

Upper Delaware Council  
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Nov. 24, 2009

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Shafer, Richardson, Keesler, Peckham, Fluhr, Bowers  
NPS Partner: Schultz  
Staff: Soete, Coney, Ramie  
Guests: None

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. A motion by Bowers seconded by Fluhr to approve the Oct. 27 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report:** Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report he handed out. Some highlights included:

**Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region Update:** It was reported that the PA DEP has fined Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. \$56,650 for the Dimock spills violating the Clean Streams Law, Solid Waste Management Act and Oil and Gas Act.

**PPL's Susquehanna-Roseland Electric Line:** An Administrative Law Judge has recommended that the PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC) grant PPL Electric Utilities' application to construct its portion of the proposed \$1.2 billion Susquehanna-Roseland line. This 500-kilovolt, 101-mile line would run from PPL's Susquehanna nuclear power plant near Berwick to the Delaware River at Bushkill. The PUC will act on the judge's recommendation at a future meeting in Harrisburg. Parties in the case now have the opportunity to file exceptions to the decision and then reply to those exceptions. Exceptions are due Dec. 3, 2009.

**Pond Eddy Bridge Project Update:** Soete informed the committee the next teleconference for the Pond Eddy Bridge Project Committee is scheduled for Dec. 8. The Shohola Township road south of the Bridge is being repaired using a soil nail launcher technique. UDC staff visited the soil nail site and also took photos which were handed around to the committee. Soete explained this unique technique for stabilizing the bank and road at the site. Ramie will be providing an article on the project for the UDC's next newsletter issue.

**Barnes Landfill (Town of Highland) Status:** During Soete's conversation with the NYS DEC last February, he was informed that the Barnes Landfill closure site will need future maintenance but the state still has not identified a responsible owner now that the escrow account is depleted for maintenance work. Soete said he has not heard if any maintenance is taking place at the site.

**Village of Kiryas Joel proposed Catskill Aqueduct Connection Status:** Soete noted that according to media reports, the Village of Kiryas Joel is moving forward with its plans to tap the Catskill Aqueduct despite a second lawsuit by Orange County challenging the environmental review for the water project.

**Cell Phone Tower Proposed (Damascus Township):** Damascus Township Supervisors have approved use of Township land for a cell phone tower. The tower site is meant to complement the coverage area to be provided by another tower further south.

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

**TAG 2009-03 Shohola Township:** The committee reviewed a request from Shohola Township for reimbursement on its completed Technical Assistance Grant, Water Well Education Program. The Council grant covered two aspects of the education program. The Township submitted documentation of its project

expenses. It was requesting payment of \$359.15; and with a grant award of \$500 that would de-obligate \$140.85. A motion by Bowers seconded by Shafer to approve payment was carried.

**Letters Addressed to UDC regarding the NYS DEC's dSGEIS:** The committee was provided with copies of letters addressed to the Council from residents of New York City. The letters were basically advocating the withdrawal of the NYS DEC's just released draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on gas drilling in order to do it over again with the scientific rigor and care that would be appropriate. The committee noted that letters of this nature should be sent to the NYS DEC and that the Council has no regulatory power in this matter.

Also received, to keep the Council aware of his actions, was a copy of a comment letter to the NYS DEC on its dSGEIS from George A. Belcher, Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward of Port Jervis.

**UDC draft second comment letter to NYS DEC, dSGEIS:** As an issue referred from Council, the committee was provided with a copy of the staff's draft of a second letter to be issued to the NYS DEC as part of its comments on the dSGEIS. This letter recommends having the gas companies provide and pay for training for local first responder emergency crews and hospitals to handle any event or incident that might come about during the natural gas drilling/exploration in the Marcellus Shale Play in this region. The committee felt this was a very important matter for the safety of area residents and for preservation of the area's natural resources. Roeder noted that the Council's Operations Committee had reviewed and approved the draft letter. Following discussion, a motion by Shafer seconded by Peckham to approve the letter for Council action was carried.

**Next Committee Meeting Dec. 15:** The committee was reminded that their next meeting would be held on Dec. 15 due to the holiday scheduling and would begin at 7 p.m. All other Council committees would be meeting on that same night.

**Common Waters: "Atlas of the Upper Delaware Region":** Ramie displayed the resulting product of a Common Waters grant, "Atlas of the Upper Delaware Region" The overall purpose of the Atlas is to allow community leaders and interested citizens to see the geographic and spatial relationships between human development and natural features in the Common Waters Region.

The main objective is to develop an identity for this interstate region by highlighting the region's unique characteristics and documenting a growing number of "forces of change" in the region. The organizations involved in Common Waters are working on expanding the Atlas to a digital database that will provide detailed resource information in a comprehensive manner to allow for more informed decisions about land and water management activities. Among the Atlas information pages, there are topics and/or maps that include but are not limited to approximate river miles by section, watersheds, geology, parcel density, and satellite images

The Atlas is a project of the Common Waters Partnership and was produced with funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share and the William Penn Foundation with support from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

**Public Comment** None

**Adjournment** A motion by Bowers seconded by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager