

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 1, 2011

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry H. Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham, Town of Fremont-Jack Niflot, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cochection-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten-Tony Ritter (Susan Sullivan 8:19 p.m.), Town of Highland-Andrew Boyar, Town of Lumberland-Nadia Rajs, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township-Jeffrey Dexter, Berlin Township-Paul Henry, Shohola Township-George Fluhr, Delaware River Basin Commission-Bill Muszynski, National Park Service-Sean McGuinness. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-William E. Douglass, Senior Resource Specialist-David B. Soete, Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist-Laurie Ramie, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Also in attendance: Debbie Conway-Town of Highland alternate, Jim Rodgers-Town of Fremont alternate. Absent: Lackawaxen Township, Westfall Township, State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Richardson introduced two guests from the National Park Service, Gay Vietzke, the new Deputy Regional Director for Parks Operations, and Rick Harris, the Associate Regional Director for Natural Resources and Science. He also recognized William Muszynski from the DRBC and Paul Henry, the newly-appointed Berlin Township alternate, who were in attendance.

Approval of November 3 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Rajs seconded by Boyar to approve the November 3 meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

Public Comment on the Agenda: There was no public comment on the agenda.

Committee Reports: Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: November 15 Water Use/Resource Management by Ritter; November 22 Operations by Richardson; and November 22 Project Review by Peckham.

Ritter reported that the comment period for the NYS DEC's dSGEIS has been extended until January 11, 2012. He said that the DRBC's November 21st meeting was postponed and that no new date has been set. Ritter said he attended the NYS DEC public meeting hearing on November 29th in Loch Sheldrake. He felt the turnout was excellent.

Ritter noted the Tusten Town Board voted on their draft zoning November 28th and that the vote was 3 – 0 in favor of approving the new zoning. He provided a copy of Article 14 for review by any Council member.

Richardson reported that the Operations Committee on November 22 approved a change of the Council's health insurance carrier, due to losing its current plan April 1st as the previous carrier is dropping it, since it was in the Council's best interest to take advantage of the savings by enrolling in the new program by December 1st.

Boyar questioned if any consideration was given to the energy efficiency of the lighting when looking for quotes for the Council office. Richardson told him the bid submitted by Symanski included a NYSEG rebate to increase efficiency.

Boyar, on behalf of the Town of Highland, thanked the Committee and Soete for the comments that will be integrated into the Town's comprehensive plan revised draft which, after the next public hearing, will be shared again with the Project Review Committee.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Muszynski, referring to the hydrologic report, noted that the reservoirs are at 94% total capacity after a very wet November. He stated that the flow statistics reflect the abnormally wet weather we have had since August. The DRBC is going to put out a report on Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. It is expected to be a four-page summary giving some of the statistics and highlights. He reported that August's rainfall shattered the record. The NYC reservoirs prior to Hurricane Irene were at almost 90% capacity and that is close to the goal established by the new FFMP which states they will try to operate at certain times of the year with the 10% void and sometimes at 5%. As a result of Hurricane Irene, Pepacton and Neversink both eventually spilled. He noted that a spill is different from a release. He reported that the Cannonsville never spilled. It did get to 99.4% capacity. A few days after the storm, they did start increasing releases. He noted that these are not flood controlled reservoirs. They do not have the ability to exit a lot of water like the Army Corps of Engineers does. As a result, when Tropical Storm Lee came along, the reservoirs were still pretty full and they did start spilling.

Muszynski reported that the natural gas development regulations have been held in abeyance until the Commissioners decide how to resolve the issues that they have between them. Peckham asked what those issues are. Muszynski said that he did not know.

He noted there will be a commission meeting on December 8th and the Regulated Flows Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 18th, 2012. He said that the FFMP continues to be implemented on a temporary basis until May 31, 2012 and is meant to be a bridge document so there will have to be some action taken on or around that date.

Richardson commented that he is very concerned with the reservoir levels. Ritter questioned Muszynski if it is unprecedented for the reservoir levels to be where they are at this time of year. He said they are releasing 700 cfs out of Cannonsville currently and wondered if it would be prudent to be releasing more in anticipation of more water coming in, in the form of snow pack or rain. Muszynski said they will make adjustments for snow pack. Once there is a snow fall, they will make adjustments by adding the estimated water coming in to the existing levels and adjust the release accordingly. Those releases are set by the FFMP. He noted the FFMP sets the releases based upon the times of the year and the elevations in the reservoir. Ritter reported that in August, September, and October, there were 24" of rain in the Catskills, which is double the norm, and he feels that the reservoirs should be drawn down in anticipation of more precipitation and snow pack. Muszynski said they have to be careful what they release as well because the streams below are also running. The water being released is also controlled by gages downstream to make sure they don't impact adversely affect those streams. He said the FFMP has been set up in order to try and make these releases more flexible. Peckham and Richardson both said the bottom line is there is too much water in the reservoirs. Ritter said he had seen a news report about the NYS DEC budgetary restraints and there is a good chance that there will not be any gages in 2012 including on the East Branch, West Branch, Beaverkill and Main Stem. He feels this is a very serious point. Peckham recalled the last time this happened, the gages were picked up by outside sources of funding. Boyar feels this topic should be run through the committee and a recommendation made from there. Richardson agreed with Boyar's suggestion.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Odell said there was a NYS DEC news release giving the statistics on how many people attended the public hearings on the agency's draft SGEIS and stating that the comment period has been extended until January 11, 2012.

PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources: No report in the absence of Representative Dennis DeMara.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: McGuinness said it has been a pleasure to have his boss, Gay Vietzke, the new Deputy Regional Director for Parks Operations, here. He noted that prior to this position

she was the Superintendent at Fort McHenry and brings with her a very good partnership background. He said that Rick Harris, the Associate Regional Director for Natural Resources and Science, is also here. He reported he had taken them on a tour of the river valley, including going out on the river.

McGuinness reported the Park Service had a really good end of the season meeting with the local liveries. They discussed how the summer went and their expectations for next summer. The drownings and water safety were also talked about.

McGuinness said that the Park Service had received notice that they did not get the \$10,000 grant they had applied for from the National Park Foundation for the water safety campaign. They are, however, committing \$10,000 locally specifically for the water safety campaign. They are going to try and target a large, diverse area. Park Ranger Kevin Reish has been asked to take the lead on this campaign and the hope is to have this program in place by next summer.

McGuinness reported that his unit of the Park Service received a 3% cut to their budget. That amounted to \$230,000. His goal was not to lose any staff, because the staff is what it is all about, but in order to reach the budget he has had to cut one seasonal law enforcement ranger, two seasonal interpretive rangers, a seasonal maintenance person, and one seasonal museum technician. He noted that he and the division chiefs are going to work on not reducing services.

McGuinness stated that NPS Upper Delaware staff just finished reviewing the New York State dSGEIS and submitted their comments to the National Park Service Northeast Region Marcellus Team coordinator. Because there are National Park Service units throughout New York State, their comments will be consolidated with those submitted by others, and sent to DEC by the regional team coordinator. He said they had also completed their last review of the DRBC regulations and thought there would have been something in place by now, but because there is not, they will continue to work closely with the DRBC on the next step.

McGuinness said Carla Hahn is looking into a transportation scholar grant. It is an opportunity to get a scholar here from a university to look at transportation up and down the corridor to determine what opportunities may exist.

McGuinness said he had received a phone call from a family in Lordville that had a parcel of land they wanted to donate to the Park Service. He said he referred them to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

He referred to the Visitor Statistics handout provided in member's packets, as requested at last month's meeting. He reported the visitor count for 2011 was 260,000. Upper Delaware is only allowed to count visitors to the river and to federally owned or leased property. Sightseers on the UDSB, eagle watchers and other visitors may be within the Congressionally mandated border but cannot be counted. He noted they are looking into ways of getting better counts. Rajsz questioned McGuinness if they count visitors that go to the Mongaup Access. He said they do. She asked if she could get numbers from that site. McGuinness told her he will look into it for her. Richardson thanked McGuinness for the visitor information he provided. Richardson said he has in the past used these numbers at times to promote the economic value of these visitors to the area. Richardson noted that he has asked Loren Goering about the numbers of vehicles that go to the Skinner's Falls Access in Cohecton for the town's purpose.

Richardson questioned McGuinness if any of the positions being eliminated due to the budget reduction could be picked up by volunteers. McGuinness noted that the only one that couldn't would be the law enforcement position. Richardson asked him if a list of positions with a description of the responsibilities could be shared with us. McGuinness said he would do that. He said that currently the bulk of the volunteers are canoe safety patrol and some at the Zane Grey Museum. He added that volunteers for anything would be appreciated. Sullivan told McGuinness that putting the needs for the Park Service office on Main Street in Narrowsburg out to the local Chamber of Commerce would be a good idea.

