



## Management Council Meeting Unapproved Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2025 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

(Visit [www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org) for the Zoom and for additional reference information.)

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Called to order 10:04 AM

Attendance:

Jeff Ackerman-Upper Mt. Bethel Twp.  
Matt Babbitt-HC  
Mark Baum Baicker-Solebury  
Dana Caracciolo-EPAAC  
Richard Dodds-Chair  
Jr Fisher-DRGP  
Jackie Middleton-HLT  
Stephen Freeman-DTTA  
Ingrid Gray-Pohatcong Twp.

Judith Henckel-UMBT  
CC Hopf-Bridgeton Twp.  
Martie Kyde-Vice Chair  
Tara Mezzanotte-Warren County  
Bill Millette-Hunterdon Co.  
Lauren Seip-NJDEP  
Shana Stewart Deeds-PWSR Consultant  
Tony Rizzello-Holland Twp.  
Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton Twp.

NPS: Nathalie Negrete-Fellow

DRGP Staff: Cindy Kunnas and Alison Sommers-Sayre

### 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 March 2025 Minutes (attached)
  - Jackie made a motion to approve, second by Matt. Unanimously approved.
- Please introduce yourself in chat, name and organization/role

### 2. (10 min) State of the LDWS Program and Looking Back on Five Years - Richard

- Richard shared history on the program and projects LDWS funded

### 3. (15 min) Expansion Study Accomplishments - Alison

- Alison shared a presentation of the project's history and accomplishments
- Easton and Phillipsburg are now on board for river designation.

### 4. (10 min) 5 Years of Mini-Grants - Cindy

- Cindy shared mini-grant presentation
- Dana from EPACA added details on the 2024 grant project in High Rocks

#### 5. (20 min) Partner Preservation

- Alison-HLT and LDWS are funded by a cooperative agreement. HLT just finished theirs. In the winter, we usually do budgeting. CA funding was frozen in February. Went through the budgeting process per usual. Usually approved by now and know the funding amount. There have not been any updates. Further cuts at NPS are possible.
- Hunterdon Land Trust - Jackie
  - Jackie shared a map of HLT preserved properties, past 5 years, 1,331 acres
- Heritage Conservancy - Matt
  - Matt shared a presentation of the preserved properties, past 5 years

#### 6. (15 min) Awareness and Outreach - Alison

- Sojourn-30th anniversary. NYT article promoted it. The weather was not the best. Presented LDWS on the last day.
- Logo/branding-hat with logo given to Sojourners
- Jr. Ranger Booklet-a work in progress
- Updated LDWS Website-hopefully complete in this fiscal year

#### 7. (10 min) Water Safety - Alison

- Safety Issues to Date-two deaths in Lower Delaware River
- Low head [dams](#) such as the Lambertville Wing Dam
- Outreach in Lambertville
- Working on getting outreach ambassadors in Lambertville to talk about water safety in Spanish and in Delaware Canal State Park.

#### 8. (5 min) Available Resources - Alison

- DEP is accepting nominations through July 25 for annual awards recognizing New Jersey's recycling and sustainability leaders. Nomination [packet](#).
- The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program has funding from NJDEP to help towns address their municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) permit requirements. [More info](#).
- New Jersey State Historical Marker Program 250th [Initiative](#)

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

- Headquarters Road Bridge-DEP approves [permit](#).
- Solebury purchased the quarry. Primrose Creek runs through the quarry.
  - Mark-years long negotiation. Solebury School partnered with Solebury Twp. Vision to have a park with trails.
- What issues are emerging?
  - Stephen-Devil's Tea Table pushed back again. The follow-up meeting pushed from spring to summer.

#### Issue No Updates:

1. Hal H. Clark, Boat Launch, (Pedestrian Trails Coming To New County Park In [Solebury](#)). The Ramp project is on track after some funding uncertainty.

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. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation-drought
4. Paunacussing gas line - Mats have been removed and permanent fix is in the works
5. Fleecydale Rd - NPS and PennDOT in consult about erosion repairs
6. Ground Water Contamination
  - a. Upper Makefield-Lawmakers call on the DEP to take action against [Sunoco](#).
    - i. Recovery wells will be [drilled](#)
  - b. PFAS in [Lambertville](#)
  - c. PFAS in [Washington](#) Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong

Adjourn: 11:35 AM

**2025 Dates:**

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

**Attachments/Handouts**

- March Minutes
- June Agenda

**Steering Committee**

Attendance: Matt Babbitt, Mark Baum Baicker, Bob Hornby, Amanda Khalil, Martie Kyde (Vice Chair), Jackie Middleton, and Lauren Seip

Staff: Alison Sommers-Sayre and Cindy Kunnas

**1. Opening Activities**

- a. Approval of April minutes

**2. NPS Update**

- a. National Parks Conservation Assoc. Press [Release](#)
- b. Attended Partnership Wild and Scenic River meeting. No funding update.

**3. Expansion Project**

- a. Easton passed a council resolution in April for mainstem designation, with potential Bushkill Creek inclusion under consideration
- b. Phillipsburg has designation on their June meeting agenda
- c. Both Easton and Phillipsburg are now eligible for designation (previously weren't due to industrial history and prior approach to urban areas)
- d. Lambertville has resolution on consent agenda tonight covering local creeks (Alexauken)
- e. Upper Mt. Bethel supports potentially supportive of mainstem designation but not tributary creeks

- f. Mercer County has passed a support resolution and Hunterdon County resolution is currently with their attorney for review

**4. Water Safety Junior Ranger Badges and booklet Invasive Plants of BC, where to distribute**

- a. Plan to put at Bull's Island, Washington Crossing both sides, and possibly Nurture Nature Center, Canal Museum in Easton, and the DCNR office for canal state park, Bowman's Hill, and potentially distribute at events.

**5. River Use** - Next step is to find a way to engage DRJTBC.

**6. Partner Updates**

- a. HLT- Jackie - End of NPS Current Cooperative Agreement was April 30.
- b. HC - Matt - Shared a map of preserved properties.
- c. NJ DEP - Lauren - NJ Real Rules are pending, not expected until the end of summer/beginning fall.
- d. Bucks Parks - Hal Clark, which faced potential funding loss, seems to be back on track, proceeding with permitting and funder approvals
- e. DRBC - Amanda - Focusing on water quality and quantity compliance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669050457?pwd=a0lPeDlnb0FpdlhNcXRqMmZraTkWUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 6905 0457

Passcode: 274859

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