

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2016

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont-Jim Greier, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland-Andy Boyar, Town of Lumberland-Zoriana Gingold, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township-Jeffrey Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Shohola Township-Aaron Robinson, Westfall Township-Michael Barth, National Park Service-Kris Heister. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Also in attendance: Katt Judd, Town of Hancock alternate, Deb Conway, Town of Highland alternate, and Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark alternate. Absent: Lackawaxen Township, State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Delaware River Basin Commission. Media: Dave Hulse, Peter Becker. Guests: A.J. Schwartz, Allan Schadt, Adam Bosch, Jennifer Garigliano.

Peckham announced a change in the order of the agenda. He stated the Council would be addressing New Business Item e, "New York City Department of Environmental Protection Letter request for Congressional action on the Proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric Facility" first. Peckham introduced Adam Bosch, Director of Public Affairs for NYC DEP Bureau of Water Supply and Jennifer Garigliano, Chief of Staff. Bosch stated they were in attendance to explain their request to the UDC for a letter of support for a postponement that DEP is seeking for the hydroelectric facility at the Cannonsville Dam. He spoke of the incident at the reservoir during the summer of 2015 which caused several weeks of an uncontrolled turbid discharge into West Branch of the Delaware River. The situation was remedied very quickly, he added. He stated that during the second round of public meetings held after this incident, DEC officials mentioned that they were going to seek a "stay" or postponement of their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license that allows them to build the hydroelectric facility. The FERC permit issued to New York City currently requires construction of the hydroelectric facility to begin no later than May 13, 2016. New York City needs a 10-year postponement to reassess the initial design assumptions that yielded cost and revenue estimated for the power plant and reevaluate the project from a dam-safety perspective. Bosch provided the reasons for the 10-year extension. Technical information is needed to base the decision on whether the project should move forward or not. Because FERC is not permitted to grant an extension of greater than two years, it is understood that Congressional action will be required to provide the time for the reevaluation process, Bosch added. He said they've been working with Congressman Gibson and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to get legislation passed in order for FERC to be able to grant the NYC DEP an extension of at least eight years. DEP has been advised that it would be helpful to secure letters of support for that Congressional action that is needed. Bosch reported that on March 2nd the motion for the two-year stay with FERC was filed. The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose will be handling this application. The project number is P-13287-004 – Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project. Bosch said he's been told that it would be helpful that in addition to the letters of support on the Congressional action, letters of support be sent to FERC on this two-year stay application. Those letters can be sent to the Hon. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 24026. FERC does prefer electronic filings, which are made via its website,

www.ferc.gov. Peckham asked what the time frame is for getting the letters secured. Bosch told him a couple of months. Boyar referred to the letter provided in members' packets from the Supervisors of the Towns of Deposit, Hancock, and Sanford, and the Mayors of the Villages of Deposit and Hancock. He asked Bosch if the letter is in good format as he sees it. Bosch said that letter was included in order to provide a foundation of fact for the UDC to write its own. Boyar does not see the letter needing much changing and does not feel the UDC would need to "re-invent the wheel" as the letter tells the whole story and justifications that Bosch had explained. A motion to draft two letters addressed to Gibson, Schumer, and Gillibrand and FERC Secretary Kimberly D. Bose seeking Congressional action to extend the federal permit for the proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric Facility for discussion at the March 15 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting and a potential vote at the April 7 full Council meeting was made by Boyar. He said he will be encouraging the Town of Highland as well as the environmental groups that he is involved with to do the same, Boyar added. The motion was seconded by Henry.

