

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

**Minutes of the October 13, 2007 Meeting**

A meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, October 13, 2007, 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. Hanley, Ms. Maxaner, Mr. Longcore, Ms. McDowell, Mr. Murray and Mr. Price. Absent were Mr. Van Campen and Mr. Heller. Park staff in attendance: Superintendent Donahue, Deputy Superintendent Karotko, Chief of Resource Protection and Visitor Management Selleck, Chief of Administration Wilbur, Acting Chief of Maintenance Tom Solon, Chief of Visitor Services and Cultural Resources Wright, Management Assistant O'Leary, and Superintendent's Secretary Colon. Members of the public who signed the attendance list included: Jen Wycalek, Jeffrey Butz, Ronald Corey, and Alicia Batko.

**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. Brochure dated October 10, 2006, titled "Exploring Pennsylvania's Native American Heritage"
2. *New York Times* article dated March 24, 2007, titled "Ex-Interior Aide Pleads Guilty To Lying In Lobbying Case"
3. Newsletter dated May 1, 2007, titled "Management of Overabundant Wildlife In National Parks"
4. *The Express Times* COMMENT dated May 8, 2007, regarding NJ Congressman Scott Garrett
5. *New York Post* article dated May 9, 2007, titled "Probers Rap Fed Over Circle Line Shipmate"
6. Press release dated May 11, 2007, titled "Park Receives Flood Damage Funding, Canoe and Boat Access Ramps, What's Closed, Debris Clean-Up On Islands and Shorelines"
7. *The Times-Tribune* article dated May 12, 2007, titled "Massive Power Line Could Cross Region"
8. Electronic mail from Nick Hamyak dated May 15, 2007, regarding NJ Swim Beach and the recreation area
9. *The Christian Science Monitor* article dated May 15, 2007, titled "Cheap Power To

- Northeast US: A Mixed Blessing”
10. *Pocono Record* article dated May 19, 2007, titled “A Watershed Moment”
  11. *Pocono Record* article dated May 19, 2007, titled “Students Get Old-Fashioned Education At Millbrook Village”
  12. *Pocono Record* article dated May 19, 2007, titled “Location of Power Transmission Line Through the WGNRA Uncertain”
  13. *The Middletown Press* article dated May 23, 2007, titled “Give Coyotes A Very Wide Berth”
  14. Online article dated May 23, 2007, from <http://blog.pennlive.com/lvbreakingnews/2007/05> titled “Turkey Hunter Shot In Face”
  15. *Pocono Record* article dated May 24, 2007, titled “Reduce Use, Then Fight”
  16. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding River Clean Up 2007
  17. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding US Attorney contact
  18. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding FACA-Request for Outside Legal Review of DEWA-CAC-FACA Re-Interpretations
  19. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding March 10, 2007 CAC Meeting-FACA Implications—Preparations for Renewal of CAC Legislation 2008
  20. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding Response to Concerns About Delaware Water Gap Citizens Advisory Commission
  21. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding Secretary of Interior Management Decisions Detrimental to NPS Citizens Advisory Commissions
  22. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding Conversation of May 5, 2007
  23. Electronic mail dated May 25, 2007, from Steve Van Campen regarding FACA Implications
  24. *Times Herald* article dated May 26, 2007, titled “Eagles Fly, Nest Nearby In Milford”
  25. Electronic mail dated May 31, 2007, from Steve Van Campen subject “I Finally Got My Answer”
  26. Press release dated May 31, 2007, titled “Appalachian Trail Anniversary Events To Be Held On Saturday”
  27. *Pike County Courier* article dated May 31, 2007, titled “Paddle the River At the Thirteenth Annual Delaware River Sojourn”
  28. Press release dated June 14, 2007, titled “Park Area Near Milford Closed Due To Nesting Eagles”
  29. Press release dated June 15, 2007, titled “New Kittatinny Point Visitor Center To Open This Month”
  30. Press release dated June 25, 2007, titled “Kittatinny Point Visitor Center Opening Ceremony Postponed”
  31. Press release dated June 28, 2007, titled “Native Plant Workshop At Dingmans Falls Visitor Center”
  32. *Pocono Record* article dated July 4, 2007, titled “PEEC Appoints New Education Director”
  33. Press release dated July 5, 2007, titled “Rangers Recover Body From Dingmans Creek”
  34. Press release dated July 6, 2007, titled “Victim Of Dingmans Creek Fatality Identified”
  35. *News Eagle* article dated July 9, 2007, titled “Saving Santos Farm May Happen In Pieces”

36. *The Associated Press* article dated July 9, 2007, titled "Bush: More Hunting Land"
37. Press release dated July 20, 2007, titled "Delaware River Clean Up Day Planned For July 25, 2007"
38. Press release dated July 20, 2007, titled "Prohibition On Bringing Firewood Into The Park"
39. Press release dated August 15, 2007, titled "Starry, Starry Night: A Tour of the Evening Sky"
40. Press release dated August 15, 2007, titled "Finding Of No Significant Impact Approved For The Environmental Assessment for McDade Trail Realignment"
41. Press release dated August 21, 2007, titled "Park Names Deputy Superintendent"
42. CAC Annual Report dated August 28, 2007
43. Press release dated September 11, 2007, titled "Starry, Starry Night: A Tour of the Evening Sky"
44. *News Eagle* article dated September 11, 2007, titled "Highland Village Impact Raises Concern"
45. Electronic mail dated September 21, 2007, from [jeanpublic@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanpublic@yahoo.com) regarding hunting
46. Press release dated September 25, 2007, titled "Pavement Work On Toms Creek Road Within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area"
47. *State Museum of Pennsylvania's News* release dated September 26, 2007, titled "Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission To Co-Sponsor Conference On Native American Heritage: One-Day Conference Includes History, Culture of Pa. Native Americans"
48. Press release dated September 26, 2007, titled "Park to Waive Fees On National Public Lands Day"
49. Press release dated September 26, 2007, titled "Millbrook Days Festival"
50. Electronic mail dated October 5, 2007, from Nick Homyak titled "Organic Act NJ Bear Management In DEWA"
51. Electronic mail dated October 10, 2007, from Nick Homyak titled "Corrected Organic Act Not First"
52. Electronic mail dated October 11, 2007, from [jeanpublic@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanpublic@yahoo.com) regarding hunting
53. PowerPoint presentation titled "River Clean Up Program 2007 Season"

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Donahue introduced park staff, including new Deputy Superintendent Robert Karotko who joined DEWA as of September 17, 2007. Mr. Karotko brings along expertise in various areas of park management, including his experience as policy analyst in Washington and a manager with Rivers and Trails program.

Ranger Mike Macksoud provided a PowerPoint presentation titled "River Cleanup Program: 2007 Season". A Question and Answer period was allowed.

Tom Hoffman inquired about the efforts of the Kittatinny Canoes River Clean-up. Ranger Macksoud explained that Kittatinny Canoes runs its own separate program.

Mr. Tom Hoffman commended the River Clean Up crew for their efforts.

CAC member Mr. Hanley asked if there is a continuous progress on clean-up or whether there is a collection of garbage within the park, specifically of large items. Macksoud explained that River Clean Up activities are continuous. However, the efforts of the River Clean-up crew members help to maintain garbage at minimal.

Mr. Hanley inquired about tires found along the river. Superintendent Donahue explained that the dumping of tires is the number one problem along the river. Most of the major debris shown on the presentation resulted from recent floods. The crew is making significant progress in maintaining the river as clean and safe as possible. This effort is major and a continuous activity.

Donahue added that River Clean-up Day sponsored by Kittatinny Canoes makes a positive impact. Initially employees of Kittatinny Canoes did the Clean-up program. They were then joined by volunteers of the community. However, the recent floods were so devastating that it made their efforts more challenging than previous years, demanding more funds and man power. For example, before the floods there were ninety-four (94) campsites; today sixty-two (62) have been recovered (62). Following the overwhelming impact of the first flood, DEWA organized its own River Clean-up Program in collaboration with Kittatinny Canoes, other canoe liveries in the area, and volunteers.

After the three floods, this was the first year that DEWA received funding for recovery of storm damages; however, a large amount of funds went toward efforts of emergency response. The buildings on the beaches have shown that their construction can sustain floods of this type.

Ranger Macksond added that cleaning of debris is a constant effort; however, every time something is taken out something else comes in from upstream. The goal is to maintain the river as clean and safe as possible.

CAC member Mr. Hanley commended the Rangers for their successful program.

Ms. Maxaner asked if this has had good publicity and if it has reached Washington. Mr. Donahue stated that publicity has been positive enough to result in congressional appropriation of funds toward storm damage recovery.

