



## Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council Meeting: Dec 16, 2021

[www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Steering Committee Chair Richard Dodds on Zoom. There were 32 attendees.

- Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 2021 meeting, previously posted at [www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org), were accepted.
- Transition of Coordinator position: Mr. JR Fischer, from the board of Delaware River Greenways Partnership, said Maryann Carroll left her role in November. The Board developed a job description with input from the Steering Committee and some candidates have been interviewed. The job will most likely be posted publicly soon.
- Mini Grants Presentations: The 2021 recipients of Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic mini-grants presented about their work. (Bucks County Audubon, NJ Audubon, Splash classroom, Delaware River Keeper Network, Aquetong Watershed Association. Greater Lambertville was not present)
- Mini-grant application period open: Mr Dodds reiterated that this year's mini-grant process is underway with applications due January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 Budget Process: Ms. Bursky shared that in Jan/Feb the Steering Committee would tackle next year's budget. The goals for this year have been simplified because of the coordinator transition, with the focus remaining on the mini-grant process, issues in the corridor, municipal outreach; and the visitor use and recreation project remains a priority for when a new person comes on.

### Issues in the Corridor:

- Rockfall mitigation – Tara Mezzanotte shared an update on the I-80 rockfall issues in the corridor, including Congressman Gottheimer's Defund The I-80 Rockfall 2022 Federal Budget Amendment, Warren County Commissioner's NEPA Cooperating Agency request to FHWA, NJDOT Fix The I-80 S-Curve Resolution, Complaint submitted to the NJDOT Office of Inspector General re: NJDOT Rockfall Mitigation Program possibly violating their own policy, The Lenape nations of PA and NJ are requesting additional cultural and archaeological studies. Stephen Freeman shared that LODE supported asking Plumstead to write a resolution against the project. Plumstead affirmed the resolution. Norm has asked Stockton to do something similar and it's on meeting agenda for 12/16/21.
- Warehouses and trucking in the Corridor: Judy Henckl gave an update on warehousing in the corridor. One developer has purchased 3 tracts of land. There is a pending lawsuit of supervisors. There is a question of water towers and how much water would be available.
- The June Delaware River Sojourn was announced by Katie Marten. The Rising Nation Journey was also announced, with dates to follow soon.
- Pohatcong Quarry Development – Mr. Dodds shared that an effort to develop a quarry in Pohatcong was declined because it violated the local quarry ordinance.