

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Sept. 28, 2010

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Keesler, Richardson, Rando, Rajsz
Committee Members Absent: Roeder
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: None

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Fred Peckham called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. A motion by Rajsz seconded by Rando to approve the Aug. 24 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report handed out; some highlights follow.

Town of Hancock Site Plan Review Law Draft: The Town of Hancock Planning Board discussed the town's site plan review law draft at its Sept. 16 meeting and Douglass attended that meeting. Under the Lake and Stream Protection section it states: "Any project regulated by this Law that is proposed within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor, as defined in the River Management Plan, shall be reviewed for consistency with the Land and Water Use Guidelines contained therein, provided the Town of Hancock Planning Board shall be solely responsible for assessing such consistency and determining any site plan modifications that may be appropriate to address such criteria." While this law has not been adopted yet, Soete was glad to see this clause included in the draft document.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 Line Expansion Project (Wayne & Pike counties) Update: Soete noted that Tennessee Gas Pipeline's subcontractor emailed the Council to notify them that they are still searching for potential wetland restoration projects in an effort to mitigate for permanent impacts to forested wetlands as a result of the 300 Line project. The current needs now are two acres each in Pike and Wayne Counties and one acre in Susquehanna County. Apparently, the PA DEP has specified that the wetlands must be restored, and that protecting undisturbed wetlands is not suitable for remediation.

Columbia Gas Transmission Replacement Existing Line 1278 and Line K Update: According to a Federal Register Sept. 17 notice, Columbia Gas Transmission filed an application with FERC for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to replace, operate, abandon and maintain its existing natural gas pipeline system in Pike County, PA and Orange County, NY as a result of the age and condition of the existing pipeline. Columbia proposes to abandon by replacement approximately 16.39 miles of natural gas pipeline. The proposed project would enable Columbia to restore the historical design operating pressures and enhance the reliability and flexibility of its system. The FERC comment deadline on this project is Sept. 30, 2010. At the present time, the line is not crossing the Upper Delaware River.

Natural Gas Leasing/Drilling in the Region Update: The EPA held two public hearings regarding its hydraulic fracturing study scope of work in Binghamton, NY on Sept. 13 and 15. These rescheduled hearings had a smaller than expected attendance. The UDC approved and a comment letter was sent to the EPA on the study scope.

At the Sept. 15 DRBC meeting, executive director Collier mentioned that the proposed natural gas regulations would not be ready until mid-October.

According to media reports, PA's Office of Homeland Security had been receiving intelligence bulletins listing numerous groups, including Marcellus Shale drilling opponents, as possible security threats. PA Governor Rendell, unaware of this situation, has apologized to the groups and the firm's contract for providing the bulletins to Homeland Security has been cancelled.

On Sept. 23, R.E.S.C.U.E. held their annual meeting in Forest City, PA. The topic of the meeting was natural gas drilling along the Upper Delaware River. Carol Collier and Dave Kovach of the Delaware

River Basin Commission provided presentations. Collier's presentation focused on the challenges of regulating and protecting the river. Kovach explained how specifically the DRBC will protect the river.

On Oct. 26, the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin is sponsoring an all day conference, "Forest Management, Water Resources and Energy Development: Challenges and Opportunities for the Delaware River Basin." The panel on Landowner Perspectives will include Fred Peckham, Joint Landowners Coalition of New York and Marian Schweighofer, Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance.

Damascus Township Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Soete reported that following the September UDC meeting, staff discussed with Mr. Dexter and Mr. Matern, along with Wayne County Planning Director Coar and the NPS, the UDC issues regarding the zoning map and the designated river corridor boundary, and the special exception use change for the proposed zoning amendment. The Township worked with the Council and is considering the options mentioned in the UDC's tabled letter. McGuinness mentioned that NPS did provide the township with a GIS map of the river boundary. Richardson requested a GIS map for the Town of Cochection. He felt that every town/township in the river corridor should have these maps.

Cortese Landfill Update (Town of Tusten): The committee was provided with a copy of the NPS-Upper Delaware's comment letter to the U.S. EPA Region 2 regarding the alternatives for continued mitigation of the Cortese Landfill. The UDC and the NPS has supported the EPA preferred Alternative 3. This alternative would take less time and money to complete. The EPA Plan proposes to clean up recently discovered areas of contaminated liquid water under the landfill and near some contaminated lagoons at the Superfund site.

Old Business None

New Business

TAG Action Items: The committee reviewed requests received from some TAG recipients. A motion by Rajsz and seconded by Keesler to pay all reimbursement requests and grant project extensions was carried. The motion applied to the following requests:

- ~TAG 2008-03 Town of Hancock, site plan review – project completed; request for payment \$5,000
- ~TAG 2008-06 Town of Fremont, update zoning laws – project completed; request for payment \$3,000
- ~TAG 2009-01 Damascus Township, training E-Document Server – requested 6-month extension
- ~TAG 2009-04 Town of Lumberland, zoning law re-write – requested 6-month extension
- ~TAG 2009-06 Lackawaxen Township, produce 2 issues township newsletter – requested 6-month extension
- ~TAG 2009-08 Town of Tusten, mapping services natural resources & open space inventory – requested 6-month extension
- ~TAG 2009-07 Town of Cochection, update zoning law for green building/natural gas – requested 6-month extension

Soete reported that the FY 2008 grant projects are all completed. For 2009, five more projects need to be completed. Extensions were given based on the contracts in effect during FY 2009.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Rajsz seconded by Keesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. was carried.