Richardson asked McGuinness if the comments to the NYS DEC dSGEIS will be generalized to the point that the focus will be lost as to what we need here in the river corridor. He noted that we are different than the parks in other parts of the state. McGuinness said that the comments will be focused on the potential effects that drilling will have on the national parks in New York, but will also address Upper Delaware's particular issues. Dean questioned if the comments were strictly for New York State. McGuinness said they were as they are just addressing the NYS DEC regulations. Dean questioned if they were looking at the cumulative effects of drilling or not. McGuinness answered that they are only concerned about the effects it would have on the parks. Dean continued that parks that are owned by the

federal government are located throughout the United States so if someone drills in the state of Wyoming and someone drills in the state of New York, shouldn't the states of Wyoming and New York put a cumulative approach to say "These are true effects"? McGuinness reiterated that they are responding directly to the NYS DEC dSGEIS. Muszynski noted that not all states have the requirement to do a SGEIS, but New York State does. Pennsylvania does not require it, so they don't have to do one. McGuinness said the Park Service has an office at Fort Collins dealing with geological resources and they keep track of the entire country. Peckham wanted to clarify that the Park Service comments are just coming from a certain division of the Park Service to New York State and not from the Department of the Interior. McGuinness said that it is just a Northeast regional letter.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Douglass announced that he will be retiring from the position of Executive Director of the UDC effective January 1, 2012. He noted that his first day with the Council was March 13, 1989. Over the past 22 years he has enjoyed working with the Council members, the former board members, his fellow staff, National Park Service personnel, the partner agencies and the public to address the issues that have faced the Upper Delaware Scenic Recreational River. He said that it is time for him to move on, but that his heart will always be with the river valley and he treasures the friendships that he has made here. He wished the best of luck as the Upper Delaware Council continues on with this mission. Richardson said Bill Douglass has been the face of the Council practically since its inauguration in 1988 and that his leadership and diplomacy was exemplary. Richardson said he started with the Council in 1989 and he certainly learned a lot from Douglass on how to bring people with divergent views together and try to move forward. He thanked Douglass for all he has taught him and noted that he has really enjoyed working under his leadership. He wished him good luck. Douglass pointed out the scrapbook with 23 years of Upper Delaware newsletters and invited anyone who wanted to, to take a look through it to get a sense of the UDC's history.

Old Business: Boyar noted that the Operations Committee approved the change of the health insurance carrier at the November 22nd meeting and he feels it would be appropriate for the full board to confirm the actions of the Operations Committee and made a motion to do so. He commends the committee for acting under the time constraint to save the money. He feels that was a great initiative. Rajsz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

New Business:

Draft letter to NYS DEC: Comments on Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact (dSGEIS) on the Oil, Gas, & Solution Mining Regulatory Program: Richardson said, as noted in Peckham's report, that a lot of time was spent in Committee going over the letter. Boyar made a motion to move the letter as it had been presented. Rajsz seconded the motion. Boyar feels it is a good letter and believes that no letter will satisfy every individual need. He said it is a compromise, but feels that it covers the most important points quite well. He noted that the only thing he feels wasn't addressed was Don Hamilton's suggestion to commend NYS DEC for some of the positive actions that were implemented. Roeder said the letter does not address the changes made by the NYS DEC to the regulations. He said we have some additional time now and suggested revising it after looking at the changes and commenting on them. Soete stated that he had heard from Susan Sullivan who had an issue with item No. 4 on page 2. She suggests that the wording be changed to "After the NY City Department of Environmental Protection's Final Impact Assessment Report, by Hazen and Sawyer, was completed in December, 2009, the NYS DEC banned fracking in the watersheds for New York City and Syracuse, on April 23, 2010. This same protection should be afforded to the Special Protection Waters of the Delaware River Basin." Sullivan said the reason for her correction is to clarify that the request for the same protection to the Delaware River Basin is from the UDC. Boyar amended his motion to include the language as recited by Soete to make it more clear. Rajsz seconded the motion. Richardson wanted to acknowledge Roeder's concern. He said it was discussed in committee whether or not some of the items in the letter were truly new. Peckham questioned Soete if he verified items 1 -11 under No. 7 with the actual document. Soete said he had not as this letter was a compilation of provided comments. The motion to send the letter failed by a vote of 6 nays

(Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Deerpark, Damascus, Berlin), 4 ayes (Cochecton, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland), and 1 abstention (Shohola).

