

Responsibility & Authority

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. was unique in the world of river conservation and management when established in 1988 because it represented a formal partnership of local, state, and federal governments and agencies which have joined together to manage the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a true national treasure.

The Council's existence evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation which designated the Upper Delaware River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and called for development of a management plan and a program providing for the coordinated implementation and administration of the plan. To that end, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) was formed in 1988.

What sets this River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the resources on their own private property, as opposed to federal ownership of the land in the river corridor. The Council membership operates under a long-term cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

The UDC is classified as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). It is incorporated in the Commonwealth of PA and registered to do business in NYS as well. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



A partnership for land, water, and people working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River in New York and Pennsylvania

On the cover: Construction of the 182-mile long Millennium Pipeline through seven New York State counties got underway in the Delaware River Valley region in Spring 2008. Replacement of a 12-inch line built in 1949 with the new 30-inch pipe to transport natural gas required large clearings and many road and water crossings, like at the East Branch of the Delaware River in Hancock. (6/6/08 photo by David B. Soete)

Upper Delaware Council

**P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192**

Phone: (845) 252-3022

Fax: (845) 252-3359

www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

E-mail (user names as noted below):

Executive Director: udcdouglass

Sr. Resource Specialist: udcsoete

Public Relations: udcramie

Office Manager: udcconey

@hvc.rr.com

Copyright 2009 by Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Upper Delaware Council Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2008

October 1, 2007 to
September 30, 2008

The View From the Chair ...

Alan Bowers

**2008 Chairperson
Westfall Township, PA**



The year 2008 was one of both progress and challenges for the Upper Delaware Council.

During our 20th anniversary year, we happily saw the PA Townships of Damascus (on 7/21/08) and Berlin (on 11/18/08) join us.

We hope that this will encourage the remaining Wayne County eligible townships to come on board and help administer the River Management Plan.

Both old and new challenges confront us.

The controversy of the New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI) power line is still ongoing. The possibility of the line passing directly down along the river now seems remote.

But, until the question of if and where the power line is located is finally settled, we must remain vigilant.

The probability of wide-spread drilling for natural gas in the area has created many concerns, both environmentally and cultural. What these impacts will be no one knows for sure.

The UDC must be well informed about this process so that we can fulfill our obligation to protect the river corridor.

Perhaps the greatest challenge ahead of us is to ensure that the UDC is properly funded. Without increased funding we will not be able to operate as we have in the past.

We are still operating under the same budget level that was mandated 20 years ago. During that time, all operating costs have increased, some dramatically so.

In order to provide the same level of services, we must seek higher levels or new sources of support. If we do not, some hard choices will be before us. Let's hope that even in these difficult times, we can be successful.

Our future depends on it.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

UDC Activity Highlights in FY 2008

Jan.-9/30/08 - Under the banner of "Partnering to Protect the River: 1978-2008," assisted the National Park Service with organizing activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Council's incorporation, the 30th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's designation, and the 40th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act's passage.

2/7/08 - Attended three months of hearings as an Interested Party and submitted testimony recommending denial of a major mining permit for a proposed 40-acre expansion of a bluestone quarry in Lackawaxen Township, a conditional use application that was withdrawn on this date.

3/26/08 - Hosted a 20th anniversary public workshop, "A Review of the River Management Plan's Land and Water Use Guidelines for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River," in Narrowsburg, NY attended by 28 participants.

4/1/08 - Began distributing 30,000 copies of the UDC's revised "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" brochure.

4/4/08 - Senator John J. Bonacic named the UDC to administer a \$75,000 FY 2008-09 Aid to Localities grant program benefiting the UDC's eight NYS member towns.

4/7/08 - Received a \$50,000 state grant payment as secured by Sen. Bonacic for reimbursement of the UDC's extra expenses incurred to review and study the impacts on the Upper Delaware River Valley of New York Regional Interconnect, Inc.'s (NYRI) Article VII application before the NYS Public Service Commission to build a \$2.1 billion, 190-mile-long, high-voltage electric transmission line.

5/21/08 - Co-sponsored a "Natural Gas Public Information Forum" in Honesdale, PA attended by approximately 700 people to discuss natural gas extraction from drilling into the Marcellus shale formation that underlies much of the river valley region, as part of the UDC's ongoing research.

Upper Delaware Council Staff

Full-time Employees:

Executive Director.....William E. Douglass
Senior Resource Specialist.....David B. Soete
Public Relations/Fundraising.....Laurie Ramie
Office Manager.....Carol Coney

Contractors:

Bookkeeper.....Michael Poska, CPA
Auditors.....Eckersley & Ostrowski, CPAs
Attorney.....John J. Keating, Esq.

5/27/08 - Attended the annual meeting of the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission to publicize the capital construction and maintenance plans for the 10 bridge crossings.

