

Upper Delaware Council  
**WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 20, 2014**

Committee Members Present: Al Henry, Pat Jeffer, Andy Boyar  
Committee Members Absent: John McKay, Tony Ritter, Joe Demalderis  
NPS Partner: Don Hamilton  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Travis O'Dell, Cindy Odell  
Guests: None

The UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to approve the April 15 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

**Unique Landforms Report Follow Up:** Ramie stated that at last month's meeting, the National Park Service's Geologic Report from the Outstandingly Remarkable Values overall report was handed out. Members were asked to review the report and try and determine how we could treat it for the task in the Work Plan that has to do with identifying and interpreting unique landforms. Ramie said it is her opinion that the first two tasks of the Unique Landforms section of the Work Plan have been satisfied as a result of this report. Hamilton noted the report does a good job of documenting the unique landforms up and down the river. He shared some of his ideas for interpreting this information for the public. After brief discussion, a motion to accept this report as satisfying the task of generating a unique landforms report was made by Boyar, seconded by Henry and carried.

**D&H Transportation Heritage Council 4/23 Meeting Update:** Ramie reported that the Council met in Cuddebackville at the D&H Canal Linear Park following an 11 a.m. hike of the newly-cleared D&H Trail in Westbrookville. She said the updated DH THC Bylaws were approved unanimously with no further amendments.

The Council is working on a new brochure. It is intended to provide an orientation to those unfamiliar with the canal system. Given that only historic facts are provided, it will not be a dated piece. Extensive edits were discussed and implemented at this meeting, Ramie said. As a next step, the chair of the Council will seek quotes for the printing.

Ramie said a video production update was provided. Videographer Brian Weber from Full Throttle Productions was scheduled to come to Honesdale, Waymart, and Carbondale to film D&H and Gravity railroad sites on April 29<sup>th</sup>. These videos are being produced to appeal to the younger generation. The next video will feature Honesdale to the Delaware River. Members approved the estimated \$200 expenditure for the first video.

The majority of the meeting was spent on member accomplishments, concerns, and upcoming events.

Discussion took place about how to get more individual members of the Council now that individuals can become non-voting members for \$20 annual dues.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 on Rt. 6 in Hawley, PA.

**Upper Delaware Scenic Byway 4/28 Meeting Update:** Ramie reported that all 2014 donations from the Byway members have been received.

Ramie noted the election of officers took place. Nadia Rajs, Ed Boyer, and Larry Richardson stood for re-election to the positions of chair, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer. These individuals were reelected to their respective positions for the upcoming year.

The Byway sent a conceptual support letter for the Town of Tusten's proposed Pedestrian Links and Sidewalk Improvement project to provide a non-motorized walking path to link municipal parking lots

in the Hamlet of Narrowsburg and to make needed sidewalk improvements along Bridge Street. Ramie said she reached out to Tusten Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger to get an update on the grant application, but did not hear back from her yet.

Ramie said she had volunteered to attend the Sullivan County Visitors Association's Literature Exchange on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Holiday Mountain. She brought with her the Byway and UDC brochures to distribute to tourism interests.

Ramie noted that Heather Jacksy of Sullivan County Planning agreed to represent the Scenic Byway at the NPS Viewshed Analysis Training on May 19 and 20 in Bushkill, PA.

A report on The Delaware Company's "The Magical History Tour" was given by Town of Highland alternate to the Byway Debra Conway. She provided a comprehensive overview of the bus tour of various historical highlights in Sullivan County that is scheduled to take place on June 7. The tour coincides with Governor Cuomo's Paths Through History promotion of heritage tourism throughout the State. Conway discussed a Lifelong Learning Project taking place at Marist College to share information on bus tours, scenic drives and day trips in the Hudson Valley, and said she would bring UDSB brochures to this forum for distribution. Conway reported that Fort Delaware does now have wifi and brochure racks. The State has been placing historical signs through Sullivan County, and the [paththroughhistory.ny.gov](http://paththroughhistory.ny.gov) website can be used to list events, museums, markers, and sites.

Regarding signage, Ramie said that Gary Maas, Town of Cochection Supervisor, informed her that the missing interpretive panel has been replaced on the Route 97 pulloff and Richardson reported that the Cochection Town Board is replacing the historic marker for the NY/NJ claim line on Route 97 which was damaged and knocked down in a truck accident.

Ramie said it was announced at the Byway meeting that the NYS DEC has issued a five-year permit for the Little Joseph Realty Sand and Gravel Mine on Route 97 in the Town of Cochection.

Two additional towns have submitted their responses to the UDSB questionnaire for the inventory of local needs for NYS Route 97, Ramie said. Their data has been added to the compilation of responses.

