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.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, 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 2009

10/25/08 - Co-sponsored with NPS "Upper Delaware Expo: Partnering to Protect the River, 1978-2008" in Damascus, PA with 30-plus exhibitors, partner demonstrations, lectures, a high school poster contest, and special postal cancellation.

1/18/08 - Welcomed a unanimous vote by Berlin Township, PA to join the UDC.

12/15/08 - Offered the UDC staff’s first comments on the NYS DEC’s 10/6/08 release of a draft scoping document for the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas & Solution Mining Regulatory Program pertaining to state oversight for natural gas drilling activities.

1/8/09 - Approved proposals by the UDC’s eight NYS member towns for improvement projects to be completed under a $75,000 FY 2008-09 Legislative Initiative grant program secured by Senator Bonacic and administered by the UDC.

4/1, 5/13-14/09 - Approved proposals by the UDC’s eight NYS member towns for improvement projects to be completed under a $75,000 FY 2008-09 Legislative Initiative grant program secured by Senator Bonacic and administered by the UDC.

5/28/09 - Attended the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission’s annual meeting to provide input and publicize construction and maintenance plans for the 10 Upper Delaware crossings. Also participated as a consulting party in meetings for the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement proposal.

6/21-22/09 - Hosted the first two days of paddling on the 15th Annual Delaware River Sojourn: No One Left Inside, and presented Lord High Admiral awards to U.S. Rep. Chris Carney (PA-10th District) and NPS Superintendent Vidal Martinez.

8/2/09 - Approved a resolution backing the NPS proposal to develop regulations to make life jacket use mandatory for Upper Delaware River users under dangerous conditions.

8/28/09 - Reviewed the Delaware River Basin Commission’s annual report to the four state governors, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Interior Department’s National Park Service; 2009 has ended with the Upper Delaware Council as involved and active as ever. With Wayne County townships now participating, there is currently representation from 13 towns/townships in five counties.

While a recent newspaper editorial reminded us that “the UDC words have no legal force”, a message from one of the Council’s newest members thanked “the entire Council for the respectful, gracious way you have listened to comment from the public...for a place to learn about complex issues, and to be heard.” This may not be legal force but it is the force that is most powerful in a democracy.

Our federal and state elected officials have also consistently recognized the efforts of the research, discussion, and mediation that come from the Council.

It is really amazing to think that two states, the Delaware River Basin Commission (comprised of four states and the Army Corps of Engineers) and the Interior Department’s National Park Service sit down regularly with representatives of 13 comparatively small local governments. This is grassroots participation directly affecting the highest levels of state, and federal government.

Looking to the future, Council funding - not increased for 20 years - continues to be a major concern. Participation of the last two eligible townships continues to be a hope. Protection of the river with protection of private property rights continues to be our goal. But, as private property is developed, and as natural resources on private property are utilized, the protection of the viewed and protection of the water itself, cries out not only to the Council for fidelity to the mission, but also to the property owners of the corridor to take greater responsibility. From volunteer vegetation screening to clauses protecting water and land in property use agreements, and from support of the agencies to participation in local government, we must remember that PEOPLE are partners of the Council too.
Technical Assistance Grants

Since 1988, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded $656,392 in Technical Assistance Grants funding for 188 projects by member towns and townships or their counties. The UDC approved eight grants totaling $16,700 on Sept. 3, 2009, as follows:

Damascus Township, PA - $1,000 for training and installation costs for an e-mail document server that will facilitate the work of the Damascus Township Planning Commission.

Town of Delaware, NY - $1,700 to make all local laws and ordinances available to the general public on the town’s website.

Shohola Township, PA - $500 to assist with expenses for a “Gas Wells and Private Wells” educational program presented by Penn State Cooperative Extension, including a water quality testing database.

Town of Lumberland, NY - $3,500 to re-write the town’s Zoning Law to coincide with the town’s updated Comprehensive Plan.

Pike County, PA - $1,200 to update and print 2,000 copies of a revised Map/Brochure describing the benefits of Best Planning Practices and mapping existing residential developments of 15 lots or more in Pike County dating back to the early 1900’s.

Lackawaxen Township, PA - $1,800 to produce and distribute two issues of a Lackawaxen newsletter that will be provided to all residents.

Town of Cochecton, NY - $4,000 to update the town’s Zoning Law to address green building standards, and the impacts of natural gas exploration and drilling on infrastructure and other community facets.

Town of Tusten, NY - $3,000 for mapping services to create a Natural Resources and Open Space Inventory for local planning purposes.

2009 Annual Awards Ceremony

The Upper Delaware Council’s 21st Annual Awards Ceremony was held on April 19, 2009 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA, with 72 guests attending. Ed Zygmunt, field representative for Rep. Chris Carney (U.S. Congress, 10th District, PA) served as keynote speaker. Awards were presented in the following categories to:

Distinguished Service Award....................The Honorable John J. Bonacic, New York State Senate, 42nd District

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award.......Cody Wellman, Hancock, NY

New York State Department of Transportation Region 8 and McNamee Construction Corp.

Community Service Award.................Pike County and Wayne County Offices, Penn State Cooperative Extension

Gloria R. Krause, Narrowsburg, NY

Recreation Achievement Award..................Monster Trout Derby by the Business Owners of Lackawaxen Township

Steve Israel, Times Herald-Record

Special Recognition Award..................Jeffrey C. Cole, U.S. Geological Survey

Pike County and Wayne County Offices, Lackawaxen Township, PA

Cultural Achievement Award....................New York State Senate, 42nd District

Volunteer Awards (individual)..........Bill Walters, National Canoe Safety Patrol;

Craig, Janet and Tara Olver, owners, Tall Timber Tree Farm

Special Recognition Award..................New York State Department of Transportation Region 8 and McNamee Construction Corp.

