



Management Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

(Visit www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org for the Zoom and for additional reference information.)

1. (5 min) Welcome - Richard Dodds, Chairman – Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

- We would like to acknowledge that our work as a Council is on the traditional lands and home of the Lenape People, Lënapehòkink, and we pay our respects to those who have stewarded this land from time immemorial and are still doing so today. We commit to improving this relationship, supporting Lenape recognition in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and working together on programs and projects to benefit the Delaware River.
- Approval of June 2025 Minutes (attached)
- Record Sept. meeting
- Reschedule December 25 meeting
- In memoriam of [CC Hopf](#)
- Please introduce yourself in chat, name and organization/role

2. (20 min) Expansion Study - Sarah

- Community Update - Alison
- Document and Maps - Sarah
- Column in River Towns [Magazine](#)

3. (10 min) Annual Cleanup Recap - Steph

4. New mini-grant - Cindy

- Application will be available on the website October 11.
- Applications due November 17.
- Awardees to be notified beginning of January.

5. (15 min) Awareness and Outreach - Alison

- Outreach events
- Jr. Ranger Booklet
- Updated LDWS Website - high res pictures needed!

6. (20 min) River Use - Alison

- Summer experience Discussion
 - Trends
 - Emerging or ongoing issues
 - Safety concerns

7. Emerging Topic: Resources on Trenton Waterfront Initiative - Alison

- Reconnecting Trenton's [Riverfront](#), Rt.29 Community Engagement Meeting on October 1, 2025, 5:00–7:30 pm (presentation at 5:30 pm) at Mercer County Community College James Kerney Campus Gallery.
- September 24: Join us at 7 p.m. for a conversation highlighting the Reconnecting Trenton's Riverfront campaign on the Sierra Club's free Smart Growth Webinar Series. Learn how this project exemplifies smart growth in action. [Register today!](#) (likely recorded)

8. (5 min) Available Resources - Alison

- NJ & PA Grant 2026 Strava Metro for Academic Researchers program. The application window runs from September 8 to October 17, 2025. Visit metro.strava.com/academics to learn more.
- NJ Grant NJ Resilient Funding for Regional Planning. The application window runs from September 8 to October 17, 2025. [Learn more](#)
- PA Grants
 - PECPA Grants
 1. Mini Grants Up to \$15,000 for Cycling Activation. [More info.](#)
 2. Mini Grants for Water Trail Applicants can request up to \$7,000. Virtual pre-application meeting on September 15, at 11 AM. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on October 31, 2025 [More info.](#)
 3. List of additional PECPA [grants](#).
 - Environmental Education Grants Program. The application deadline is November 14. [More info.](#)
 - Trees for Watersheds Grant Program. [More info.](#)
 - Bucks County Conservation District Water Quality Fund (WQF) Proposal for Collaborative Project Funding. A reimbursement mini grant, valued at up to \$10,000. [More info.](#)
 - Watershed Restoration and Protection Program. There is a maximum of \$300,000 for any project. A 15% match of the total project cost is required. [More info.](#)
 - Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP). Grants shall not exceed \$250,000 for any project. A 15% match of the total project cost is required. [More info.](#)

9. (15 min) Ongoing Matters - Richard and all

- Development plans for [Finkles](#), Lambertville pulled. Owners want to renovate the theater, leaving Finkles as retail space.
- Sandcastle [Winery](#) - Cindy - Concern over permit status of work to expand facility, stormwater runoff into canal. Zoning appeals [proceed](#).
- Sunoco Energy Transfer leak in Washington Crossing, Upper Makefield, read the latest [here](#). Sunoco submitted an [Interim Site Characterization report](#) to DEP on September 2, 2025, that includes the results of SPLP's soil, groundwater, soil vapor, indoor air, and surface water sampling conducted to date. The report also contains the geophysical studies, risk analysis, and other information used as a basis for the forthcoming remedial action evaluation. In-person public meeting to be held on September 15.
- What issues are emerging?
 - Data Centers

