

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
Sept. 10, 2013

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Fred Peckham, George Fluhr, Nadia Rajs, Harold Roeder, Jr.
NPS Partner: Sean McGuinness
Staff: Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Renee Ozomek, Carol Ropke Wingert, Gary Maas, Frank Schwarz, Keith Raser, Alan Henry, Sam Rowe

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the Fiscal Year 2014 Technical Assistance Grants Program, rank projects and recommend funding levels.

TAG Applicant Interviews

The committee received nine grant applications totaling \$37,156.99. Each applicant presented their grant project description and answered questions. The applicants included:

-Town of Highland- Renee Ozomek, Assessor, said the topographic maps they are requesting funding for would be an excellent tool with regard to planning and development in the Town of Highland. The maps would be acquired from the Sullivan County Real Property Tax Services office and would help various town officials in their decision making processes with regard to development and regulation of land use both within the river corridor and throughout the town. T. O'Dell asked if the maps would be available in a digital format. Ozomek said yes. Amount requested, \$492.00.

-Town of Delaware - Renee Ozomek, Assessor, said the Town assessor's office currently has approximately 2,000 archived files containing data, such as deeds, survey maps and photos of structures on the property, on parcels in the Town of Delaware. They seek funding to incorporate these files into the active files as part of the Town's reassessment project. Richardson said the application states the project will take 32 weeks and informed Ozomek that there is a strict deadline date to be complied with. Amount requested, \$5,000.00

-Town of Tusten- Carol Ropke Wingert, Town Supervisor, noted the town started an Emergency Management Plan with a committee about one year ago. They have determined they need some professional assistance with it. Funding for consulting services would result in an updated and concise Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The plan would deal with many issues, Wingert stated. She said the current plan is severely outdated and the health and safety of the town's residents is not well served by the plan any longer. Amount requested, \$5,615.00.

-Town of Cochection - Gary Maas, Town of Cochection Supervisor, thanked the Council for their FY 2013 grant and said this year the town is looking to purchase topographic and soil maps from the Sullivan County Real Property Tax Services office for use by the Town's Assessor and the building department. Amount requested, \$656.00.

-Town of Lumberland- Frank Schwarz, Grants Coordinator, said they are seeking funding to update the Glen Spey Cemetery maps. The expected outcomes of the project include the creation of a master map for each of the three sections of the Cemetery, a bi-fold "pull out map" for visitors to the cemetery, and a map available on the town website. Roeder asked if the cemetery is owned by the town. Schwarz told him that it is. Amount requested, \$5,000.00.

-Town of Lumberland - Nadia Rajs, Town Supervisor, said this project's final report will provide an updated estimate of tourism visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway based upon an analysis of the existing "Socioeconomic Value of the Delaware River Basin in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania" dated Oct. 11, 2011 by Dr. Gerald Kauffman to be done by Fairweather Consulting. The report will identify potential economic opportunities associated with the visitation and provide an economic impact analysis of current visitation including the direct, indirect and induced spending generated by visitation to the Byway. The report is intended to provide a basis for further tourism development planning on the part of the Byway member towns. Amount requested, \$6,100.00.

-Shohola Township - George Fluhr, Township Historian, said the Shohola Historical Society, having been the recipient of three collections of historical pictures some dating back over 150 years, recognizes the need

to preserve them in a modern digital form, to initiate their use in a historical DVD and to make them available in digital form for future use in films, books, and brochures. The expected results of the project include: (1) a DVD summarizing the history of Shohola Township and environs, reflecting ties to the Delaware River, and the River's impact on the history and growth of the township and adjacent communities and (2) a brochure listing the cataloging of approximately one thousand digitized pictures related to the township, with appropriate grouping for use in future writings and programs. Richardson asked Fluhr if there were certain aspects of the project that could be completed if they are not fully funded. Fluhr explained that the individual that would be undertaking the project is available now and his availability in the future is unknown. Amount requested, \$6,610.00.

-*Berlin Township* – Alan Henry, UDC Representative, said the township would like to obtain the tax maps from the Wayne County Assessment Office that include all of Berlin Township along with a hanging file system so that the maps could be available in the township office. Amount requested, \$683.99.

-*Town of Hancock*– Sam Rowe, Town Supervisor, said their project proposal seeks supplemental funding for the completion of an economic study that will demonstrate how improved water releases from the New York City Delaware Water Supply System (Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs) will help stimulate the local and regional economy of the Upper Delaware River region through enhanced property values, increased recreational opportunities and other key economic indicators. He noted that partial funding for this study has been secured through the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency. Rowe stated the expected results of the project are: (1) the completion of a comprehensive economic study that demonstrates how improved water releases from the NYC Delaware Water Supply System will enhance economic conditions in the Upper Delaware River Watershed and (2) production of a suite of promotional materials designed to publicize the economic study and attract new businesses, visitors, and residents to the region. Fluhr asked Rowe if the study would be conducted if the Town does not receive full funding from the Council. Rowe said they will move forward, but the study won't be as good as they would like it to be. Amount requested, \$7,000.00.

Following the interviews, the committee went through the process of ranking each project and applying a monetary value based on the overall budget (\$25,000.00) the Council had available for this grant program. Roeder made a motion to approve the applications of Highland, Cochection, and Berlin. The motion was seconded by Rajszyk and carried. After substantial discussion of the remaining projects, the following projects and grant awards (total \$25,000.00) will be recommended to the full Council for approval at its October 3rd meeting based on a motion by Rajszyk, seconded by Peckham and carried:

- Town of Highland – Purchase Topographic Maps, \$492.00.
- Town of Delaware – Update the Town's Assessment Records, \$3,000.00
- Town of Tusten – Create Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, \$3,500.00.
- Town of Cochection – Purchase Topographic and Soil Maps, \$656.00
- Town of Lumberland– Map Glen Spey Cemetery, \$1,500.00
- Town of Lumberland – Provide Estimate of Tourism Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, \$5,000.00
- Shohola Township – Produce DVD & Indexed Pictorial Library to preserve History of Shohola Township, \$5,000.00
- Berlin Township – Obtain Tax Maps of Wayne County, PA & file system, \$683.99.
- Town of Hancock– Complete Economic Study on Improved Releases from NYC Water Supply System, \$5,168.01.

Other Business

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Rajszyk, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the special Project Committee meeting at 7:56 p.m.