



Management Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 14, 2023

10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom

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

Attendees: Matt Babbitt, Heritage Conservancy; Christine Bond; Allison Brown, Splash; Claudia Browne, BioHabitats; Sarah Bursky, NPS; Eric Clark; Richard Dodds, Chair; James Engel, Tinicum Conservancy; Stephen Freeman; Katherine Fullerton, Hunterdon County; Laura Kennedy; CC Hopf; Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County; Ron Gilliland, Delaware Canal State Park; Tara Mezzanote; Jackie Middleton, Hunterdon Land Trust; Anna Solberg, CVPA; Alison Sommers-Sayre, DRGP; Dana xxx, EPAC; Ingrid Grey; Lauren Walters; Olivia Wilson, NPS

1. (10 min) Welcome - Richard Dodds, Chairman – Introductions and Land Acknowledgement- (5 min)

- 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 September 2023 Minutes (attached)

Bob Hornby motioned to Approve, Tara Mezzanote Seconded, all in favor

2. (15 min) Ron Gilliland – Delaware Canal Work

Presentation shared. Ron shared that due to complexity of project work, only estimated dates can be provided. He noted that he welcomes email questions.

Brief overview of canal history shared including that the Park dates back to 1940 and was made a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

Currently, there are 30+ active projects throughout the State Park with work continuing into 2025 at a cost of \$52 million. There will be towpath closures and drawdowns related to projects. A project map is currently in development.

Projects include work on 12 bridges in various locations, a dam repair in Easton, work on the Lumberville Aqueduct and High Falls culvert and emergency storm debris removal from Bristol to New Hope.

Bob Hornby asked if there is coordination between the Delaware Canal State Park and the New Jersey side of the river in terms of towpath closures. Ron said not at this time, but that he will pursue it.

Discussion of best first contact for any damage concerns and Ron noted that contacting the Park first is recommended, via email.

3. (10) Council Projects – 20 min

- **Next Steps on River Use Workgroup** – Sarah (10 min)
 - NPS Financial support for consulting - Slides (Sarah)
 - Reengaging workgroup. Committee members wish to join the effort?

Share slides?

Sarah reminded group of the importance of recreational use in the river as part of the Management Plan. Background on visitor use work to date was shared including the Shimoda Group project in 21/22 which included user surveys and town hall, and the 22/23 work of NPS RTCA Working Group to identify and map issue hotspots which engaged with state partners, emergency responders and outfitters. Sarah gave overview of 2024 initiative, funded by NPS and conducted by BioHabitats. The Working Group will be reconvened and elements of prior work will be incorporated with the



goal of creating a Collaborative Action Plan to better understand appropriate use rates and thresholds and appropriate response.

Sarah asked the Management Council to forward names to her of people who would be interested in being involved in a second forum or in the project in general and explained that NPS is looking for input on issue prioritization.

- **Outreach materials - JR Ranger booklet and logo process-** Alison

Alison shared that the Ranger booklet is on track for early spring completion and that the logo process has benefited greatly from an NPS staff resource to assist on the logo design process. Goal is to shared design visuals with MC next meeting.

- **Visual Resource Inventory** – Sarah
- **Expanding MC membership** and keeping contact info up to date – Cindy/Alison

4. (15 min) Council Input on Allocations for Next Budget Cycle

- Thoughts on other activities?
- Any Council priorities for the 2024 budget? – Richard

5. (15) Delaware River Tributaries and new designations presentation– Robert McEwan and Tara

- Major milestones
- Areas needing MC support?

6. (5 min) Mini-Grant Projects – Cindy

- Applications due 12/18 at 5 P.M.
- [Announcement](#) and [application](#)
- New: recipients are required to make a 5-minute video to submit with final reports (video doesn't need to be professionally edited)

7. (20 min) Ongoing Matters

- Warehouses
 - White Township/Jaindl – [Warren](#) County to purchase land for preservation.
 - RPL Mt. Bethel, supervisors grant preliminary approval. PA DEP November permit meeting. LDWS submitted comments.
- Paunacussing gas line and Aqueduct– Sarah
- Rockfall mitigation – Tara and Stephen
- New business – Other issues?

2024 Dates:

- Thursdays 10 A.M.: March 28, June 27, September 26, and December (TBD)

Attachments/Handouts

- September Minutes
- December Agenda
- Budget (this year)

ISSUES being tracked with no update:

- a. Route 46 Bridge DWG Amtrak (no update)



- i. Going through the last review cycle.
- b. Headquarters Rd Bridge (no update)
- c. Canal Bridge by Golden Pheasant Inn, Tinicum, PA (no update)
- d. Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation (no update)
- e. Hal Clark boat launch (no update)
- f. [H & K's \(Center Valley Materials\) quarry application](#) Springfield Township (no update)
- g. The [Landing in New Hope](#)

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