



## Management Council Meeting Unapproved Agenda

Thursday, March 27, 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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### Attendance:

Jeff Ackerman-Upper Mt. Bethel Twp.  
Matt Babbitt-HC  
Richard Dodds-Chair  
Katherine Fullerton-Hunterdon County  
Ron Gilliland-PADCNR  
Ingrid Gray-Pohatcong Twp.  
CC Hopf-Bridgeton Twp.  
Amanda Khalil-DRBC  
Robert McEwan-Expansion Committee

Jackie Middleton-HLT  
Tara Mezzanotte-Warren County  
Lois Oleksa-Cook Creek WA, Durham Historical Society & Durham EAC  
Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton Twp.  
Tony Rizzello-Holland EC  
Steph Vannais-NJDEP, D&N Canal Park  
Tom Woodruff-Frenchtown EC

NPS: Sarah Bursky, Liaison and Nathalie Negrete-Fellow

Staff: Cindy Kunnas, Projects Coordinator

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 December 2024 Minutes (attached)
  - Amanda made a motion, Jackie second. Unanimously approved.

### 2. (10-15 min) DRBC Chloride Grant Proposal - Amanda

- Amanda shared her presentation via screen share
- Municipalities interested in participating contact Elaine Panuccio at DRBC [Elaine.Panuccio@drbc.gov](mailto:Elaine.Panuccio@drbc.gov)

### 3. (15 min) Overview of FY25-26 Council budget - Richard

- NPS budget and state of things - Sarah
  - Partner Proposals
    1. The Steering Committee collects budget proposals and makes suggestions.

2. Funded at \$210,000 for the past few years. Working with that amount for next fiscal year. May have a cut. Each agency asked to make plans for reduction in force at different percentage levels.
  3. Sarah shared the budget via screen share
  4. New: added funding Tinicum Conservancy, for stewardship and restoration project
  5. Richard went through the line items
  6. Hunterdon Land Trust has their own Cooperative Agreement, added together with DRGP's CA, equals \$210,000
  7. NPS can provide technical advice through NPS funding outside of the CA. For example, Paunacussing Creek in Solebury, [report](#).
  8. Robert reminded the mini-grants received by Primrose Creek WA were leveraged up to \$10,000. It took about a year and a half.
  9. Lois asked about funding flood mitigation projects.
    - a. Some of the mini-grants have gone toward buffer planting.
    - b. In chat: Jackie- HLT considers flood mitigation when conserving land.
    - c. In chat: Kathlene-Hunterdon County is providing grant money to some townships in Hunterdon to put up gates across roads that typically flood to dangerous levels. So Hunterdon's approach is to protect the public as opposed to preventing the flooding in the first place.
- Council projects - Outreach, Visitor Use, Expansion Study - Cindy
    - Tabling events, visitor use, nothing since the report.
    - Expansion working with Mercer County
      1. Had a table on March 9th at the Fishing Flea Market, 600 visitors and 100 vendors.
      2. Will have a table at the Frenchtown Green [Fair](#) on April 26th.
      3. PA DCNR Earth Day Celebration and Volunteer [Expo](#) on April 26th at Nockamixon. Need volunteers for a table.

#### 4. (10 min) Next Phase of Expansion Study

- "Segments & Tributary Expansion" - Robert
  - Presented Bucks County's 8 creeks and 2 segments at the SC. Will move forward with Bucks.
  - Expansion working with Hunterdon and Mercer Counties.
  - Alexandria Township approved the Nishisakawick Creek and Little Nishisakawick Creek to Kingwood. Kingwood passed their resolution about two years ago.
  - Hunterdon boards to pass resolutions supporting the study.
  - Shana Stewart Deeds will draft an addendum. In the summer, the committee will start working on Congress people along the river on both sides to inform them of what we are doing and then will ask for their support when we have the whole package.

#### 5. (5 min) Next phase of visitor use management coordination – Sarah and Richard

- If anyone has a contact at DRJTBC, it would be helpful if the bridges had location signs on them for location during an emergency.

#### 6. (15 min) Ongoing Matters - Richard and all

- [NPS Bank Stabilization guide](#) is available for municipalities etc. - Sarah
  - Best approach for bank repair and technical approaches. [Webinar](#) May 28.
- Groundwater contamination
  - PFAS in [Lambertville](#)
  - PFAS in [Washington](#) Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong

- o Washington Crossing jet fuel pipeline leak, wells [contaminated](#). Energy Transfer purchased a house for [cleanup](#). Energy Transfer to provide treatment systems for 100+ [wells](#). Will take [years](#) to clean up.
- Rockfall
  - o Rt 29 in Lambertville/W Amwell, March 13 meeting - Richard - next steps
    1. Initial materials had options including “doing nothing”. The meeting poll did not involve “doing nothing”. Suggested removing problematic rocks and avoiding excavating everything.
  - o DTT keeps being postponed, supposed to meet in April.
- What issues are emerging?
  - o Amanda-Data center push in PA. DRBC opposes; but they are approved by municipalities. The centers use a lot of energy and water (draws in water and releases hot water). Thermal temperature changes can be mitigated. Energy use is the bigger problem.
    1. A Special Protections Water Program exists for the non tidal region of the water. The estuary and tidal area water quality is far worse with higher temperature and more pollution. Higher population down stream. DRBC looks at applicants the same. DRBC cannot not approve what can be built, can approve how much is drawn and put back. Meaning, DRBC can only address water once the project is approved.
      - a. Michelle-allowing applicants to write the zoning to allow the applicant in and then the municipality approves. Conflict of interest. Amanda-it gets edited and industry knows more than the municipality. Consultants have not caught up. Need to slow down the process so consultants can catch up.
    2. Jeff-UMB industrial project (RPL) -board of supervisors is going to change the wording on their text amendment to allow data centers. Nothing formally submitted. Township hired a consultant to negotiate with the data center. Data center is not interested in withdrawing and pumping into the river, instead getting water from wells. Not interested in being on the river. Powerplant remediation and getting into operation is too expensive. Future of 100 acres along the river is up in the air.
      - a. Richard-Town may permit but not receive environmental permits.
    3. Ingrid mentioned an [article](#), “Research Aims to Solve Riparian Buffers’ Fatal Flaw”.

#### 7. (5 min) Available Resources - Richard

- Navigating the DEP System: Explaining [Enforcement](#)
- Shapiro Administration Launches Statewide Program to Replace Invasive Trees and [Shrubs](#)
- ANJEC 2025 Environmental Commission Grants for Open Space Stewardship [Projects](#). Deadline is May 12.
- DCNR Grant to Advance Parks, Recreation, and Conservation [Projects](#). Community Conservation Partnerships Program applications are due April 2.

#### 8. (5 min) Upcoming Events - Cindy

- Call for Artists for Wine & Art at the [Farm](#), Hunterdon Land Trust June 20th, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- The Musconetcong Watershed Association's annual River [Clean-Up](#), April 12th, 9 AM
- Aquetong Watershed Annual Litter [Clean-Up](#), April 5, 9:00 AM. Riparian buffer [planting](#) April 26.

## ISSUES being tracked/Quick updates:

### Steering Committee Updates - Richard

1. BioHabitats gave a presentation on the River Use Project and Cooperative Action Plan summary. Final [report](#) and executive [summary](#).
2. Approved support in urging the New Jersey State Planning Commission to designate the Sourland Region as an Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC) in the final State Development and Redevelopment Plan
3. 2025 Min-Grant Awards
  - a. Friends of Washington Crossing, PA
  - b. Aquetong Watershed Association
  - c. Paunacussing Watershed Assoc.
  - d. Washington Crossing Park, NJ
  - e. Frenchtown EC/Solebury School

### Issue Updates:

- f. Solebury will [purchase](#) the New Hope Crushed Stone quarry site in the Primrose Creek runs through.
- g. Frenchtown-Uhlerstown Bridge closed February 18. Slated to [reopen](#) it in time for Frenchtown's Riverfest in late summer 2025. DRJTBC Fact [Sheet](#).
- h. Lambertville Bridge is now [open](#) and they conducted lighting testing.
- i. Warehouse, River Pointe Logistics Upper Mt. Bethel, \$1.5M granted to clean up former Slate Belt coal [plant](#). Jeff-likely needs hundreds of millions of dollars.
- j. Headquarters Rd - Private bridge redesign has been permitted and is moving forward.
- k. Hal H. Clark, Boat Launch, Pedestrian Trails Coming To New County Park In [Solebury](#). Construction to begin in the spring.
- l. High Falls is in design and construction-Ron-completed widening tow path to get equipment down. Next up pad to get the crane down.
- m. 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. Ron-moving along and will be likely done during contract length. Richard- NPS was consulted in changes in design.
- n. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation-drought-Sarah-a few partners working on and state put the brakes on NPS. No movement. Amanda-conservation release of a certain volume that moves out no matter the conditions. Want to change and the state is blocking the change. The DRBC conservation team is working on it. State wants the release lower and everyone else wants it to be higher.
- o. Paunacussing gas line - Matts have been removed and permanent fix is in the works.
- p. Fleecydale Rd - NPS and PennDOT in consultation about erosion repairs. Robert-doubts it will be reopened in the future. A few years ago PennDot offered to sell it to Solebury for \$1.

### 2025 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: June 26, September 25, December 25 (need reschedule, Cindy to email new date)

### Attachments/Handouts

- December Minutes
- March Agenda

Adjourn: 11:27 AM

Amanda made a motion to adjourn, Stpeh second. Unanimously voted to adjourn.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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