



Upper Delaware Council

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www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

Upper Delaware Council Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013 (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013)

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Working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

*Town of Hancock • Town of Fremont • Town of Delaware • Town of Cochecton • Town of Tusten • Town of Highland • Town of Lumberland
Town of Deepark • Damascus Township • Berlin Township • Lackawaxen Township • Shohola Township • Westfall Township
State of New York • Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Delaware River Basin Commission • In partnership with the National Park Service*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) is to ensure the effective implementation and administration of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania* (Final 1986), utilizing the existing authority of its members and operating under the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service.

The Council's existence evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation which designated the 73.4-mile section of the Upper Delaware River between Hancock, NY and Mill Rift, PA as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, eligible for federal protection due to its outstandingly remarkable values.

Established in 1988 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, UDC membership is comprised of the two states and presently 13 out of the 15 local governments (eight New York towns and five Pennsylvania townships) which border on the river. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is a non-voting member. National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is a partner.

The UDC provides the mechanism to address management actions for the river by a formal partnership of local, state, and federal interests. What sets the River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the river valley's resources, contrasted with the traditional national park model in which the federal government owns all of the land. More than 85% of the land in the Congressionally-designated, 55,575.5-acre Upper Delaware River corridor remains privately owned.

The Council acts as an advocate, forum, facilitator, watchdog, and educator. On a continuous basis, the UDC monitors proposed projects, legislation, new developments, studies, and governmental policies to assess potential impacts on the Upper Delaware's resources, protect private property rights, and uphold the far-sighted vision of the River Management Plan to conserve the river area for present and future generations.

Management Structure

UDC representatives and alternates are appointed to one-year terms by their towns, townships, states, and agencies. In addition to a full Council meeting that convenes on the first Thursday of the month, three standing committees meet monthly: Water Use/Resource Management Committee, third Tuesday; Operations Committee and Project Review Committee, both on the fourth Tuesday. Subcommittees dedicated to such issues as Personnel, Building, and Government Officials Liaisons, meet as the need arises. A professional staff carries out the board's directives and operates the Council's business office located at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY.

Upper Delaware Council Staff

The UDC has three full-time staff members.

Executive Director: **Laurie Ramie** – began employment with the UDC on April 21, 1997 as Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist; named Acting Executive Director on Dec. 5, 2011; and promoted to Executive Director effective June 9, 2012.

Resource Specialist: **Travis G. O'Dell** – began employment on Oct. 9, 2012 following a three-month search process to fill a position vacated by the Sept. 30, 2012 retirement of David B. Soete after his 23-year tenure.

Secretary: **Cindy Odell** – began employment on Aug. 29, 2011.

2013 Upper Delaware Council Membership Roster

Elected to serve as Upper Delaware Council officers at the annual meeting held Jan. 3, 2013 were:

- Chairperson:** Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA
Vice-Chairperson: Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland, NY
Secretary-Treasurer: John B. Niflot, Town of Fremont, NY (served Jan. 3, 2013 - June 22, 2013)
 Alan Henry, Berlin Township, PA (served Aug. 1, 2013 to the term balance)*

The Hon. Lisa Baker (Pennsylvania State Senate 20th District) administered the oaths of office to the 2013 officers at a swearing-in ceremony held Feb. 7, 2013.

**Note:* The UDC Nominating Committee was reactivated on June 25, 2013 to name a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer to fill the vacancy created by the June 22, 2013 death of John B. Niflot. The committee nominated Alan Henry at the July 11 UDC meeting. Mr. Henry was unanimously elected during a special election held on August 1 to serve through the 2014 annual meeting.

As of Sept. 30, 2013, the UDC’s board membership consisted of: (* denotes a change from Fiscal Year 2012)

| <i>UDC Member</i> | <i>Representative</i> | <i>Alternate(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town of Hancock | Fred Peckham | Samuel N. Rowe, Jr. |
| Town of Fremont * | James Greier | George Conklin |
| Town of Delaware | Harold G. Roeder, Jr. | David Peters |
| Town of Cochection | Larry H. Richardson | Edwin Grund |
| Town of Tusten * | Susan Sullivan | Tony Ritter |
| Town of Highland | Andrew Boyar | Debra Conway |
| Town of Lumberland * | Nadia Rajszyk | Vacant |
| Town of Deerpark | David M. Dean | Virginia Dudko |
| Damascus Township | Jeffrey R. Dexter | Joseph Canfield |
| Berlin Township | Alan Henry | Paul Henry |
| Lackawaxen Township | John S. McKay | Brian Stuart |
| Shohola Township | Patricia Jeffer | 1 st -George J. Fluhr; 2 nd -Aaron Robinson |
| Westfall Township * | Vacant | Vacant |
| State of New York | William J. Rudge, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation | Michael J. Flaherty, NYS DEC |
| Commonwealth of Pennsylvania | Dennis J. DeMara, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources | Vacant |
| Delaware River Basin Commission | Carol R. Collier, Executive Director | Vacant |
| National Park Service (partner) | Dennis Reidenbach, Northeast Regional Director | Sean J. McGuinness, Superintendent, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River |

