

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2013

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice Chairperson Andy Boyar called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten-Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland-Andrew Boyar, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, State of New York-Bill Rudge, National Park Service-Sean McGuinness. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resource Specialist-Travis O'Dell, Secretary-Cindy Odell. Absent: Town of Lumberland, Damascus Township, Lackawaxen Township, Shohola Township, Westfall Township, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Delaware River Basin Commission.

Approval of February 7 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Richardson seconded by Roeder to approve the February 7 meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Committee Reports: Committee reports were provided based on the meeting minutes. They were: February 19 Water Use/Resource Management by Henry. The February 26 Operations and February 26 Project Review meetings had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: The DRBC was absent, however, the hydrologic report was provided. The NYC Delaware River Basin Storage as of March 5 was at a combined capacity of 84.2% with Cannonsville at 85.0%.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Rudge reported that Governor Cuomo announced *NY Open for Fishing and Hunting*, a plan to streamline hunting and fishing licenses and reduce license fees to support tourism opportunities and benefit sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the state. The proposal is part of the 30-day amendments to the 2013-14 Executive Budget and would reduce fees paid by hundreds of thousands of hunters, anglers and trappers while maintaining support for the state's fish and wildlife programs. Rudge noted that his agency has had a lot of input into the proposal. The proposal would reduce by eleven the number of licenses available while maintaining all current hunting and fishing privileges and opportunities; reduce the price of hunting and fishing licenses; make fishing licenses valid for one year from the date of purchase; create a non-resident license structure which is the same as the resident license structure; fold trapping privileges into the hunting license for no additional fee for certified trappers; maintain Junior Trapper and Trapper Mentor opportunities; reduce fees for non-resident hunting and fishing licenses to attract more out-of-state participants; and retain discounted licenses for youth, seniors, military disabled, and Native Americans. Roeder asked Rudge how this proposed plan might affect the lifetime licenses that people have. Rudge said "The short answer is we're going to honor the lifetime

licenses.” T. O’Dell asked if the lifetime licenses will still be available for new purchase. Rudge said he believes they will be, but he will double check on that. Information on the current licenses and pricing is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6099.html>. More information on this proposed plan is available at <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/02202013-ny-open-for-fishing-and-hunting>. T. O’Dell questioned if the effect on The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration of 1937, most often referred to as the Pittman–Robertson Act, had been considered. Rudge noted that Pittman-Robertson benefits New York State and funds are dispersed depending upon how many licenses the state issues. He said that one could argue that if the fees come down, the number of licenses sold could increase, therefore increasing the money from Pittman-Robertson. Rudge reported that the funds in Pittman Robertson are higher than they’ve ever been due to the recent surge in gun sales across the country. Richardson asked when this plan would go into effect. Rudge, said if adopted, the plan would go into effect in February 2014. A new e-license program is scheduled to go on-line in January 2014. Rudge said that license fees go into The Conservation Fund and that can only be used on Fish and Wildlife programs. There is currently a surplus in that account, but with the lowering of fees, potentially that surplus could be used up quicker at which time a fee increase may have to be considered in 2018.

