



Management Council Meeting Unapproved Minutes

Thursday, December 4, 2025 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

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

Jeff Ackerman- Driftstone Campground &
Upper Mt. Bethel
Eric Anderson-Tinicum Conservancy
Sherry Acevado-Northampton County Parks &
Rec.
Matt Babbitt-Heritage Conservancy
Mark Baum Baicker-Soleburry
Allison Brown-SPLASH
Sarah Crosby-Hunterdon Land Trust
Dana Caracciolo-EAstern PA Alliance of
Climbers & Tohickon WA
Eric Clark-SPLASH
Adam DePaul-MWA, Delaware Riverkeeper
Network, & Lenape Nation of PA
Richard Dodds-Chair, LDWS & NJ Conservation
Fdn.

Kristen Elder-Tohickon WA
Stephen Freeman-DTTA & Delaware Canal
Advisory Committee
JR Fisher-Del. River Greenway Partnership
Kelsey Hansen-Delaware Canal State
Park/PADCNR
Judith Henckel-Upper Mt. Bethel
Amanda Khalil-DRBC
Tara Mezzanotti-Warren Co. & Paulinskill
Lois Oleksa-Durham Historical Soc.
Michelle Purcell-Stockton
Tony Rizzello-Holland
Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton & Paulinskill
Steph Vannais-NJDEP

NPS: Sarah Bursky

Staff: Cindy Kunnas and Alison Sommers-Sayre

Call to order: 10:02 AM

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, Lēnapehòkink, 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 September 2025 Minutes (attached)
 - Judy made a motion to approve minutes. Michelle St. Andre second. Approved.

2. (10 min) Mini-grant - Cindy

- 14 Applications. Awardees to be notified beginning of January.

- Sharing 2025 Minigrant project videos:
 - Washington Crossing Park Association, NJ, video.
 - Washington Crossing Historic Park, PA, [video](#).

3. (10-15 min) SPLASH River Partners Presentation and Video - Eric Clark

- 24/25 River Partners Grant project video shared. Eric invited council members to visit a class.

4. (5 min) Projects Update

- Work with Sarah and other NPS partners started up again after the government reopened. Volunteer work continued. - Alison
 - Jr. Ranger in progress, help from communications and design expert at NPS
- Sarah
 - Currently the budget is from last year's congressional funding. This year we have a full budget (\$210k) until the end of fiscal year (September 30, 2026).
 - Congress passed a budget continuing resolution until January 30th.
 - Upper Raritan River Watershed Wild and Scenic River Study Act [proposed](#) Oct. 2025. Sponsored by Rep. Thomas Kean (R) and Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D).

5. (5 min) Budget, what ideas and priorities should be considered for the budget due in March? - Sarah

- Start talking about the budget in December, since MC doesn't meet until the end of March. This budget starts next 2026. The funds flow through a case agreement which is submitted to fiscal agreement staff in March/April.
- Requested input on the budget. If fully funded, \$210,000 goes to DRGP staff time for LDWS administration, land conservation grants (HLT, HC, and TC) and smaller grants such as the min-grant program to distribute funds on both sides for projects. Some funds go to W&S special programs/initiatives. Bulk of expansion work and Jr. Ranger booklet estimated to be completed in the current FY.
- Alison S.-An option is to return to river use work. The past few seasons were very busy but less busy last summer for various reasons.
- Lois-stormwater is a big issue.
- Adam-Data centers. November was Native American Heritage month, Lenape programs were held in various places. Everyone at the locations were talking about data centers. Judy agrees with the suggestion to look at data centers. She reminded us that Tony had shared a model for [ordinances](#). Amanda-DRBC is spending time on data centers. The process of regulation is a long one and the process has begun. Internally, working with [ICPRB](#) (DRBC of Potomac). The water usage has not been as bad as forecasted but still requires regulation. Suggested attending DRBC [advisory committees](#) for updates. Sarah-suggested those interested in data centers to stay in touch regarding the issue.
 - Adam [Mountain](#) Watershed Association state wide data center call monthly. PennFuture webinar 6 PM [tonight](#).

6. (5 min) Expansion Study Update - Alison

- Currently, in documentation, checking ORVS, completing writeup amendments for expanded areas and other updates to the main management plan. Still working on outreach to a few municipalities but hopes that wraps up in a month or two.

7. (15 min) Awareness and Outreach - Alison

- Jr. Ranger Booklet-new badges came in.
- Updated LDWS Website - high res pictures needed!