* Appointment Changes: *Fremont* – Jim Rodgers resigned as 1st alternate in February 2013 when he re-located from the area, after having served in that role since Nov. 10, 2004. James Greier was appointed as 2nd alternate to 1st alternate George Conklin on Mar. 13, 2013. Mr. Greier was subsequently appointed as his town’s UDC representative on Aug. 14, 2013 to succeed the late John B. Niflot. Mr. Niflot had served as his town’s alternate from 1994-97 and representative from 1997-2013. *Tusten* – The position of 2nd alternate that had been occupied by Kevin McDonough since Feb. 27, 2012 was eliminated in the town’s January 2013 reorganizational meeting. *Lumberland* – Jay Shafer retired from the board at the end of 2012, having served as his town’s representative from 2008-2010 then as alternate from 2010-2012, which created a vacancy in the alternate’s position. *Westfall* – Alex Cena resigned as representative on Nov. 1, 2012 when he moved out-of-state, after joining the board on Jan. 3, 2012. No appointments had been made to fill the representative or alternate position as of Sept. 30, 2013.

Fiscal Year 2013 UDC Highlights

25th Anniversary and Public Outreach

25th Anniversary Events: The Upper Delaware Council reached a historic milestone in 2013 as the non-profit organization incorporated on Feb. 18, 1988 celebrated its 25th anniversary. The commemoration kicked off with the issuance of a news release on Feb. 22 describing the Council's origins, evolution, and purpose, and a separate article which listed 25 important UDC accomplishments over the past 25 years, as derived from staff research and suggestions contributed by board members.

In March, promotional t-shirts were manufactured that for the first time offer the UDC's land-water-people partnership logo on the front chest area and a large map of the bi-state Upper Delaware River Valley on the back. The royal blue shirts with white printing are available to the public for a \$15 fundraising donation.

April activities included recording a Community Spotlight feature on the UDC anniversary for the public station WJFF Radio Catskill on the 18th and several special touches at the Council's 25th Annual Awards Ceremony held Apr. 28 in Lackawaxen, PA. The silver anniversary was recognized at the banquet through the compilation of a 25-year photo retrospective that played on a loop during the reception; the gift of an imprinted flashlight & whistle souvenir for guests; the display of anniversary greetings and citations received from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, New York State Senator John J. Bonacic, Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker, New York State Assembly Members Aileen Gunther, Cliff Crouch, and Annie Rabbitt, and Pennsylvania Representatives Mike Peifer and Sandra Major; a historical overview by speaker George J. Fluhr; and an anniversary cake for dessert.

UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie presented a program on the organization's anniversary at the 19th Annual Delaware River Sojourn kick-off luncheon held on June 22 on the grounds of the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen.

Exhibits highlighting the UDC and its activities were offered at the National Park Service's 9th Annual Zane Grey Festival in Lackawaxen, PA on July 20, the 23rd Annual Narrowsburg RiverFest presented by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance on July 28, and the Civilian Conservation Corps 80th Anniversary Day at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum south of Narrowsburg, NY on Aug. 4.

The Council opted for the first time to complement its river-based summer raft trip which took place on Aug. 4 with a land-based family recreational event to further raise the UDC's profile in its anniversary year.

"Strides Across the Delaware", a 5K run/walk race, took place on Sept. 28, 2013, starting and ending in Equinunk, PA with a scenic course crossing the Equinunk-Lordville interstate bridge. Partners and sponsors were solicited over several months as logistical arrangements were solidified with the local communities, permitting agencies, and emergency services. A total of 84 participants (56 runners and 28 walkers) turned out for the professionally-timed event, enjoying a catered meal, commemorative t-shirts, an awards ceremony with inscribed pint glass prizes presented by age and gender categories, and an opportunity to win raffle prizes.

Map & Guide Brochure: In conjunction with the UDC's 25th anniversary, the Council committed to revising its "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York & Pennsylvania" in 2013. The free color brochure had not been updated since 2008 due to financial and time constraints. Staff began working on the project in November 2012 and proceeded to review all text on the 12 informational panels, add new photos, create a new 17 x 22-inch fold-out map of the river corridor with the assistance of Geographic Information System technicians at the National Park Service, and revise a chart of public river accesses that identifies the amenities offered at each area. Eighteen merchants represented on a directory of river recreation-related businesses in the river corridor voluntarily donated \$925 to help offset the printing costs. The Council took delivery of 35,000 brochures on April 11 to begin distribution.

Raft Trip: The UDC's 25th Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 4, 2013 attracted 93 guests, including 14 children from ages 5-12, to paddle an eight-mile section of the Upper Delaware River from Ten Mile River Access south of Narrowsburg, NY to Luke's Landing at Kittatinny Campgrounds in Barryville, NY. Kittatinny Canoes provided the rafts, paddles, life vests, and shuttle transportation. The Council aims to promote stewardship of the river through this fun activity open to the public.

