

DELAWARE CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 13th 2016 Tinicum County Park Barn
River Road (Rt. 32), Erwinna, PA

10:40 Call to order

Chairman's Address & introduction of Board & Participants- Nancy Janyszeski

Introduction of board members

Steve the Administrative Assistant for the park / secretary for our meetings will be leaving the Delaware Canal to start a new position with the State Employee's Retirement System on Monday.

Director's Report – Kevin Fazzinni

- Working on 17 / 18 Fiscals Governor should announce in February
- Gateway Projects – Still working on terms, when agreed upon will move forward, followed by Legion property land transfer. Timeline probably still at least a year
- 2016 / 2017 Budget Passed Yesterday, Meets DCNR/Bureau needs

Susan Taylor – Are any other properties involved such as parking?

Kevin – Original lot not large enough, looking for additional parking – nothing in this agreement.

Debra Wolf Goldstein – What is the status of the visitor center?

Kevin – We have looked into possible land acquisition (Mountainside included); still aiming for some type of visitor contact in New Hope, possibly with historic Odette's building; still looking for location of new office, aiming for something centrally located.

Engineering Report - Tony Giacobbe (Projects are listed from southern end going north)

Introduction of our new Engineer Bilal Baqai

- **MP-8.7 Conrail Tunnel –ROW clearance issued on 7/28/16. PennDot has updated the let date and they are now tracking 3/17.**
- **MP- 21.01 Wall Collapse MP 21 –Project is currently under construction and the contractor has mobilized and has installed access and temporary cofferdams. The project calls for keeping a significant sycamore tree at the southern end of the wall repair, however upon clearing of debris from the area, large tap roots were discovered in the area of the wall and this may necessitate removal of the tree.**
- **MP-26.13 Phillips Mill Bridge Replacement –Consultant is working on the E&S and temporary access road for the GP-11 submission. After this submission they will then work on the HOP submission with Penndot. 95% (Pre Final submission) is scheduled for first week of Jan 2017.**

- **MP-26.82 Lower Limeport Road Bridge Replacement** –Bi State Construction was the successful bidder and verbal NTP was issued (10/6/16) and Contractor is currently working on temporary access and diversion piping system. Spring completion.
- **MP-28.02 Redfield Road Bridge Replacement** –The project is essentially complete although we have issues with approach rail width that will necessitate modifications to the railings and curbing. Design modifications are currently underway.
- **Sub Canal Culvert Inspection** –Inventory and cursory inspection efforts have been completed. We are working with our bridge inspection consultant in developing a price for a more detailed conditions inspection report for each of the structures and will be getting the inspections scheduled when the work order is approved.
- **DGS 12 Bridge Replacement Project** – Informal agreement on fee schedule has been reached with the design consultant. The formal agreement is being prepared for signature and execution. Once fully executed, the consultant can begin design.

Nick Forte – Are Aqueducts included in 12 Bridge Project?

Tony – No they are on the Master List

Park Manager's Report – Josh Swartley

Point Pleasant pumping station

- FPW did max out their allocation at end of summer between increased fire suppression needs, increased Limerick power plant needs, and unanticipated needs of sending water out of allocation to Horsham area.
- Jeff Pifer says some demands have decreased now, bigger water needs have reduced and not maxing out their allocations
- Still have a couple documents to send to DRBC to satisfy their needs for this test period to begin.

River wall study

- Working with USACE to coordinate site visit, either by land or by sea (err...river)
- Aiming for mid-November
- Potential for boat visit to be pushed to spring, all dependent on if river comes up

D&L/Friends sign replacement/redesign

- Park managers, regional EE coordinator, D&L, and FODC met to discuss replacing worn signs as well as possibly redesigning some waysides and kiosks
- Up for redesign is a 3-paneled kiosk at Raubsville/TRRA/Groundhog Lock
- Discussed redesigning panel for PA/NJ canal loop trails

Tullytown crossing

- APM met with Tullytown Boro, D&L, Eastern Greenways, PEC, and other consultants to discuss crossing issues for pedestrians at the Levittown Shopping Center and Levittown Parkway.
- Brainstormed general ideas, discussed cheap and fast solutions vs expensive/complex solutions.
- Ideally, want to break into two phases

- Phase 1 being the low cost options: signage, road markings, planting trees along towpath
- Phase 2 being bigger, more expensive: relining trails, moving sidewalks

Whitewater release

- Slated for Nov 5 & 6
- Right now we're waiting to see if Nockamixon Lake rises enough to allow for a release – if we get no more rain between now and then we won't be able to hold the release

AA vacancy

- Job announcement closes the 14th, but may be a while before we get someone onboard

Menzi

- Currently Harrisburg is evaluating the value of purchasing a new Menzi machine as opposed to paying \$45k+ to repair an old machine which keeps breaking.

Water Augmentation Plan

- Revised plan sent to the Backup Watering Subcommittee for review and comment

Maintenance Drawdown

- Drawdown began September 26th and re-water is anticipated to begin by the end of October in the upper section of the canal. Re-watering at Centre Bridge began on October 12th. Re-watering from New Hope south is dependent on river levels, anticipating the end of October.
- Work to be completed during the drawdown: install bypass at Lower Limeport Bridge, repair stone wall at Woody's Bridge, repair stone wall at Lock 22/23, repair stone wing wall at Lock 5, inspect Bowman's Hill waste gate, inspect canal prism in the Airport Road area, repair sinkholes in the Narrows area (north of lock 20), and repair sinkhole/erosion north of Rieglesville.
- Drawdown of the canal must take place between July 15th and October 1st, due to the regulations established by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to protect the imperiled eastern redbelly turtle. During the drawdown period, park staff will be on site to remove and relocate any turtles, fish, and other species of concern to a safe location should they become stranded in a section of the canal with low water.

DRBC Docket and New Pump Locations

- A new DRBC application will be submitted in November and will include: adjustments to our current allocation; the addition of two new pumps at Marshal Island and Bowman's Hill; additional allocation for the new pumps; and explore the idea of an allocation under the Delaware Canal docket for the Point Pleasant pump (3 million gallons per day currently under the Forest Park Water Docket, check with DRBC).

Susan Taylor – Advised that the Northern end should be reevaluated for Red bellied turtles if not it could adjust need for the current draw down dates.

Tony – Army Corp. has been contacted on that nothing back yet.

Sub-committee Reports

- Nominations /Administration Sub-Committee – Board still has openings, a new resident Bill Kiesling is interested in a public interest position on the board, will forward info to Bill Mitchell.
 - Status of some board members in question: Chet has not been seen at meetings not certain he is still a current board member, Elisa will be taking H. Scott Everet’s position, and River Road Business claims to still exist but cannot seem to find who would be their representative on the board. Bill Berman has also been unseen for a while.
 - Nancy will check with members to update.
 - Next meeting in January: Nancy’s position as Chair is only for a year, so Nomination Committee has to come up with names of other interested parties
- Canal Backup Watering Sub-Committee – Covered already.
- Regional Liaison/Legislative Sub-Committee – Nick Forte has been in contact with Candidates in both parties to express that the Canal is a top priority.

Vision Study Update – Elissa

- Study 160 pages released to steering committee for comments yesterday.
- A 30 day public comment period will follow until the end of November.
- Study on CD for distribution and 2 page summary will follow Study was presented with DC 21 in Philadelphia.

DRJTBC Scudder Falls Bridge Presentation- Rebecca Traylor (Michael Baker International), Kevin Skeels (DRJTBC), & Richard Rash (AECOM)

(Full presentation attached)



DRJTBC_DCNR_10-13-2016.pdf

Highlights:

- I-95 will be widened over Canal; associated abutment walls will be farther set apart than current walls, giving a more open underpass for canal prism and towpath
- Pedestrian connection will allow bike/pedestrian traffic to connect from Delaware Canal towpath in PA to Delaware & Raritan towpath in NJ
- Pedestrian walkway will connect with Delaware Canal towpath via side of road, with appropriate markings/directional signage. Users will not have to cross Woodside Rd.
- Large trees and vegetation will remain as much as possible to protect towpath viewshed from new toll-collection building and highway.

New Business

Susan Taylor – Mentioned the observance that River Rd construction near Virginia Forrest, due to water routing of new roadway, could potentially have impact on historic lock wall. Concerned parties met with PennDOT and voiced our concerns. Suggested for board to write letter to PennDOT, informing them that they have been advised of our concerns; Susan will write. Board approved.

Public forum & questions

No public questions

Adjournment at: 12:12 PM

Next meeting will be:
 Thursday, January 12th, 10:30am
 Riegelsville Borough Hall
 615 Easton Rd, Riegelsville, PA 18077