Rudge noted that every three years the state undertakes an Open Space Conservation Plan revision. DEC-led committees of citizen scientists, non-profit leaders, elected officials and government officials hold public meetings across the state to review the current Open Space Conservation Plan. These Regional Advisory Committees will make recommendations for open space conservation policies and priority projects to be included in the 2013 revision for completion in 2014. Rudge said that one of the project areas in the current Open Space Conservation Plan is the Upper Delaware and he expects it will be a priority resource area for conservation in the future. Peckham asked if we receive money for it. Rudge said one of the reasons for developing the open space plan is it provides a very public process for determining where the State of New York spends Environmental Protection Fund money on open space acquisitions. So to answer Peckham’s question, Rudge said the answer is yes, the plan has a real funding source behind it. Sullivan noted that the Town of Tusten conducted a small-scale Open Space inventory. She commented that the mapping process is hard for small towns to undertake as it is expensive and technical. She asked if DEC’s information, such as GIS mapping, is available to towns. Rudge said there is a GIS based database of conserved lands in New York State, City of New York watershed lands, and lands conserved by land trusts in New York State. Rudge told Sullivan that may be a good starting point and noted that they may not show every municipal park. She asked about lands in local ownership. Rudge suggested she contact local planning departments to see what maps they have available. Peckham noted that Delaware County has many maps available on-line. Rudge told Dean that wetlands are not a priority project area in the Open Space Plan generically, but there are some areas that are very wetland-oriented like the Bashakill in Sullivan County. Dean asked if there is any update on the DEC wetlands inventory. Rudge said no, that is not progressing. Dean asked Rudge if there has ever been any discussion concerning compensation in the form of reduced assessed value of private property owners whose land has been affected by wetland delineation. Rudge said there is a brochure available explaining how one can go about petitioning. Peckham told Dean to start with his town’s assessor. McGuinness asked Rudge if the Council was involved with the last revision of the Open Space Conservation Plan. Ramie said the Council did write comment letters. Rudge said he will keep the Council informed as they go through the process. Rudge said that each region gets a committee that’s appointed by one county representative and each county makes their own appointment. He said for Sullivan County the representative is Jill Weyer, Assistant Planning Commissioner, and for Orange County it is David Church, Planning Commissioner.

Rudge reported that Region 3 Director Willie Janeway will be stepping down to take the job as executive director of the Adirondack Council.

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

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: McGuinness said the Upper Delaware will be affected as a result of the sequestration. He said they are going to cut some seasonal positions from the Park Service staff. There will also be a reduction in funding to some of the communities for law enforcement grants. Those affected include the Town of Highland, Town of Lumberland, Town of Deerpark, and Sullivan

County. A decision was made to retain a seasonal law enforcement position in lieu of fully funding the law enforcement grants. Discussion about the law enforcement grants took place. Richardson asked if the reduction to the Park Service will be to the 2012 budget or to the proposed 2013 budget. McGuinness stated they have not had an increase since 2011 as there has been a continuing resolution since then, so the reduction is to the 2011 budget. Dean said he believes the cuts are meant to be to the increase in spending. He explained there is an increase in federal spending that has been reduced by sequestration. There is still a gain in funding in the federal system, just not as much as originally proposed. McGuinness said Upper Delaware has not gotten an increase in years. Ramie asked McGuinness if the cuts he referred to as "permanent" will just be for FY 2013 or will be from now on. McGuinness said there will need to be further discussion about this issue as he is unsure what will happen after March 27th. Boyar noted that these reductions will be felt in places such as the Town of Highland due to the cut in the law enforcement grant. He added they still need to address the issues, but now will have to without those additional funds. Dean commented this is the "new reality".

McGuinness said the Park Service met with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in Sweet Valley to work out an agreement for use of their parking lot next to the NPS Zane Grey Museum. A hardened path will be put down in between the parking lot and the museum in order to increase handicap accessibility. Future plans include renovation of one of the buildings on the Zane Grey Museum property to include public restrooms. McGuinness said it was a good meeting and that it will be a good partnership.

McGuinness said he is almost done working on the Park Unit's 2013 Work Plan. He needs to put it in a form that he can share with the Council.

McGuinness noted that the Federal Highway Administration was supposed to have been at the Roebling Bridge on March 6th to investigate the sink hole issue there, but were unable to make it. The issue in question is on the New York side of the Roebling Bridge near the toll booth. They suspect there may be a crack in the drain pipe that runs under NYS Route 97 that is causing erosion under the surface. Dean questioned when the bridge was built. He was told 1848. McGuinness said the meeting has been rescheduled to March 20th.

McGuinness stated that work continues on a river clean-up program. He has been in conversation with Ruth Jones of Kittatinny Canoes and he feels it is something the UDC could get involved with.

McGuinness said that his staff along with other Park Service staff participated in a conference call to review the Hancock Compressor Station Environmental Assessment. The issues they plan to comment on include air quality, noise, lighting, & visuals. They want to go on record that these are their concerns.

McGuinness said staff is preparing to implement the "Wear It" lifejacket safety campaign. He noted there is a movie theatre down in Stroudsburg, PA that has agreed to run before every movie, a 30-second public safety notice about wearing life jackets on the Delaware River. Members suggested checking with the theatres in Hancock and Callicoon, N.Y. to see if they might do the same thing.