Newsletter: "The Upper Delaware", a free newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley, is published twice-annually by the UDC. It is mailed to approximately 9,500 subscribers and is posted in full color on the UDC's website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

The Fall/Winter 2012 issue, released on Oct. 1, 2012, featured articles on "PA Governor Tom Corbett Visits Upper Delaware River", "Natural Gas Still on Simmer", "Civil War Disaster Remembered", and "New Trail Resources Help to 'Take a Hike!'," among others.

In the Spring/Summer 2013 issue, released on April 3, 2013, featured articles included "Upper Delaware Council Marks 25th Anniversary", "UDC Offers New Upper Delaware Map & Guide", "Upper Delaware's Water Safety Campaign Gears Up for Summer", "Natural Gas Regulations Still Pending", and "Unearthed Oral Histories Reveal River Impacts".

Three sealed bids were received by a Nov. 26, 2012 deadline in response to a request for quotes issued for the newsletter printing and mailing services contract for FY 2013. Courier Printing Corp. of Deposit, NY prevailed in the competitive bidding, as approved by a Jan. 3, 2013 vote of the UDC.

News Releases

Issued during FY 2013 on behalf of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. in addition to a regular publication of meeting notices:

- 10/1/12 – "The Upper Delaware Fall/Winter 2012 Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail"
- 10/4/12 – "Upper Delaware Council Awards 2013 Technical Assistance Grants"
- 10/10/12 – "UDC Hires Resource Specialist"
- 12/4/12 – "UDC Issues FY 2012 Annual Report"
- 12/7/12 – "UDC Approves Quarry Permit Letter"
- 12/18/12 – "Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Completes Landscape Plan and Beautification Grant"
- 1/4/13 – "UDC Elects 2013 Officers"
- 1/15/13 – "Four UDC Towns Complete Projects under State Grant"
- 1/16/13 – "UDC Seeks River Valley Businesses for Upper Delaware Visitor Guide"
- 1/24/13 – "Senator Baker to Administer Oaths to UDC Officers Feb. 7"
- 1/29/13 – "Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Board to Meet on February 4"
- 2/5/13 – "Upper Delaware Council Seeks Nominations for 25th Annual Awards by Mar. 15"
- 2/8/13 – "Upper Delaware Council Names Roster for 2013"
- 2/8/13 – "Chairperson Jeff Dexter Sworn in by Senator Baker"
- 2/22/13 – "Upper Delaware Council Celebrates 25th Anniversary"
- 2/22/13 – "Upper Delaware Council Reflects on 25 Years of Accomplishments"
- 3/4/13 – "Upper Delaware Council Welcomes \$25 Awards Ceremony Sponsorships"
- 3/25/13 – "UDC Announces Honorees for Awards Ceremony on April 28"
- 4/3/13 – "The Upper Delaware Spring/Summer Newsletter Available On-line and by Mail"
- 4/8/13 – "Join UDC for 25th Annual Raft Trip"
- 4/8/13 – "Reserve for UDC Awards by April 19"
- 4/11/13 – "UDC Updates Upper Delaware Visitor Map & Guide Brochure"
- 5/2/13 – "UDC Presents Awards" photo and caption
- 5/3/13 – "UDC Opposes PA DEP Policy Proposal"
- 5/6/13 – "UDSB Elects Officers"
- 5/6/13 – "UDC Has Upper Delaware T-shirts for \$15 Donation"

- 5/17/13 – “Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Approves Construction on Four Upper Delaware Bridges”
- 5/31/13 – “UDC Seeks Sponsors for 5K ‘Strides Across the Delaware’”
- 6/3/13 – “UDC Technical Assistance Grant Applications Due by Aug. 30”
- 6/12/13 – “UDC Opens Registration for Sept. 28 ‘Strides Across the Delaware’ 5K Run/Walk”
- 7/1/13 – “Join UDC for 25th Annual Raft Trip”
- 7/16/13 – “UDC Seeks 5K Sponsors by Sept. 1”
- 7/31/13 – “UDC Grant Applications Due by Aug. 30”
- 8/5/13 – “UDC Raft Trip Attracts 93”
- 8/12/13 – “Sponsor Upper Delaware Council Bi-state 5K Run/Walk by Sept. 1”
- 8/29/13 – “UDC Sets Sept. 10 Meeting to Review Grant Applications”
- 9/18/13 – “Strides Across the Delaware 5K Run/Walk Set for Sept. 28”

Advocacy

Thermal Stress Relief – Following a Feb. 19, 2013 presentation before the Water Use/Resource Management Committee by Dr. Peter Kolesar and James Serio on “Alleviating Thermal Stress on the Upper Delaware”, the UDC approved a March 7 resolution urging the Decree Parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree to adopt on a one-year basis a proposed Lordville Thermal Stress Relief Protocol which would allow managers of the Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs to release waters with maximum efficiency to mitigate stress on the fisheries during extreme periods of high water temperatures on the upper Main Stem without interfering with the water supply to other Delaware River stakeholders.

When the summer of 2013 brought several prolonged and predicted incidents of extremely hot weather, the UDC appealed in a July 17, 2013 letter to the NY and PA Decree party representatives to authorize emergency cold water releases, while also renewing its call for the adoption of a reservoir release protocol that would proactively and systematically address future thermal events that threaten the local fishery and economy through impacts to the important recreational industry.