Draft Resolution 2011-11: Engaging Legal Services on a Per Project Basis: Richardson noted as reported in the Operations Committee, this is an agreement with these lawyers to be able to reach out to them as needed. Peckham questioned if a retainer was required. Richardson told him they do not. A motion to accept the Resolution engaging John J. Keating of Cochecton, NY for legal matters in New York State and Jeffrey P. Clemente of Narrowsburg, NY for legal matters in Pennsylvania was made by Peckham, seconded by Rajsiz and carried.

Richardson told the Council that a list of travel requests was approved at the Operations Committee meeting on November 22 including the Holbert case hearing on December 9th at the Pike County Court of Common Pleas. He reported that it was approved that Ramie and Soete could travel to that. He felt there should be a resolution officially saying they are representing the Council. A motion to authorize Ramie and Soete to attend the hearing on December 9th on behalf of the UDC was made by Rajsiz, seconded by Niflot and carried.

Nominating Committee Report: Sullivan stated that the committee had discussed the possibility of having two tickets, but after conversation with Rando, it was decided to have just one ticket. That ticket would be Nadia Rajsiz, Town of Lumberland, as Chairperson; Scott Rando, Shohola Township, as Vice-Chairperson; and Jack Niflot, Town of Fremont, as Secretary/Treasurer. She noted that all three are willing to serve in those capacities. Richardson said this will be voted on in January and he reminded everyone that they may throw their hat in the ring if they so choose. He said they have always tried to rotate the chair and have accomplished this for the most part. Roeder wanted to explain why initially there would have been two tickets. He said that it has been a tradition to alternate the chair between New York and Pennsylvania and because of circumstances, having nothing to do with the UDC, the person relieved of the chair in March of 2011 was from Pennsylvania and filled by Richardson who is from New York. Roeder felt it would be good to give that chair back to Pennsylvania in 2012. The two tickets would have involved the same two people, just in different positions. Roeder had not talked to Rando to know of his decision.

Other: Boyar wanted to publically state our appreciation for Douglass's service and note that he has been a real credit to the Council and a gentleman.

Roeder thanked Richardson for stepping forward and taking the reins for this year. He said it was commendable and he appreciates his job. Richardson commented that he has had calmer years.

Public Comment: Anne Willard wondered if Council had considered sending a letter to Pennsylvania concerning the proposed Senate Bill SB1100. She explained that the bill would impose impact fees on the natural gas industry, but it would only give them to those townships who agree to "ditch" their own zoning in favor of model zoning that would allow gas drilling in the town. She feels this puts the Pennsylvania members in an uncomfortable position of either not getting any impact fee money and protecting the corridor the way they do now with their zoning or taking the money and not agreeing with the plan. Richardson thanked Willard for bringing this up, told her Council is working to comment on the New York state side, but said if the Pennsylvania Townships would like the Council to comment on this draft legislation, it should be brought up at the Project Review Committee and it certainly would be entertained. Fluhr noted there is a lot of opposition to this bill particularly because in a way it opens the door for the State to take away power from the townships. He said Shohola has gone on record opposing it for that specific reason. He said the Legislators are considering it now and there is a lot of opposition statewide. Richardson feels there would not be a lot of these issues on the New York side if the local towns had retained the home rule that they always had and were able to decide for themselves how, when, and to what degree the activity should take place.

Dean commented he feels the UDC is usurping home rule on certain items. Richardson said the legislation in 1978 created this area. The towns decided on their own if they wanted to become part of this organization and whether they wanted to craft their zoning in such a way that it conformed with the goals

