

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
Aug. 10, 2010

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Keesler, Roeder, Richardson, Fluhr, Rajsz
NPS Partner: Absent
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: F. Schwarz, T. Shepstone, M. Harrison, G. Maas, F. Santini

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the fiscal year 2011 Technical Assistance Grants Program, ranking projects and recommending funding levels.

TAG Applicant Interviews

The committee received six grant applications totaling \$20,750. Each applicant presented their grant project description and answered questions. The applicants included:

~*Town of Lumberland* – Frank Schwarz, town grants administrator, explained the proposed project involved a needs assessment feasibility study for a new police/court facility. The project involves determining facility needs; security issues, preparing a plan with several options for the town board to review for decision making. The town does participate in the NPS law enforcement contract program. Amount requested, \$3,500.

~*Town of Delaware* – Tom Shepstone, consultant to the town, reviewed the town's project that would involve an indexing of the town zoning law both electronically and in hard copy. This indexing would provide both page numbers and electronic links to places in the zoning law where referenced provisions are located. This project mirrors the River Management Plan as it serves to conserve the resources of the Upper Delaware primarily through the use of existing local and state land use controls and voluntary private landowner actions by allowing an educated populace to be familiar with town laws through a user-friendly electronic format. Amount requested, \$3,000.

~*Town of Tusten* – Town Supervisor Peggy Harrison explained that the Town of Tusten has the role of lead agency in Phase II of the Multi-Municipal Gas Drilling Task Force that involves eight towns. The proposed project is for creation of a road use agreement and law. The town is requesting the grant to offset the expense Tusten will incur in the process. The project addresses the River Management Plan in that it will lend itself to the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the scenic, cultural and natural qualities of the Upper Delaware River corridor. The towns are working with an engineering firm and a law firm. Each task force town member is also contributing to this project. Amount requested, \$3,150.

~*Shohola Township* – George J. Fluhr, alternate to the UDC from the town, briefly described the township's grant project. He explained that for several years now, northeastern Pennsylvania has experienced a concern with the drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. This formation, in part, underlies all of Wayne and Pike counties including Shohola Township. Last year a TAG project was undertaken by some of the New York Towns. Because laws and legal procedures in Pennsylvania differ from New York, the township believes it is important to identify recommendations that are specific to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania court decisions have also impacted local government actions and options. Therefore, the goal of the project is to research and examine laws and court decisions which will impact PA Township supervisors' decisions regarding ordinances and emergency management policies which will affect gas drilling and gas wells. Effective regulation of natural gas wells will protect and maintain the natural qualities of the Upper Delaware River corridor. The project in general will identify and clarify the options the supervisors have in their continued efforts to support the goals of the River Management Plan. Amount requested, \$3,000.

~*Town of Deerpark* – Flo Santini, Town Clerk, said the town is concerned with updating the brochure and map of the Town of Deerpark that was last produced in the 1980s. The town's master plan needs to be incorporated somewhat into this guide for use by visitors and residents alike and the guide would be a base of information that would encourage and better enable appreciation and stewardship of the Upper Delaware River and valley by all concerned. Amount requested, \$3,250.

~*Town of Cochecton* – Town Supervisor Gary Maas said it is the town's desire to establish a town website in this electronic age. The town needs to provide access to town information to residents, developers, and

visitors. There are local laws that need to be posted, meeting agenda and minutes, meeting dates, government officials listing, as well as town amenities. Getting information out there will help in increasing knowledge about the town and the River Valley and how we are maintaining the resources. Amount requested, \$4,850.

Following the interviews, the committee went through the process of ranking each project and applying a monetary value based on the overall budget (\$16,700) the Council had available for this grant program. While all project were worthy, curtailment of requests had to be considered based on budget. The following projects and grant awards (total \$16,700) will be recommended to the full Council for approval at its October meeting based on motion by Richardson seconded by Rajszyk and carried:

- Town of Lumberland – police/court needs assessment, \$2,800.
- Town of Delaware – indexing Town Zoning Law; placement on website with hot links, \$2,400
- Town of Tusten – creation of road use agreement permit process and road preservation local law, \$2,520.
- Shohola Township – research laws and court decisions in PA toward producing a brochure outlining positions and actions for PA township supervisors regarding natural gas projects in their township, \$2,500.
- Town of Deerpark – update/print town brochure/map, \$2,600.
- Town of Cocheton – develop town website including laws and ordinances as well as other information for residents and visitors, \$3,880.

Other Business

EPA news release postponing the Aug. 12 public meeting in Syracuse on its hydraulic fracturing study scope: The committee was provided with copy of a news release issued on Aug. 10 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in New York City announcing that the Syracuse meeting scheduled for Aug. 12 has been cancelled. The agency now intends to hold a new public meeting on its hydraulic fracturing and drinking water study in upstate New York in September and would announce the location as soon as it is confirmed. The individuals pre-registered to either speak or attend this final public meeting nationwide on the EPA study precipitated a re-adjustment to the plans based on security concerns, costs, and venue that could accommodate this size crowd. Many residents and organizations in the River valley have signed up for this public meeting. UDC staff will provide its members with the new date and other information as soon as it is made available. The information will also be included in its listserv.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Rajszyk seconded by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager

Following the Project Review Committee meeting the Personnel Subcommittee held a meeting with staff that lasted until 8:30 p.m. Most members of the Project Review Committee also serve on this subcommittee.