Ramie said that Heather Jacksy reported that the next consultant meeting will take place on June 12 at 6 p.m. at the UDC office and will encompass all proposed Local Waterfront Revitalization Committee river access sites.

Ramie said it has been decided that the September 22 UDSB meeting should include a presentation on the results of the Economic Impact of UDSB Tourism study, and the UDSB board would like to have the UDC jointly sponsor the presentation due to their TAG funding of the project. Elected officials at the local, county, state and federal level would be invited along with others. Availability of facilities at the Tusten Town Hall will be looked into.

Ramie said the next meeting of the Byway is scheduled for Monday, June 23. The May meeting will not be held due to conflict with the Memorial Day holiday.

**Zane Grey Fishing Derby 4/29 Meeting Update:** Ramie referred members to the press release titled, "Judges Announced for Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby" in their packets. The derby began April 12<sup>th</sup> and will run through July 6<sup>th</sup>. Ramie reported on prizes, noting that everyone who enters the contest has the chance to win an Old Town Canoes & Kayaks prize package of a canoe, two paddles, and two life vests donated by Johnson Outdoors and valued at \$800. Prizes will be given out at the Park Service's Zane Grey Festival on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Ramie said she continues to accept prize contributions from various vendors. Promotion of the derby efforts continue, Ramie said.

**Marcellus Shale 5/12 Webinar Update:** T. O'Dell said two main topics were covered during this monthly call. The first being that on May 9, 2014, EPA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking under Section 8 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The notice will begin the public participation process and seek public comment on: the types of chemical information that could be reported and disclosed under TSCA, and the approaches to obtain this information on chemicals and mixtures used in hydraulic fracturing activities, including non-regulatory approaches. Once open, the comment period will last for 90 days, O'Dell stated. The main topic of the call was that the U.S. Transportation Department (DOT) issued an emergency order advising against the use of older, more vulnerable railroad tank cars for shipment of Bakken Shale crude, and requiring railroads operating trains carrying large amounts of Bakken oil to notify State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) when the trains are moving through their states. The next call is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, O'Dell noted. Boyar spoke of the number of train accidents per year in the United States. Discussion took place about the accident that happened in the town of Lac-

Mégantic, located in the Canadian province of Quebec when an unattended 74-car freight train carrying Bakken formation crude oil ran away and derailed, resulting in the fire and explosion of multiple tank cars and numerous fatalities.

**Other:** None

**New Business:**

**Joint Interstate Bridge Commission 5/14 Meeting Update:** Ramie said she attended this annual meeting in Binghamton, N.Y. on May 14<sup>th</sup>. She noted the format of the meeting was changed this year resulting in somewhat limited information. The press release done as a result of the meeting was provided in members' packets and much of it focuses on the Pond Eddy Bridge. The contract to build the new bridge is expected to be let in April 2016, with construction taking place in 2017 and possibly extending into 2018, at a total estimated cost of \$11.9 million.

**Review FY 2015 Work Plan:** Ramie referred to the draft Water Use/Resource Management Work Plan in members' packets and previously circulated for advance review. She said she met with NPS Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur last week and he provided her with his suggested changes. Ramie said she would represent his interest at this meeting. It was decided to review the Plan page by page and for members to provide input as they felt necessary. A very extensive and comprehensive review of the Plan took place with a number of edits suggested. A motion to forward the FY 2015 WU/RM Work Plan with the recommended changes to the Full Council in June was made by Boyar, seconded by Jeffer and carried.

**UDSRR World Fish Migration Day:** Hamilton referred to the press release in members' packets titled "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to celebrate World Fish Migration Day." He said that a local observance will take place on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. At 7:00 p.m. a free program on the health of Delaware River migratory fish will be presented by Jerre Mohler. This will take place at the National Park Service's Milanville Office, located at 1152 River Road in Milanville, PA.

**Delaware River Flow and Storage Data Report:** A copy of New York City's reservoirs levels was provided in members' packets.

**Other:** Boyar said he had received information that didymo may not be an invasive species. Hamilton said there are records of it going back to the early 1900's. He added that it is native to this system and has been in North America for a long time.

Ramie reported that the NYC DEC had asked to hold a public meeting on eel regulations in the UDC office on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A brief discussion took place regarding this matter, with further details to be provided.

Ramie noted there were two additional items in members' packets that were not on the agenda, but provided for their information. The first is a NYC DEP release "Statement from Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Emily Lloyd on the Release of Final Revisions to New York City's Filtration Avoidance Determination". The second is a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fish Consumption Advisories – 2014 list.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 5/23/14*