Richardson questioned what could happen if NYC's FERC license is turned back into FERC. Garigliano explained that if NYC were to turn in their license, someone else could apply for it. She added that if NYC conducts the technical analysis and the results show that a hydroelectric facility shouldn't be there, FERC would not allow anyone to build a facility there. Bosch explained that it was known that there was a ground water condition at the Cannonsville Dam and the borings were being done to understand the nature of the soil and the bedrock, and to understand how the ground water condition existed there so that the design of the foundation could be determined. Richardson asked Bosch if the City really wants a hydroelectric facility at Cannonsville. Bosch said they will move forward if the analysis finds that it is suitable and as long as the finances make sense. He said that if the City finds that it can pay for itself and that it can be built safely, the City will go forward. The proposed plant is one of the biggest parts of the City's greenhouse gas emission reduction plans. Dean stated he gets the impression that the City is not in favor of the facility. Bosch noted that the City's main business is water supply and if the proposed facility is going to jeopardize the integrity of Cannonsville Dam in any way, shape or form, they are not going to do it. The incident last summer has made them hesitant about going further without knowing a lot more information than they know already. Sullivan asked Bosch if they would appreciate letters from local municipalities as well. Bosch said they welcome letters from anyone and he encouraged they share whatever opinion it is they have. After discussion clarifying that the letter will go through the WU/RM Committee, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Boyar asked if communication and outreach on the City's part can be improved. Bosch said that in regards to the letter, the City couldn't reach out to everyone. They reached out to groups that they thought could turn around a letter quickly as they wanted to get the extension request pushed through the Congressional committees pretty quickly. Bosch listed some of the agencies and groups they reached out to including NYS DEC, Delaware County, the five immediate downstream communities, and the UDC. Bosch reiterated that anyone who wants to write a letter can do so. He added that no one should have hurt feelings because they weren't asked.

Peckham stated it had come to his attention that NYC DEP will be providing 550 emergency weather radios to property owners immediately downstream of Cannonsville Reservoir. Bosch said that was correct and they will be deposited in the Town of Deposit, Village of Deposit and Town of Sanford. Peckham said he is a river front property owner in the Town of Hancock and noted that there is no early warning system currently in place. Bosch reported that the Delaware River area gets weather radio signal from three towers located in Binghamton, NY, Honesdale, PA, and Walton, NY. He noted that the Walton tower currently does not work and as a result there is a dead spot through a large area in Hancock. NYC DEP is working with the National Weather Service to try and get them to not only repair the Walton tower, but to upgrade with some repeaters so that the entire river valley would get signal. NYC DEP is also in talks with local municipal organizations about their capabilities for alerting people in the event of an emergency. Peckham asked if the UDC could get an update on the status of the DEP public safety initiatives for communities below the reservoir. Boyar spoke of his idea of a visual uniform warning system up and down the river located on the bridges. He asked Bosch if the proposed hydroelectric facility will work with any release program. Bosch said that the facility will use the release water under whatever program is in place at that time; it wouldn't be additional or less.

Peckham thanked Bosch and Garigliano for their time.

Presentation by A.J. Schwartz of Environmental Planning & Design, LLC: Recommendations for Updating the UDC's Project Review Workbook: Peckham introduced A.J. Schwartz of Environmental Planning & Design, LLC (EP&D). Ramie stated that the Project Review Workbook project began in October. EP&D was asked to look at the Workbook and make recommendations for how the book could be streamlined and made more user-friendly. Schwartz showed a PowerPoint presentation and hard copies of the report were provided to each member. He said he met with the Project Review Committee last month and had a work session with the UDC staff, Kris Heister and Carla Hahn of the NPS to formulate some of the final recommendations. Schwartz noted that the Workbook guides what happens from a zoning ordinance perspective as well as from a project review perspective. The current Workbook dates back to the 1980's and was put together well, Schwartz said. He added that it does need to be "freshened up" in some cases and the institutional memory of the document needs to be restored. Schwartz went over his findings listed in his report with members as well as the initial recommendations to ease the project review process for local governments while more concretely defining the roles and responsibilities/actions of the UDC and others in the process. The recommended modifications fall under four major categories of: a.) Roles/Responsibilities/Timing; b.) Workbook Presentation/Formatting; c.) Outreach/Education/Awareness; and d.) Information Exchange. Schwartz reported that a major observation that was made during the Workbook review and as a result of the survey that was conducted was the fact that a lot of the municipalities are not forwarding applications as they come in to the UDC for them to begin the project review process. He believes that changes in municipal personnel over the years has contributed to this and feels that facilitating training sessions at the municipal levels could be beneficial to build awareness of the Project Review process.

Schwartz suggested that countywide zoning ordinances be reviewed for substantial conformance. He explained that since the Workbook was first published in 1988, the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code (MPC) has been amended to require that county governments in the Commonwealth adopt countywide zoning ordinances. These ordinances serve as "backup" for those municipalities that do not have their own zoning in place. As the county zoning ordinances apply to those townships described, such ordinances should be reviewed for substantial conformance. He added that this issue is unique to Pennsylvania.

