

**DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION  
PO BOX 284  
Bushkill PA 18324**

**Minutes of the January 19, 2008 Meeting**

A meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, January 19, 2008, at the New Jersey District Office in Walpack, New Jersey. Chairman McDowell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. This meeting was properly posted in the Federal Register, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (PL 92-463, Section 10(a)(2)).

**Roll Call**

Citizen Advisory Commission members in attendance: Ms. Bertucci-Turner, Mr. Gross, Mr. Heller, Mr. Longcore, Ms. Maxaner, Ms. McDowell, and Mr. Price. Absent were, Mr. Hanley, Mr. Kresge, Mr. Murray and Mr. Van Campen. Park staff in attendance: Superintendent Donahue, Deputy Superintendent Karotko, Chief of Resource Protection and Visitor Management Selleck, Chief of Administration Wilbur, Chief of Natural Resources Lynch, Chief of Visitor Services and Cultural Resources Wright, Management Assistant O'Leary, and Acting Superintendent's Secretary Bond. Members of the public who signed the attendance list included: Natalia Petranek, Jeffrey Butz, Gail Wershing, Ed Zygmunt, James A. Campistrous, Esther P. Ingrid, Janina A. Wycialek, Alicia Batko, Gary Tunkavige, and Anita Roy.

**Correspondence**

The list of letters received or sent since the last meeting was reviewed. This correspondence will be made part of the official record. Those wishing to review the correspondence may do so at park headquarters in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, or at the library repositories for the commission.

1. *New Jersey Herald* article dated September 13, 2007, titled "Farmer Activists Disagree On Bears"
2. *New Jersey Herald* article dated September 28, 2007, titled "Court Shoots Down Bear Policy"
3. *New Jersey Herald* article dated October 7, 2007, titled "Hunting Respect: New Jersey's Leadership Sacrificing Safety For Political Ends In Bear Debate"
4. *Star Ledger* article dated October 10, 2007, titled "N.J. Gets Short Shrift On Federal Spending"
5. *Star Ledger* article dated November 8, 2007, titled "It Wasn't Yogi This Time, As Signs Point To Boo Boo"
6. Press release dated October 16, 2007, titled "Van Campen Day"
7. Press release dated October 16, 2007, titled "Annual 'Octivities' Program"
8. Press release dated November 2, 2007, titled "Wildland Fire In Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area"
9. Press release dated November 8, 2007, titled "GIS Day Open House"
10. *Star Ledger* article dated November 14, 2007, titled "Anglers Win Numbers Game"
11. *Star Ledger* article dated November 21, 2007, titled "Don't Be Fooled By Dwindling Bear Numbers"
12. *Pocono Record* article dated May 19, 2007, titled "Location of Power Transmission Line Through the WGNRA Uncertain"

13. Press release dated November 19, 2007, titled "Victorian Christmas Celebrations At Millbrook Village"
14. *Pike County Dispatch* article dated November 22, 2007, titled "Port Council Gets Update On Power Line Litigation"
15. Copy of electronic mail dated November 28, 2007, provided by Nick Homyak titled "Organic Act Trashed...Too Much Litter...Litter Must Become A Priority In the NRA"
16. Letter from Leonard R. Peck dated December 5, 2007, regarding closing of Old Mine Road
17. Online *Pocono Record* article dated December 7, 2007, titled "Park Rangers Always On The Lookout For Poachers"
18. *Pocono Record* article dated December 7, 2007, titled "Historic Road Closing May Lead To Court Decision"
19. *New Jersey Herald* article dated December 9, 2007, titled "Sparta Trash Plan Will Benefit Most"
20. Electronic mail from Bill Hanley dated December 13, 2007, regarding Oyster Farms
21. Online *Pocono Record* article dated December 13, 2007, titled "Time For Hunters To Take A Stand For Their Sport"
22. Letter to Mr. Edward Zygmunt, Office of Congressman Carney, dated December 13, 2007, regarding invitation to attend CAC Meeting and Mr. Ronald Corey's apology.
23. Press Release dated December 17, 2007, titled "Local Artist Paints Ornaments For White House Christmas Tree"
24. Online *Pocono Record* article dated December 18, 2007, titled "Report: Reservoirs Could Have Lowered Floodwaters By 6 Feet"
25. Press Release dated December 19, 2007, titled "Park Closes On Christmas Eve"
26. Online Cañon City Daily Record dated December 28, 2007, titled "Politicizing Of the Parks A Bad Road To Go Down"
27. Press release dated January 3, 2008, titled "Delaware Water Gap NRA Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting"
28. Electronic mail dated January 7, 2008, from Mr. Bill Hanley regarding CAC Meeting and *New York Times* online article titled "Don't Urbanize the National Park Service" regarding Old Mine Road
29. Letter to John J. Donahue, Superintendent dated January 17, 2008, from Cathie Maxaner, Chairwoman, Save Our Structures (SOS) regarding funding for the park Historical Architect position.

### **Minutes**

Chairwoman Ms. McDowell noted that a correction should be made to the October Minutes reflecting that Jim Price was in attendance. He was quoted as speaking but not listed as being present. The October minutes were accepted and certified.

### **Chairman's Report**

Ruffed Grouse Society: Ms. McDowell introduced Gary Tonkavitch of the Ruffed Grouse Society who provided a brief presentation on the group's history, the Ruffed Grouse as the PA State bird, and the group's goals and achievements. The group currently has about 20,000 members nationwide and 130 chapters. Mr. Tonkavitch also spoke about the Ruffed Grouse as the Pennsylvania State bird and about the Wood Cock birds.

The Chapter Program organized in FY 2000 and works with private land owners. They provide flyers and information to land owners that will promote wildlife habitat.

The Ruffed Grouse Society works with land managers to benefit wildlife. Research is done by University learners and Professors of Wildlife Biology. They partner with public and private land owners for young forests. The research has been on going for about 6 years. There is a 37% decline in forest land. They work with Mr. Larry Hillaire to identify areas good for Ruffed Grouse. Aspen trees are important for the Ruffed Grouse. When the Aspen trees are cut back they regenerate and provide coverage for the birds. Invasive species need to be removed as well.

The Chapter had 10 members go through Chainsaw Safety courses that would be eligible to help cut back on trees and remove Autumn Olive and other invasive species.

Projects on Public Lands: Walkill along with Hanesville and the Sussex area need to have non-native species removed such as Clove. Evergreens were planted in the Flatbrook area. The group is very passionate and dedicated.

In response to a question from the public, Gary stated that 1/3 of the operating budget comes from banquets that are organized by the group.

Jan McDowell thanked Mr. Tonkavitch for his presentation.

CAC Member Richard Gross spoke on his experiences on birds and trapping of birds.

#### Sub-Committees

Save Our Structures (SOS = Historical): Ms. Cathie Maxaner reported on SOS, a sub-committee of the Cultural Resource Committee of the CAC. Ms. Maxaner welcomed the members present from SOS. The sub-committee is made up of 11 grassroots organizations, local historians, county historians and archivers, state historians, liaisons, and advisors at the National level. SOS includes 1500 members of the local association. She stated that the goals of SOS are being reviewed and will be fine tuned. SOS will also be looking at outreach and goals. A workshop on advocacy included various presenters and topics.

Cultural Resources: No report at this time.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. John Donahue introduced park staff.

Mr. Donahue provided a PowerPoint presentation based on the park's Annual Evaluation 2007, reporting all of the success and strides that the park has made. Volunteers In the Parks highlighted Ms. Gail Wershing as Volunteer of the Year and Miss Clarissa Santiago as Student Volunteer of the Year.

Superintendent Donahue also commented on the River Clean-Up and how DEWA works with its partners on making accomplishments happen.

#### **Public Participation**

Doyle Nelson, former Deputy Superintendent of DEWA, inquired about the Shawnee Valley Development work and the importance of keeping the permits regarding the future development.

Mr. Donahue responded that the developers have increased open space to maintain preservation in the future and stated that he wrote a letter in support of the development because of changes they made. They agreed on 12,000 rather than 70,000 more time shares.

Mr. Tom Hoffman stated that a million dollars was spent on the Zimmerman House and that it is a target for vandalism. Non-profits need to live in this house to help prevent vandalism. He further referred to the Zimmerman project as wasteful.

Superintendent Donahue stated that he wants a partner to complete the necessary work at the Zimmerman House with a significant plan in mind. The park is already working with someone with a plan. The area, which is commonly known to hunters and visitors, is patrolled regularly. Mr. Donahue noted a Department of Interior Policy.

Representative Mr. Edward Zygmunt, of Congressman Carney's office determined this project will be funded.

Ms. Janet McDowell stated that Mr. Hanley had surgery and was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Jim Price expressed his discontent with Mr. Hoffman's past statement regarding the Zimmerman House.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he was put on hold in obtaining events notices. He asked why he was put on hold from receiving these and that he wants the committee to look into this matter. Mr. Hoffman also wanted to know why the DEWA Safety Officer did not attend this meeting. Mr. Hoffman added that there were only 2 River Rangers during the 2007 River Clean Up at the boat ramps. He asked whether the park will do an air pollution test. Mr. Hoffman raised concerns about Management Performance waivers.

Mr. Jeffrey Butz is a member of Stewards of Park History. Mr. Butz invited anyone interested to talk to him after the meeting. He added that he is pleased with Superintendent Donahue's report. Mr. Butz stated that he will assist with maintenance projects in New Jersey during FY2008.

Ms. Esther Irwin represented the Friends of DEWA. She states she is a native of New York and that more people need to be exposed to this area. She then turned it over to Mr. J. Angelo who distributed handouts to the public. Mr. Angelo said that he would like to see more visitors in this area and that he is in business for himself in Milford, PA.

Ms. Natalia Petrianyk is a member of the Pahaquarry Foundation and of the Milford Village Historical Society. Ms. Petrianyk is also a representative of the Julius Project, BB Van Campen, SOS and DEWA Friends. She expressed her concerns of security at the BB Van Campen House and maintenance of grounds.

Ms. Petrianyk presented a document that Tom Solon, DEWA Architect, had presented on work performed at the BB Van Campen House. She thanked Bob Karotko, DEWA Deputy Superintendent, for participation on the Julius House. She then asked if Tom Solon's position will be filled when he retires.

Ms. Gail Wershing is President of Friends of Delaware Water Gap NRA. Ms. Wershing provided a brief report on the group's accomplishments so far. They have provided \$10,000 worth of aide to the park. The Friends were responsible for opening the Bushkill Visitor Center during FY2007. 85% of the post cards that were filled out during these events indicate the visitors' interest to return. The Friends of DEWA kept the facility open from Memorial Day until Mid October.

Ms. Janina Wycalek is a member of Friends of the Park and asked for volunteers to help with groups. She urged the park to fill positions of expected retirees Mr. Tom Solon and Ms. Sue Kopczynski. Ms. Wycalek said that the group would like to have new positions on site. She states that there is a need for consistency and that there is also a need to capitalize on the asset/interest of SOS. Ms. Wycalek said that the Friends group is willing to help.

Traveling on Old Mine Road north was discussed. This road, which is a thru fare, was closed by the Hull Family. Ms. Wycalek indicated that it should not be closed.

Superintendent Donahue explained that this issue is being addressed by the Solicitors office.

Ms. Alicia Batko is a Montague Township Historian and stated that her heart is content. She says she also represents SOS, Stewards of Park History, and is promoting visitation. She presented a letter that she wrote to Superintendent Donahue (Attachment 1). Ms. Batko also expressed her concerns of Mr. Tom Solon being replaced after he retires. She is concerned his position will not be filled.

Ms. Batko stated that she would like Ferry Road open. She offered assistance from the members of her society. She discussed the issue of Homeland Security and how Rt. 209 is a main artery and that Old Mine Road needs to stay open.

Ms. Batko added that the CAC Committee expires on October 30, 2008 and asked if the bill would be renewed.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Gordon Heller stated that he works for Northampton County and is presently working on removing Autumn Olive, which is an invasive species. The discussion of estimated cost to remove was stated as 10 acres a day at \$1,000.00. This control measure is effective only if the task is repeated in 30 days.

Mr. Gross commented that the CAC did not hold an Administrative Meeting since the last CAC meeting. Mr. Gross also reported on issues regarding river access, hunting seasons, etc.

Deputy Superintendent Karotko spoke about 3 Bridges and said that DEWA is working with Federal Highway in setting a meeting with Trout Unlimited to move forward on the project. DEWA hopes to have a plan of action.

Mr. Gross said that someone will talk to Davis Chant and identify issues to fix 3 Bridges and open Roy Bridge. Mr. Gross added that several sections of discussion, Cadu specifically, Shimmer Tract and the fact that there is a need for more access to Mashipicong Island. Mr. Gross said that he is okay with the closing of sections of Old Mine Road, i.e. from Van Campen to Pompey Section.

Ms. Janina Wycalek spoke on the Hull Farm (also known as the Harker's Farm). The Superintendent stated that he met with the Hull family to express the importance of the road being open and will meet with the lawyers. A plan of action is being worked on to get a right of way.

The Friends of DEWA stated they will work on the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid. Ms. Gail Wershing is working on a panel using a GPS unit to locate the infected trees. A program called "Sponsor A Tree" is being recommended. The park is dealing with increasing the knowledge of the Wooley Adelgid. The park is minimizing on the impact and hitting the most crucial areas.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Edward Zygmunt, representative of Congressman Carney's office and representative of Pike and Wayne Counties, introduced himself.

Ms. Jan McDowell asked that use of paper be reduced during CAC meetings. She announced that there will be an administrative meeting in February at Park Headquarters. The date was set for February 6, 2008, at 6:00 pm. She will send confirmations via electronic mail.

The members decided on having the next CAC meeting on March 15, 2008.

#### **Public Participation**

Mr. Tom Hoffman stated that the Recreation Area needs to have a Recreation Community. Mr. Hoffman said that the CAC should contact Hale Hawbacker regarding promotion of business at CAC meetings.

Mr. Hoffman asked again if the mailings are being upheld from him.

Mr. Jeffrey Butz gave a presentation on flooding of Delaware Water Gap NRA. He stated that he saw the exact same presentation at Sussex County. Mr. Butz expressed his concerns regarding the dams of New York. He said that during flood season the dams release 80% of the over flowing the rivers. He stated that this is an unconscionable act. He asks if DEWA seeks any funding for this action.

Mr. Karotko stated that we did not show anyone flow system management. You may comment on this in March. There will be public meetings for comment.

Mr. Lynch explained that this is a complex issue. The dams are not designed to hold for flood management. He added that the Flexible Flow Management Plan will be ready in mid March.

Jan McDowell stated that the Delaware has a very huge watershed by so many small streams. Jan McDowell wants committee to keep track of what water is lined above us.

Deputy Superintendent indicated that DEWA will research this issue further and prepare a report on the Water Management for the next CAC meeting, which will be part of the Superintendent's Report.

CAC Chair, members and DEWA Management team thanked Fernwood for hosting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Melanie Bond, Acting Secretary

“Certified to the best of my knowledge”

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Jan McDowell, Chair