Ms. Maxaner inquired about the possibility of having more community involvement on a regular basis, other than the park's River Cleanup Day and as Kittatinny Canoes has done in the past. Superintendent Donahue explained that Kittatinny Canoes has sponsored their River Cleanup Program for 15 years and have made a significant contribution. However, by the time the third flood hit, they were not financially able to keep up with clean up of the entire river corridor. That's when the park stepped in and began its own program. Last year the park organized the entire effort along with Ruth and Dave of Kittatinny Canoes. This year the park divided the river in half; Kittatinny Canoes took the north end of the river and DEWA took the south end from Milford Beach all the way down to Kittatinny Point. The program has been enhanced by engaging other canoe liveries that operate within DEWA. The canoe liveries involved contributed canoes, vans, buses and other equipment. Presently, the program is shared by park and all liveries and more than 200 volunteers.

Other large items not shown on the presentation, included a dumpster. The River Cleanup Crew is in the outdoors every single day. The number of crew members are kept at minimal due to the danger involved. Volunteer effort on a smaller scale is appropriate and manageable but not possible to do on a regular basis as it exposes participants to dangerous elements. Collaboration of the American Safety Control and DEWA's Safety Officer was available on River Cleanup Day to ensure safety of all participants.

Ranger Perez added that the park has made positive progress. Major items are no longer seen on the river. Other than the obvious impact that floods have had on the river's vegetation, visitors wouldn't know there had been major floods in the surrounding areas.

Ms. Natalia Petrianyk of Pahaquarry Foundation inquired on the process of disposing of debris. Supervisory Ranger North described the process which includes the collaboration of DEWA's Maintenance employees and Waste Management.

Superintendent Donahue announced that DEWA has had a very successful year. It is a common practice to never overspend or return funds to the region. Consequently, \$18 million dollars were spent while only \$11.21 was returned to the Region.

### **Chairman's Report**

Ms. McDowell welcomed Deputy Superintendent Karotko as a new member of the DEWA Management Team.

Ms. McDowell welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reported that the commission members held an Administrative Meeting on September 27, 2007 and a new committee was formed at that time.

The Chairman called for approval of the May 13, 2007, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously and Chairman McDowell certified the minutes.

### **Public Participation**

Tom Hoffman expressed his concern about the process of CAC meetings. He said that before the meeting he was the victim of name calling by one of the CAC members. He reported that this type of mistreatment may result in discouraging public attendance and participation. Mr. Hoffman added that this is the second time in two weeks that he has been disrespected. According to Mr. Hoffman, the first incident occurred at Millbrook Village while he was exercising his First Amendment rights under a permit. He said that both, him and his wife were approached by someone who was quite rude. He prompted Ms. McDowell to resolve this situation quickly.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the May minutes took five (5) months to be approved. He said that the public has to see them with some degree of time limits.

Ms. McDowell explained that the public does not see the minutes before they are officially approved. Mr. Hoffman responded that the public has the right to speak but that it is impossible to comment on the drafted minutes if the public is not allowed to review them before approval.

Both Mr. Hanley and Ms. McDowell explained to Mr. Hoffman that the minutes of previous meetings are drafted and then approved at the meeting that follows. Mr. Hanley added that the May minutes were discussed during the last administrative meeting and that these are not shared with the public until approved. Ms. McDowell explained that these meetings serve as the venue to comment on the minutes and that the commission will discuss this during an administrative meeting.

Mr. Hoffman explained that at the last meeting in May he requested for the park's Safety Officer to be present at this meeting and asked if he was present today. Ms. McDowell said "No" and Mr. Hoffman requested for the Safety Officer to attend the next meeting. Ms. McDowell said his request will be considered.

Mr. Hoffman suggested that CAC members refer to the Management Policies which serve as a guide to managing the parks. He said the guide helps to measure park performance. Mr. Hanley explained that all members have received hard and electronic copies of the 2006 Management Policies.

Mr. Hoffman addressed Ms. McDowell and asked her to describe her most significant accomplishment during her membership. Ms. McDowell explained that it is the commission's responsibility to have open meetings and allow public participation. Ms. McDowell stated that they collectively advise the park and Secretary of the Interior on matters of high importance.

Mr. Hoffman asked Ms. McDowell to explain her most important advice given to the park or the Secretary of Interior. Ms. McDowell said she will consider his inquiry and respond at a later time. She added that the goal of the members is to perform their duties to the best of their abilities and thanked Mr. Hoffman for his five minute participation.

Mr. Murray further explained the mission of the commission indicating that this was discussed at the recent administrative meeting. An assessment of objectives, goals and the CAC's mission was considered. The goal is to become more proactive and be more involved in the community. Commission members wish to welcome feedback from the community and address it with park service and request that they do more for the members and community. The commission is aware that the area is rapidly growing and changing. Things are happening and the CAC hopes to coordinate more Administrative Meetings and design a plan that would ask the park to do more, particularly in terms of growing demographics, provide feedback to the commission so that the members can reply accordingly. Overall, the commission is in the process of reviewing what it is doing and find out how it fits into the mission.