Schwartz stated that he suggests separating the existing Workbook into at least two workbooks. The first Workbook would be designed for use by the UDC, its reviewers, and the NPS. A second workbook, which could be condensed to as few as five pages, should be developed for use by local municipal officials so that they can avoid having to sift through pages of material designed for use by the UDC and NPS. He added that additional summary flowcharts for all step-by-step procedures found in the Workbook could be developed in order to help with some of the processes. An example was provided in the written report. Schwartz also suggests outlining the various paths that a review could take in the beginning of the Workbook to give users a general idea of the processes outlined in greater detail later in the document. Schwartz noted that the Workbook is a document that is intended to be used by the Park Service as well as the UDC. Because of this, the process in the Workbook needs to be able to be easily followed by both the UDC and NPS, as both entities are responsible for conducting project reviews.

Schwartz feels that clearly-defined metrics or baseline standards that need to be met if "other" is checked as the answer choice for Criteria in the Class I and Class II Reviews should be established. He explained his reasoning behind this and samples were provided in the written report.

Schwartz stated that the way the Workbook is currently structured more emphasis is put on the Review of Substantial Conformance. Since the UDC already knows which towns/townships are in conformance, the review of Significant Projects should be emphasized. He feels this could be accomplished by moving the Review of Substantial Conformance behind the Review of Significant Projects in the Workbook.

Schwartz noted that the Workbook should address more directly the need to review public infrastructure projects, not just land development. He added that a chart could be created to condense the special/conditional uses.

Schwartz reviewed the Outreach/Education/Awareness suggestions. They include holding summits, workshops, training sessions and supplementing regular lines of communication between the UDC and participating municipalities.

Schwartz reviewed the Information Exchange suggestions laid out in his written report. They include referencing applicable sections of ordinances and codes to validate checklist responses; developing a stronger on-line presence for better stakeholder information exchange; and including an interactive map as part of the increased on-line presence. Schwartz feels that the UDC website could be a “clearinghouse” for all stakeholder groups to stay up-to-date and informed in the project review process. Some examples of what the website could be modified to look like were provided in the written report.

Boyar suggested a sample letter could be drafted to be sent annually to the participating towns and townships, counties and the states describing what types of land use, development, and zoning projects need to be submitted to the Council for review and why. The letter could also offer contact information for further information and assistance. Schwartz made note of that, saying it was a “good idea.”

Ramie stated that the next step in this Workbook project would be for the Project Review Committee to discuss at their March 22nd meeting what actions to take based on the recommendations from the report presented by Schwartz.

Peckham thanked Schwartz for his presentation.

Approval of February 4 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Boyar to approve the February 4 meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports provided as all three committee meetings were cancelled during the month of February due to inclement weather.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: The DRBC was absent, however, the hydrologic report was provided. The NYC Delaware River Basin Storage as of February 26, 2016 was at a combined capacity of 92.4% with Cannonsville at 94.5%.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: No report in the absence of Representative Bill Rudge. Four press releases were included in members’ packets at Rudge’s request. Those releases were “DEC Announces Results of Study to Guide Buck Management” dated February 18, 2016; “Saratoga Tree Nursery Kicks off Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale and School Seedling Program” dated February 24, 2016; “Governor Cuomo Proposes New Regulations to Prevent Contamination from Solid Waste Facilities” dated February 29, 2016; and “DEC Begins Training for Newest Class of Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers” dated March 1, 2016.

PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources: No report in the absence of Representative Tim Dugan, however, he provided a written report to be included in members’ packets. The report contained a response to Deerpark Representative Dean’s inquiry of whether any Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorities have been contacted regarding notification of the Port Jervis Whitewater Park proposed development. Dugan’s response reads, “To the best of my knowledge, Commonwealth of PA agencies were not involved in this proposed project. In the reports I found, there was no mention of any PA agencies. Our DCNR grant staff did not have any knowledge or involvement. It appears that it has been a few years since any activity.”

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Heister referred to the NPS letter dated March 3, 2016 to George Roberts of PennDOT urging them to consider repair options that would allow the Skinners Falls Bridge to be reopened to the public as soon as possible which was provided in members’ packets. They list the protection of human life and visitor safety as their primary concerns.