6/22-23/08 - Served on the Steering Committee for the 2008 Delaware River Sojourn: "Conserving Our Wild and Scenic Rivers," with two days of kayak and canoe paddling, camping, meals, and programs in the Upper Delaware section.

6/24/08 - Approved a support letter with an allocation of UDC staff time for a successful NYS Department of State grant application by the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management to draft an Upper Delaware River Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

7/3/08 - Sent a comment letter to PPL Electric Utilities opposing a proposed route for a new 500 kV transmission line that would have bisected Shohola and Lackawaxen Townships.

7/4/08 - Launched the organization's first official website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

7/21/08 - Welcomed a unanimous vote by Damascus Township, PA to join the UDC.

8/1/08 - Received a \$10,000 state grant payment secured by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther for website development, installation of a new water heating system, sponsorship of the 3/26 land use seminar, and interior office painting.

8/3/08 - Attracted 101 guests to participate in the UDC's 20th Annual Family Raft Trip from Minisink Ford to Pond Eddy.

Ongoing - Monitored the Delaware River Basin Commission's Flexible Flow Management Plan regulation amendment process pertaining to operation of the New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs, as well as flood response and mitigation strategies throughout the watershed.

Ongoing - Maintained a listserv to share information on threats, opportunities, and challenges facing the river valley.

Ongoing - Stayed abreast of all initiatives that could pose adverse environmental impacts on the river corridor.

Technical Assistance Grants

Since 1988, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded \$639,692 in Technical Assistance Grants funding for 180 projects by member towns and townships or their counties. The UDC approved seven grants totaling \$30,000 on Sept. 4, 2008, as follows:

Towns of Tusten, Cochection, Delaware, and Highland, NY - \$12,000 to undertake a multi-municipal study entitled "Managing Natural Gas Development Impacts: Strategies to Protect Town Infrastructure and Land Use", under the guidance of the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management.

Town of Hancock, NY - \$5,000 to develop a Town of Hancock Site Plan Review Local Law, with the Delaware County Planning Department.

Town of Fremont, NY - \$3,000 to review and update the Town's zoning laws to conform to the new Town of Fremont Comprehensive Plan.

Pike County, PA - \$3,000 to facilitate the development of the Matamoras Borough-Westfall Township Regional Comprehensive Plan and an Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan, under the coordination of the Pike County Office of Community Planning.

Town of Delaware, NY - \$2,500 to update the Town of Delaware Zoning Law to address and develop standards for alternative energy sources, including geothermal, solar, and wind energy devices.

Town of Lumberland, NY - \$2,500 to compile and print the Town of Lumberland's Final Comprehensive Master Plan.

Damascus Township, PA - \$2,000 to combine and print the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and the Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan, into one document.

2008 Annual Awards Ceremony

The Upper Delaware Council's 20th Annual Awards Ceremony was held on April 27, 2008 at LaSalette Restaurant in Hancock, NY, with 91 guests attending. New York State Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch (107th District) served as keynote speaker. Awards were presented in the following categories to:

Distinguished Service Award.....**Sandra S. Schultz**, Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Awards.....**Thomas Ziser** (May 28, 2007 rescue at Narrowsburg); and **Shohola-Barryville Bridge Construction Crew** (July 10, 2007 rescue at Shohola Rapids)

Partnership Award.....**Town of Highland Eagle Observation Shelter: Highland Renaissance, The Eagle Institute, and the Town of Highland**

Community Service Award.....**Pat Camuso, journalist**

Recreation Achievement Award.....**Tom Freda, Callicoon Canoe Regatta**

Cultural Achievement Award.....**Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History**

Volunteer Award.....**Twin & Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy**

Special Recognition Award.....**Trout Unlimited** (flood response projects)

Special Recognition Award.....**Dry Stone Conservancy** (Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct masonry restoration work)

Oaken Gavel Award..... **F. Gerald Mackin**, 2007 UDC Chairperson, Town of Hancock, NY Representative

Upper Delaware Council Objectives for FY 2009 (10/1/08-9/30/09)

- ◆ Co-sponsor an Upper Delaware Expo on 10/25/08 and a Thirty-Year Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Retrospective on 11/8/08 to commemorate Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service (NPS) anniversaries in 2008.
- ◆ Support the NPS request for an increase in its base operating budget, including an increase in the UDC's annual allocation, as well as funding to undertake a formal review of the River Management Plan and its Land and Water Use Guidelines.
- ◆ Encourage Berlin, Manchester and Buckingham Townships to join the UDC to complete the full roster of eligible municipal members.
- ◆ Take appropriate actions to oppose New York Regional Interconnect, Inc.'s proposal for a High-Voltage, Direct-Current electric transmission line.
- ◆ Draft a position paper on natural gas development in the river valley.
- ◆ Advocate for a better balance of river flows and releases from management of the New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs, and the development of an optimum fisheries management program for the Upper Delaware River.
- ◆ Finalize the Town of Hancock's Substantial Conformance review, and review all

new town/ship ordinances and amendments to confirm continued compliance with the River Management Plan's guidelines.

