



Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council Meeting: June 27, 2019

www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Steering Committee Vice Chair Martie Kyde at the Bucks County Audubon Society Honey Hollow Creek Environmental Education Center in Solebury, PA. There were 15 attendees, including four members of the Steering Committee and one staff member.

Welcome:

- Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the March 28, 2019 minutes, previously posted at www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org. Passed.
- Tohickon Creek: Vice Chair Kyde announced a proposed PADEP water quality downgrade of the Tohickon Creek in Bucks County, PA. She said the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council, the National Park Service (NPS), the Tincum Conservancy and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network all plan to file comments by July 11th.
- Devil's Tea Table: Vice Chair Kyde noted a NJDEP rockfall mitigation project at the Devil's Tea Table rockface along Route 29 in Kingwood Township, New Jersey will dramatically change views from the Pennsylvania side of the river. Mrs. Kyde announced a public information meeting about the project in Kingwood on Aug. 1st.
- Website: Vice Chair Kyde said the Lower Delaware website (www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org) was recently updated with design and content improvements.

Speakers:

- Bucks County Audubon Presentation: Stacy Carr-Poole, Executive Director of the Bucks County Audubon Society, spoke about the 650 acre Honey Hollow Watershed, the site of the first privately owned soil conservation district in the U.S., home to Bucks County Audubon and now celebrating 50 years as a National Historic District Landmark. Mrs. Carr-Poole also discussed Audubon's 2019 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic mini-grant project for adding native plants along the riparian buffer and wetland area on the east branch of Honey Hollow. The restoration project will establish an ongoing partnership with local Master Watershed Stewards, will create a habitat in the watershed for birds and wildlife and will improve the stream and wetland area for better use in educational lessons.
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network Presentation: Faith Zerbe, Water Watch Director for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network shared her breadth of knowledge about local environmental issues and her expertise specific to rivers and watersheds. She raised serious scientific concerns about the PADEP Tohickon Creek proposal and provided an update about the status of PennEast Pipeline permits. She also explained the importance of the Riverkeeper's 2019 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic 2019 mini-grant to support volunteer monitoring of freshwater "pearly" mussels since they are the single most imperiled group of aquatic organisms in the Lower Delaware with 80% to 90% declines in densities below the Lehigh River confluence.

Announcements:

- Paper Mill Cleanup – Milford, NJ Councilman Rob Castanga announced the Curious Specialty Papers Superfund site is coming off the Superfund list as the cleanup is complete and the buildings are in the process of being torn down.
- Black Flies – The black flies season in the area is the worst in 50 years.
- Delaware Canal 21 Water Monitoring Project – Delaware Canal 21 (DC21) and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) are working on a comprehensive Water and Trail Studies Project for the Delaware Canal. Bill Collins of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture shared water tributary maps.

Conclusion:

- Next Meetings & Adjournment: The next meetings are scheduled for Sept. 26th and Dec. 5th both at 6:30 PM. Locations and topics will be announced at a later date. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.