

Upper Delaware Council
WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2017

Committee Members Present: Fred Peckham, Doug Case, Al Henry, Debra Conway, Jim Greier
Committee Members Absent: Tony Ritter, Pat Jeffer
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Pete Golod
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Peckham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Henry, seconded by Conway to approve the October 17 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Old Business:

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway October 23 Meeting Minutes: A copy of the October 23rd meeting minutes was provided in members' packets and Ramie provided some highlights. She noted that the committee approved the \$1,200 donation to the Upper Delaware Council for 2107 at this meeting.

Ramie reported there were no Butterfly Habitat Promotion Grant applications this particular month, but there was a report from the Tusten Heritage Community Garden about the outcome of their grant. Ramie provided details of their program held during the Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival.

A discussion about what to charge for bulk orders of the butterfly brochures took place. Ramie said a motion approving providing up to 200 brochures free if they are picked up and charging the actual cost of postage to mail orders up to 200; while for requests over 200 copies, the Byway will charge \$.50 each if they are picked up and the same to mail them plus shipping and handling was made and carried.

Ramie said that Milanville resident Ed Wesely provided his monarch butterfly observation count for 2017 to the committee. He had observed a total of 92 breeding monarchs and 177 migrant monarch from July 17 to October 22, compared to observing only 43 monarchs in 2015.

Ramie said the Byway committee discussed making a nomination to the Sullivan County Visitors Association Board of Directors at this meeting. The deadline for nominations for four open slots was November 3. The committee agreed to ask town of Highland Alternate Debra Conway if she was interested. Conway opted not to participate in that this year.

Ramie reported that the Byway agreed to send a letter of support for the Callicoon Train Station Lease proposal to the Callicoon Community Development Committee. The letter offers conceptual support for the proposed "transformation of this currently vacant property into a vibrant commons area for activities including a welcome center with visitor information and public restrooms, local history exhibits and artisan displays, outdoor seating, meeting and performance space, and a retail component" which "would bring new life to this central location in the hamlet."

Ramie stated that the committee reviewed a draft contract for photographers provided by Lumberland Byway Representative Noah Kalina. The language was agreed to and will be added to the website for the purpose of soliciting photos to create an archive of Scenic Byway views.

Ramie said the Byway continues to work on the selective clearing project where they would like to open up some vistas to the river. She noted there is money in the budget to accomplish this and they are searching for amenable land owners.

Ramie provided an update on the Byway's website.

Nancy Furdock, the Village of Hancock Representative, had been the Byway's representative at the September 28 Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Conference, Ramie noted. Furdock provided a report to the committee.

Ramie reported that the Byway has requested a \$25,000 allocation in Sullivan County's 2018 budget for five particular projects. She said they await the county's decision. The Legislature makes the decision based on a review of applications for the Discretionary Contracts.

The next meeting of the Byway is Monday, November 27.

DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee October 24 Meeting Report: Golod referred to the written report provided in members' packets and covered some highlights. He provided the ground water statistics as of October 23, noting that Sullivan County, NY was below normal and Wayne County, PA was normal and gave a salt front update. The Flow Objective at Trenton was designed to repel salinity for the protection of drinking water treatment facilities and industrial intakes. Golod reported that while the normal salt front baseline is at river mile 72, the salt front is currently at river mile 75.

D&H Transportation Heritage Council October 25 Quarterly Meeting Minutes: Ramie referred to the minutes provided in member's packets. She said this meeting took place at the NPS Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA.

Ramie provided an update on the D&H Historic Maps that are in possession of Canadian Pacific Railways in Montreal. They include two volumes from 1865 depicting: 1) Honesdale to the Roebling Aqueduct; and 2) the Aqueduct to Eddyville/Kingston. The Council awaits a firm digitization rate and for a contract to be produced by Canadian Pacific Railways specifying their terms of use. The DHTHC is seeking the digital copies to use for research, exhibit, and education purposes.

Ramie reported that Chapter 2 of the "Delaware & Hudson Canal Co.: Its History and Legacy" DVD series is in final editing. Chapter 2 will cover Honesdale, PA to the Delaware River. Once Chapter 2 is complete, a press release announcing that both Chapters 1 & 2 are available for purchase will be released. Planning for Chapter 3: Roebling Bridge to Port Jervis is underway, Ramie stated.

Ramie said that finalization of a D&H Canal logo design and the DHTHC brochure reprint order were discussed and agreed on at this meeting.