Special Recognition Award..................Steve Israel, Times Herald-Record

Oaken Gavel Award.......................Alan Bowers, 2008 UDC Chairperson,

Rifle Brook Chapter, National Canoe Safety Patrol

Upper Delaware Council Objectives for FY 2010 (10/1/09-9/30/10)

- Investigate the means of funding a cost-benefit analysis of the UDC’s services to its members to use as justification to request funding contributions from New York and Pennsylvania to help address long-term financial and staffing needs.
- Assist the National Park Service (NPS) with opening the Mongaup Welcome Center in the Town of Lumberland to orient visitors to the Upper Delaware.
- 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.
- Review license and permit applications for pertinent projects such as natural gas developments, major electric transmission lines, and hydropower facilities.
- Finalize a position paper on natural gas exploration in the river valley.
- Advocate for a better-managed balance of flows and releases from the New York City Delaware River Basin reservoirs, monitor implementation of the Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force’s Action Agenda, and review new floodplain mapping and localized research to recommend appropriate strategies.
- Encourage the updating of a River Corridor Railroad Emergency Response Guide and assist with increasing the capabilities of government and emergency officials to respond to and recover from any hazardous material incidents involving rail freight transportation.
- Regularly update the UDC’s website, publish “The Upper Delaware” newsletter on 4/1 and 9/1 in 2010, sponsor an annual awards ceremony and raft trip, co-sponsor informational programs, and issue news releases as public outreach tools.
- Finalize the Town of Hancock’s Substantial Conformance review, and evaluate all new local ordinances and amendments to affirm River Management Plan compliance.
- Complete administration of the $75,000 NYS Grant M080103 benefiting the UDC’s eight NYS member towns, and assist Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. with administration of its federal and state grant programs, as well as providing staff support.
- Serve on the steering committee to develop an Upper Delaware River Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan for communities in Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties, NY.
- Encourage Manchester and Buckingham Townships in PA to join the UDC.
- Examine ways to supplement UDC Technical Assistance Grants program funding.
### Statement of Activities

**Year Ending Year Ending**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9/30/09</th>
<th>9/30/08</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NPS Cooperative Agreement</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$310,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>3,775</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>$232,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Projects/Program Services</td>
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<td>65,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<td>58,994</td>
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<td>Interest Refund-NPS</td>
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<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
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<td>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets - End of Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(9,887)</td>
<td>(32,213)</td>
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### UDC Membership (as of Sept. 30, 2009)

**2009 Officers:** Chairperson George J. Fluhr; Vice-Chair Harold G. Roeder, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot

**MEMBER**

- **Town of Hancock**
  - Representative: Fred Peckham / Jim Serio
- **Town of Fremont**
  - Alternate: John B. Niflot / Jim Rodgers; George Conklin, 2nd Alt.
- **Town of Delaware**
  - Representative: Harold G. Roeder, Jr. / vacant
- **Town of Cochecton**
  - Alternate: Larry H. Richardson / John Reggero
- **Town of Tusten**
  - Alternate: Charles Wieland / Ben Johnson
- **Town of Highland**
  - Alternate: John Sundholm / Tina Palecek
- **Town of Lumberland**
  - Alternate: Jay Shafer / Joseph Carr
- **Town of Deerpark**
  - Alternate: Philip D. Chase / Melvin Decker
- **Damascus Township**
  - Representative: Dolores A. Keesler / Robert Gross
- **Berlin Township**
  - Alternate: Lillian Russell / vacant
- **Lackawaxen Township**
  - Alternate: John S. McKay / Brian Stuart
- **Shohola Township**
  - Alternate: George J. Fluhr / Nelia Wall
- **Westfall Township**
  - Alternate: Alan Bowers / George R. Jerus
- **State of New York**
  - Alternate: William J. Rudge / Michael J. Flaherty
- **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**
  - Alternate: Dennis DeMara / vacant
- **Delaware River Basin Commission**
  - Alternate: Carol R. Collier / vacant
- **National Park Service (partner)**
  - Alternate: Dennis Reidenbach / Vidal Martinez

Changes: Berlin Township voted to join the UDC on 11/18/08, and appointed Andrew Dean as rep. and Lillian Russell as alt. on 1/5/09. Mr. Dean resigned on 9/15/09. Delaware Alt. Eric Nystrom resigned, and the Hancock rep. and alt. switched positions, both effective 1/1/09. Fremont added George Conklin as a 2nd alternate on 2/11/09.

### FY 2009 Revenues and Expenditures

**REVENUES (Cash Basis)**

- NPS Cooperative Agreement .............................................. $300,000
- Grants .................................................................................. 75,000
- Interest Income ...................................................................... 1,835
- Other Income .......................................................................... 5,239
- **Total Revenues** ..................................................................... $382,074

**EXPENDITURES (Functional Allocations)**

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<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Special Projects/Program Services</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>GPRA Reallocation</th>
<th>Capital Expenditures</th>
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<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>438</td>
<td>866</td>
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| Combined Total | 229,721 | 106,418 | 54,982 | 0 | 6,000 | $397,121 |