PA Nitrate Policy – The UDC unanimously approved a May 2, 2013 letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection opposing the Sewage Facilities Planning Module Review for On-lot Sewage Systems Proposed in High Quality and Exceptional Value Watersheds, a policy that was ultimately overridden on July 2 by legislative action. The UDC responded to the positions taken by four of its PA member townships, as well as public comments offered at the April 4 meeting by Wayne County Commissioner’s Chairman Brian Smith and Shohola Planning Board Chairman Aaron Robinson, and its own research of the issue which suggested the policy could have threatened the region’s economic vitality by applying an arbitrary point system and requiring cost-prohibitive practices to fix a problem that doesn’t exist in the approximately 95% of Wayne and Pike Counties that fall under those special protection water classifications.

Funding for DRBC – The introduction of federal legislation entitled The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 that would allocate federal funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), among other provisions, prompted the UDC to send an Aug. 1, 2013 letter to Congressmen Chris Gibson (NY), Tom Marino (PA), and Sean Patrick Maloney (NY) pointing out that the federal government had failed to fund its 20% apportionment (\$715,000) of the DRBC’s annual budget for 16 of the last 17 years, while continuing to enjoy the same authorities and privileges as its fellow signatory parties. The letter noted that the nearly \$11 million cumulative federal shortfall threatens to severely curtail the agency’s operational effectiveness. The DRBC has been a non-voting member of the UDC since 1988.

UDS&RR Foundation Document – 2013 UDC Chairperson Jeff Dexter, Executive Director Laurie Ramie, and Resource Specialist Travis O’Dell were invited to participate in an intensive, facilitated

workshop on April 29-May 1 to represent the Council's interests as its federal partners at the National Park Service drafted a document to provide future direction for the operation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River unit. The new Foundation Document will replace the General Management Plan. The collectively deliberated purpose statement describing the NPS unit's core mission reads, "The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River protects, conserves and enhances the free-flowing character, exceptionally high water quality, and the scenic, recreational, ecological, cultural, and geologic values of the Upper Delaware River valley through collaborative partnerships."

Grant support – Upon request, the UDC prepared and sent support letters on behalf of:

- the Equinunk Watershed Alliance's Coldwater Heritage Partnership Planning grant application on Nov. 1, 2012;
- a Sullivan County Trailkeeper.org grant application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Office of Environmental Justice on April 4, 2013;
- Wayne Conservation District's application to the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development (DCED) for a Baseline Water Quality Data grant on July 16, 2013; and
- Shohola Township's funding assistance application to PA DCED to construct a new salt shed on Aug. 20, 2013.

Oral Histories – Concerned about the condition of cassette tape recordings of 133 subjects who were interviewed about their lives and memories for an Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Oral History Project conducted from 1980-2001, the UDC board in May 2013 initiated an inquiry into their public availability and advocated for their preservation. National Park Service Superintendent Sean McGuinness announced as of Sept. 5 that equipment had been purchased to digitize the tapes as a cultural resource. A total of 26 tapes were previously transcribed, while 28 of the 133 lacked signed releases.

Special Meetings and Events

The Upper Delaware Council was represented at a plethora of meetings, forums, teleconferences, webinars, training sessions, and special events:

10/9/12 – "Water, Water Everywhere: The Future of the Upper Delaware River" conference sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River at West Branch Angler Resort in Hale Eddy, NY

10/11/12 – "Common Waters: Five-Year Celebration and Vision for the Future" sponsored by the Common Waters Partnership at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA

10/15, 11/5, 11/19, and 12/10/12 – Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program instructed by Pace University School of Law's Land Use Law Center at Norrie Mills State Park in Staatsburg, NY

11/27/12 – Delaware River Basin Water SMART Initiative webinar update provided by the U.S. Geological Survey

11/14-15/12 – Penn State University Dirt & Gravel Road Workshop at the Wayne Conservation District in Honesdale, PA

11/28/12 – Town of Tusten public hearing on the Big Eddy Waterfront Revitalization Project to create a RiverWalk in Narrowsburg, NY

1/4/13 – Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Project Status, a webinar by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1/9/13 – Wayne Tomorrow! Sustainability Committee's Subcommittee for Natural Resources at the Wayne Conservation District, Honesdale, PA

1/30/13 – New York State Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) webinar

2/12/13 – Start of twice-monthly webinar sessions and several sit-down meetings for the Climate Solutions University Model Forest Policy Program as a member of the Common Waters team working on climate resiliency issues in the Delaware River Watershed

3/1/13 – Municipal Planning Workshop sponsored by the Catskill Watershed Corporation in Delhi, NY

3/13/13 – National Park Service Aid to Navigation Plan meeting with contractors for the construction projects involving the Narrowsburg and Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridges at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River headquarters in Beach Lake, PA

3/14/13 – Natural Economies Conference, sponsored by the Common Waters Partnership and the Regional Planning Association, at The Riverview Inn in Matamoras, PA

4/3/13 – iMap Invasives Training Session sponsored by the Catskill Regional Invasive Special Partnership (CRISP) at The Catskill Center in Arkville, NY

4/19/13 – Kick-off meeting for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's 2013 Water Safety Campaign, held in cooperation with the National Canoe Safety Patrol at Konrad's Kitchen in Yulan, NY

4/29-5/1/13 – National Park Service Foundation Document Workshop held at the Central House Resort in Beach Lake, PA

5/8/13 – On-site meeting with Deputy Delaware River Master Marie Stewart at the U.S.G.S. Rivermaster's Office in Milford, PA

5/14/13 – Annual meeting of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission held at PennDOT District 4-0 headquarters in Dunmore, PA

6/24, 7/24 and 8/15/13 – Meetings of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Steering Committee at various locations to develop a Request for Proposals, review submissions and select consultants for the Sullivan County River Accesses Site Design Project

7/19/13 – Google Earth program training at the PPL Environmental Learning Center in Lake Wallenpaupack, PA

8/6/13 – William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection Program overview at Grey Towers in Milford, PA

8/14/13 – Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council meeting at SUNY Sullivan, Loch Sheldrake, NY

8/29/13 – Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Council at the Shohola Township Municipal Building in Shohola, PA

9/4/13 – American Planning Association webinar on "Ethical Rules and Considerations for Planners, Plan Commissioners and Lawyers"

Project Reviews

The UDC continuously researches and reviews draft ordinances, zoning amendments, and development projects for conformance with the River Management Plan; attends meetings and public hearings as warranted; and issues comment letters on proposals with potential impact on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

During FY 2013, specific actions included:

- Attended a Town of Delaware Zoning Board of Appeals area variance hearing on Oct. 25, 2012 for property on River Road in Callicoon
- Reviewed Lackawaxen Township's amended zoning ordinances in Nov. 2012
- Met with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) District Mining Office personnel in Wilkes-Barre on Nov. 20, 2012 to discuss the agency's conditions to grant Holbert Brothers Bluestone Co. a permit for a 40-acre expansion of its bluestone quarry in Lackawaxen Township, which led to the UDC sending a Dec. 6 letter to PA DEP withdrawing the Council's request for a public hearing on non-conforming use, and the UDC was represented at a June 20, 2013 on-site meeting at the quarry when PA DEP issued the non-coal surface mining permit to the company
- Attended a Fremont Town Board Nov. 28, 2012 public hearing on a minor subdivision application for Red Barn Campground in Hankins

- Hosted an informational meeting with Town of Delaware officials Jan. 15, 2013 to discuss their proposed zoning amendments and map changes, with subsequent UDC comment letters on the town's Local Law No. 4 approved on Mar. 7 and May 28
- Reviewed a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permit application filed in February 2013 by Eagle Creek Hydro Power LLC to install a new minimum flow turbine generator on the Mongaup River's Rio Dam
- Initiated the Town of Hancock Substantial Conformance Review with a Feb. 25 meeting with the town supervisor to explain the procedure
- Reviewed a proposed six-lot subdivision on a 24-acre parcel within the river corridor in the Town of Lumberland in March
- Reviewed Floodplain Ordinances proposed by Berlin and Damascus Townships in April
- Sent an Apr. 1 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding Millennium Pipeline Co.'s application to construct a 15,900-horsepower natural gas-fired compressor station on a 35.8-acre parcel that the company owns in the Town of Hancock, pointing out that the Environmental Assessment contained no reference to the 4,200-foot proximity of the proposed facility to the federally designated Upper Delaware river corridor
- Sent a memo to UDC municipal members on May 28 requesting that they identify land parcels in their towns and townships that they would like to see protected or utilized for public recreation to develop a list that the Council could consult when any grant opportunities or regional open space initiatives arise
- Testified at a June 17 hearing of the Town of Tusten Planning Board on site plans for a new retail operation at 225 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg due to concerns over its location adjacent to the UDC office and potential encroachment on the private parking lot
- Reviewed a Town of Highland area variance request on June 20 for a rear yard setback in Barryville
- Researched proposals to install two 189-foot tree pole Verizon telecommunications towers on MacCubbins Road and Jurgensen Road in Damascus Township, with June 25 and Aug. 1 correspondence sent commenting on the project and requesting balloon tests to be performed due to the towers' site locations within the river corridor
- Approved individual comment letters on June 25 to the Town of Deerpark for a land improvement parcel consolidation and re-building plans for the Hawk's Nest Café in Sparrowbush
- Met with Town of Deerpark officials on June 26 to discuss roles and responsibilities for UDC project reviews
- Issued a July 23 comment letter on Town of Tusten amendments to its 2012 Zoning Law
- Provided comments to the New York State Department of Transportation Aug. 27 on work plans for a rock scaling project along NYS Route 97 in the Town of Lumberland
- Questioned the Town of Highland in a Sept. 3 letter on the review of site plans for the operation of a Reber River Trips livery outlet in Barryville
- Presented the Town of Hancock with a Draft Substantial Conformance Review Report on Sept. 5, with an addendum approved on Sept. 24

