

**DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION
PO BOX 284
Bushkill PA 18324
Minutes of the June 14, 2008 Meeting**

A meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, June 14, 2008, at the Bushkill Meeting Center in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Mr. Gross, Mr. Hanley, Ms. Maxaner, Mr. Longcore, Ms. McDowell, Mr. Murray, Mr. Price and Mr. Van Campen. Absent were Ms. Bertucci-Turner, Mr. Heller and Mr. Kresge. Park staff in attendance: Superintendent Donahue, Deputy Superintendent Karotko, and Superintendent's Secretary Colon. Members of the public who signed the attendance list included: Herb Meyerson, Ed Zygmunt, B. Brown, Myra Snook, Arthur Garris, Patricia Haggerty Frato, Holly Ostby, Rob McDowell, Alicia Batko, Kathleen Gross, Wickliffe Mott, John Sivick, Jen Wycalek, and Philip Chase.

Meeting Minutes

The Chairman called for approval of the January 19, 2008 and March 15, 2008, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously and certified by former Chairwoman McDowell.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Price provided a brief history and background of the CAC (Attachment 1).

Mr. Price welcomed all in attendance and opened the public forum explaining that the primary purpose of the meeting was for the public to comment on the reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Bill Hanley explained that the forum was strictly for comments and that it was not a question and answer session.

Public Forum

Chairman Price opened the forum encouraging the public to voice their opinion whether or not they support reauthorization of the CAC.

Stephen Van Campen commented on historical aspects of the CAC and described his association with the park service and the Commission. He said that public participation has a positive effect on the citizens of the area and the park service.

Mr. Bob McDowell, former director of US Fish and Wildlife Service, said that he has worked with the park service at various levels to manage joint resources. He added that management of

the resources without public input is not productive. He stated that the commission provides support for needs of park service as well as support for securing funds. He expressed his support for the reauthorization of the commission by the Congress.

Mr. Tom Hoffman said that the material that announced the meeting reflects that its purpose was to discuss reauthorization of the commission. Mr. Hoffman indicated that Mr. Hanley explained that the first part of the meeting would not be used for questions and answers. He expressed his disagreement with the way CAC handles study sessions behind closed doors without allowing public participation and not having regular monthly meetings. Mr. Hoffman stated that he does not support reauthorization of the CAC and recommends creation of a new agency that is result driven and municipality based. Mr. Hoffman cited the Upper Delaware Council as an exemplary agency which supports the mission of the Upper Delaware River Corridor and facilitates communication among existing groups, interested individuals, organizations and municipal governments. He further advised the CAC members to resign, adjourn the meeting and allow for the formation of a new agency.

Ms. Alicia Batko spoke of her many years of service and read the two following excerpts:

"The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on matters pertaining to the management and operation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, as well as on matters affecting the recreation area and its surrounding communities."

105TH CONGRESS: "The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Advisory Commission (Commission) was established on October 31, 1988 by Public Law 100-573. The Commission provides local governments the opportunity to coordinate local planning with park managers and provides local residents with a voice in the management and operation of the park."

"An important role for the Citizen's Advisory Commission has been to actively solicit public input on issues of concern to park visitors, neighbors and partners. The CAC holds quarterly public meetings on issues relating to the management and operation of the recreation area. If the Congress does not reauthorize the CAC, the National Park Service would continue to seek the views of its various constituencies through similar public meetings."

Ms. Batko indicated that the SOS is a subcommittee that was formed of historical organizations that can address the void being left by the retirement of the Historic Architect, the Cultural Resources Chief and soon - the Park Archaeologist. She added that number of the historical society members can readily locate answers about sites and that they have offered their services to the park service and she feels that they have been overlooked. She added that the people whose homes and land were taken deserve to not have their valley heritage forgotten.

Ms. Batko spoke in support of the reauthorization of the CAC, but said that its role needs to have relevance, must assure greater communication with the towns and groups affected, and also communication from the members back to those entities by which they were appointed.

Mr. Nik Homyak spoke in favor of reauthorizing the CAC adding that he welcomes it as it is or in any other formation. Mr. Homyak added that the NPS is guilty of lack of insensitivity as it gets further away from traditional forms of recreation. The Park Service continues to open more areas of river to the public who do not behave responsibly and NPS can not protect from negative impact. During the initial writing of the GMP, public was allowed to comment and he then responded.

Mr. Denis Ferfecki, Tristate Trout, Rockaway, New Jersey, which now has about 5,000 regular readers enjoying trout resource in tri-state area. He is representing his subscribers to support reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Jeffrey Buttz, of Stewards of History Group said that he finds the CAC to be a good source to learn and to communicate with NPS. He said it serves as a good source of information to public in a better way than articles or mailings, pamphlets, and finds that current administration has been good in communication with public on future and current projects. He expressed concern with transmission of information if the CAC is suspended. He therefore supports reauthorization of the CAC and wishes it stays intact. He agrees with Mr. Hoffman that there should be small changes but does not support the new agency concept.

Mr. Herb Meyerson thanked the commission for their support toward the Montague-Milford Bridge which during construction will have a shuttle bus to transport visitors across the bridge. He cited that successful alternative is a representation of the purpose and influence of the commission. Mr. Meyerson expressed his support for reauthorization of the CAC and recommended formation of volunteer groups within the commission to work on small projects and meet monthly.

Mr. Arthur Garris is a Lehman Township resident who in the past served on the township's board for more than 30 years. Mr. Garris expressed his support for reauthorization of the CAC adding that during its history of service, the Commission has served to assist with conflicting issues between the NPS and other organizations.

Ms. Myra Snook, Sussex County resident and member of the Millbrook Historical Society noted that it is difficult to find out what goes on the Pennsylvania side of the park without holding the CAC meetings. Ms. Snook indicated that these meetings are valuable and expressed her support for reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Wickliffe Mott is a member of the Hardwick Township Historical Society. Mr. Mott represented the members of the society and stated that he is in agreement with the concept of the commission and recommends refining of its functions. Mr. Mott further expressed his support for continuance of the CAC.

Ms. Jen Wycalek is a resident of Walpack Township and stated that she has been coming to CAC meetings for the last 6 years. Ms. Wycalek indicated she supports reauthorization of the commission to continue for personal reasons and for the millions of visitors who need input of what goes on in the park.

Mr. Philip Chase is a Port Jervis, NY resident and attended the meeting as a member and representative of the Upper Delaware Council. Mr. Chase stated that he has attended most DRBC meetings in Trenton along with Director of Friends of the Upper Delaware River for which he served as vice-president in the early 70s. Mr. Chase stated that the Council is made up of 65 organizations and was successful with banning the Tocks Island Dam Project. He stays informed with what goes on in this area and appreciates the combined efforts of the CAC and DEWA and considers the CAC's achievements to be essential. Mr. Chase stated that he supports reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Dick Gross spoke as a private citizen of Matamoras, Pennsylvania. Mr. Gross is a federal government and NPS retiree and supports reauthorization of the public law that established the Commission.

Mr. Gross added that he is also representing Pike County Sportsman's Club which also supports reauthorization of the CAC. This group uses the park for outdoor recreation for which it was established.

Mr. John Sivick has been a local resident for 19 years and thanked the CAC for their 20 years of service and time donated to the park service. Mr. Sivick concurred that the Commission has been very active in the community and voiced his support for reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Stephen Van Campen spoke as a private citizen and thanked the public for their comments and support. He added that the affairs of the park were a mystery until the CAC was created as all CAC public meetings are memorialized and correspondence is made available during the meetings. Mr. Van Campen added that the public is welcome to view CAC correspondence at local libraries indicating that the material would not be available if it wasn't for the Commission.

Ms. Nancy Shukaitis submitted and read from a written statement (Attachment 2). Ms. Shukaitis expressed her support for reauthorization of the CAC.

Chairman Price thanked Ms. Shukaitis for her support. He also read a written statement (Attachment 3) expressing his support to reauthorize the CAC.

Mr. Jim Cadue, former Monroe County Commissioner, expressed his support for reauthorization of the CAC. He briefed on his involvement with the Commission for 20 years and added that he was one of the original members of the park's CAC. During his time of service, the CAC and DEWA addressed critical issues and all Commission members played important roles throughout the processes of controversial matters.

Mr. Cadue added that he is presently a member of the Sportsman's Club and is also representing the group's support to reauthorize the CAC.

As per Mr. Van Campen's inquiry, Mr. Cadue provided background information on a controversial issue related to a boot camp, which was voted out by the Commission. Mr. Cadue added that the event is a perfect example of the influence of the CAC.

Mr. Jim Price submitted two written statements, one from Keith W. Raser (Attachment 4) and one from Chris Wood (Attachments 5). Both statements indicate support for reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Gross motioned to allow written comments from the public to express their interest in reauthorization of the CAC. Mr. Hanley agreed and addressed Mr. Zygmunt and Ms. Ostby asking for their feedback on how the public can comment on this matter.

Mr. Ed Zygmunt, Congressman Carney's representative, expressed agreement with Mr. Hanley in that reauthorization of the commission should be a public decision. He agreed to brief Congressman Carney on the feedback of the CAC meeting and indicated that public comments to Congressman Carney can be sent to the local office.

Ms. Holly Ostby, Congressman Garrett's representative, indicated that letters from the public can be mailed directly to the local office and not to the Washington office. Letters can also be faxed or emailed.

Mr. Price motioned to allow public comments for a period of two weeks. Ms. McDowell amended the motion to allow public comments for a period of 30 days. Ms. Maxaner seconded the amendment and the motioned was passed. All members agreed on allowing for public comment for a period of 30 days. They also agreed on submitting a press release to all media. The letters sent by the public would be added to the CAC records.

Superintendent's Report

DEWA has been getting a lot media coverage during the recent weeks and more media coverage on the park will be expected, particularly related to the transmission lines.

Flood Recovery project is on-going well. The Student Conservation Association is assisting the park with storm recovery projects.

Centennial Projects: The park now has 2 Centennial Projects; 1 curatorial and the second one the Ramirez Solar House.

Ms. Maxaner asked if the park can look into networking with other groups similar to the SCA to work on historical projects.

Mr. Donahue explained that storm damage funds can only be used for storm recovery projects. The park is looking into other projects with lands support on historic conservation that have been impacted by the floods, such as culverts.

We have other projects with lands support on historic conservation, looking at some branches impacted by floods, culverts.

Ms. Maxaner asked Mr. Donahue to report on the projects at the next CAC meeting. Mr. Donahue agreed.

Mr. Van Campen addressed Mr. Donahue and asked him to express his opinion regarding reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Donahue explained that all major projects are not launched without public input, which he welcomes. Public input is allowed in different forms, including workshops and meetings which allow for public participation. Some recent projects that have included public participation included Rehabilitation of Childs Park and projects of Route 209. Mr. Donahue indicated that he also has an 'open door' policy for public to visit with him.

Mr. Donahue thanked all complementary remarks from the public.

Accountability of Funds: Mr. Donahue explained that that the park is transparent on how funds are used. The use of funds is reported through press releases sent to all media.

Mr. Donahue added that over the years public attendance at CAC meetings is very poor. This public forum does not create public interaction and does not reach much of the public.

Mr. Van Campen indicated that citizens have various ways of interacting with the Commission, including electronic mailings, snail mail, attendance to meetings, obtaining CAC meeting information through their local library, and reading the newspaper. The CAC welcomes the citizens that attend the meetings as well.

Mr. Donahue stated that the park is not taking a stand on reauthorization of the CAC. He added that he has not heard or seen a compelling need for it and that he is not sure whether it should continue.

Mr. Hanley indicated that this forum is the only format that the citizens can voice their opinion on any issue they wish to address. He stated that the park invites the public for specific purposes and that the CAC is open to all issues of concern. He added that he respects Mr. Donahue's position but that is exactly why the Commission is needed.

Mr. Van Campen added that the CAC is made up of members with expertise in different fields. It has biologists, fish and wildlife technicians and historians and these are people who are donating time to the NPS and expressed disagreement with the position of the park service toward the CAC.