Officer nominations were made with the vote to take place at the January meeting, Ramie stated. Cliff Robinson, Jr. was nominated as DHTHC chairperson and Bill Merchant was nominated as DHTHC vice-chairperson for January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

Discussion regarding D&H bus trips took place, Ramie said. The group agreed that using the segments covered in the five videos to be produced would work for distance and content for such trips. Members who have information on bus prices, itinerary ideas, and guides were asked to bring that to the next meeting.

Ramie noted that the D&H website has been updated to include the link to the National Park Service's Upper Delaware Virtual Tour as it does contain a whole segment focused on the canal.

Ramie referred to page 4 of the meeting minutes and said that it contains a list of announcements of member accomplishments, concerns and upcoming events.

The next quarterly meeting of the DHTHC is scheduled for January 24, 2018 in Port Jervis.

November 7 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) Planning Event Update: Golod said the event was held at the NPS headquarters on River Road. The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) strategic planning effort is organizing Focus Group Discussions of stakeholders to encourage input on the strategic direction and activities of CRISP to best manage its resources going forward. The meeting was facilitated by Meredith Richardson, Strategic Planner. Participants were separated into smaller groups and worked to help define the CRISP long-term and short-term goals and the activities needed to achieve those goals. Golod said it is his opinion that CRISP received a lot of good information regarding the Upper Delaware. He hopes that CRISP can be the subject of a full Council presentation in the near future.

Stream Corridor Management Plan November 15 Public Education Update: Golod said this meeting was hosted by the Upper Delaware Tailwaters Coalition. The Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition and Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) have been working to develop a first of its kind Stream Corridor Management Plan in Delaware County below the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs. This plan will serve as a blueprint for the future management and protection of important water resources. Golod said he received a draft copy of this plan and was asked by FUDR Executive Director Jeff Skelding to review it and offer any feedback he may have, which he did on Monday, November 19. Golod provided an overview of the Stream Corridor Management Plan which he called a comprehensive, non-regulatory, multi-jurisdictional plan to help guide the future of management of waterways below the NYC reservoirs. He added there are seven goals with objectives and covered these with the committee. Golod said he finds the draft plan really comprehensive and well put together. He told members if they are interested in receiving a

copy to let him know. Peckham asked who the Coalition is using to implement the Plan. Golod told him it would be the local municipalities. Ramie said it is her understanding that having this Plan elevates consideration to seek grants for implementation purposes. Golod said the final draft of the Plan will be done next month.

Scenic Wild Delaware River Stewardship Council November 20 Call Update: Ramie reported that a couple of meetings are upcoming. The Sustainability Outreach Committee meeting will take place in Hawley at the Pike County Conservation District on December 4 at 10 a.m. They will be working on a strategic plan for some sustainability projects throughout the nine-county territory that the Scenic Wild Delaware River covers. The Marketing and Promotions Committee will meet on December 6 in Allentown, PA. Ramie said she will participate in this meeting via telephone. An in-person full Council meeting is anticipated for the spring, Ramie added.

Ramie said that Sharon Davis, the National Parks Conservation Association Middle & Upper Delaware River Program Manager, has started a newspaper column called "The River Unites Us". This is a syndicated column. Local newspapers that have accepted this column thus far are the Pike County Courier, the Sullivan County Democrat, and the Hancock Herald.

Ramie noted that a page has been added to the Scenic Wild Delaware River Travel Planning Mapguide website called the "Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Conference" and all of the presentations from that September 28 conference are included on this page. Ramie shared the results of a survey conducted about the conference held at Woodloch Pines.

Ramie stated that the Council has decided to hold these calls every other month instead of on a monthly basis. The next call will take place in January.

Other: None

New Business

Comments on the NPS UPDE draft "Trail of Geology": Ramie noted that Superintendent Heister had presented this draft at last month's meeting and asked members to provide comment by this meeting. Ramie said the "trail" covered the geological features at six areas. Those areas are the Hawk's Nest along Route 97 in the Town of Deerpark, NY; the Narrowsburg Bridge in Narrowsburg, NY; Skinners Falls located a few miles north of Narrowsburg, NY; the Callicoon Bridge in Callicoon, NY; Jensen's Ledges in Lordville, NY; and Point Mountain in Hancock, NY.

Hamilton said he visited each site with Kelleen Lanagan, the Wild and Scenic Youth Engagement Research Fellow with the National Park Service who worked on this project. He said she did a very nice job writing up the guide and feels it will be a useful tool to give to people who are touring and would like to see these features.

Ramie feels our input in this project will satisfy task 2 under Unique Land Resources of the WU/RM Work Plan.