Heister noted that a meeting about the oral history project took place on February 26th to discuss different scenarios and under what conditions transcripts and tapes will be released. Good progress was made and they continue to move forward with this project, she reported.

Heister said that a list of the Centennial events that the Park Service will be holding will be included in the calendar insert of *The River Reporter* expected out in April or May.

Heister said a review is being conducted of the fee structure for Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA). Such a review has not been conducted in 7 – 10 years. There are likely to be changes to that fee structure, she added. The application fee will likely be lowered, but that will not likely hold true for the monitoring fee. She feels the current schedule is unfair. They are also looking to correct some inconsistencies in how the CUAs are issued.

Dudko asked when and how the oral history tapes will be available. Heister said that families of the interviewees will have access first. The posting of completed transcripts on-line will follow. The tapes themselves will be released for educational, research, and interpretive purposes as they become available, she added. At this point, only half of the tapes have been transcribed. An index of the tapes that will include the contents will eventually be available on-line and the tapes may then be requested on CD. Heister noted that some of the tapes are quite lengthy. She reported that some of the project will be released this year. Hulse questioned if the NPS will be continuing with the interviews. Heister said they would like to, but will not plan to undertake this until the current project is complete. She added that if individuals know of someone who would be really important to interview, please let them know that.

Heister said they've been going through an exercise of identifying gaps in skillset in the staff. An example she provided was that this is a river park and yet there is no hydrologist, no fishery biologist, or no aquatic ecologist on staff. As a result of this exercise, they are doing some reorganization. She said there will be some changes in staffing and some changes in organizational structure. Henry questioned if they will be impacting public safety by reducing staff. Heister said there will be no changes proposed for law enforcement.

Peckham said that the River Management Plan states that one of the primary management responsibilities of the NPS is visitor protection services on the water surface for the public. He questioned if the NPS could reach out to New York City to inquire about emergency management plans. She said we could talk further about that. Heister questioned if Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety Dick Martinkovic was still scheduled to attend a UDC meeting. Ramie said she will be sending him an invitation to address the board about river-related emergency planning and the 911 system. Heister said she would like to talk about Peckham's suggestion after the Council hears from Martinkovic.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie reported that Travis O'Dell's resignation was effective February 26th. The deadline for applications to fill the Resource Specialist position was Monday, February 29th. We received 17 applications by the deadline, she added. The Personnel Subcommittee met in advance of this meeting to review the applications. Ramie said we are moving forward to fill the position as soon as possible.

Ramie said we are accepting nominations through March 14th for our Awards Banquet. She said if anyone has any ideas for worthy projects or individuals, communities or organizations that have worked to benefit the quality of life and resources of the Delaware River valley, please let her know. A nomination form was included in members' packets. The banquet will be held on April 24 at the Tennanah Lake Golf and Tennis Club in the Town of Fremont. Ramie said she continues to work to secure a keynote speaker for the event.

Ramie said she is on deadline to design and write the Spring/Summer of "The Upper Delaware" newsletter. It is due to the printer by March 16th.

The mid-term reports for the 2016 round of Technical Assistance Grants were due by February 29th. Of the ten projects, Odell said we are waiting only on Damascus Township. The completion date for the TAGs is August 22nd.

Ramie said for the past two years, the UDC has offered river and shoreline clean-up grants. There are currently no monies specifically allocated for these grants, but it would just be a matter of transferring it from one budget line, using savings in other areas should the board decide to approve this program. Heister stated that the NPS would be willing to work with groups as far as pick up of garbage for this program. After a brief discussion, a motion to fund the River Clean-up program up to \$3,000 was made by Barth, seconded by Richardson and carried. Hulse questioned if NPS law enforcement is issuing citations for littering. Heister told him they've had multiple attempts to prosecute.

Ramie reported that the UDC joined many other Upper Delaware interests by sending a letter on January 7 to the four basin states and New York City that comprise the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree Parties. A follow-up to the December 3, 2015 DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC)

meeting in Hawley where no principals were present to hear local input before the FFMP expires on May 31 was asked for. It had become clear at the December 3rd meeting that negotiations had broken down amongst the five parties. Ramie stated that “voices were heard” and another RFAC meeting has been scheduled for April 5 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA. A letter received from the USGS. Rivermaster Robert Mason states, “The Principals will endeavor to attend and hear public comments first-hand.” This meeting will be open to the public.

