

Upper Delaware Council  
**WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 18, 2014**

Committee Members Present: Al Henry, Pat Jeffer, Andy Boyar, Brian Stuart  
Committee Members Absent: Tony Ritter, John McKay, Joe Demalderis  
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Travis O'Dell, Cindy Odell  
Guests: Jeff Skelding

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to approve the February 18 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

**February 24 UDSB Meeting Update:** Ramie reported that Rick Lander presented a proposal to utilize the vacant Narrowsburg Central School as a multi-purpose building and provided details of that discussion.

Ramie said that a questionnaire on safety concerns or improvement opportunities for Route 97 to be distributed to member municipalities with a response date of Friday, March 21 was reviewed. This inventory would be used to pursue grants to address the identified needs.

A report on the February 21 UDSB Visitation Economic Impact Study Steering Committee Meeting was provided. The study is being conducted by Peter Fairweather of Fairweather Consulting. Ramie said a final report is due on August 22, 2014. Ramie noted that Peter Fairweather does plan on being a presenter at the upcoming Green Tourism conference on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent search was discussed as the Byway had written a letter to the NPS Northeast Region echoing what the UDC said about what qualities would be helpful in leadership for this park unit.

Letters were sent to Senator Bonacic, Assemblywoman Gunther, and Assemblyman Crouch on February 24 requesting their intervention in procuring the funds due to the UDSB in the amount of \$7,661.83 on a FY07 Federal Highways Administration grant, Ramie said.

A motion directing Ramie to prepare correspondence directed to NYS DOT to comment on the road conditions, request information on the long-term schedule for upgrades and repairs, and to again request that they consider bike lanes and other improvements as part of their long-term planning was carried.

UDSB Chairperson Rajsz was tasked with naming a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers at the March 24 meeting for the election at the Byway's Annual Meeting in April.

The next UDSB meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2014.

**Zane Grey Fishing Derby 2/26 Meeting Update:** Ramie referenced the press release concerning this event in each member's packet. The first-ever Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby begins on April 12 and ends July 6<sup>th</sup>. Information can be obtained by calling (570) 296-8126 or by e-mailing [pikemuse@ptd.net](mailto:pikemuse@ptd.net). A copy of the official ruler was provided. The next meeting of the planning committee is scheduled for March 28, 2014.

**Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) River Accesses 2/27 Design Workshop Update:** T. O'Dell referenced the analysis of each site provided in members' packets. He noted the efforts have been on improving existing sites and a proposed new site near the Pond Eddy Bridge. He said that public comments on the designs are due by Friday, March 21. Henry asked if Council comments are being sought. O'Dell said staff has been attending meetings and their comments have been incorporated. A final product is expected by May and Heather Jacksy of the Sullivan County Planning Dept. is willing to give a presentation if the UDC desires. Consistent signage among the accesses was discussed. Boyar shared details of the site improvements proposed in the Town of Highland. He noted that if there were regularly

spaced facilities along the river, it could help alleviate the problem of intrusion onto private property. Stuart said, "That would be fantastic." He added that one of the most frustrating issues of being a property owner along the river is the fact that people will trespass to relieve themselves. Discussion took place regarding the diversion channel at and proposed upgrades to the Callicoon site. Henry shared his concerns about the area for which they have a new diversion channel proposed. Hamilton noted that Callicoon Creek flows into the Delaware River at an upstream angle and during floods, it backs water up into the creek. He said it would help to have a hydrologist review the proposed diversion channel. T. O'Dell said the project consultants do have a hydrologist on board. More discussion took place about the proposed Callicoon site. Henry noted that he hopes someone is aware when they plan these accesses of what ice and floods will do. He hopes this is being taken into consideration.

**2014 Delaware River Sojourn Update:** Ramie referred members to the Sojourn newsletter in their packets and noted the Sojourn will take place Sunday, June 22 through Saturday, June 28. She said the paddling in the Upper Delaware will take place on Sunday, June 22 from the Barryville, N.Y. access to Kittatinny Canoes' Staircase Rapids access and on Monday, June 23 from the Kittatinny Canoes' Staircase Rapids Access to Kittatinny Canoes' Matamoros Base. The overnight camping will take place on the Zane Grey Museum grounds. More information is available at [www.delawareriversojourn.com](http://www.delawareriversojourn.com).

