



Management Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

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

Richard Dodds, Chair; Tara Mezzanotte, Knowlton Township; Sarah Bursky, NPS; Lois Oleksa, Cooks Creek Watershed Assoc. and Durham Historical Society; Emily Dunn HLT, Matt Babbitt, HC; Ingrid Gray, Pohatcong Township and Warren Scenic Byway; Bryan Cope Northampton County Parks, CC Hopf, Bridgeton Township; Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County; David Chait, Hopewell County; Judith Henckel, Upper Mt. Bethel; Jeff Ackerman, Upper Mt Bethel and Driftstone Campground; Olivia Wilson, NPS; Katherine Fullerton, Hunterdon County; Dana Caracciolo, Eastern PA Alliance of Climbers; and Stephen Freedman, DTT.
DRGP Staff: Alison, Sommers-Sayre and Cindy Kunnas

Call to order 10:05 am

1. **(10 min) Welcome - Richard Dodds, Chairman – Introductions and Land Acknowledgement- (5 min)**
 - We would like to acknowledge that our work as a Council is on the traditional lands and home of the Lenape People, Lenapehokink, 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 July 2023 Minutes (attached)
 - Bob motion to approve, CC second. Tara edit #8 Rockfall Mitigation 4th bullet originally \$4.5 in 2011. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **(10 min) Visual Resource Inventory – Short summary by Sarah and participants**
 - Sarah shared slides.
 - Viewshed importance analysis meeting is next.
 - Trained volunteers can study additional sites in the future.
3. **(15) Council Projects – 20 min**
 - **Next Steps on River Use Workgroup – Cindy Kunnas (10 min)**
 - Will plan an access manager meeting to see how the summer went
 - Sarah Bursky-end end-of-year funds for a contract to bring on consultants to work on recreational issues in multijurisdictional regions. Two firms that have experience with visitor use issues bid on the proposal. They will assist with the next steps. Consultants will be available at the beginning of October. A few orientation meetings internally and then bring in the workgroup.
 - **Outreach materials - JR Ranger booklet and logo in process- Cindy**
 - Jr Ranger booklet-need to put the pages in order, add photos, and edit pages.
 - Please send Cindy any symbols you feel represent our river.
4. **(20) Delaware River Tributaries and new designations presentation– Robert McEwan (10 min)**
 - Articles and documents regarding the project are posted [here](#).
 - Tara-[local paper](#) picked up the presentation at Knowlton and Blairstown. NJ Highlands submitted a letter of support for tributaries in their region. Appalachian Mountain Club for Yards Creek submitted



a letter of support too. Several additional letters were received from NPOs and municipalities. Three resolutions passed-Warren County reaffirming they are an LDWS county. Important because upon completion of the tributary study, we will be asking for support from counties. Ingrid-Phohatcong passed a resolution confirming that they are a LDWS municipality and across from Williams making the two eligible to be added. The next focus is Northampton County.

5. (5 min) Mini-Grant Projects – Cindy (10 min)

- Cindy visited Primrose over the summer. Last year's site is growing, and this year's site was planted in the spring. Bucks County Audubon met with Princeton Hydro at the site and is moving forward with lowering the dam. Bridgeton Township (last year's recipient that received an extension) is set to plant in the fall (soon).

6. (30 min) Ongoing Matters (25 min)

- Warehouses
 - White Township/Jaindl-White Township gave Jaindl more time ([article](#)).
 - Mt. Bethel/River Pointe Logistics [hearings](#) continue and the fire chief's concern over building [height](#)
 1. Judith-two lame duck supervisors who want to push through what they can by the end of the year. 3 LLCs under RPL umbrella. They do not have the infrastructure plan finalized. For wastewater treatment, RPL wants to take it to the Allegheny watershed with drip irrigation and make it a municipal authority. Township engineer emphasizes the ordinances that the plans go against.
 2. Sarah-DWG staff and NPS coordinating to put together comments and information regarding permits that were missed.
- Route 46 Bridge – Tara-DOT project to replace bridge over Paulinskill River close to Delaware River. The bridge needs to be replaced. The plan will annihilate 40 feet around the bridge and add riprap around it. White concrete is proposed which will clash with the environment.
- Rockfall mitigation – Tara and Stephen
 - Stephen-3rd DTT design group meeting with NJDOT on 10/2. The working group will determine if NJDOT will negotiate on the project or move forward with the original plans. The project date start date was pushed to 2027.
 - Tara-Mt. Tammany project was pushed to 2028 because they want to replace the entire retaining wall on the east side of Rt. 80. Erosion hole under Rt. 80. Worked on that for 2 years without NJDEP flood hazard permit. Applied for a permit after work was completed and did not represent the work completed. Panels being replaced without flood hazard permit. Affected townships made violation complaints with NJDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. NPS was not notified of the flood hazard permit. It is the same project managers and engineers as the DTT project.
 - Stephen thanked Sarah for getting the geology consultant for both projects.
 3. NPS has an internal team consulting on both projects and pushing for cumulative impact. Geologist gathering materials to send to NJDOT.
 - CC thanked Sarah for being an excellent liaison.
- DWG Amtrack – Tara-was expecting the federal rail authority to announce a decision on which routes they will further advance, was expect by October but was put off longer. Top 30 will be announced.



Route from NYC to Scranton reactivate a section of rail that was pulled off. Section is the Lackawanna cut off.

- New business
 - Bob NJDEP put a guide out to schools for climate change yesterday. Starter kit to teach climate education in schools. It is NJ-specific but can apply to other areas. Broken into K-5 and 6-12. For all courses, beyond science class. Alison suggests it could help with Jr Ranger booklet. Bob to send the info to Cindy.
 - https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/seeds/climatechangesummary_teachers.pdf
 - https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-dep-gives-guidance-about-how-to-teach-about-climate-change/?utm_source=NJ%20Spotlight%20%20Master%20List&utm_campaign=0dfd33ca5c-AM_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_09_21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1d26f473a7-0dfd33ca5c-398757483&ct=t%28AM_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_09_21_2023%29&mc_cid=0dfd33ca5c&mc_eid=f61d0d70ce
 - Online training geared toward the advocacy side. River Network Clean Water Act training. Water quality concerns with 6-8 participants.
 - CC-concerned about the use of fireworks over the Delaware River. Hazard to our health and environment. Remnants of fireworks are plastics. Affects nesting eagles and herons and other wildlife. Chemicals including perchlorate which contaminates ground and surface water. Affect air quality. Can use drone light shows instead.
 - Richard-surprising amount of paper and metal involved.
 - Sarah-what's our best move forward? Future council agenda item? Richard-Need a white paper on the facts of fireworks.
 - CC some municipalities are thinking about firework ordinances.
 - Richard-CC and Cindy to gather info and share. Can have an online discussion and bring it back to the next management meeting. Include Martie. Cindy found some [info](#).

2023 Dates:

- 2023 LDWS Council Meeting: Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. December 28
 - Cindy to send Doodlepoll for Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Adjourn 11:21 am Bob, Judith second, unanimously approved.

Attachments/Handouts

- July Minutes
- September Agenda

ISSUES being tracked with no update:

- a. Paunacussing restoration – plans for follow in October
- b. Headquarters Rd Bridge
- c. Canal Bridge by Golden Pheasant Inn, Tincum, PA (no update)
- d. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation (no update)
- e. Hal Clark boat launch (no update)



- f. [H & K's \(Center Valley Materials\) quarry application](#) Springfield Township (no update)
- g. The [Landing in New Hope](#)