Henry suggested adding some information about the "hole" in the Delaware River just south of the Narrowsburg Bridge. He reiterated his suggestion from last month that the Darbytown Falls just south of the Narrowsburg Bridge be considered for inclusion in this report. He stated that they are visible from the deck in Narrowsburg. Ramie noted that we've had some comprehensive articles about the "hole" in the Big Eddy in our newsletters in the past.

Peckham referred to the second sentence of the third paragraph on the first page where it reads, "This was also a time where a chain of volcanic islands collided with North America's eastern coast forming the roots of the mountains around which the Appalachians grew. You can still see the roots of these first mountains exposed outside the Upper Delaware River Valley." He suggested that statement be double checked for accuracy with regards to the volcanic reference

Members asked Hamilton to assure that another draft will be provided prior to finalization of the brochure.

Comments on the NPS "Discussion Paper: Protection of the Dwarf Wedgemussel in Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: Ramie said the initial comments that were gathered at last month's meeting and from her review were already sent to the NPS. She asked members if there was anything further. Ramie referred to a copy of an article from the Spring 1998 *The Upper Delaware* newsletter titled,

“UDC Adopts Position Paper on Flows” provided in members’ packets which was shared as a historical point of interest. Ramie said this article, which described why a paper was developed and detailed its 14 objectives, was shared with the NPS for their consideration in the future. Ramie stated that the UDC Position Paper is non-scientific, but is based on the references in the River Management Plan to our responsibilities for flows. A brief discussion about the article and releases took place.

Hamilton stated that the NPS document is still being considered and input is being sought from the UDC and others. He stated that the new FFMP is approved as a ten-year, two-part program, so the NPS has time to develop more information and seek to get flows changed after the first five years. Peckham noted that the new FFMP includes a commitment by the parties to conduct focused studies during the first 5-years of the agreement to resolve outstanding issues. Hamilton said the program is designed to be an adaptive management program.

Peckham questioned when the Dwarf Wedgemussels became an endangered species. He was told it was the early 1990’s.

Henry asked that the Park Service keep the Council up-to-date on the study. Peckham stated that studies on the Dwarf Wedgemussel used to be available on-line, but are not any longer. Henry made a motion that the NPS provide the WU/RM Committee with any and all studies done and information released on the Dwarf Wedgemussel in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. That motion was seconded by Peckham. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Delaware River Flow and Storage Report: A copy of the November 20th NYC Current Reservoir Levels was provided in members’ packets. Total combined storage was at 78.2%, normal for the same date is 77.4%. A brief discussion about the level of the Cannonsville Reservoir took place.

Peckham suggested that another letter be sent to New York City DEP inquiring about the early warning system. Ramie said that Paul Rush provided us with an update at the June 1 full Council meeting which stated that the engineering firm would likely have recommendations in mid-2018. Greier suggested that we could inquire as to whether NYC’s project to improve emergency notification procedures is still on track. A motion to send a letter to Paul V. Rush, P.E., Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Water Supply, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, inquiring about the status of NYC DEP’s project to improve emergency notification procedures at the Cannonsville Reservoir was made by Henry, seconded by Greier and carried.

Other: Hamilton referred to the copy of the November 21 letter from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, LLC regarding the September 24, 2017 Minimum Flow Deviation at the Rio Project. He said the NPS noticed that Eagle Creek missed their minimum flow target below the reservoir on the Mongaup back in September for approximately 20 hours. It has been documented as a violation of their current license. The violation will be made part of the compliance history of the project. The letter also serves as a reminder to Eagle Creek to make sure they meet their minimum flow requirement into the bypass reach of the Mongaup River from the Rio dam for the protection of aquatic resources. Ramie asked how the Park Service made the determination that they were not meeting the minimum flow requirement. Hamilton said they were observing the website for the USGS gage located downstream of the project. When they noticed that the minimum flow was not met for such a lengthy period of time, they reported it.

Golod referred to the October 2017 *Bay Journal* article titled, “Emerald ash borer confirmed throughout the watershed” provided in members’ packets. The article states in part, “First sighted in Pennsylvania in 2007, emerald ash borers have spread to all but two counties in the east, ‘and they might have it, too, it just hasn’t been confirmed,’ said Mark Faulkenberry, chief of forest health at the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.” Golod said he reached out to our Pennsylvania UDC Representative Tim Dugan of the PA DCNR to inquire about the spread of the ash borer. Dugan told him that as of this fall, emerald ash borer is in all Pennsylvania counties. He believes that the last two counties to report it may have been Pike and Wayne Counties. Dugan noted that emerald ash borer is usually in an area 3-5 years before it is officially discovered. Golod spoke about mitigation measures that can be taken, but are very costly. Peckham spoke of the Ash locally sourced to make baseball bats.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Henry, seconded by Case to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 11/28/17