**Other:** Hamilton reported that Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> is World Fish Migration Day. World Fish Migration Day 2014 (WFMD) is a one-day global initiative, with local events worldwide, to create awareness on the importance of open rivers and migratory fish. The National Park Service (NPS) on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is considering sponsoring a guided, interpretive canoe trip focused on seeing American shad and other sea-run migratory fish on this day. The trip would cover an easy 3-mile (4.8 km) section of the Delaware River from Damascus to Milanville, PA. For more information call the NPS Milanville Office at 570-729-7842. The NPS is also sponsoring a free evening program on the health of Delaware River migratory fish on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, at the NPS Milanville Office, located at 1152 River Road in Milanville, PA. The speaker for this event will be Jerre Mohler, Delaware River Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Hamilton announced that the 2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz will take place on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at the confluence of the Delaware River and Ten Mile River on the Ten Mile River Scout Camp. A BioBlitz is an event where biology experts and volunteers gather to collect, identify, and catalogue every living thing on a demarcated property in a 24 hour period. Hamilton stated that the event went quite well last year. They were able to identify over 1,000 different plant and animal species. He added that the public is invited to attend on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to see the results.

Ramie reported she has received responses from Pennsylvania and New Jersey in response to her February 15<sup>th</sup> letter requesting additional contact information from the Decree Party Principals. Once all the information is gathered it will be put into a database.

### **New Business:**

**Discussion on Resolution to Mandate a 10% Void in NYC Reservoirs:** Ramie said that at the March full Council meeting, Dave Hulse noted that in recent weeks, he has been reporting on a resolution that came out of Sussex County, New Jersey calling on the Decree Parties "to amend the Decree of 1954 and demand that the City of New York shall maintain the levels in the Delaware River Basin reservoirs at or below 90% during all periods of the year, thereby providing reasonable flood mitigation capability to protect those who are downstream of the City of New York's reservoirs." Hulse had asked if the Council has considered such a resolution. Ramie said that Wayne County Commissioner Brian Smith commented that Wayne County agreed to write a letter that simply says they support the management of the reservoirs at a level that would offer flood mitigation for those towns below them. She had suggested the matter be deferred to the WU/RM Committee for further discussion. Copies of the Wayne County Commissioner's letter and the resolutions of Sussex County and Warren County were provided in members' packets. Boyar said he would be reluctant to support such a resolution as there is no science behind it. He said that people developing in floodways is a real problem. Hamilton said that New York City has always maintained that their reservoirs are not flood control reservoirs, that they are water supply reservoirs. The consensus was to take no action on adopting a resolution.

**Delaware River Flow and Storage Data Report:** Henry referenced the current reservoir level handout in members' packets noting the combined total storage as of March 17, 2014 is 84.2%.

**Other:** Ramie reminded members that the free workshop on "Siting Communication Towers in the Scenic Upper Delaware River Valley" will take place on Saturday, March 29 at 9 a.m. at the Tusten Town Hall. She encouraged all members to attend. A copy of the news release was provided in members' packets.

T. O'Dell reported that on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hancock Town Hall and on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, free training on what you can do to stop Eurasian Boars will be presented. For more information call Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) at (845) 586-2611.

**Public Comment:** Jeff Skelding noted that if the individual that Friends of the Upper Delaware River nominated for a UDC award is selected, they have a scheduling conflict the day of the banquet. He questioned if their nominee is selected, could there be a live feed from their event in Hancock to the UDC Banquet in Eldred. Ramie said that our banquet hours have been slightly changed, noting that festivities start one hour later at 4:00 p.m. T. O'Dell said he will look into setting up a live feed.

A brief discussion about river accesses and fishing guide fees took place. Henry commented that he is not sure that the people who are planning some of these accesses really realize what happens during full flood stage. He questions who will repair the accesses after flooding.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Jeffer seconded by Stuart to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 3/31/14*