In addition, the Project Review Committee continued its chapter-by-chapter reading, as time at each monthly meeting permitted, of the "UDC Project Review Workbook" from 1988 to ascertain the need for any updates to this document which codifies the procedure for examining significant projects, variances, and challenges in the context of consistency with the River Management Plan. In April 2013, the UDC began using a streamlined checklist form for towns and townships to submit to the Council to inform them about their river corridor projects that are subject to review under the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Presentations

Upper Delaware Council representatives and alternates sought to expand their knowledge base on a number of topics throughout FY 2013 by inviting expert speakers to offer the following presentations:

Oct. 16, 2012 – Pennsylvania’s Floodplain Monitoring Program by Jamie Knecht and Len Grover of the Wayne Conservation District

Feb. 19, 2013 – Alleviating Thermal Stress on the Upper Delaware by Dr. Peter Kolesar and James Serio

March 19, 2013 – Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant Overview by Dennis DeMara and Lorne Possinger of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

April 16, 2013 – Lordville River Access Site Operations by Scott Wells and Dennis Wischman of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Region 4 Bureau of Fisheries (Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting teleconference)

May 2, 2013 – Project the Effect of the Principles of the Upper Delaware Land and Water Use Guidelines to the Year 2063 by students from the Ecological Sustainability Program at Lackawanna College

June 6, 2013 – Operating New York City’s Water Supply System by Thomas Murphy, Jr., chief of the New York City Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply, Reservoir Releases Policy Development

Aug. 1, 2013 – Health of the Delaware River Fisheries by Jerre Mohler, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Delaware River Coordinator

Grants Administration

The Upper Delaware Council annually offers Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) to its member municipalities and river valley counties to provide competitive funding for non-construction projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan.

From the organization’s inception in 1988 through the 2013 TAG round, the UDC awarded a cumulative total of \$720,397 to help subsidize 210 projects.

Member municipalities submitted projects requesting a combined \$44,485 by an Aug. 31, 2012 deadline. Total funding available was \$32,905.81 based on adding de-obligated funds from the FY 2012 program to a base budget of \$30,000. A special meeting of the Project Review Committee took place on Sept. 11 to deliberate over the applications.

Nine TAGs totaling \$32,905 were awarded in the Fiscal Year 2013 program on Oct. 4, 2012:

- TAG 2013-01: **Town of Deerpark**, Update the Town’s 2005 Subdivision Ordinances as a tool to promote safe, orderly growth, \$3,600
- TAG 2013-02: **Town of Tusten**, Complete the Town’s Zoning Law re-write, and have the book printed into binders and placed on compact discs, \$5,000
- TAG 2013-03: **Damascus Township**, Index the Township Zoning Ordinance with page numbers and electronic links to make the document more user-friendly, \$2,000
- TAG 2013-04: **Town of Cochection**, Codify existing local laws to provide easier access to current, accurate information, \$7,000
- TAG 2013-05: **Town of Lumberland**, Update the Town’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to identify and analyze potential hazards, plan for impacts, and address risk reduction, \$5,000
- TAG 2013-06: **Pike County**, Reprint “Greetings from Pike County” brochure that informs residents and visitors of the present activities related to natural gas exploration in Pike County, \$500
- TAG 2013-07: **Sullivan County**, Improve preservation and interpretation at Sullivan County’s Minisink Battleground Park, \$6,205
- TAG 2013-08: **Town of Delaware**, Render tax maps depicting topography and soil types to more fairly assess and value land within the town; and develop a website dedicated to the Town of Delaware’s cultural history, \$1,500

- TAG 2013-09: **Town of Fremont**, Purchase “Town Clerk Plus Software” program with training to help the town operate in a more efficient manner, \$2,100

Eight projects were successfully completed by the July 26, 2013 deadline. Funding for TAG 2013-07 at \$6,205, along with under-expenditures of \$.56 for TAG 2013-08 and \$360 for TAG 2013-09, was de-obligated. Total TAG expenditures in FY 2013 were therefore \$26,339.44.

Applications for the Fiscal Year 2014 Technical Assistance Grant program were due by Aug. 30, 2013. Nine applications requested a combined total of \$37,156.99, competing for a sequester-adjusted \$25,000 budget. A special meeting of the Project Review Committee took place on Sept. 10 to assess and rank the applications. The recommended FY 2014 TAG awards were due to be voted on at the Oct. 3, 2013 UDC meeting.

- On behalf of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., the UDC completed administration on Nov. 23, 2012 of New York State Grant M060091 in which Senator John J. Bonacic secured \$50,000 that funded the development of a Landscape Enhancement Plan for the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Corridor, subsidized selective vegetative clearing at five demonstration sites, and allowed for beautification and landscaping projects by five byway communities (Town of Delaware, Town of Tusten, Town of Lumberland, Village of Hancock, and City of Port Jervis). The last phase of the grant was completed by an Aug. 15, 2012 contractual deadline, submitted to the state by the UDC, and final reimbursement came on Nov. 23.

- The UDC closed out administration of New York State Grant TM09050 with the Jan. 15, 2013 disbursement of checks to the Towns of Fremont, Tusten, Highland, and Delaware for local improvement projects that were accomplished in FY 2012 but had been pending payment by the state.