and objections of the River Management Plan. Dean said that all documents, including the Constitution, are amendable and he feels some things in the RMP need a re-do. McGuinness addressed the Chairman stating there is a step between the document and legislation. The document is amendable, but it is based on the Land and Water Use Guidelines which the Secretary of the Interior put in place and those are not amendable. The communities are supposed to have zoning in place according to the Guidelines and the UDC is here to make it all work. McGuinness reiterated that the Land and Water Use Guidelines are not amendable. He added that Congress voted to make the Delaware a Wild and Scenic River and told the Secretary to work with the locals to develop Land and Water Use Guidelines that were going to provide protection for this corridor so that the lifestyle and quality of life would remain the same. The River Management Plan is how everyone is going to work together so that this valley is protected for present and future generations. Peckham commented that the UDC can amend only the River Management Plan. He added that a major amendment requires 2/3 vote of the Council and minor has to be unanimous and it is a very involved process. McGuinness said that in the year he has been here, he has studied the plan, the legislation, the towns and townships and noted that maybe it is time to revisit the plan. He suggested there should be workshops for everyone in the room. He commented that Council had just voted not to send a letter to NYS and that letter is supposed to tell New York State how you feel drilling and fracking is going to affect the river corridor, not how drilling is going to affect New York State. The corridor is the jurisdiction among the group here. Fluhr stated that he has been involved with the Upper Delaware since 1969. At that time the federal government had already taken over both sides of the Delaware River down in lower Pike County. The towns and townships along the Upper Delaware got together and formed this Council. It was the general consensus that it was formed for two reasons. One was to protect the river and the second was to protect the private property along the river. He stated a couple of years went into putting the RMP together. After that, each town and township had the option of either accepting it or not accepting it. He said that over the years the RMP has been a good example of compromise and he does not feel that the federal government has taken away power from the towns and townships as they have the option to withdraw from the Council. Peckham feels a "can of worms" would be opened up by opening up the document. Dean noted that he does have very little experience on the Council and he is commenting as an outsider who has attended just two meetings. Peckham said it is a fresh perspective for some of the members. Fluhr suggested Dean take a look at the scrapbook Douglass referenced. Dean said he feels that it is appropriate to open up the RMP and take a look at it again. He feels documents need to be looked at to try and assess if they are appropriate for today.

Jim Rodgers, Town of Fremont alternate, questioned that since the draft letter to NYS DEC on the dSCEIS was voted down, is the Council going to move forward or is it a dead issue as far as the Council commenting on the draft. Peckham said the two options would be to do nothing or send it back to committee if the Council agrees and try to come up with another letter that would satisfy the Council. Rodgers expressed that he feels it would be irresponsible not to send a letter. Richardson noted that the letter came out of committee with a majority to recommend it. He does not know if any letter that would come out of committee would be approved by the people who have voiced their position on gas drilling. He said he would hope that people could separate their feelings on gas drilling in general from gas drilling in the corridor.

Rodgers said that he has known Bill Douglass since he came to the Council and Douglass's announcement of retirement really took him by surprise. He wished Douglass good luck, told him that he will miss him, said Douglass has always been a gentleman, and noted that the position he is leaving is a tough job.

Bernie Handler addressed his question to Bill Muszynski of the DRBC. He stated that he had read Delaware Governor Markell's letter and it mentioned there had been changes to the DRBC gas drilling regulation as late as November 16th. He wondered if any of those changes have been made available to the public. Handler believes there will be even more changes to the regulations and hopes the DRBC will make them public. Muszynski reported that there were some changes that were being requested and feels that may be the reason the special meeting scheduled for November 21st was put on hold. He assumes that whatever the resolution of the issues is, there will be some news release like previously done in advance of the meeting so people could become acquainted with what is in the regulations.

Handler then commented to Deerpark Representative Dean that he does agree that whenever you have an organization there is some form of repression and taking away of rights. He said the same thing

happens when you have a next door neighbor. He takes away some of your rights and you have to deal with him. He feels it is the nature of living in society. He said Fluhr did a beautiful job of explaining the function of the UDC, that the Council does a wonderful job, and it is an interesting place.

Shirley Masuo of Shohola questioned why Shohola abstained from the vote on the letter to the NYS DEC. Fluhr answered that he was there as an alternate delegate and he had not been privy to the discussion, therefore he felt he would prefer to abstain.

Tony Ritter, Town of Tusten alternate and chairperson of the Water Use/Resource Management Committee, wanted to clarify whether Scott Rando was present at the Project Review meeting that passed the letter to the NYS DEC. He was told that he was. Ritter noted that Rando represented Shohola at the meeting of the committee that approved the draft letter that the board voted down this evening. He questioned Fluhr if he was aware of that. Fluhr said he was. Ritter asked him if he abstained personally or for the township. Fluhr said he represented the township and had exercised his option of abstaining. Ritter asked Fluhr if he consulted Mr. Rando who had approved the letter. Fluhr said he had no obligation to consult Mr. Rando.