Ramie said she attended the mid-term meeting of the Geotourism Stewardship Council on February 17 and 18. Preliminary nominations of sites to the “Scenic, Wild Delaware River” website had been accepted through January 16th. A total of 707 nominations were submitted by 514 content contributors. National Geographic Society was quite pleased with this response, Ramie noted. It was discussed and agreed upon at the meeting that a geographic scope of generally a 30 mile-drive from the river would be accepted. Editorial content, themes, and features of the interactive website, including a trip planner tool, were discussed. Each applicant that is ultimately chosen for inclusion on the site will receive a certificate, window sticker, and a website badge link to tout the National Geographic branding. Ramie said that the mission statement was reviewed and also a draft strategic plan so that this initiative carries on beyond the May expiration of the two-year grant. The roll-out events that are planned are targeted for May 4th and 5th in all three states. Committees for fundraising, publicity, and future Stewardship Council projects were set up. The Stewardship Council will meet again sometime in April to review sample itineraries for the trip planner feature to match different themes or for various traveler demographics.

Ramie referred to the Local Officials Directory provided in members’ packets. This directory was compiled primarily by Christine Hollenbeck of the Park Service with some assistance by Odell, she added. Ramie said the directory will be available on-line.

Ramie referred to the flyers in members’ packets featuring a Highland History Hike at the Minisink Battleground on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. and The History of Sullivan County six week course taught by Sullivan County Historian John Conway beginning April 11th in Hurleyville. To register, or for more information e-mail jconway52@hotmail.com.

Ramie noted that the March calendar of UDC Meetings, Activities and Deadlines was included in the packets for members’ information.

Ramie asked for confirmation that the Board did want to proceed with the invitation to Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety Dick Martinkovic to be a presenter at the April 7th full Council meeting. Members said they did.

Old Business:

Henry said he would like the Park Service to check on the NYS DEC signage down at the Barryville Access. Heister said she will inquire of Mike Flaherty of NYS DEC as to the status of the signage installation at the Barryville River Access located at the cul-de-sac upstream of the bridge. Henry noted he would like this issue resolved by the spring visitor season.

Robinson said he recently met with Frontier Communications, the local telephone company in the area, to discuss improving communication in the river valley. They advised him that they are able to install emergency call boxes on the bases of telephone poles. A written report with a pricing summary was included in members’ packets. In October 2015 US Senator Schumer (NY) articulated his desire to enhance communication assess in his district, particularly in cellphone dead zones in upstate New York. A motion authorizing Ramie on behalf on the UDC to write a letter to Senator Schumer requesting assistance with identifying funding sources for enhancing emergency communications for the cell service dead zones in the Upper Delaware River Valley was made by Robinson and seconded by Boyar. Henry said that he had a conversation with an individual who recently retired from Conrail whose job was radio communication along this line. That person suggested that landlines would be the best way to increase communication in this area. Henry suggested that reiterating the concerns of people living below the New York City reservoirs may bring attention to the need for the increased emergency communication along the river. Boyar suggested that Robinson may be able to help Ramie draft the letter. Peckham suggested the letter be brought through the Project Review Committee. Richardson wanted to clarify that the letter could go out over his signature as the chairman of the committee. Members agreed. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

New Business:

Draft Resolution 2016-03: Resolution of Tribute to William E. Douglass: A motion to approve the Resolution of Tribute was made by Roeder and seconded by Henry. The resolution was read aloud by Odell. It read as follows:

Whereas, The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) hired William E. Douglass as the non-profit organization's first Executive Director on March 13, 1989, a position that he held with distinction for 22 years before retiring effective January 1, 2012; *and*

Whereas, As chief support staff to the Council, "Bill" was responsible for establishing the framework of programs and activities necessary to accomplish the UDC's mission of ensuring effective implementation of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* in partnership with the National Park Service; *and*

Whereas, The position required Bill to demonstrate skills in intergovernmental coordination, organizational administration, budgeting, communications, strategic planning, staff supervision, outreach to board members, elected officials, media, and the public, and to have an extensive knowledge of land use development and resource management issues; *and*

Whereas, Bill performed his duties with diplomacy, studious research, a strong work ethic, an engaging demeanor, and dedication equaled only to his devotion to his beloved family and volunteer service to his community in Wayne County, Pennsylvania; *and*

Whereas, The membership and staff of the Upper Delaware Council mourns the loss and cherishes the memory of Bill Douglass (April 17, 1949 to February 13, 2016);

Now, therefore, be it resolved that,

- 1) The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. expresses gratitude to William E. Douglass for his impactful contributions to building and sustaining the successful legacy of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's cooperative management model; *and*
- 2) This resolution will be presented to Bill's family with condolences and respect.