This legislative member item grant secured by Senator John J. Bonacic in the NYS FY 2009-2010 budget provided \$25,000 with no required match to be divided among the UDC’s eight New York State member towns. The last four towns were able with their \$3,125 shares to: Facilitate renovation of the Town of Fremont Justice Court in Fremont Center; Enhance a playground and recreation field in the Town of Tusten’s Narrowsburg; Install electric service at the cul-de-sac park in the Town of Highland’s Barryville; and Improve the Town of Delaware Justice Court in Hortonville.

Since Fiscal Year 2000, Senator Bonacic secured a total of \$390,000 for the UDC’s New York towns through this legislative funding initiative.

- Additional grant activity includes establishing a UDC account with the web-based New York State Grants Gateway management program, for which registration began in April 2013, and providing assistance to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. relative to its grant-dependent proposed development of a visitor center and other funding needs of the non-profit organization.

UDC Resolutions Directory

- 2012-10: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2013, approved 10/4/12
- 2012-11: Hiring a Resource Specialist, 10/4/12
- 2013-01: Award the Printing of “The Upper Delaware” Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for FY 2013, 1/3/13
- 2013-02: Agreement with Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP for Audit and Accounting Services for FY 2013, 1/3/13
- 2013-03: Signature of Corporate Resolutions and Bank Cards, 1/3/13
- 2013-04: Supporting the Pace University Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program, 1/3/13
- 2013-05: Approving Adoption of Updated Bylaws, 1/3/13
- 2013-06: Accepting Quote of Courier Printing Corp. For Printing the Visitor Information Map and Guide, 2/7/13
- 2013-07: Support of the “Lordville Thermal Stress Relief Protocol”, 3/7/13
- 2013-08: Approving an Amendment to the UDC Bylaws, 7/11/13 (following 30-day notice)
- 2013-09: Adopting the UDC Budget for Fiscal Year 2014, 6/6/13

- 2013-10: Adopting the Water Use/Resource Management Committee Work Plan for FY 2014, 6/6/13
- 2013-11: Adopting the Operations Committee Work Plan for FY 2014, 6/6/13
- 2013-12: Adopting the Project Review Committee Work Plan for FY 2014, 6/6/13
- 2013-13: Adopting a Revised FY 2014 Budget, 7/11/13
- 2013-14: Adopting Changes to UDC Meeting Practices, 9/5/13

25th Annual Awards

The Upper Delaware Council held its 25th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2013 at The Lackawaxen Inn in Lackawaxen, PA with 87 guests present. Past UDC Chairperson George J. Fluhr of Shohola Township, PA delivered an address on “UDC: A Quarter-Century of Partnership.” Honored for their contributions to the Upper Delaware River Valley were:

Distinguished Service Award ~ Dr. Peter Kolesar and James A. Serio

(for their volunteer research and advocacy to develop a protocol for increased coldwater releases to improve the habitat for Upper Delaware River fisheries)

Partnership Award ~ Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Water Safety Campaign
(coordinated by the National Park Service, National Canoe Safety Patrol, and Stuart Communications as a multi-faceted initiative started in 2012 to eliminate or reduce river fatalities)

Recreation Achievement Award ~ Trailkeeper.org and “Take a Hike! Trails of the Upper Delaware River Valley”

(for developing new resources to facilitate and promote hiking as a public recreational activity)

Cultural Achievement Award ~ Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Division of Public Works Department of Parks, Recreation & Beautification

(for sponsoring annual commemorations of the Revolutionary War 1779 Battle of Minisink at Sullivan County’s Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY)

Volunteer Award ~ Jerold Yavarkovsky

(for selfless service to the Town of Cochecton’s Zoning Board of Appeals, Cochecton Youth Commission, Cochecton Preservation Society, literacy and academic causes, and other good works)

Community Service Award ~ Delaware River Youth Education Program by the Hancock Community Education Foundation

(for educating 5th-9th graders on environmental issues that affect natural resources in the Upper Delaware River Valley to foster a conservation ethic)

Special Recognition Award ~ David B. Soete

(for his dedication to the Upper Delaware Council as senior resource specialist from 1989-2012 and ongoing photography talents)

Special Recognition Award ~ Susan Beecher

(for outstanding contributions to Pike County, PA as manager/director of the Pike County Conservation District from 1989-2012)

Special Recognition Award ~ Gary Letcher

(for releasing a revamped, third edition of “A Paddler’s Guide to the Delaware River” in February 2012)

Oaken Gavel Award – Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland, NY

(for her leadership and service as Upper Delaware Council chairperson in 2012)

Operations and Financials

UDC Committees – Leadership of the UDC’s three standing committees was provided in 2013 by:

- Water Use/Resource Management Committee – Chairperson Tony Ritter, Town of Tusten, NY; Vice-Chair Alan Henry, Berlin Township, PA (elected Jan. 15, 2013)
- Operations Committee – Chairperson Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA; Vice-Chair Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware, NY (elected Jan. 22, 2013)
- Project Review Committee – Chairperson Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochection, NY; Vice-Chair Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware, NY (elected Jan. 22, 2013)

Audit – Certified Public Accountant Richard Eckersley of Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP, Scranton, PA, delivered a summary report of the Audit of Compliance and Internal Control for UDC Fiscal Year 2012 to the Operations Committee on Nov. 27, 2012. No irregularities were found with the Council’s financial bookkeeping services handled by subcontractor Mike Poska from Beck, Gogolski, Poska & Co. of Honesdale, PA. Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP is also responsible for preparing the UDC’s Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and New York State Charities Bureau Form 500 on annual contract.

