC issued four news releases: "Rep. Cartwright Addresses the UDC; Honorees Recognized for River Work", 5/6; "D&H Canal Marker Dedicated", 5/9; "UDC Awards Three River Clean-up Grants", 5/11; and "UDC

Issues FY 2019 Annual Report”, 5/23.

Festivals: UDC anticipates staffing informational exhibit booths at the NPS Zane Grey Festival on 7/13 and Narrowsburg RiverFest on 7/28.

8/4 Raft Trip: Hall-Bagdonas prepared a flyer for the 31st Annual UDC Family Raft Trip (Ten Mile River to Barryville) for handout and posted the reservation form on the UDC website in the Message Alert section. Reservations are \$29 for adults and \$19 for ages 5-12 with a 7/26 deadline.

“The Upper Delaware”: Summer 2019 issue is due to the printer on 7/17 for publication on 8/5.

2019 Technical Assistance Grants: Ramie and Golod reviewed the grant contract, standard rider, and application documents for amendment in the Fiscal Year 2020 round starting 5/9, for discussion at the 5/28 Project Review Committee meeting. Four approved FY 2019 grants due for completion by 8/30 are: Shohola Township, \$5,000, ordinance update; Town of Tusten, \$5,000, municipal software; Town of Lumberland, \$787, Guide to Permits brochure; and Berlin Township, \$600, township informational brochure.

UDC T-shirt Sales: Now that UDC’s federal funding access is restored, Hall-Bagdonas will place an order with Platform Industries to replenish the supply and size distribution of UDC benefit t-shirts (\$15 donation) in advance of the festival season.

Ramie referred to the June calendar noting that Golod would be returning June 5th. The Delaware River Sojourn has partnered with NPS on 6/14 to do a clean-up of the problematic area between Skinners Falls and Narrowsburg. Register through delawareriversojourn.com. Dexter asked Ramie if she was attending the NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting on 5/29 and Ramie confirmed she was attending with members of NPS. Dexter said they are supposed to be doing an engineering review of Milanville Bridge but they didn’t say what the intent is other than listing several alternatives to repairing the bridge. Dexter asked Ramie to pay attention for anything they may mention about that. Another question Ramie was asked to pose is regarding the Pond Eddy Bridge and will there ever be a dedication or ceremony? Hauser-Hahn said that question had been asked and they said no. Ramie knows there is a plaque there to memorialize the 1904 bridge that was razed. Ramie was also asked if there is any opportunity to name any of these bridges.

New Business

Inspect the area behind the UDC office to make recommendations for its clean-up in conjunction with Frontier Communications: Discussed in Executive Director’s Report.

Summary of Pending Bills 5-28-19: A motion by Henry, seconded by Dean to approve the bills was carried.

Financial Statement 5-31-19: Roeder said the financial statement is offered for individual review.

Other: The Delaware River Watershed Signage meeting is taking place at UDC on 6/11 at 6 p.m. Ramie received a preliminary list of attendees so far and 15 people have signed up. A few of the confirmed guests are: Ramie, The New York League of Conservation Voters, Adam Bosch of NYC DEP, Senator Metzger is sending a representative, the County Manager for Sullivan, Catskill Mountainkeeper, The Coalition for the Delaware Watershed, The Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), Jennifer Claster from NPS, Planners and Senior Planners from Sullivan and Broome County. If interested, please sign up by 6/3.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion Robinson seconded by Henry to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. was carried.