Public Participation

Mr. Tom Hoffman spoke on the progress of the meeting and how he noticed how participants were interrupted while addressing the CAC. He stated that this is the pattern of the CAC meetings. He added that during the meeting of November 2007 a female park service employee was treated rudely in public and no one came to her defense, including several uniformed employees.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the CAC has a history of holding study session meetings behind closed doors not allowing the public to participate. He added that the CAC eliminated the Roberts Rules of Order and that former Chair Ms. McDowell explained that the rationale for the decision

was that the rules were too complex. He said that the public is not allowed to review the minutes when drafted and that this form of business is a concern to him.

Ms. McDowell explained to Mr. Hoffman that drafted minutes are not shared with the public until the document is officially certified.

Mr. Hoffman said that the park service eliminated his name from its mailing list and that he is not notified of park events. He added that Mrs. Colon informed him that his requests were put on hold.

Mr. Donahue explained that Mr. Hoffman did contact Mrs. Colon in the past and Mrs. Colon put his telephone call on hold while she checked the mailing list. Mrs. Colon informed Mr. Hoffman that he was in fact in the park's mailing list. Mrs. Colon has been mailing Mr. Hoffman copies of all park press releases on public events and meetings.

Mr. James Moll stated that he is representing himself as a private citizen and also as a member of a newly formed club made up of power boat owners. He complained that park rangers run the river at decent speed and that they (boat owners) are restricted. He understands that the enjoyment of the canoers must be respected but that the speed of their boats does not impact their recreation on any negative aspect. Mr. Moll added that the boat group would like to work with the NPS in writing bylaws that would also consider the enjoyment of boaters and make sure that the speed limit for powered boats is not lowered any more than it already is.

Mr. Moll also complained that the Kittatinny boat launch has not been rebuilt. Mr. Donahue explained that the park is working on rebuilding the boat launch. However, the park service is required to go through regular permitting processes with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection which is a long term process. The park's goal is to get it fixed and make it more useable by having a horseshoe ramp as well. There have not been discussions on limiting size of motors but there are speed limits.

Mr. Holl added that the speed limits have been set to benefit the canoers and that he feels discriminated against.

Mr. Donahue encouraged Mr. Holl to write a letter and bring his group to meet with park management.

Mr. Holl stated that the boaters have served to rescue people on the river and that they are not there to impair visitors. He also stated that he supports reauthorization of the CAC.

Jenina Wycelak stated that she considers the CAC meetings to be an important resource to the public, even if only one person attends the meeting. She asked that Mr. Donahue support the volunteers who are members of the Commission.

Ms. Wycelak announced that Friends of the Park will be having its membership meeting this Saturday, June 14th, at which will be followed by a Lecture Series. The meeting location is the Bushkill Meeting Center and the public is invited to attend the Lecture Series.

Ms. Wycalek announced that the Walpack Historical Society meets at the Van Campen Inn which is open most weekends. Its next meeting is scheduled for June 22nd, 1:00 pm., at the Walpack Church. A movie showing the 30 years of history with Walpackings by Henry Ford in 1932 promoting his first engine.

Ms. Wycalek reported for Patti Frato announcing The Depue Family Day event scheduled for June 22nd, 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Herb Meyerson asked if there is a CAC website. Mr. Donahue explained that they do not but that the public can send mail to their post office mail address. They do not have a CAC email address.

Mr. Hanley explained that all CAC members are private citizens and that they do not distribute their mail address with the public. The public can contact the park service first and the park service will forward the information to the CAC.

Mr. Meyerson said that increasing the speed limit for motored boats will have an impact on kayakers and canoers. There is the noise factor that will impair the resources and the visitor experience.

Ms. Alicia Batko noted after corresponding with Mrs. Shukaitis, who had sent a letter to Mr. Price to read into the record, that she is not sure if using the term 'council' or 'committee' would be more appropriate than the term 'commission', which seemed to imply power. Ms. Batko again expressed her support to reauthorize the CAC with its original intent to serve as ears and advocate for the citizens.