Issue No Updates:

1. Hal H. Clark, Boat Launch, (Pedestrian Trails Coming To New County Park In [Solebury](#)). Ramp still in permitting with DEP and township.
2. The Lumberville Aqueduct is in the process. NPS (Wild and Scenic, and National Historic Landmark team) had to be consulted about some changes in design. But all of the approvals have been made and that one is well underway.
3. Headquarters Road Bridge-DEP approves [permit](#)
4. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation-drought
5. Paunacussing gas line - Mats have been removed and permanent fix is in the works
6. Fleecydale Rd - NPS and PennDOT in consult about erosion repairs

Ground Water Contamination

- a. PFAS in [Lambertville](#). Remediation contract signed. Preconstruction meeting scheduled.
- b. PFAS in [Washington](#) Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong
- c. Washington Crossing recovery wells will be [drilled](#)

2025 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: December 25 (need reschedule)

Attachments/Handouts

- June Minutes
- September Agenda

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES (Via ZOOM)

Thursday, September 18, 2025 1 - 2:30 PM

Matt Babbitt (HC)
Mark Baum Baicker (Solebury)
Richard Dodds (Chair)
JR Fisher (DRGP)

Bob Hornby (Hunterdon Co.)
Amanda Khalil (DRBC)
Jackie Middleton (HLT)

Staff: Cindy Kunnas and Alison Sommers-Sayre

NPS: Sarah Bursky and Nathalie Negrete

1. **Opening Activities** - Richard
 - a. Approval of July minutes (no August meeting)
 - i. Bob made a motion, Mark second. Unanimously approved.
 - b. MC meeting on [September 25](#)
 - i. Focus on Expansion Study
 - ii. Summer debrief - SC member and general discussion.
 - iii. Email Cindy anything you want added to the agenda.
2. **Expansion Study Update**- Sarah
 - a. Municipal Support Update

- i. Robert McEwan has been leading the process for three years (thank you Robert).
- ii. Goal to revisit designation since it has been 25 years since original designation..
- iii. Community attitudes changed, less industrialization in areas and increased focus on the value of recreation.
 - 1. Some conversations are still taking place but the project is moving into the documentation phase.
 - 2. Goal of obtaining support to close most gaps and adding key tributaries likely to be met.
 - 3. Lower Delaware Expansion Committee, took summer off and will be invited to the MC meeting for updates.
 - 4. Shana Stewart-Deeds, consultant, working on Management Plan Amendment, basically the next generation Management Plan. Plan will highlight changes in the designation area as well as new areas
 - 5. Nathalie is now working on this project as well.
 - 6. Sarah shared drafts of maps for the project with GIS contract assistance from HC.
- iv. Article on project in River Towns [Magazine](#)

3. **Administrative** - Alison

- a. End of Year Financials in Progress
 - i. Federal FY ending budgets in September. The next meeting will share an end of year report.
- b. New CA Structure
 - i. This year's initiative to get more consistency among CA orgs so started a new CA this year (submitted this summer, reflecting the budget developed last winter/spring).
 - ii. Last year of the current 5 year Cooperative Agreement to stretch into next FY.
 - iii. Remember that budgets were shared late this year, but fully funded.
- c. NPS Update - Sarah
 - i. NPS lost a significant amount of staff in the last 9 months, especially in the PWSR program. Conversations taking place about potential ways to address.
 - ii. Projects: Looking at canal wall projects. Fleecydale Road is still a Penndot project. Private restoration project towards Carversville.

4. **Ongoing LDWS Projects**

- a. Mini-grants - Cindy, presented presentation
 - i. Application will be available on the website October 11.
 - ii. Applications due November 17.
 - iii. Awardees to be notified beginning of January.