- ◆ Administer NYS grants for UDC and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) municipalities, and provide staff support for the non-profit UDSB organization. Encourage Pennsylvania to implement a funding program to benefit UDC member townships.
- ◆ Examine ways to supplement the Technical Assistance Grants program funding.
- ◆ Track and provide comment on the drafting, revisions and implementation of state resource management plans and policies impacting the Upper Delaware River Valley.
- ◆ Coordinate with the NPS, the counties, and states on the management of key sites of natural, cultural, and historical interest.
- ◆ Assist with the development of an Upper Delaware River Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties, NY communities.
- ◆ Regularly update the UDC's website, publish "The Upper Delaware" newsletter on 4/1 and 9/1 in 2009, sponsor an annual awards ceremony and raft trip, co-sponsor informational programs, and issue news releases as public outreach tools.

Statement of Fund Balances

	Year Ending 9/30/08	Year Ending 9/30/07
REVENUES		
NPS Cooperative Agreement	\$310,000	\$300,000
Grants	10,000	125,000
Interest Income	1,630	4,283
Other Income	3,775	2,575
Total Revenues	\$325,405	\$431,858
EXPENSES		
Personnel	\$232,654	\$228,236
Special Projects/Program Services	65,455	130,581
Operations	58,994	54,919
Interest Refund-NPS	515	1,573
Total Expenses	\$357,618	\$415,309
TRANSFER		
Capital Expenditures	\$1,855	\$10,134
Capital Expenditures Capitalized	1,855	10,134
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$147,778	\$131,229
Net Assets - End of Year	\$115,565	\$147,778
Change in Net Assets	(32,213)	16,549

UDC Membership (as of Sept. 30, 2008)

2008 Officers: Chairperson Alan Bowers; Vice-Chair Charles Wieland; Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot

MEMBER

Town of Hancock
 Town of Fremont
 Town of Delaware
 Town of Cochection
 Town of Tusten
 Town of Highland
 Town of Lumberland
 Town of Deerpark
 Damascus Township
 Lackawaxen Township
 Shohola Township
 Westfall Township
 State of New York
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Delaware River Basin Commission
 National Park Service (partner)

REPRESENTATIVE / ALTERNATE(S)

James Serio / Fred Peckham
 John B. Niflot / Jim Rodgers
 Harold G. Roeder, Jr. / Eric J. Nystrom
 Larry H. Richardson / John Reggero
 Charles Wieland / Ben Johnson
 John Sundholm / Tina Palecek
 Jay Shafer / Joseph Carr
 Philip D. Chase / Melvin Decker
 Dolores A. Keesler / Robert Gross
 John S. McKay / Brian Stuart
 George J. Fluhr / Nelia Wall
 Alan Bowers / George R. Jerus
 William J. Rudge / Michael J. Flaherty
 Dennis DeMara / vacant
 Carol R. Collier / vacant
 Dennis Reidenbach / Vidal Martinez

FY 2008 Changes: Outgoing representatives and alternates at the end of the 2007 calendar year included: F. Gerald Mackin (Hancock); Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland); Stephen Barnes (Highland); and Robert Burrow (Highland). The Shohola Township representative and alternate switched positions. Vidal Martinez replaced David C. Forney as NPS superintendent on Feb. 4, 2008. Damascus Township voted to join the UDC on July 21, 2008.

FY 2008 Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES (Cash Basis)

NPS Cooperative Agreement.....	\$310,000
Grants.....	10,000
Interest Income.....	1,630
Other Income.....	3,775
Total Revenues	\$325,405

EXPENDITURES (Functional Allocations)

	Personnel	Special Projects/Program Services	Operations	GPRA Reallocation	Capital Expenditures	Total
Public Affairs	34,706	28,335	8,795	18,943	0	90,779
Water Use/Resource Management	50,394	4,471	12,772	17,818	0	85,455
Scenic Byway	13,268	1,177	3,363	4,693	0	22,501
Project Review (includes NYRI)	71,575	6,350	18,141	25,327	0	121,393
Technical Assistance Projects	3,957	19,901	1,003	6,555	0	31,416
Substantial Conformance	70	6	18	25	0	119
Fundraising	535	47	136	194	0	912
Administration	55,472	4,931	14,088	(74,491)	0	0
Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0	1,855	1,855
NYS Grants Administration	2,677	237	678	936	0	4,528
Combined Total	232,654	65,455	58,994	0	1,855	\$358,958