Ms. Batko noted that in order to continue to provide a forum to advocate for the natural as well as the cultural and historic resources within the park, the Freeholders strongly urge that the Commission be reauthorized by Congress and that its appointees are further charged to seek input from the entities they represent and from the communities directly affected.

DEWA had inherited lands originally slated to be flooded and as a result held 40 miles on both, the PA and NJ sides, inheriting more vacant sites than any other park while staffing plans and funding remain insufficient. Mrs. Batko recognized the park service for their efforts toward meeting its mission, particularly while being under staffed. Mrs. Batko added that that the partners, including the historical societies, have always offered to assist the park.

Ms. Batko stated that the partners are still waiting to get recognition from the par as far as their service toward interpretation of history. She asked for the park's plan to fill in the positions that are now vacant due to retirements and for those pending retirement as well.

Ms. Batko also reported on a letter that all partners received from the Park Service addressing restrictions to food service. Mrs. Batko indicates that as per her findings through the county's food service health department, there appears to be no concurrence with county and federal

guidelines on food service. She added that because these restrictions impair the partnerships' events they should all have been consulted.

Ms. Batko stated that the name of the Deremer Property is misspelled on the List of Classified Structures (LCS). She asked that the park submit a request to correct the spelling.

Jenina Wycalek added that CAC's mission is to interface with the public and the park. She expressed her disagreement with Mr. Donahue's comments regarding reauthorization of the CAC.

Wickliff Mott expressed his concern regarding speed limits of boaters and stated that as a scuba diver, he is concerned with visitor safety if speed limits are increased. He added that it is his hope that the park service sticks to their plan of ensuring visitor safety and resource protection.

Mr. Mott also inquired about the original horse trail plans and if there have been any recent revisions. Mr. Donahue explained that in 1990s the park did a Trails Plan for which public comment was sought through the process of an Environmental Assessment. It has not been revised again. As per Mr. Mott's request, a copy of the plan will be provided.

Mr. Mott expressed his support to reauthorize the CAC.

Mr. Van Campen apologized for missing various CAC meetings throughout the years. He expressed his disappointment toward the NPS for not supporting reauthorization of the CAC.

Mr. Murray stated that throughout the meeting the public has expressed interest in reauthorization of the CAC but with consistency in that changes need to be made. He added that he concurs in part with Mr. Hoffman's comments regarding the goals of the commission. The members need to reflect on its future and goals and plans. The CAC needs to establish more credibility and come up with a plan to improve CAC. He added that the members are adversarial among selves. There are no existent plans because members feel that they are not supposed to.

Mr. Murray added that he interprets Mr. Donahue's comments as the CAC's need to convene and become more relevant, more proactive and less reactive. The Commission also needs to attract more people and that it is the members' responsibility to do accordingly. Mr. Murray stated that he would write to the NPS and copy CAC members regarding suggestions to improve their goals. He further added that if the CAC does not become proactive he will look at his priorities and reconsider his membership.

Mr. Van Campen expressed his disagreement with Mr. Murray about comments regarding the Commission members not attracting people to the meetings. He added that the commission has attracted a lot of good people and that the members are versified in interests and areas of expertise. He added that he was personally involved in making sure that the commission had a full membership.

Mr. Murray explained that the public has expressed what they want and that the members of the Commission need to make some changes to make it more effective and continue moving it forward. The CAC's goal is to serve the public and not for personal benefit.

Mr. Tom Hoffman stated that he was outside still on a break not being aware that the meeting was reconvened therefore not allowing him to listen and participate accordingly.

Mr. Hoffman asked the commission to address the issue of rude behavior during CAC meetings. He added that the members are rude among themselves, toward the public and park staff.

Ms. Maxaner inquired about training for CAC members and partnerships. Mr. Donahue explained that there is training for partners but not under CAC.

John Donahue explained that Commission members do not lobby. Members can lobby as individual citizens and then advise the commission. Members can write letters to Congress as private citizens.

Future Meeting Dates

Members agreed to meet again on Thursday, September 18, 2008, in New Jersey. The location will be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris Colon, Secretary

James N. Price, Chairman