McGuinness reported there are 19 known eagle nests in the river valley.

McGuinness mentioned that the Park Service is going to be co-sponsoring with a number of other organizations a bioblitz. A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. It is being planned for June 28th and 29th at a piece of property owned by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. Ramie noted that Jim Serio suggested that on the Norcross Wildlife Foundation property, there is a perfect opportunity for a Japanese Knotweed demonstration project because there are four or five little islands of knotweed on the shore that are not connected.

Referring to the updated Superintendent's Compendium in members packets, McGuinness noted that one of the changes was the renaming of the NPS Barryville Office to the NPS Corwin Farm Ranger Station throughout the document. He said he understood that one main concern of members was the section concerning audio disturbances, portable motor or engine, in particular. He said it does not apply to vessels on any river. McGuinness stated these rules apply "on the Delaware River from the confluence of the East and West Branches at Point Mountain in the vicinity of Hancock, New York to the railroad trestle in the vicinity of Sparrowbush, New York, and on any lands owned or leased by the National Park Service (NPS) within the designated boundary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (Upper Delaware S&RR)." He added it does not apply to private lands at all. Ramie asked if this compendium is the final document. McGuinness said it is.

Richardson asked McGuinness when visitor statistics are compiled. McGuinness told him that is done on a monthly basis and that those statistics are available at any time upon request. Boyar asked if

there is an indication of trending visitor statistics. McGuinness said it is decreasing, noting that the counts are only taken at the accesses that the Park Service manages. He does feel that a more realistic count of visitors to the river valley is necessary. Dean asked if it is possible to extrapolate, or estimate, who comes to the National Park controlled areas. McGuinness said that could be looked into. Sullivan noted the Park Service has been promoting their hiking trails and asked if they have a way of knowing how many people are taking advantage of them. McGuinness said not really, they do have some sign-in books, but they are not very accurate.

McGuinness referenced Section 36 CFR 3.8 (a)(2) – Boating Operations in the compendium which states that “Launching or recovering a vessel is prohibited, except at public river access sites.” He said the regulation is not intended to prohibit private landowners from launching or recovering their vessels from their property, but is intended to protect the private property rights of residents living along the river.

UDC Executive Director’s Report: Ramie reported that she was notified on February 25th that the UDC account got credited for the missing October 2012 payment which restored the full \$45,000 we were supposed to receive as an extension of the FY 2012 budget. She applied on February 26th to draw down that money as well as the amount of our January bills and received the funds by electronic transfer the next day. She noted that allowed us to basically double our checking account balance.

Ramie said she received a call on March 5th stating that PA Governor Corbett is not available to serve as keynote speaker for the UDC’s 25th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28th due to a budget time conflict. She will continue to look for a speaker and hopes to have one in place by March 15th in order to be able to publicize that information in the Spring/Summer issue of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter. Ramie noted that the 15th is also the deadline for submission of award nominations. She said we welcome any ideas members may have for any of the various categories. After the March 15th deadline, staff will review the nominations and present recommendations to the Awards Subcommittee which consists of Dexter, Richardson, and Ritter on March 26th prior to the scheduled Operations Committee meeting. On Monday, March 4th a press release was issued offering an opportunity for local businesses and friends to support the UDC’s work by becoming \$25 sponsors of the 25th Annual Awards Ceremony. She said she noted in the release that the budget is now subject to a five percent cut due to the federal sequester coming into effect six months into the current fiscal year. She also stated that this event is the only one of its kind that highlights the valuable good works being done on both sides of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, in service of the river valley community. The deadline for sponsorship is April 19th and sponsors will be recognized in the awards program as well as in the Fall/Winter 2013 issue of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter, which is circulated to nearly 10,000 recipients. April 19th will also be the deadline for reservations for the dinner. Invitations will be sent out the 1st of April.

