



Management Council Meeting Minutes Unapproved

Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

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

Attendance:

Jeff Ackerman-Drift Stone	Tara Mezzanotte-Trib Committee, Warren County
Matt Babbitt-HC	Jackie Middleton-HLT
Michele Becci-New Hope	Shannon Norbert-DRBC
Sarah Bursky-NPS	Lois Oleska-Durham Historical Society, Cooks Creek
Dana Caracciolo-East. PA Alliance of Climbers	Judy Henkel-Upper Mt. Bethel
Richard Dodds, Chair	Michelle Purcell-Stockton
Robert McEwan-Trib Committee	Michael Rahtz-Washington Crossing State Park, NJ
Steph Fox-NJDEP	Tony Rizzello-Holland Township
Stephen Freeman-DTT Alliance	Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton Township
Katherine Fullerton-Hunterdon County	Anna Solberg-CVPA
Ingrid Gray-Pohatcong Township	Alison Sommers-Sayre-DRGP
Ron Gilliland-PADCNR	
CC Hopf-Bridgetown Township	
Cindy Kunnas-DRGP	

1. (10 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, Lenapehokink, 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 December 2023 Minutes (attached)
 - One edit by Judy Henckel, add Judy as attended
 - Jackie motion to approve, CC second. Unanimously approved.

2. (15 min) 2024 Budget Review – Richard

- (Sarah pie chart) SC approved budget for next fiscal year
- Richard went through the budget.
- Michelle St. Andre made a motion and Michele Becci second to approve the budget. Unanimously approved.

3. (20 min) Council Projects

- **Next Steps on River Use Workgroup** – Sarah/Alison - Building up to the 2nd Forum! Shared slides describing:
 - What we've heard in the working group
 - Bringing two states together pre-season - what can we accomplish?
 - Michelle Purcell recommended looking at best practices in the area. Volunteered to coordinate and conduct interviews.
- **Expanding MC membership** and keeping contact info up to date – Cindy/Alison
 - Putting MC meetings on calendars. Please RSVP.
 - Will be adding database for MC members
- **Delaware River Sojourn**-Alison-6/14-6/22, the 8 day paddle trip starts in Lackawaxen goes to Lambertville, Washington Crossing and south, ending at Penns Manor. Working on activities for Friday. Requested topic ideas.

4. (15) Delaware River Tributaries and new designations presentation– Tara Mezzanote

- Our work so far, thank you Tara, has been more successful than anticipated so have to regroup
- Will be addressed (SC is addressing)
- Study documentation and management plan subject matter expert being engaged
- Tara-Original act did not include Easton and Phillipsburg. The study did not allow for industrialized areas. The change is that these areas can be studied for designation. Northampton County supports.
- Alison-Easton and Phillipsburg, the view is now seen as more for beauty than industrial history.

5. (10 min) Mini-Grant Projects – Cindy - This Year's Process, Spread of Projects - A Success!

- Bucks County Parks and Recreation-Hal H. Clark Boat Ramp
- City of Lambertville Parks and Recreation-Cavallo Park Riparian Buffer Restoration
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network-Community Scientists Survey for the Lost Plant: Podostemum
- Eastern PA Alliance of Climbers-High Rocks Improvement Project
- Foodshed Alliance-Protecting the Paulins Kill – Storytelling through Video
- Holland Township, NJ-O'sakame Preserve Visitor Area Enhancement
- Ridge and Valley Charter School-Water Quality Monitoring on the Lower Paulins Kill
- Tinicum Township-Backyard Environmental Stewardship in Tinicum (BEST) Initiative
- Washington Crossing Park Association-Continental Lane Forest Restoration in Washington Crossing State Park NJ
- Withdrew: Palisades High School-Peppermint Park Tree Planting

6. (30 min) Ongoing Matters - Richard and all

- Warehouses
 - Richard-Jaindl site will be permanently preserved agricultural lands.
 - RPL Mt. Bethel, supervisors grant preliminary approval. PA DEP November permit meeting. LDWS submitted comments. Supervisors disband sewer authority.
 1. Tara-change in supervisors, less in favor of the development. Now the municipality has an EAC in Upper Mt. Bethel first meeting in April. Judy-undoing preliminary approvals is tough. If wastewater treatment goes in, it will go underground and go to spray irrigation in an R1 zone in a different watershed. The Demi Road project has been stopped up until now.
- Paunacussing gas line and Aqueduct– Sarah
 - Very flashy, suffering erosion. Repair work on the canal aqueduct at the base of the creek. Working with the town and gas company for long lasting repairs to cover the line (line is not broken).
 - Fleecydale Road-early stages with PennDOT on repairs to the closed road.
 - NPS provided contractual consultation regarding the creek.
 - Richard mentioned that NPS offers this kind of support as a benefit to joining LDWS.
 - Tony asked if there is communication between LDWS and Musconetcong Watershed Association especially regarding septic water getting into the Musconetcong. Sarah-LDWS has tried to get a council to council conversation going with the Musky in the past. Asked Tony to connect us with the Holland Musky rep.
- Rockfall mitigation – Stephen, Richard, Tara
 - Devil's Tea Table
 1. [Bucks County Article](#)
 2. Change the safety bar-NPS to meet with FHWA to see if this can be required by FHWA as a condition of federal funding.
 3. Options such as just monitoring the road, changing the speed limit on the road and expanding the ditch were written off for reasons that there is nowhere to station a police car, the expanded ditch does solve the problem, and just monitoring is not considered an option.
 4. NJDOT offered up a lower impact option that they still need to investigate involving moving the road, but they stated that this might have other impacts on the canal towpath and other natural resources (trees). This is more impactful to other resources because they are refusing to lower the 95% criteria. If they lower to 90%, it will likely be less impactful on other resources.
 5. Stephen-Rt 29 mitigation projects the Kingwood design workgroup NJDOT started and are awaiting the 5th meeting. They are

supposed to respond to our request for concessions of a less invasive mitigation. Feeling a stalemate. Start date pushed back to 2029. A Stephen and a small group met with Gov. Murphy regarding the project.

6. Sarah-hopes NPS agency to agency meeting to push safety rating and lower impact project, and hopes they are taking time to work on that. Might be too optimistic.
 - o Work Group being established by NJDOT for Route 29/Goat Hill section (Lambertville/West Amwell)
 1. Anyone signed up for Work Group?
 - o The [Landing in New Hope](#)- NPS received plans. Update: Michele B.-Landing withdrew the plans from zoning.
 - o Sarah-Making separate meeting to discuss section 7.
- New business – Other issues?
 - o Lois-William’s Township joined LDWS with Fry’s run. Proposal for campground. Requested LDWS send letter. Richard-We’d love to know more about it. Robert-Been in touch with Fry’s Run, local zoning issue.

NOTICES

ISSUES being tracked/Quick updates:

- a. [Headquarters Rd Bridge](#) - Private funding/town ownership moving into permitting
- b. [Canal Bridge](#) by Golden Pheasant Inn, Tinicum, PA, closed in December, now open
- c. DRJTBC announced RFP for replacing Washington [Crossing Bridge](#), which may take years
- d. Route 46 Bridge DWG Amtrak - NPS unable to review
- e. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation (no update)
- f. Hal Clark boat launch-received a mini-grant (no update)
- g. [H & K’s \(Center Valley Materials\) quarry application](#) Springfield Township (no update)

2024 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: June 27, September 26, and December (TBD)

Attachments/Handouts

- December Minutes
- March Agenda

Adjourn 3:28.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84321098802?pwd=RDExdjBucTE4cjdkMVZDdjhScU91Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 2109 8802

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