

**DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION
PO BOX 284
Bushkill PA 18324
Minutes of the March 15, 2008 Meeting**

A meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at the Montague Township Office building in Montague, 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. Hanley, Mr. Heller, Mr. Kresge, Mr. Longcore, Ms. Maxaner, Ms. McDowell, and Mr. Price. Mr. Van Campen asked to be excused from the meeting. Absent was Mr. Murray. Park staff in attendance: Deputy Superintendent Karotko, Chief of Resource Protection and Visitor Management Selleck, Natural Resource Specialist Ms. Cooke-Bauer and Acting Secretary Bond. Members of the public who signed the attendance list included: Helen E. Dannatt, Jeffrey Butz, Janina A. Wycalek, Mark Utter and Alicia Batko.

Correspondence

1. Online PoconoNews.Net article dated January 11, 2008, titled "DWGNRA Leaseholders Not Subject to Property Tax".
2. Online *Pocono Record* article dated January 11, 2008, titled "Pike Commissioners Won't Tax State Park Land Leases".
3. Save Our Structures (SOS) Agenda and Minutes of January 12, 2008 SOS Meeting.
4. Online Pocono Record article dated January 20, 2008, titled "Panel Advises On Park Management, Matters Affecting Communities".
5. Online Pocono Record article dated January 23, 2008, titled "PPL Plans Massive New Power Line".
6. Online Pocono Record article dated January 23, 2008, titled "State Bill Would Protect Appalachian Trail Corridor, prevent Projects Like Alpine Rose".
7. Online River Reporter article dated January 24, 2008, titled "Objections Remain Over Delaware Fisheries Protection Plan".
8. Online Pocono Record article dated January 24, 2008, titled "Ruffed Grouse Society Works to Preserve Habitat".
9. Online NJ Herald article dated January 27, 2008, titled "2007 Sees Record Bald Eagle Hatch in N.J".
10. Online News Eagle article dated January 28, 2008, titled "PPL Begins Search for Transmission Line Route".
11. Letter from Janina A. Wycalek dated January 31, 2008, regarding reauthorization of Citizens Advisory Commission of the Delaware Water Gap NRA.
12. Online Pocono Record article dated February 1, 2008, titled "Appalachian Trail Must Be

Protected”.

13. Online River Reporter article dated February 7, 2008, titled “Power Line Company to Complete Application”.
14. Electronic mail from Nik Homyak dated February 8, 2008 with copy of New Jersey News Article The Record titled “Wildlife Poachers Fined. Killed Bear and Deer From ATVs”.
15. Letter to Janina Wycalek dated February 11, 2008, regarding Old Mine Road and the closure of a small portion of the road.
16. Letter to Gina Bertucci-Turner dated February 20, 2008 thanking her for hosting the Citizen Advisory Commission meeting on January 19, 2008.
17. Copy of letter dated February 20, 2008, from Janina A. Wycalek to New Jersey Herald, regarding reauthorization of Citizens Advisory Commission of the Delaware Water Gap NRA.
18. Online Lancaster New Era article dated February 22, 2008, titled “Turnpike CEO Fights for I-80 Toll Plan”.
19. Press Release dated February 28, 2008, titled “Delaware Water Gap NRA Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting”.
20. Press Release dated February 29, 2008, titled “Maple Sugaring Program At Millbrook Village”.
21. Electronic mail from jeanpublic@yahoo.com dated March 3, 2008, regarding self nomination to sit on the Citizen Advisory Committee and opposition to hunting.
22. Press Release dated March 8, 2008, titled “Temporary Road Closures During Amphibian Migration”.
23. Arts Off Main Gallery’s announcement/invitation to event titled “Vision for Julia’s” honoring Jean Zipser’s dream for the Julia Orthwine Artists’ Retreat.
24. Electronic mail from Herbert Meyerson dated March 11, 2008 regarding Milford-Montague Toll Bridge Rehabilitation Project-Bicycle/Pedestrian access.
25. Electronic mail from jeanpublic@yahoo.com dated March 13, 2008, regarding opposition to hunting.

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.

Superintendent’s Report

Deputy Superintendent Karotko began the report by covering the flooding concerns that the park staff faced just one week earlier and reported that the river and other areas are closed.

Mr. Karotko reported on the Graduate Students that were hosted by the park during Park Break and presented a copy of the program (Attachment 1). Eight (8) students participated in this week-long program focusing on Conservation Policy.

Mr. Karotko read a statement that stated the park is in support of the Delaware River Basin Commission’s Flex/Flow Management Plan.

The upcoming retirement of several employees from the park due this fiscal year was addressed. Mr. Karotko reported that until the employee actually vacates the position, we can not fill those

jobs. The position must be vacant before they can be advertised or filled.

Mr. Karotko explained that the rates for park housing are reviewed every five years and implemented after a full review. The recent review resulted in rent increases. As a consequence, some employees have moved out of park housing and others are planning to do as well.

The park was contacted about expanding electrical lines in the park. Tennessee Gas is also looking for rights-of-way.

Mr. Michael Carson is interested in a proposal to utilize the Zimmerman property to include outreach and education with a focus on Artistic endeavors.

Mr. Gross inquired on the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Flow Management Plan (FMP). Mr. Karotko explained that DEWA has responded to the FMP. Mr. Gross explained his disappointment on the park's view on the water flows. Deputy Karotko indicated that DEWA staff met with staff from the Upper Delaware National Scenic River to discuss water flow and flooding issues.

Mr. Gross asked if someone will make sure that rainbow trout and brown trout have enough water.

Deputy Superintendent Karotko stated that Brown and Rainbow Trout are "Exotic Species" and not technically subject to the protection of the NPS.

Mr. Hanley asked Deputy Superintendent Karotko, "What are the origins of the "Cherry Trees" which surround our National Mall in Washington, DC?" Mr. Karotko acknowledged that they are also "Exotic Species." However, he also stated that they have been incorporated into the cultural landscape of the park.

Ms. McDowell asked if the DRBC gave any final recommendations on water flows.

Mr. Karotko stated that they are still in the discussion stages.

Mr. Hanley indicated that exotic Brown and Rainbow trout are important to the recreation area as fishing is a recreational activity in the park.

Ms. Maxaner mentioned that there is storm recovery funding for flood repair of historic structures. Mr. Karotko explained that some funding can be used for cultural and historic repair as long as there is damage that resulted from the recent floods.

Mr. Longcore asked about the age of the existing General Management Plan (GMP). Mr. Karotko responded that the GMP was dated and that it is usually adopted for 15 years. The process is lengthy and costly. The Directors Policy is very strict as to what the Park can address such as sites and buildings.

Mr. Bob Longcore inquired about the Boiling Kettle that was used for fur trade, and stated that

the park doesn't seem to have much information on this. Mr. Longcore added that this type of information should be provided.

Deputy Karotko invited Mr. Longcore to work with him to address his concerns.

Mr. Heller asked how many structures of SHPO significance are within the park.

Mr. Longcore inquired about a letter from Ms. Jan Wycalek in which she addresses concerns about the CAC.

Mr. Karotko reported on the following:

DEWA Hemlock and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

Our program of Research, Monitoring, and Management of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and hemlock decline in the park is continuing. As of 2007, an average of nearly 30% of the hemlock trees in our monitoring plots have died since our monitoring began in 1993.

Infestation levels in the park have been increasing during the past three years, and in 2007 levels were extremely high. As a result, DEWA expects hemlock decline and mortality to increase during the next several years.

One of the park's top priorities is to keep hemlock trees alive -- to this end DEWA treated 650 trees with insecticide at Childs Park, Dingmans Falls, and Raymondskill Falls during 2007. To date, about 1,200 hemlock trees have been treated. At least an additional 2,000 trees will be treated in 2008.

In 2007 DEWA expanded its efforts to control invasive plants in hemlock stands. Major target species include Japanese barberry, tree-of-heaven, multi-flora rose, and garlic mustard.

Invasive plant suppression (mainly herbicide treatments of Japanese barberry) was completed on nearly 150 acres in five additional hemlock stands. This year the plan is to treat approximately 200 "new" acres.

DEWA continues to release biological controls to try to suppress HWA populations throughout the park. In 2007, with support from the New Jersey Beneficial Insect Lab., DEWA released 3,500 "little Chinese lady beetles" in upper Van Campen's Brook area. With additional support from the USDA Forest Service, DEWA released 2,390 "black Lari beetles" in the same area. DEWA hopes to release more bio-controls as they become available.

DEWA continues to be involved and support research about HWA and hemlocks in the park. A research paper (completed by the University of California at Berkeley) examining the effects of deer browse on plants in declining hemlock stands in the park will soon be published in a leading scientific journal.

Another project (coordinated by the USDA Forest Service) examining the effects of HWA on the growth of hemlock trees was also completed in 2007 and has been submitted for publication in a scientific journal.

Research (supported by the USDA Forest Service) conducted at Childs Park in the past four years evaluating the different methods of applying (soil injection vs. stem injection) is nearing completion.

Minutes

Ms. McDowell asked if any discussion was needed on the minutes of January 19, 2008. None of the CAC members had a copy of the minutes; therefore the discussion ended without approval of the minutes.

Public Participation

Mr. Jeffrey Butz is a member of Stewards of Park History and announced that the group will soon become a non-profit organization and willing to network with another organization to rehabilitate a house in Walpack. PH will help with leasing historic buildings in the future.

Mr. William Morrison is a representative of Stillwater Township in New Jersey. Mr. Morrison stated that a huge invasion of gypsy moth exists at the Kitattinny Ridge. He added that the township modified spraying to keep invasion down. Mr. Morrison said that the park does not spray, resulting in spreading of moths by wind from over the Kitattinny Ridge and down into Stillwater Township, which sits below the ridge. Mr. Morrison suggested for the park to partner with surrounding towns from Montague to Stillwater in the future to reduce this population.

Ms. Beth Raft stated that she would like for the Park Service to do intervene to keep down the population of the Gypsy Moth.

Mr. Herbert Meyerson explained that he is interested in knowing the park's participation with the Milford-Montague Bridge structural rehabilitation which has resulted in closing the bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists having a direct impact on recreational activities. Mr. Meyerson said he would like to see something done so the people can access the park by getting across the bridge instead of closing it to the public. Mr. Meyerson also said that this plan is not cost effective as there is no construction during the day time hours. He suggested volunteers from the NPS to help remedy the situation maybe by directing traffic during the day.

CAC Chair McDowell addressed Mr. Meyerson and explained that there isn't much influence on this issue since the bridge is not park property and the construction is not within the park.

Mr. Hanley suggested a volunteer to shuttle pedestrians and bicyclists during the day.

Mr. Gross said that the Milford-Montague Bridge is not owned by the Park Service and it is not part of the Recreation Area but it is very important. The CAC does have the obligation to help with this bridge issue. Mr. Gross asked the park to help.

Mr. Heller expressed his agreement in that the Park Service does have a moral obligation to intervene and assist in keeping the bridge open. He further suggested that inquiries should be addressed with State Representatives and Senators for assistance.

Ms. Maxaner asked if the park ever commented on the rehabilitation of the bridge. Mr. Karotko explained that he will look into this with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge.

Ms. Janina Wycalek is a resident of Walpack Township and a member of the Walpack Historical Society. Ms. Wycalek spoke on behalf of the Friends Group. She said that the park should enhance its recreational activities in some way and suggested Family Fun Days from 10:00 to 12:00 and have people make reservations.

Ms. Wycalek commented that the Friends Group holds lecture series and the plan is to once again open Bushkill Meeting Center in May thru September.

Ms. Wycalek also addressed the CAC and the park on a personal issue stating that the condition of historic buildings is declining. She added that the historic buildings should be occupied.

Ms. Wycalek also spoke in regards to Old Mine Road. She indicated that the road has been gated by the Hull brothers, new owners of the farm. Ms. Wycalek said that closing of the road is preventing her from facilitating her access to get to Bushkill, PA.

Ms. Wycalek also expressed her concerns regarding the possible closing of the CAC, and expressed her support of its reauthorization.

Ms. Alicia Batko echoed Mr. Longcore's concerns. She also indicated a correction be made to the October 13th Minutes. Ms. Batko submitted a note to Ms. Bond with her suggested changes (Attachment 2).

Ms. Batko asked who the point of contact is to express her concerns on signage in the park and said that that most of the signage was lost during the recent floods. She also expressed her opinion on road closure signs on the side of buildings. She added that visitors do not know they are in the park and sometimes people trespass into park owned buildings.

Ms. Batko added that DEWA is the only park announcing that Historic Leasing is suspended. She uttered she would like the Cultural Resources division to be staffed soon after the retirements take affect. She stated that Zera Osman did the Cultural Management Plan which was never confirmed.

Ms. Batko shared photos of the invasion of the Gypsy Moths within the New Jersey side.

Mr. Karotko explained that any vacant positions within the Cultural Resources Division, resulting from retirements, for example Tom Solon's and Sue Koczyinski's, will be advertised for staffing once the positions are officially vacated.

Mr. Mark Utter expressed concerns about the impact of the Gypsy Moth and spoke about Clove Road being closed along with the bike path thru the Montague Township and Sussex County. Clove Road will be closed for 2 to 3 months to fix a bridge.

Mr. Herbert Meyerson spoke of Log Tavern Road in Pennsylvania, which is also being impacted

by the Gypsy Moth. Mr. Meyerson stated that there are alternative routes which is an indication that the Milford-Montague Bridge should have a plan as well.

Mr. Tom Hoffman indicated that he is happy to see local representatives at the meeting. Mr. Hoffman said that people need to become more involved with local organizations, including the Delaware River Basin Commission, which has working sessions to make decisions that impact the park.

Ms. McDowell explained that the CAC could have administrative meetings and change the way of doing business.

Mr. Hoffman said he couldn't remember how the CAC came about to hold the last CAC meeting at Fernwood Resort, which is a private establishment rather than a government owned building. He inquired about whether or not there is an ethical issue or violation involved in this matter.

Mr. Gross explained that the location of the meeting is of the commission's choice. Mr. Gross suggested that Mr. Hoffman writes to the CAC or Superintendent Donahue on this issue.

Commission's Report

Ms. Maxaner referred to Correspondence Item No. 3, Save Our Structures (SOS) Agenda and Minutes of January 12, 2008. Ms. Maxaner reports that the February workshop was canceled and rescheduled for March 29, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop is titled "The Clock Is Ticking, What Can We Do?" Tom Solon, DEWA's Historic Architect, will be a speaker for the workshop. SOS is continuing to grow.

Ms. Maxaner asked for a status on the Leasing Program of the park structures, particularly a report from the regional office. Mr. Karotko agreed to look into it and extend an invitation to the regional staff.

Ms. Maxaner inquired about the staffing process for the expected vacancies within the Cultural Resource division. Mr. Karotko explained the process, which includes announcement of vacancy, rating of applicants, interviewing and hiring processes.

Ms. Cathy Maxaner expressed her concerns about staffing over the last decade. She asked if there is a plan to fix the 30% decrease in housing with employees moving out. She added that new procedures are being applied and are coming out of WASO.

Mr. Longcore asked how much money is being lost by not having "historic" in the name of the NRA.

Ms. McDowell suggested that the park gets more money from WASO for historical buildings. She recommended that an evaluation be made of what private entities exist in Peters Valley, Walpack, and Montague.

Ms. Maxaner stated that the CAC falls under a branching of the park. A letter on Cliff Park and taxes was written and posted on the web site. There needs to be a balance in funding. Central

money is available.

Mr. Gross inquired about the deadline for completion of the Joseph McDade Trail. He also asked whether the park will be adding parking or access areas. Bob Karotko answered that DEWA is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on this matter.

Mr. Gross asked about the Windshield Group which needs access through Old Mine Road and Mountain Road and are presently closed. Mr. Karotko stated that there is no update at this time.

Mr. Gross inquired about the washout on Old Mine Road and the issue with Three Bridges. Deputy Superintendent Karotko responded that the park is looking into this structural problem and added that this issue should be solved soon. The park is working on a proposal with the Fish and Wild Life Service and state of New Jersey.

Chairwoman McDowell inquired about the status on Hollow Road closure. Karotko answered that the park is still looking into this and is hopeful to have answers soon.

Old Business

Ms. Cathy Maxaner- New Press Release: Ms. Maxaner would like CAC listings to be more friendly. Mr. Karotko stated that the park will look into this matter and make necessary changes.

New Business

Ms. McDowell proposed that a letter be sent to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission and address the concerns regarding the Milford-Montague Toll Bridge Rehabilitation project and another letter to be sent regarding Clove Bridge.

Mr. Gross motioned the proposal. Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion was approved.

Mr. Hanley recommended that a letter should be sent to the National Park Service and address the issue on the Gypsy Moth adding that a cooperative effort should be made.

Ms. Maxaner recommended that a letter be written regarding Historic Structures and the leasing of these buildings. The letter should go to WASO and Region if needed in hopes that this will stop deterioration of buildings.

All favored that letters will be sent.

Re-Authorization of CAC

A brief discussion took place regarding the re-authorization of the commission. Correspondence Item No. 11 was cited by Mr. Gross. He said that Ms. Wycalek's letter to the editor of the NJ Herald is outstanding and summarizes what the CAC stands for.

Ms. McDowell stated that there is a need to get the CAC information out to the press. A specific public hearing/meeting can be set on a Saturday. Federal Register notification needs to be processed.

Mr. Hanley explained that the commission should go with the voice of the public whether or not to continue the functioning of the CAC. Public input should be solicited. The Federal Register Notice should make mention of a discussion on this matter.

Commission members decided that at the next CAC meeting the public will be given the opportunity to comment on whether or not the CAC should be re-authorized. Re-authorization of the commission will rely on public's interest to keep it active. The decision will be voted on by CAC members.

The next CAC meeting was scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the Bushkill Meeting Center, Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Bond, Acting Secretary

“Certified to the best of my knowledge”

Jan McDowell, Chair