Funding Issues – The U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service’s implementation of a new Financial Business and Management System required the UDC in October 2012 to enroll in the U.S. Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments system in order to electronically file monthly draw-down requests of its Federal Assistance funds from an on-line account. The UDC’s Fiscal Year 2013 budget that had been originally adopted on June 7, 2012 was revised on Dec. 4, 2012 to reflect a \$45,000 extension of the FY 2012 budget (a \$255,000 federal allocation) to carry the UDC through an anticipated funding blackout period during the system conversion. The FY 2013 budget had to be further amended on March 26, 2013 due to the impact of a 5% federal sequester cut (a \$242,250 federal allocation) passed along by the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. To meet the \$12,750 mid-fiscal year reduction, the UDC zeroed out a \$10,000 budget line for capital expenditures and spread the \$2,750 balance across discretionary spending categories including office supplies, building and equipment repairs, and subscriptions or fees. Through a Cooperative Agreement modification signed April 4, 2013, the UDC received access to the 52% balance of its Federal Assistance funds enabled by the passage of Continuing Resolution P.L. 113-6 which covered the March 28-Sept. 30, 2013 balance of the fiscal year. The UDC provided a letter to the National Park Service on Aug. 27, 2013 listing final adjustments to the FY 2013 budget based on an analysis of any 10% +/- differentials in actual expenditures.

In order to prepare for the June 17, 2013 submission of its Fiscal Year 2014 Application for Financial Assistance package to the National Park Service, activities during the FY 2013 Fiscal Year included the UDC’s Water Use/Resource Management Committee, Operations Committee, and Project Review Committees reviewing their annual work plans in May. Two budgets were prepared to anticipate either full federal funding of \$300,000 or a 10% sequester cut. The work plans and a budget for full funding were approved on June 6, 2013. Once an 8% federal sequester cut was applied by notice of a June 25, 2013 letter, the board approved a new spending plan reflecting a \$276,000 federal allocation on July 11, with a revised application prepared for NPS. The \$24,000 reduction was achieved by cutting \$5,000 from Technical Assistance Grants, \$13,835 from Outside Consulting Services, and \$5,165 from Capital Expenditures.

Bylaws and Policies – The Upper Delaware Council’s bylaws, originally adopted on Feb. 22, 1988 and revised on Feb. 6, 1992, were evaluated during the 2012 calendar year to assess their continued effectiveness. Following several drafts, legal vetting, and a 30-day review period with notification to the full Council of the proposed changes, the board adopted amended bylaws on Jan. 3, 2013. When a prior administrative oversight was subsequently discovered, the bylaws were addressed again, resulting in a July 11, 2013 resolution to approve the revision and codify the new bylaws with the organization’s official records. Drafts of a “Conflict of Interest Policy for Representatives, Alternates and Officers” and

“Employment Practices and Staff Code of Conduct Policy” were introduced before the Operations Committee on Sept. 24, 2013 and were pending legal review as Fiscal Year 2013 concluded.

Meeting Practices – By passage of a resolution on Sept. 5, 2013, the Upper Delaware Council opted to alternate the meeting order of the Operations Committee and Project Review Committee, both held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, for a six-month trial basis starting in September 2013. Having Project Review precede Operations provides an advantage for the Technical Assistance Grants program by enabling the project completion date to be extended by one month and expediting a more timely authorization of payments. Other changes addressed by the resolution pertained to the scheduling of educational presentations at full Council meetings, the reporting of monthly committee meeting minutes, and delivery of agency reports.

Conclusion

The Upper Delaware Council is responsible for over 40 responsibilities assigned to it in the River Management Plan, as well as the tasks outlined in work plans that are approved each fiscal year to provide direction to the Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review Committees.

In FY 2013, staff also participated in meetings of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River & Upper Delaware Council Issues Team, Common Waters Partnership, Upper DeLAWARE River Roundtable, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Steering Committee, Federal Eastern Shale Group, Climate Solutions University’s Model Forest Policy Program, Consulting Party Teams for the Pond Eddy and Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridges, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Wayne Tomorrow Sustainability Committee, Congressman Chris Gibson’s Watershed Advisory Group, and a Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby Planning Committee, among others.

The activities in which the Upper Delaware Council engages are designed to ensure that the river valley’s collective voice is heard, its rural character is preserved, incompatible land uses are prevented, private property rights are protected, and the pristine water quality is maintained.

Financial data for Fiscal Year 2013 is available through the annual audit report. For more information on the UDC and its activities, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org; stop by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg; write P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022.