

Upper Delaware Council  
**WATER USE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMM. MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 15, 2014**

Committee Members Present: Tony Ritter, Al Henry, Andy Boyar, Pat Jeffer  
Committee Members Absent: John McKay, 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, July 15, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Ritter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A motion by Boyar seconded by Jeffer to approve the corrected June 17 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

**Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby Results:** Ramie referenced the press release in members' packets which contains the results of the contest. She shared the photo that accompanied the press release. Ramie reported that fourteen-year-old Jordan Metzger of Milford, PA was the lucky winner of the grand prize drawing, an Old Town canoe package valued at \$800, from all entries in the derby which honored renowned author, world record fisherman, and Lackawaxen resident Zane Grey as part of the year-long celebration of Pike County, PA's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The awards were presented at 2 p.m. during the July 12 Zane Grey Festival held at the National Park Service's Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA. Boyar noted that two gentlemen from the International Game Fish Association were in attendance at the festival and had positive comments about the ruler used and the event itself. He added that part of the concept of the derby was to promote catch-and-release and youth fishing. Boyar said that although there was not a lot of participation in the derby, he felt that overall it was a good event. He spoke of the value of Ramie's contributions on behalf of the Upper Delaware Council to the derby.

**Common Waters July 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Update:** Ramie reported that this meeting took place at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, but that she participated via telephone due to a scheduling conflict. She noted Common Waters working with that the William Penn Foundation is still in the process of hiring a Program Coordinator for the Pocono Kittatinny cluster.

As a follow up to the Natural Economies Conference held in October 2013, Ramie said that Common Waters is considering a fall symposium on the value of natural resources and open space protection. A Common Waters Economic Committee has been collecting the studies that are underway or have been done on this topic. Ramie listed some of these studies.

Ramie said the Confluence Project, a project that came out of the Gateway Conference, was discussed. It involves oral history. Laura Moran, founder of Beautiful Traditions, has received a grant to create a model template of how to put these oral histories together. Hawley, PA will be the model community for the first project. The idea is to have an interactive webpage on which the stories will be posted. It is hoped that if people that live here share what they enjoy about the Upper Delaware and this area, it will draw tourists here. A "reveal" event is planned for September where the first project will be unveiled. A template of all the best practices for how to undertake an oral history project will be put together so that it can be transferrable to other communities. Ramie will provide more information as it becomes available.

Ramie noted that the next quarterly meeting of Common Waters is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Boyar asked Ramie if it was mentioned that there should be waivers from people that give their oral stories. Ramie said that would be a good tip to pass along. The National Park Service oral history project was discussed.

**Other:** Ritter noted that he emailed out to members excerpts from the River Management Plan regarding trash. It was noted that Acting Superintendent Wilbur reported at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> full Council meeting that the removal of receptacles and the test program of "carry in, carry out" were not based on finances, but the fact

that river accesses were being used as de facto transfer stations for household trash. A lengthy discussion regarding the trash issue took place.

Hamilton noted that 55 people were divided into nine teams for the Upper Delaware BioBlitz held on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> on the Boy Scout property south of Narrowsburg. He said there was not as much public in attendance as they would have liked. O'Dell questioned how many species were identified. Hamilton told him that so far just over 800 species have been identified, but the numbers are still coming in for some of the groups. Henry asked if there was a debriefing after the event. Boyar, who serves on the committee, said there was and spoke about what was discussed. He suggested that the BioBlitz signage could be improved upon, but stated that it is "worth any effort to get there." Boyar added that "the saddest part of all was there were not hundreds of kids and people to enjoy it and appreciate all the work that went into it." Hamilton said there were lots of people with good expertise in their fields participating in the event. He added it was a great site offering a lot of diverse habitat. A brief discussion about the location of the event took place.

### **New Business:**

**Delaware River Flow and Storage Data Report:** Ritter referenced the copy of New York City's reservoirs levels in members' packets. He stated that the Cannonsville is at 97% and Pepacton is at 98.7%. Normal for this time of year is 90.9%. Ritter said that releases out of Cannonsville right now are 600 cfs and the river height is above normal due to recent rains. He reported that according a USGS chart, in the last 45 days there have been five separate weather events where rainfalls have averaged 3 ½ to 5 inches in different areas. He spoke about the recent storm damage in Sullivan County. Boyar spoke of unfishable bodies of water locally, noting this is relatively unheard of this time of year. Members voiced their concerns about storms hitting with the reservoirs as full as they are and discussed the current reservoir releases.

Ritter spoke of the damage done around Callicoon Creek. He has noticed that even a normal rain will turn the water a brick red. He said this is a problem. Boyar said it is his opinion that there should be a conference of individuals who can think "outside that standard box" of channelizing and widening waterways. Ritter suggested that a guest speaker could be sponsored by the UDC to educate board members and member towns and townships about stream improvement. He asked that this be considered. A brief discussion took place about channelization and the flood of 2006.

Ritter asked that Congressman Chris Gibson be invited for a day on the Delaware. Ramie felt that it would be more appropriate for the Park Service to make that offer since they have various watercraft and guides. Henry suggested inviting him on the UDC raft trip scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A motion to invite Congressman Gibson to the UDC raft trip was made by Henry, seconded by Ritter and carried. Ramie said she will send an invitation to him.

**Other:** T. O'Dell noted that New York State offers a property tax exemption program for the rehabilitation of historic, pre-1936 barns. He provided details of the program. He said he is not sure if a similar program exists in Pennsylvania. He believes that UDC promotion of this program fits with its mission. Under "Cultural Resources Management" in the River Management Plan it states, "The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifically requires that cultural resource features identified in designated river corridors be protected and enhanced." O'Dell reported that effort starts at the local municipal level. He noted that the Town of Montgomery has passed Local Law 438b regarding this. He will share that local law with members. Boyar said he was not aware of this local law and getting the word out is good. After a brief discussion, members agreed that O'Dell pursue methods for the UDC to promote this program.

Ramie referenced the Save-The-Date handout in members' packets regarding the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition Conference to be held on September 12 at the West Branch Angler and Resort in Hale Eddy, New York. She noted that a preview of this conference will be offered at our September full Council meeting. Hamilton asked how long this group has been in existence. Ramie told him they are a fairly new group and that is why they have asked to address the Council to introduce themselves and speak of their goals.

Henry asked, regarding Heather Jacksy's July 3<sup>rd</sup> Sullivan County River Accesses Design Project presentation that he was not able to attend, if any of the towns have started moving forward with the

designs presented. Boyar said they are currently working in the planning stage. He added that the least costly access to work on is the one located in the Town of Highland and the DEC has expressed some interest in helping support it. Boyar said that a common concern of municipalities for these accesses has been maintenance and garbage removal. He said these are still open questions. Boyar said that during Jacksy's presentation, the question was raised whether these access projects will need to go through the UDC Project Review Committee and the answer was yes, they would.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Boyar seconded by Henry to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 7/21/14*