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Sept. 10, 2021

Mr. Aaron T. Watson
Executive Director
Mercer County Parks Commission
1750 River Road
Lambertville, NJ 08530

Dear Mr. Watson:

RE: Moores Station Quarry Draft Master Plan

The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council (LDWS) submits these comments in response to the draft master plan for Moores Station Quarry as the location falls in the LDWS corridor. There are potential implications of the plan to the Lower Delaware River system due to close proximity of the development to the River, therefore we are making several recommendations for your consideration. We appreciate the extensive detail incorporated in the draft plan and the opportunity to comment.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Background

The Lower Delaware is the National Wild and Scenic River System segment, established by Congress on November 1, 2000, as Public Law 106-418, includes 65.6 miles of River segments which form the Pennsylvania and New Jersey border, plus named tributaries. The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for the long-term protection of the River and administers the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

NPS works closely with the Wild and Scenic Management Council, created through the designation as an advisory and coordinating body. The Council is comprised of representatives from local, state, and federal governments, as well as environmental nonprofits. The Lower Delaware River Management [Plan](#) (August 1997) was developed as a part of the Wild and Scenic River Study, approved by all State and local parties, and referenced by Congress as the Plan by which the Wild and Scenic River would be managed. It identifies ecological resources and water quality as key attributes of the River that must be "protected and enhanced."

Lower Delaware Geography

The "Lower Delaware," includes River segments from Easton, PA to just north of Trenton, NJ, as we are a bistate group. It spans from river mile 193.8 to the northern border of the City of Easton, from south of

the Gilbert Generating Stations to north of the point Pleasant Pumping Station, from South of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station to 1,000 feet north of the Route 202 Bridge, and from 1,750 feet south of the Route 202 bridge to Washington Crossing. Additionally, some Pennsylvania tributaries are designated including Tinicum Creek, (headwaters of two upper branches to the Delaware River confluence), Tohickon Creek, (downstream of Lake Nockamixon to the Delaware River confluence), and Paunacussing Creek, (portions passing through Solebury Township to the Delaware River). The Musconetcong River, (3.5 mile stretch from Saxton Falls to Route 46 and the 20.7 mile stretch from King's Highway Bridget to railroad tunnels at Musconetcong Gorge), was designated in 2006.

Suggestions

Our intent is not to comment on the full report as many parties will be sharing ideas and evaluations. Rather, we bring to your attention two specific issues important to our Wild and Scenic partners.

- **Water Quality** – Deliberate actions should be taken to improve upon the water quality at Moores Creek before, during, and after the development. We believe maintaining the strictest water quality designations for all Delaware River tributaries is key to the long-term health of the River. Improving groundwater and surface water infiltration, along with adding native plantings and using proper restoration techniques, is recommended. For your information, water quality is one of the six goals of the Lower Delaware Management [Plan](#).
- **Recreation: Wild & Scenic Focus** – Recreation is another goal of our Management Plan. We support development that encourages outdoor activities while protecting open space and the environment. All the creative uses suggested in the draft will get the public outside using the park and connecting them to the Delaware River. It would be wonderful if a focus on the Wild & Scenic River could be incorporated into the final plans. Information could be included in park materials (in print and online), and be shared in signage and displays, especially along trails and walkways.

As you execute the master plan, please reach out to National Park Service (NPS) staff as a resource. NPS and our Council are willing to share knowledge and ideas. The email address to our NPS Liaison, Sarah Bursky, can be found below.

In addition, we welcome a representative of the County to join our Steering Committee or attend our Council meetings. This could be a staff member or appointed volunteer involved in planning, recreation/parks, culture and heritage, environment, economic development, or administrative departments or boards.

The next virtual meeting of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council will be held on Thursday, September 23 at 10:00 AM. The meeting notice and agenda will be posted at www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org.

Sincerely,
Richard Dodds
Chairman

cc: Sarah Bursky, NPS Liaison (Sarah_Bursky@nps.gov)
Maryann Carroll, Delaware River Greenway Partnership Ex. Dir. (maryann@delawarerivergp.org)