Ramie said the Awards Banquet will be the focal point of our 25th Anniversary commemoration. She has asked, and he has accepted, George Fluhr to deliver a quarter-century message. A photo retrospective is being worked on. We will hand out the 25 Accomplishments that went out as a news release on February 22nd. She thanked those who contributed to the list, noting it was hard to decide on just 25 accomplishments. Ramie noted the UDC has been confirmed to deliver a 20-minute program on the UDC at the Delaware River Sojourn opening ceremony on June 22nd at Lackawaxen. Proposals for a souvenir item for the banquet, 5K Run/Walk concept, and t-shirts will be reviewed further into the meeting, Ramie said.

Ramie reported that \$900 has been raised from 17 business contributors to offset the cost of printing our new Map and Guide brochure. This amount is fairly comparable to past years, she added. The brochure will be ready by April 15th. The files are due to the printer by March 15th and we are in very good shape to complete the revisions to the 12 information panels, map, business listings, and graphics. Ramie said she is very much appreciative of the Park Service GIS team of Kathy Commisso and Jamie Myers who helped us with the brand new map. Ramie shared a copy of what the new cover will look like. Peckham asked that the access information be double-checked for accuracy.

Ramie said the Spring/Summer 2013 edition of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter is due to the printer by March 22nd and will be available on April 1st.

Ramie noted the March calendar is available in members’ packets for review and award nomination forms are available to anyone who may want one.

Old Business:

Approval of January 22, 2013 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Sullivan to approve the January 22 Operations Committee meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

Approval of January 22, 2013 Project Review Committee Meeting Minutes: A motion by Richardson, seconded by Peckham to approve the January 22 Project Review meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

Other: None

New Business:

Discussion of Impacts of Federal Sequestration on UDC Funding: Ramie reported that the UDC's budget is subject to a cut of \$12,750 as a result of the federal sequestration. She presented her proposal of where in the budget some savings could be realized. There are still some questions about the sequester that remain unanswered to her. McGuinness said there will have to be a modification to the Cooperative Agreement and that will be initiated by the Park Service. Ramie said she will await instruction to know when to provide a revised budget.

Resolution 2013-07: Support for "Lordville Thermal Stress Relief Protocol": Boyar noted that a full presentation concerning this protocol was presented at the February 19th Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM) Committee meeting by Dr. Peter Kolesar and Jim Serio. Boyar referenced the italicized wording in the body of the resolution and told members that wording is directly from the mission statement of the River Management Plan. The Lordville Protocol is designed to mitigate, on a trial basis, a section of the river where the goal is to keep the water temperature at times of thermal stress at 75F or less by using cold water pulses from the reservoirs. Peckham said it is his opinion that WU/RM Committee Chairman Tony Ritter should have recused himself from voting on this issue as he feels he is in "direct conflict of interest being that he benefits financially from this." He noted that the towns were never approached by any of the involved organizations about this proposal. Peckham said he feels this proposal is more along the lines of a "special interest proposal" rather than a proposal that the towns would be involved in as far as flood mitigation or reservoir levels. He said he understands what the proposal is trying to accomplish and he agrees with the thermal aspect, but he feels the proposal did not go through the proper channels to get the support from the towns most affected by it. A motion to approve Resolution 2013-07 was made by Richardson and seconded by Sullivan. Boyar said he understands that one of Peckham's concerns is flooding due to higher levels of water behind the reservoirs as a result of this program. Boyar asked Jim Serio to address this concern. Serio explained that the bank of water that's been proposed to be used for this is water that is already being held behind the dam called the IERQ (Interim Excess Release Quantity). That water's use is supposed to be for extraordinary needs and they are proposing this issue is such a need. He added there is about 9,000 cfs days of water in this bank and it has been available year after year. Over the last six or seven years, only about 1,500 of the 9,000 has been used for extraordinary needs leaving 7,000 to 7,500 cfs of water still behind the reservoir and not being released. This proposal says let's use that bank of water and release it down the river. If the water is used for thermal stress, then the reservoirs will actually be slightly lower at the end of the summer. Henry said he had questioned at the WU/RM presentation if there has been any negative comment from anybody. Boyar spoke of the Fair Share letter which includes this proposal that has been signed on by many interests and property owners. He noted that historically the river has been cooled off at times of thermal stress. This proposal would be beneficial to the fish in the river with no detriment to any person or entity or government. Boyar questioned who has anything negative to say about this proposal. Peckham wondered why the towns that would be directly affected by this proposal, the Town of Hancock, and Buckingham and Manchester Townships, were not approached about it. Peckham said it is his opinion that the West Branch of the Delaware is getting so crowded with fisherman and they are looking to expand. He reiterated that he understands the thermal stress, but he feels there is more to the proposal than just that. Boyar said it may be crowded on the river, but that is because it is a "world class fishery". Niflot said there are places along the river, like Long Eddy, that would love to have

