Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River
Management Council
Steering Committee

Richard Dodds - Chair, Kingwood Twp, NJ
Martie Kyde - Vice Chair, Tinicum Twp, PA & Tinicum Conservancy
Patti Ruby - Secretary, Hunterdon Land Trust

Bethany Hare - PA-DCNR
Evan Kwityn - Delaware River Basin Commission
Norman Torkelson - Delaware River Greenway
Partnership & Stockton, NJ

Kris Kern - Heritage Conservancy
Kate Raman - Natural Lands
Michael Tropiano - NJDEP
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River User Capacity Study

Current character of use
Effectiveness of regulatory controls: permits, fees, selective closure
Suggestions to balance use and environmental concerns
Pilot programs: regulation, education, outreach

Photo: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Service /onthewater.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Traditional WSR</th>
<th>Partnership WSR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal ownership</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPS rangers on site?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management plan development</td>
<td>federal agency, public input</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan implementation</td>
<td>federal responsibility, volunteer support &amp; input</td>
<td>shared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Plan

~ maintain ~ improve ~ encourage ~ inform

• Water quality
• Natural resources
• Historic & cultural resources
• Recreational use
• Economic development
• Open space
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River
Municipalities

Pennsylvania

Bedminster Twp.
Bridgeton Twp.
Forks Twp.
Lower Mt. Bethel
New Hope Borough
Nockamixon Twp.
Plumstead Twp.
Riegelsville Borough
Solebury Twp.
Springfield Twp.
Tinicum Twp.
Upper Makefield Twp.

New Jersey

Alexandria Twp.
City of Lambertville
Delaware Twp.
Frenchtown Borough
Harmony Twp.
Holland Twp.
Hopewell Twp.
Kingwood Twp.
Knowlton Twp.
Lopatcong Twp.
Milford Borough
Stockton Borough
West Amwell Twp.
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River

67.3 miles
Access points
(Google Earth map)
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River

Photos: Delaware River Tubing Facebook, swancreekrowing.com, inquirer.com, theskimonster.com, delwarerivertubing.com
## Examples of Access Fee Inconsistency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Fee?</th>
<th>Social / Interpretation</th>
<th>Parking Enforcement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Black Eddy: PA Fish &amp; Boat</td>
<td>PA Fish and Boat</td>
<td>Boat permit required</td>
<td>PA Fish and Boat</td>
<td>PA Fish and Boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingwood: D&amp;R Canal SP</td>
<td>D&amp;R Canal State Park</td>
<td>D&amp;R Canal State Park</td>
<td>D&amp;R Canal State Park</td>
<td>State of NJ DEP, NJ State Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tinicum County Park</td>
<td>Bucks County</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>Bucks County, PA State Police</td>
<td>Bucks County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table I of 30 Access Points* highlights opportunity to align guidance, rules and fees on both sides of the river.
Survey Responses – Access Affiliation

Kingwood DEP (NJ) 18 %
Scudders Falls - Yardley 14 %
Lambertville, Riegelsville (PA) 8 %
Portland Footbridge, (PA) 6 %
Tinicum County Park (PA) 6 %
Upper Black Eddy (PA), Belvidere (NJ) 3 %
D&L Canal (PA) 2 %
D&R Canal State Park (NJ) 2 %
Survey Responses – Access Affiliation

239 Total – several identified with multiple stakeholder categories

- 132 Residents
- 20 Landowners
- 11 Business owners
- 179 self-described river users
Negative Impact of Popularity

Trash left in public and private spaces
Illegally parked cars
Human waste
Inability to manage river-related traffic
Negative impact on fish, habitat
Erosion to river banks
Town Hall Meeting – 11/30/2021

Access - Improve streambanks and develop more or better access points.

Education
- A public education campaign encouraging people to be responsible for their own trash
- Conduct river bank cleanup days.

Engineering
- Streambank protection and restoration
- Make it easier to put trash in the proper place.