- iv. Committee volunteers Amanda and Bob (thank you).
- b. Outreach/branding - Alison
 - i. Holland Community Day-Tony Rizzello (Holland MC rep) offered to be at the Community Day to talk about LDWS. Thank you, Tony!
 - ii. Call for local photographers that would share high res images with a release for use in electronic media

5. Partner Updates & Summer Experiences

- a. HLT- Jackie - closed on 6 acres on the river, hits many LODE management goals. Started in 2021. Newsletter out with mentions of LODE. Announced that Catherine Suttle is stepping down as Executive Director, Emily Dunn will be the new ED.
- b. HC - Matt - A few properties in UMT and Williams to close in fall.
- c. NJ DEP - Steph/Lauren - Steph has been working on the September 20 cleanup. Thank you, Steph!
- d. Bucks Parks - Angie emailed: Hal H. Clark is still in permitting with DEP and township.
- e. DRBC - Amanda - saw a lot of recreation decrease attributed to possibly the hot weather. Data centers are an emerging issue but none have applied for permits. Model working toward dissolved oxygen levels which is good for river health; DRBC has advised EPA rule.
- f. Bob-tubing seems to be better managed with the new parking lot which is managed by Big Bear. Richard-he did not see that parking lot full in the past two years.
- g. Alison-saw more private tubers than the past. The river was very unpredictable with levels, speed.

6. (5 min) Issues Tracking Updates

- a. Canal repairs to the Aqueduct Wingwall and Lock 14 (2 Canal projects) - Sarah
 - i. In process
- b. Ongoing discussions, Fleecydale Rd erosion with PennDOT - Sarah
 - i. Mentioned earlier.
- c. Development plans for a 3 level garage and wedding venue at [Finkles](#), Lambertville, pulled. Owners want to renovate the theater, leaving Finkles as retail space. - Cindy
- d. Sandcastle [Winery](#) unpermitted work, stormwater runoff into canal. Zoning appeals [proceed](#). - Cindy
- e. Sunoco Energy Transfer leak in Washington Crossing, Upper Makefield, read the latest [here](#). Sunoco submitted an [Interim Site Characterization report](#) to DEP on September 2, 2025, that includes the results of SPLP's soil, groundwater, soil vapor, indoor air, and surface water sampling conducted to date. The report also contains the geophysical studies, risk analysis, and other information used as a basis for the forthcoming remedial action evaluation. In-person public held on September 15. - Cindy

- i. Mark-looked at the report. Recited that they learned about it in Jan 2025, but it was reported in September 2023. Drilling recovery wells. It's a joint in the pipeline and there are 44 joints in the area, one failed. Paid for carbon filters on wells. Hints it went down hill. Senator Steve Santasario has been involved. Residents noted the smell of oil in the canal in summer and can see glistening in the water.
- f. Washington [Crossing Bridge](#) replacement.
 - i. Bob attended-DRJTBC and NJ Transportation meetings which highlighted the bridge project. Presented future project plans. Listed 5 projects (two Amtrak bridges and a 295 bridge). Amanda Bay was giving the presentation. Richard-design work can start [2027](#), looking to replace.

Issues with No Update

- g. Paunacussing gas line - work in [progress](#).
- h. Golden Pheasant Canal Bridge - Cindy Penn DOT presented [options](#).
- i. Headquarters Road Bridge-DEP approves [permit](#).
- j. Rockfall Rt 29
 - i. Devil's Tea Table
 - ii. Lambertville/W Amwell
- k. Groundwater contamination
 - i. PFAS in [Lambertville](#), Cavallo Park closed due to soil [contamination](#). Remediation contract signed. Preconstruction meeting scheduled.
 - ii. PFAS in [Washington](#) Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong.
- l. Warehouse -
 - i. Upper Mt. Bethel River Pointe Logistics- Amazon pulled out.
 - ii. Phillipsburg [Warehouse](#) (will update when decisions are made).
- m. In Durham, on Rodges Run is a Landmark Hospitality venue [Durham Springs](#). Sewage plant and 44 cabins proposed.
- n. Creamery Rd Bridge
- o. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation.

p.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669050457?pwd=a0lPeDlnb0FpdHhNcXRqMmZraTkWUT09>

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