A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Draft Letter to Penn DOT: Regarding SR 1002 Milanville, PA-Skinners Falls, NY Bridge Closure: Ramie noted that this letter was sent out in advance for member's review. She stated that a letter from the Wayne County Planning Commission regarding the repair and reopening of the bridge was included in the packets in addition to the NPS letter. A motion to approve the letter was made by Boyar, seconded by Greier and carried.

Draft Letter to NPS Superintendent Heister: Shohola Township Zoning Ordinance No. 79 Substantial Conformance Recommendation: Richardson asked Robinson if the Township has adopted the Ordinance. Robinson told him it has. Richardson stated that the Project Review Committee has reviewed the ordinance extensively and they found it to be in conformance. A motion to approve the letter urging the NPS to concur with the recommendation was made by Robinson, seconded by Dean and approved.

2016 Upper Delaware BioBlitz Sponsorship Request: Henry made a motion to sponsor the June 24-25 event at the \$500 level. The motion was seconded by Boyar and carried.

New York City Department of Environmental Protection letter request for Congressional action on the Proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric Facility: This item was reviewed at the beginning of the meeting.

Other: Boyar spoke of multiple incidents last summer where one of the commercial liveries used the fishing access in Barryville. He added this access was not designed for this purpose. He asked if the topic of commercial entities using public river accesses to launch or take out large groups of boaters could be discussed at the March 15th Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. He added it would be nice not to have it happen again this summer.

Public Comment: Allan Schadt, former supervisor of the Town of Highland and UDC delegate, stated he was in attendance to talk about compressor stations. He realizes that the one proposed in the Town of Highland is out of the corridor. He spoke of the bodies of water within a two-mile distance of the proposed station. He is concerned about the negative effects on the water of the Delaware River. It was discussed that this topic be deferred to the next Project Review Committee meeting. Schadt said he will be asking the Council to write a letter to FERC requesting studies be done in advance of the proposed construction of the station. Peckham referred it to the March 22nd meeting. Boyar said he researched FERC's mission statement and that they are supposed to "Facilitate public trust and understanding of Commission activities by promoting transparency, open communication, and a high standard of ethics." He feels this mission step gets skipped by FERC and they should be held to task on this. Sullivan asked Schadt if he could provide a sample of a letter that others have sent to FERC at the Project Review Committee meeting. Schadt said he has a letter, and will bring it to that meeting.

Barth questioned if the boat launch in Westfall is a Park Service launch or a township launch. Dean told him it is Westfall, noting that the Park Service jurisdiction ends just above the No. 2 bridge in Deerpark.

Dean said that personally, he found Travis O'Dell a "pleasure to work with" and he thinks he is "an extremely competent young man and he's headed on to greener pastures". He hopes that if there are any inquiries made of his character or work ethic, that he would get a positive review. He added that he would support that and hopes that the rest of the Council would feel the same way. Ramie said O'Dell has asked for a general reference from her already and she would certainly do that, as she would for anyone that she admired.

Katt Judd, Town of Hancock alternate, introduced herself. She said she is retired from NYS DOT and now a certified family herbalist. She questioned if the UDC could contact PennDOT about the maintenance needs of the Lordville Road. She stated that one of the issues is that the ditching is not maintained and as a result, the water is running across the road and eroding the bank on the Delaware River side. Ramie said a letter could be drafted.

Hulse stated he thought that the Skinners Falls Bridge was New York State's responsibility. He was told that the commission divides responsibility for the 10 bridges of the Upper Delaware River between the two states. Pennsylvania is responsible for bridges No. 1 to 5—Port Jervis to Skinners Falls; New York is responsible for bridges No. 6 to 10—the Cohecton-Damascus bridge to the Hancock bridge.

Boyar requested a moment of silence be observed for William E. Douglass.

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Dean, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 3/11/16