Regulation, Enforcement

Bi-State Alignment

TRASH!

Water Quality

Municipalities not part of Partnership
Example of One-on-One Interviews

“Are jet skis appropriate to even be allowed to be put in at the Kingwood launch? I don’t mean to sound Draconian, but when you’re weighing public good, is this the right place for a jet ski? And I’m not sure that it is. Does trash come from the tubers? Sure, I’m absolutely positive there are beer bottles that show up on my yard but when the river floods, you know when it comes up high, I’ve had a port-a-potty come and land in my yard.”

(Kingwood resident)
Another Example One-on-One Interviews

“The free resource is awesome for the underserved. Let’s encourage more respect for the river, education and promotion of pack-it-out practices. Let’s also encourage Spanish speaking state staff such as interpretive rangers and police.”

(Scudder’s Falls boater)
One-on-One Interviews
Agency Staff
(NJ, PA, Northampton County)

• Expand access
• Spread use among other access points
• Encourage bilingual staff
• Work with friends groups to get the word out
Example of New Outreach - Frenchtown River Ambassadors

June 26, 2021 to Labor Day:

- **Building** community through providing helpful information
- **Outreaching environmental stewardship / education** for visitors, volunteers, residents
- **Promoting local businesses** by integrating visitors with local businesses’ services.

River Ambassadors will

- Welcome visitors and share information on parking, public restrooms, river safety and stewardship, local businesses, etc.
- Lead a “youth hour” with an environmental education session for children.
- Lead a river “clean up hour” for visitors and community members.

See [Frenchtown River Ambassadors](#)
Steps to Establish Use Capacity

- Describe the baseline and current conditions
- Identify desired conditions for river values and classifications
  - Identify the kinds of use that the WSR corridor can accommodate
  - Identify measurable indicators for the desired conditions
  - Establish thresholds for each indicator
  - Identify triggers that elicit management response
  - Identify management action to take when triggers are reached
- Determine the WSR corridors user capacities
- Establish monitoring and adaptive management approach
Steps to Establish Use Capacity

I. Develop desired conditions for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River

II. Implement the remaining elements of the 2007-2011 Action Plan

II. Explore activities to grow Partnership capacity.
## Action Plan 2007-2011 Items to Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish publicly-owned land which provides appropriate river access and support facilities for people pursuing recreational opportunities.</td>
<td>Modest levels of improved access (e.g., Giving Pond, Riegelsville Boat Launch, Kingwood parking availability) have been implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish strict rules on excessively noisy or intrusive activities or vehicles in the river corridor, and promote enforcement of those rules by both states.</td>
<td>This has not been fielded or enforced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote appropriate public access points with maps, guidebooks, signs, etc. to reduce recreational trespassers on private property.</td>
<td>This has been developed and implemented thorough the NJ DEP Boat Launch resources and printed and online Delaware River Water Trail maps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lands with significant recreational value within the corridor should be publicly owned or protected by land trusts in order to facilitate public recreational use.</td>
<td>This remains as a significant area of opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines should be established and enforced for the use of public access sites by commercial operators for access.</td>
<td>This has not been implemented with consistency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No wake zones should be enforced.</td>
<td>Enforcement is lacking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grow Partnership Capacity

Develop a collaborative of river users, interpretive and program staff, “friends” groups and businesses.

- Permits, enforcement responsibility and use of the permit funds;
- Boating laws and enforcement responsibility;
- Jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction law enforcement capacity to address roadside and parking overflow situations;
- Jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction capacity to provide sanitation support for river users;
- Opportunities to fund river recreation-related public services such as river clean up tools or Leave No Trace training; and
- Process for monitoring recreational use as described and/or quantified by the desired condition
Grow Partnership Capacity

• Include business owners, landowners, community members, agency staff and municipal leaders.

• Revise the River Management Plan
Thank you.

Delaware River Greenway Partnership
Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council

Photo: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources