



Management Council Meeting Unapproved Minutes

Thursday, December 12 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

(Visit www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org for the Zoom and for additional reference information.)

Call to order: 10:02

Attendance:

Jeff Ackerman-U. Mt. Bethel
Eric Anderson-Tinicum Conserv.
Matt Babbitt-HC
Mark Baum Baicker-Solebury
Sarah Bursky-NPS
Dana Caracciolo-EPAC
Richard Dodds, Chair
Stephen Freeman-DTTA, Del Canal Advisory
Comm.
Katherine Fullerton-Hunterdon Co.
Ron Gilliland-PA DCNR
Ingrid Gray-Pohatcong Twp., County Scenic
Byway Commiss.
Judith Henckel-UMT, Martins Jacoby
Watershed Assoc.

Bob Hornby-Hunterdon Co.
Amand Khalil-DRBC
Robert McEwan-Chair Expansion Committee
Tara Mezzanotte-Warren County, N. Expansion
Study
Jackie Middleton-HLT
Lois Oleska-Durham Hist. Soc., Cooks Creek WA
Michelle Purcell-Stockton
Tony Rizzello-Holland
Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton
Steph Vannais-NJDEP
Faith Zerbe-DRN

Staff: Alison Sommers-Sayre, ED, DRGP and Cindy Kunnas, Project's Cord., DRGP

Guest: Jessica Norris, BioHabitats

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 September 2024 Minutes (attached)
 - Bob made a motion and second from Mark.
 - Lois Misspelling whale to while 6 river use

- Tara change Knowlton Township to Warren County in Attendance
- Unanimously approved
- Please introduce yourself in chat, name and organization/role

2. (10 min) Next Phase of Expansion Study

- “Segments & Tributary Expansion” - Robert
- Project update
 - Upper Makefield endorses the management [plan](#) with their two creeks, extending to Houghs Creek.
 - 5 or 6 state representatives and senators in Bucks County made an endorsement and the last is from Upper Makefield
 - Ewing Environmental Commission approved Jacobs Creek, moving up to the council for support in January
 - Hunterdon presented on Jan 9 and will be asking to pass a motion to support Hunterdon Creeks and waterfront.
 - Expansion meeting is on Monday at 4 PM. Send an invite to Katherine. Add link to calendar. (Meeting was cancelled)
 - Asking Easton to endorse including for Bushkill Creek

3. (30 min) River Use Project Plan – Jessica

- Jessica shared the project plan presentation
 - Taking feedback until December 20th
- Michelle P. suggested corporate sponsorship and partnership such as Subaru
- Amanda-Subaru is HQ in Camden and they do have funding programs

4. Delaware is a Nominee for Pennsylvania's 2025 River of the Year, [vote now](#) for the Delaware River through January 24 - Cindy

5. (25 min) Mini-Grant- Cindy

- 2024 Videos and reports
 - Tony presented the Holland Township project
 - [DRN](#)
 - [EPAC](#)
 - See [more](#)
- 2025 Applications-received 10
 - Awardees
 1. Friends of Washington Crossing PA \$4,500
 2. Aquetong Watershed Association \$4,940
 3. Paunacussing Watershed Assoc. \$1,477
 4. Frenchtown Environmental Commiss. \$5,000
 5. Washington Crossing Park, NJ \$5,000
 6. Holland Township was an application and we have a suggested approach to the app and we'll reach out to Tony directly
 - New round early spring to align closer to better fit compliance for Federal needs

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

- Drought continues, DRBC drought [information](#)

- Some snow in the upper basin, rain in the lower, and expecting flooding in the main stem. Drought declared based on NY reservoir status. Please conserve water.
- New-Hope Lambertville Bridge pedestrian bridge open until [January 13](#) and bridge will close on January 13 for [two weeks](#)
- Warehouse, River Pointe Logistics Upper Mt. Bethel, \$1.5M granted to clean up former Slate Belt coal [plant](#)
 - Judy-coal fields or plants, it could become a plant for a data center. Warehouses are being sold as data centers.
- Hal H. Clark, Boat Launch, Pedestrian Trails Coming To New County Park In [Solebury](#). Construction to begin next year
- Paunacussing gas line and Aqueduct– Sarah
 - PennDot in design for Fleecydale road and which is closed and for the pipeline design in process to get cement covers out of the creek.
- RT 80 Rockfall Mitigation and retaining wall. Warren County got news it's pushed out to 2026 for Rockfall. They need to coordinate with NPS for historical preservation. The location is a little upstream of LDWS. The Supreme Court heard arguments for NEPA up and downstream impacts for environmental review.
 - What issues are emerging?

7. (5 min) Available Resources - Alison

- Murphy Admin launches online funding directory for climate resilience [projects](#)
- National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Grant due [January 10th](#)
- US Forest Service Community Forest Program due [January 13](#)
- DCNR grants, Recreation, Land Conservation, Tree Planting Projects Across Pennsylvania; Next Grant Round Opens [January 21st](#)
- NJ Green Acres 2025 Funding Round Now Open, applications due [February 5th](#)

8. (5 min) Upcoming Events - Cindy

- Washington Crossing December 25, [NJ](#) and [PA](#) parks
- Please send any events or announcements to Cindy for distribution
- Ingrid-Polar Express Train Phillipsburg to Riegelsville and saw homeless encampments with litter and a dumpsite of large items. Called Phillipsburg Mayor Piazza and there are problems with who is responsible, private landowners, railroad, or town. Tara-suggested putting in a complaint to NJDEP. 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) and <https://dep.nj.gov/warndep/>
- Ingrid-Raubsville Culvert by the canal, a pipe that brought the stream to the river. Pile of dirt at an angle where the creek goes to the river. Michelle S. said to contact the PA DEP. Complaint leads to immediate inspection. Ron-The site is a Delaware State Park project with the culvert and has an inspector. The angle is being addressed. There is no material that will be washed away. Addressing the stone wall too.

NOTICES

ISSUES being tracked/Quick updates:

- a. High Falls is in the design stages.
 - i. 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.
- b. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation-drought

2025 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: March 27, June 26, September 25, December 25 (need reschedule)

Attachments/Handouts

- September Minutes
- December Agenda

Adjourn: 11:34 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669050457?pwd=a0lPeDlnb0FpdlhNcXRqMmZraTkwUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 6905 0457

Passcode: 274859

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,83669050457#,,,,*274859# US

+13092053325,,83669050457#,,,,*274859# US

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

- +1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 836 6905 0457

Passcode: 274859

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669050457?pwd=a0lPeDlnb0FpdlhNcXRqMmZraTkwUT09>