more people come and fish. He does not understand the negative aspect of this proposal at all. Sullivan said that the overall job she has representing the Town of Tusten on the Council is basically “we’ve agreed in our town that the health of the river is healthy for Tusten”. The healthier the river, the more people we have, the better off we are economically, she added. She said that is her overall instruction from the town as the representative. “I have no objection to this at all”, she noted. She acknowledged Serio and Dr. Kolesar for their efforts on this proposal. Roeder said he likes to fish and he is not against the thermal releases. He said we have an opportunity to include all the towns. For a proposal such as this, why not take it to those that are in the area under discussion. Boyar questioned how you would reach out to the various towns. Henry said “I’ll tell you exactly, is through the representatives from the towns on this Council.” He said he contacted all three of his townships supervisors, who had reviewed the minutes from the WU/RM presentation, and asked them how they would like him to vote on the proposal. Richardson stated that he attended the WU/RM presentation and it was an excellent one. Many of the issues being raised at this meeting had been discussed at that presentation, he added. Flooding is a concern for the Town of Cocheton as well and this proposal was discussed and it was determined that this will not encourage or enhance the threat of flooding. Richardson said he feels the concern he is hearing from Peckham is that property owners may not want an influx of added fisherman who could benefit from the fishery being extended further downstream. Richardson said he looks at this “gem” of a river and feels we need to encourage people to use it. It could be part of an economic engine for the towns that have little. Richardson said it is a good proposal and he was very happy with the presentation. Ramie noted the video of the presentation is still available for viewing. Peckham is still not convinced that the City of New York is not going to put more water in the reservoir. Henry said this proposal is not to create a constant temperature change, it is for thermal stress. Boyar said it is being proposed as a one-year trial to see how it works. Peckham asked if that is stated in the resolution. Boyar referenced the last paragraph of the resolution. Peckham asked for the resolution to be amended to state a one-year program specifically. He said he is not against thermal release, but he is very leery of New York City. A motion to amend the resolution to add the wording “and that the flow management regime be adopted for one year only” was made by Peckham, seconded by Henry and carried. Peckham suggested that when this issue arises again next year, we need to get these towns involved. Roeder said including Buckingham and Manchester townships in this matter would be a good idea. Henry asked if the resolution passes, if copies could be sent to the supervisors. Richardson said he provides his board with both written and oral reports each month of Council activities. He does not feel it is necessary to circumvent his responsibilities as a representative to send it to his board. Boyar called for a vote on the amended resolution 2013-07. The motion was carried with Rudge abstaining.

Project Review letter: Town of Delaware Zoning Law Amendments: T. O’Dell noted this was a letter meant for Project Review, but was being presented to the full Council due to the cancellation of the February 26th meeting. The town has been in the process of amending their zoning for some time now. The proposed letter offers some comments on their proposed zoning amendments. A motion to send the letter was made by Roeder and seconded by Henry. Dean questioned if they are amending their zoning in the river corridor. O’Dell said yes. Dean asked if a town does not amend their zoning along the river corridor, what is the policy of the UDC. O’Dell told him if it does not affect the river corridor, we do not review it. Boyar called for a vote. The motion to send the letter was carried unanimously.

Approval of Quote for UDC Raft Trip August 4th: Ramie noted that approval for this quote is being sought now so that the information can be included in the Spring/Summer edition of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter. The trip is scheduled for Sunday August 4th. The section of the river will be the 8 miles from Ten Mile River to Barryville. Kittatinny Canoes will be the host livery this year given that we switch back and forth each year, Ramie added. The price will be \$24 for adults and \$14 for children ages 5 through 12. The UDC always passes on the exact cost to those that participate. A motion to accept the quote was made by Dean, seconded by Richardson and carried.