8. (5 min) Available Resources - Alison

- Interested in joining the CDRW Steering Committee? [Submit your application here!](#)
- Federal: The American Flood Coalition created the Flood Funding Finder. [Learn more.](#)
- NJ
 - Historic preservation certified local government grants. [Learn more.](#)
 - Green acres local and nonprofit program. [Learn more.](#)
 - The Natural Climate Solutions Grant program. [Learn more.](#)
 - The Murphy administration invites local governments and nonprofits to apply for parks and open space grants. [Learn more.](#)
 - NJ Council for the Humanities Community History grants and training program - <https://njhumanities.org/programs/community-history/>; due Dec 9
 - Applications for site recognition on NJ Historical Commission's Black Heritage Trail - <https://form.jotform.com/252824905361155>
- PA
 - The Shapiro Administration will invest up to \$882,000 in volunteer fire companies to help protect rural communities from wildfires. [Learn more.](#)
 - Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program Accepting Applications for Spring 2026 Training. [Learn more.](#)
 - Pennsylvania Environmental Council-Protect Your Drinking Water Grants are now open. [Learn more.](#)

9. (15-20 min) Ongoing Matters - Richard and all

- Hal H. Clark, Boat Launch, (Pedestrian Trails Coming To New County Park In [Solebury](#)). NPS Section 7 Review - Sarah - Permit hit right before shutdown. She will meet Angie and engineer in the field in a week or two.
- Delaware Canal, PA
 - Lumberville Aqueduct is open for biking and hiking.
 - Crumbling walls problem, Sarah is working with PADCNR.
- Top court rules in favor of [H&K Quarry](#) in Springfield, Upper Bucks, by Tohickon Creek.
- Paunacussing - Sarah and Mark
 - Paunacussing Creek, Private project up the creek is in the works. Sarah is working with Princeton Hydro.
 - Gas line -Work done and put sod down.
 - Fleecydale Rd erosion - PennDOT put the project off 3 years.
- Washington [Crossing Bridge](#) replacement. Army Corps added Sarah to an interagency team for bridge redesign alternatives. - Sarah
- [NJ bill](#) from June 2025, Authorizes construction, installation, and operation of certain energy project components on preserved farmland - Richard. To put in a solar generation facility, it has to be close to high tension lines. Currently, preserved farms could not be used for running lines above. The bill

would allow power poles to be added to preserved farms. The bill would also allow pipelines to cross preserved farms. That was not previously permitted and is what had stopped the PennEast Pipeline proposal.

- Lambertville Cavallo Park closed due to soil [contamination](#). Progress has been made but the park is still not open - Alison
- [PFAS](#) found in Wrightstown wells, Bucks Co., PA.
- Comprehensive article on ebike trends and regulatory [environment](#)
- Phillipsburg secures historic 33-acre land [preservation deal](#) on site eyed for [warehousing](#). The area is along a park by the river, which may help to revitalize the waterfront. Opportunity to extend the rail trail which goes across where Lehigh and Delaware Rivers meet.
- Easton EAC continues work on light pollution [ordinance](#).
- Headquarters Road Bridge work [started](#). Water quality testing done.
- Sunoco Energy Transfer leak in Washington Crossing, Upper Makefield, read the latest [here](#). Jet fuel being checked this [month](#). Pipeline bill [proposed](#).
- Rockfall Rt 29 - Alison and Cindy
 - Devil's Tea Table -Inquiry sent from DTT Alliance and LDWS questioning timing and whether additional community meetings will be held. Response received, NJDOT is working on alternatives, including possibly moving the road. Reconvene meetings spring of 2026.
 1. Stephen-2 years since last working group meeting. The governor's office and LDWS asked what the plan was. Moving the road could be a solution if it was not as exaggerated as what was previously proposed. Other 3 miles of Kingwood-no update
 - Lambertville/W Amwell - no update
- What issues are emerging?
 - Adam-Planning the Rising Nation River Journey, but a little behind schedule. The [website](#) will be updated soon. Usually the journey takes place in the last week of July/first week of August. Lasts 3-4 weeks.

Issues with No Update

- PFAS in [Lambertville](#)
- Sandcastle [Winery](#) unpermitted work, stormwater runoff into canal. Zoning appeals [proceed](#).
- Golden Pheasant Canal Bridge - Cindy Penn DOT presented [options](#).
- Groundwater contamination
 - PFAS in [Washington](#) Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong.
- Warehouse -
 - Upper Mt. Bethel River Pointe Logistics- Amazon pulled out.
 - Phillipsburg [Warehouse](#) (will update when decisions are made).
- In Durham, on Rodges Run is a Landmark Hospitality venue [Durham Springs](#). Sewage plant and 44 cabins proposed.
- The Land project, Dubliner on the Delaware sold to Landmark [Hospitality](#)
- Creamery Rd Bridge
- Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation.

Adjourn: 11:17 AM

Stephen made a motion to adjourn. Amanda second. Unanimously approved.

2026 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: March 26, June 18 (moved up a week), September 24, and December 3 (moved up two weeks)

Attachments/Handouts

- September Minutes
- November Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

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