



Management Council Meeting Minutes (approved 6/30/22)
Thursday, March 31, 2022 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

Attendance:

Sarah Bursky, Tara Mezzanotte, Richard Dodds, Evan Stone, Brian Dougherty, Shelley DePaul, Lois Oleksa, Michael Redig, Stephen Willey, Francis Collins,

Aly Dagget, Ingrid Gray, Jackie Middleton, CC Hopf, Natalia Sanchez (RTCA), Martie Kyde, Julie Bell, David Chait, Robert McEwan, Alan Hunt, and Staci Free

Call to order at 10:04 by Richard

1. Welcome - Richard Dodds, Chairman

- Approval of December 2021 Minutes
 - i. CC Hopf made the motion, Martie seconded. All approved

2. Wild & Scenic Business - Richard Dodds, Chairman (10 Minutes Including Q&A)

- 2022-2023 Budget Review
- Richard Explained the budget. The fiscal year starts in October 2022.
- Moved some funds from the visitor's use study to mini-grants.
- Every 4 years Lenape Rising holds their Lenape Nation River Journey. We funded \$5,000 this year and anticipate funding again for their next journey in 4 years.
- We are to receive \$165,000 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- Sarah-likely to get an increase of \$40,000 or above, it's not final.
 - i. Richard-we are looking for ideas and projects for October 1, 2022, and going forward.
 - ii. Email ideas to Richard or Cindy.

3. Next Steps on River Use Planning Process with RTCA Program at NPS (10 minutes)

- DRGP convening group to determine areas of interest, prioritized projects
- Sarah explained the River Use Study and bringing in the RTCA
- Julie and Natalia Introductions <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>
 - i. Need to identify issues, interests, and goals for the next few years and prioritize
- Cindy explained that we will need volunteers to join the workgroup
- Cindy reviewed the Hot Topics list and asked for recommendations
- Tara and CC made suggestions to add to the Hot Topic list
 - i. Tara- Mark the Delaware Water Gap area as being in LDWS (Village of DWG, Monroe County, PA) and incorporate the 9/11 Trail in Monroe County
 - ii. CC- Education/reach beginners and inexperienced to educate before they get on the water

4. Evan Stone, Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission (10 minutes)

- Bucks 2040-Comprehensive plan for parks and open space, access to water, and recreational activities
 - i. Check www.bucks2040.com for updates and email bucks2040@buckscounty.org
 - 1. Virtual open house
 - 2. Photo contest-please help promote
 - ii. Social media campaign on county accounts to promote the plan and made them accessible
 - iii. Resident surveyed, priorities include access to recreation, public space, open space, farmland, water/air quality, and traffic
 - 1. Percentage of respondents have visited a county park



- iv. Conducting feasibility study to connect Newtown to Delaware & Lehigh Canal Trail to extend the Newtown Rail Trail (connects to County Line in Upper Southampton)
- v. Looking at environmental and sustainability as part of the plan
- vi. Spoke about Act 167 Plan and funding Act 167

5. Mini-Grant Awardees and projects announcement — Richard

Exciting slate - See list below

- Expanded from last year
- Two grants outside of the typical grant cycle.
 - Intend to fund Lenape on a 4-year rotation.
 - Funded the Chinese Pond Mussel study to make sure the mussels did not travel down into Delaware. Last part of the overall NJDEP Chinese Pond Mussel project.

6. Ongoing Matters (30 Minutes) –

- Rockfall Mitigation Projects - Tara Mezzanotte
 - Blasting into Mt. Tammany
 - Ties into the Mount Bethel warehouse because it's all about the environment and projects are not far apart
 - Warehouse estimated to add 10,000 vehicles per day on Portland Columbia Bridge onto I-80
 - NJDot want to blast on scenic Byway
 - NJDot is using categorical exclusion to avoid environmental studies
 - Project paused, delay of the project is 2 years
 - Additional archeological studies requested by Federally Recognized Lenape Lenape Tribes
 - 25 towns passed resolutions as well as Northampton and Warren Counties
 - Supporting regional issues to study true safety issues in S curve and regional traffic study, delay project pending the outcome
 - Goal is to have an independent environmental impact statement
 - Submitted a complaint that NJDOT's pattern of violating their own policies
- Warehouse projects on the Musconetcong/Waters of the United States– Dr. Alan Hunt
 - Spoke about Great Waters-warehouse projects are the result of weak headwaters protection
 - Many headwaters are not mapped and not regulated by DEP. Warehouses built by streams create industrial runoff and bring in large areas of impervious surfaces
 - If streams are identified as waters of the US, they would be regulated, and warehouse buildings would not be allowed to be built near them.
 - NJ has four regulations that conflict with each other, some with no scientific basis
 - Letters to NPS and EPA to examine-they are America's Waters, Section 12 C
 - How to proceed: collecting petitions and MOUs to encourage the state to have better protection for headwater streams and recreational waters. Become a local advocate. Share your river stories. Municipal action guide.
 - Cindy to have petition links added to the LDWS website.
<https://www.greatwatersnj.org/protect>
 - Invited municipal and county officials to join the Delaware River Sojourn on June 21st and 22nd

7. Municipal Announcements/New Business



- CC-Lehigh Valley Planning Commission annual subdivision report, more than 11 mill sq ft new warehouses being pitched. Encourages all council members to go to municipal meetings to give input on these projects. Be part of your planning commissions. Require environmental impact studies for projects.

8. 2022 Dates:

- 2022 LDWS Council Meetings: Thursdays at 10:00 AM: March 31, June 30, Sept. 29, Dec. 22.
 - Delaware River 2022 [Sojourn](#): June 17-25, registration is now open
 - Summer 2022: River Rising Nation [Journey](#)
 - NJ Clean Communities 5th Annual Delaware River Cleanup: Saturday, Sept. 17
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Approved Mini-grants 2022:

- Aquetong Watershed Association-Aquetong Watershed Quality Monitoring Program
- New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg-Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Demonstration
- Tinicum Township-Rain Barrel Workshop
- Bridgeton Township-Save the Bank! Delaware Riverbank Riparian Buffer Initiative
- Delaware Township-Tree Restoration at Bull's Island Recreation Area
- City of Lambertville Shade Tree Commission-Riparian Trees for Lambertville
- Primrose Creek Watershed Association-New Hope for Delaware River Water Quality from Trees & Bees in Solebury-Francis spoke about the importance of the bee component of the project. Staci-Bees are coming in April. Also, a deer exclusion zone. Francis invites everyone to attend planning on Thursday or visit after the project is complete at the Solebury School.
- Solebury Township-Aquetong Spring Park Stream Restoration

Additional Grants

- NJ Department of Environmental Protection-Chinese Pond Mussel Study
- Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania-The 2022 Rising Nation Journey.
 - i. Shelley-Explained the Rising Nation Journey. 2002 and before had been partnering with organizations. Decided to do a renewed treaty of friendship with partners throughout the journey. Attendance has been growing. All volunteer ran (no paid staff) and originally started with no funding.
 - ii. Partners give presentations to raise awareness about the river.
 - iii. Start July 31st in Hancock and end August 21st in Cape May. First time since 2002 traveling the entire river.
 - iv. No cost to participants.

Motion to adjourn Jackie, Martie second, all approved.

Adjourned at 11:40 am.

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86814727295?pwd=VzZ4VC83NU1JemhROEcrbUJERHVoQT09>



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