Proposal for UDC 5K Run/Walk September 28th: Ramie noted this proposal was sent out to members in advance. T. O’Dell said that to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the UDC, he has examined the feasibility of organizing a 5k walk/run in the Upper Delaware River Valley that would incorporate both New York and Pennsylvania with the use of an interstate bridge as part of the course. He

noted there is a lot of work that goes into an event like this. Due to established 5k events in other areas of the corridor, the Equinunk PA-Lordville NY communities have been suggested as the target area. Interest by the Equinunk Watershed Alliance to partner with us on this event has been expressed. The proposed route and entry fees were discussed. Richardson commented that it looks like a lot of work to take on based on a checklist handout provided. O'Dell agreed that it is a lot of work. Ramie stated that the proposal is contingent upon hiring a professional race organization that would handle the timing and result scoring on race day as well as registration and some of the other responsibilities. Discussion about race sponsors and event costs took place. O'Dell shared a list of expenses that would be incurred for the event. Sullivan suggested looking into corporate sponsorship. Peckham said there are a lot of organizations that are willing to sponsor a good cause. Boyar asked if the notion of laying off our risk by bringing in corporate sponsors is one that we want to explore. Peckham thought it would behoove the UDC to look for sponsors in the area that the race will be held. Boyar gave O'Dell the green light to explore the idea of sponsors and the event will be further discussed at the next meeting. Ramie noted that this upcoming newsletter is due to the printer on March 22nd. Henry suggested if information for this event is not available for the newsletter, it can be publicized through other means. Sullivan thought it could be noted in the newsletter that this event is a possibility. Members suggested noting the race as a consideration in the article about the 25th Anniversary activities.

Proposal for UDC T-shirts: Design, Order, Sale/Use Policy: Ramie referenced the handout in the members' packets and said the UDC logo would be printed on the front chest area of the t-shirt and the map of the Upper Delaware River corridor on the back. Odell said two different quotes for shirts are listed on the handout, noting that additional charges apply for shirts larger than XL. Peckham asked about colors. Odell told him the shirt would be royal blue imprinted white. Odell said that staff would like input from the members on what they would want to do with the t-shirts should an order be approved. Dean questioned if this has ever been done before. Ramie said the UDC has never had t-shirts before. Ramie said research was done to find out if the Council is allowed to sell the shirts and found out that we can. Henry questioned the size of the map to be printed on the shirt. Odell told him it would be printed maximum size allowed on the shirt. Ideas of where and how the shirts could be marketed and design ideas were shared. Henry suggested starting with 100 shirts and see how they go. A motion to purchase 100 shirts in various sizes was made by Henry, seconded by Boyar and carried unanimously.

Proposal for 25th Anniversary Souvenir Gift Item: Ramie said it had been mentioned that it would be a nice gesture to have a take home item at the Awards Banquet for our guests. A handout provided listed various items for consideration. She said Odell's recommendation is the flashlight combo as it is an item useful for both men and women, is reasonably priced, and gift boxed for distribution. Richardson liked the reusable tote idea. Henry asked about the cost of the flashlights. He was told the total for 150 would be \$318. A motion to purchase 150 of the flashlight/key ring combo was made by Henry, seconded by Niflot and carried with Richardson and Dean opposed.

Other

Public Comment: Jim Serio thanked members for passing the resolution in support of the thermal relief protocol. He went on to tell members that the FFMP has reduced the spills from the reservoir by an average of 23% because the water is being used the summer before the spring that it would spill in. He noted that responsible fisherman would stop fishing when the water temperature was between 68 and 70 degrees so the thermal protocol is not to promote more fishing, it is to protect the fish. One point that he feels can't be stressed enough is the quantity of water that is being talked about for this thermal relief program is miniscule in comparison to the water that's being used to maintain the Montague target which is 1750 cfs. Peckham said it is his opinion that the Lackawaxen is the main problem with the FFMP. Serio said he did talk with Sam Rowe, the Town of Hancock Supervisor earlier in the day and Serio felt that Rowe was in general support of the proposal once he explained to him exactly it was. Serio reiterated that it is a small amount of water that is being requested and would go essentially unnoticed by most people.

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Niflot, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell 3/15/13