Susan Sullivan said she would like to make a motion to send the NYS DEC letter back to committee and do another letter. She stated her reason for wanting to do this is she feels the UDC needs to represent the river corridor. It is their obligation. She knows it is a lot of work and effort and reminded Council that they were all invited to send in comments. Sullivan told those who did not agree with the letter to put forward what they would like to see in it. The motion was seconded by Niflot. Richardson said before this motion is put to a vote he would ask, because the committee has already spent a lot of time on this letter, if you in your heart can not vote for this letter, communicate that to the committee. He added that if you are willing to look at this with an open mind and accept that a letter is going to go out of committee, then share that with the committee. Richardson told members that if they have specific objections to the letter, please address the chairman, send in what you object to and it will be discussed. He feels this is the only way we can move forward on this. He said if there is a real sentiment to put together a meaningful letter that is focused, then let's do it, but let's not waste a lot of time and bring it back to full Council again and get the same vote. Fluhr recommended that everyone discuss this with their supervisors so they can get some ideas from the people who are elected. Richardson entertained a vote to send the letter back to committee. It was carried by a vote of 8 ayes (Fremont, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, Damascus, Berlin, Shohola) to 3 nays (Hancock, Delaware, Deerpark).

McGuinness told Fluhr it was a good idea to include the town or township's supervisor, but he hopes that when it is discussed, those individuals read the RMP and the Land and Water Use Guidelines. He told them to understand their role in protecting this river valley and look at it as protecting this river valley and not as regulating drilling in New York State. This is about this corridor and the river. This is not about New York State so much, he added. He noted it is difficult to separate it, but the job of this body is to protect this river corridor according to the Land and Water Use Guidelines. He said he would be disappointed if the delegates didn't understand their responsibilities. He pleaded with members to do some studying, come back with some comments, and he said he knows that Council can come up with a really good letter to New York State to tell them that this river valley is important and why.

Roeder asked if Council did or did not have a vote to say that there will be no drilling in the corridor. He was told there was no such vote. He thought he recalled a vote saying there would be no surface drilling in the corridor. It was determined a letter with that wording was sent to the DRBC as opposed to New York State. Roeder said he feels this board has responsibility in this river valley. He has no objections to that. He asked that when the letter is revisited, please address the changes that have been made to the regulations.

Ritter noted that at the NYS DEC public hearings on the dSGEIS, most people did not address new issues. Roeder understood that the State of New York wanted to hear just about their changes to the regulations and they were going to discard anything else. Rodgers noted it is changes and omissions, topics that were not discussed but should have been discussed. Richardson said he had someone question him about people from Pennsylvania voting on a letter to New York State. Richardson said that his response to that individual was that this is a family, an organization that looks at the river as their home and we've always voted together. Peckham added, as long as we focus on the river corridor. McGuinness said that outside the corridor, the UDC is recognized as having quite a bit of influence on what goes on in this corridor.

Sullivan asked Fluhr, in reference to Anne Willard's comments on Pennsylvania's proposed Bill SB 1100, if the Pennsylvania townships are going to join together to offer a position. Fluhr said that the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors is on top of this, that there has been communication between them and the individual townships, and many townships throughout the Commonwealth have been writing to their legislators. Sullivan said it may be useful to inform the UDC as our whole operation is involved with local townships, with what township supervisors want, as the UDC represents them. She feels it would be useful for the UDC to follow up on this issue and even offer assistance if we could. Richardson reiterated the UDC is the towns and townships and he told Fluhr that if there is an organization that our support can help in some way, for him to bring that matter to us for consideration. Fluhr feels that any communication to the legislators in regards to this matter would be appreciated by any townships.

Richardson reminded Council that on December 20 all three committees will meet so if the letter to the NYS DEC is going to be taken up, please be timely and precise with your comments.

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made by Boyar and seconded by Rajszyk at 9:25 p.m.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. was made by Rajszyk and seconded by Peckham. Richardson reported that no action was taken in Executive Session. He said that Douglass has been an asset to the organization, but we do need to prepare for when he is not here. As a result, a motion to appoint Laurie Ramie as Acting Executive Director effective December 5, 2011, was made by Rajszyk, seconded by Niflot and carried unanimously. Richardson stated it is a great opportunity and the Council wishes her well. Richardson noted that he did ask Soete his thoughts as he is a senior person on staff, and Soete readily endorsed Ramie for the position.

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Dean, to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 12/9/11