Ms. McDowell expressed that the commission is very happy to have Mr. Murray as a member of this group as his knowledge and background add to its diversity.

Jeffrey Butz is a member of Stewards of Park History. Mr. Butz reported that the group currently has 60 people on their distribution list, who are considered members. The group has held discussions on how to support the park on different projects. It is still in the process of obtaining non-profit status. Once that happens, the group expects to organize fund raising

activities to support various plans. Mr. Butz offered to have literature available for the public and to talk to them if interested to join.

Ronald Corey requested his desire to address Mr. Donahue. He stated he has written to park service about getting some help on having a utility pole put up since he purchased his property in Milford. He said the park is refusing to put up a few poles along Meadow Road. He said that the park's denial has resulted in added stress and is impacting his and his wife's health.

Mr. Corey said this has been going on since May 2007 and he has written articles and contacted Washington on the matter. He explained he does not appreciate the way this has been handled and that Superintendent Donahue spoke on Channel 13 news and stated on public television that this is a matter of Met-Ed. Mr. Corey added that Met-Ed has submitted six (6) different plans, which the park has denied. Mr. Corey said that he had a smooth telephone conversation with Superintendent Donahue who promised that the issue would be resolved within a week or so. Mr. Corey added that he asked Mr. Donahue to contact the Philadelphia offices to find out what the hold up is and put it on top of his list. Mr. Corey acknowledged that the park has regulations but this has been going on since May, that the house was built according to building codes, and asked why this is taking so long.

Ms. McDowell explained to Mr. Corey that this is not the place to address this matter. Mr. Hanley recommended that Mr. Corey address the issue with Pike County Commissioner.

Mr. Donahue asked for permission to address Mr. Corey on this matter indicating that the statements made by Mr. Corey were inaccurate. Superintendent Donahue stated that he never held a conversation with Mr. Corey and that Mr. Corey did have a conversation with Deputy Superintendent Karotko. Mr. Karotko acknowledged and verified that he did have a telephone conversation with Mr. Corey.

Mr. Corey accused Superintendent of lying on television. Mr. Donahue said that matters of electric service have to be addressed with the electric company. That Met-Ed did not submit six (6) plans to the park. The electric company submitted one plan that was rejected by the park. A second plan was submitted by Met-Ed and approved by the park.

Ms. McDowell asked for the discussion to end explaining that this meeting was not the venue for this matter and recommended Mr. Corey speak with Mr. Gross at a later time. Mr. Gross explained that this commission serves as an advisory board but not to address issues of this nature. Mr. Gross offered to talk to Mr. Corey at a later time.

Mr. Murray thanked Mr. Corey for attending the meeting and explained that there might be legal issues implicated. The commission members can talk to Mr. Donahue on this concern but the CAC meeting is not the forum for disputes. Mr. Murray specified to Mr. Corey that this issue may require legal advice and that he may need to ensure that his rights are protected. Further comments or opinions of parties involved about this matter will not be heard during the CAC meeting. The commission members will not determine right or wrong or pass judgment on the situation.

Mr. Corey asked if anything has been done about the two cemeteries joining the river and if any barriers have been put up. He reported that the newspaper had a picture of a coffin put up on a tree that was within the surroundings of the river and that he has a concern for the dead.

Ms. McDowell said that she was not aware of the circumstances. Mr. Donahue explained that this is not related to the park and that DEWA does not manage all the surrounding areas of the park.

Mrs. S. Corey was listed as a public participant but was not in attendance to respond or comment.

Natalia Petrianyk is a member of the Pahaquarry Foundation and of Milford Village Historical Society. Ms. Petrianyk is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Pahaquarry Foundation.

Ms. Patrianyk explained that she is a park volunteer at the Julia Orthwine House and B.B. VanCampen Farm House in New Jersey where she assists in maintaining the landscapes. She expressed her concerns about the recent break-ins of the properties and offered to assist DEWA in any projects to restore security of the structures.

Chair McDowell advised Ms. Patrianyk to address her concerns further with Mr. Longcore, as he is the Chair of the Safe Our Structures (SOS) Sub-Committee.

Janina Wycalek is a resident of Walpack Township and a member of the Walpack Historical Society. Ms. Wycalek announced that today is the first anniversary of the death of Mr. Cy Harker, former neighbor and friend. There will be a service in his memory today at the Harker Farm. It is open to the public.

Ms. Wycalek described Jeffrey Buttz as a very modest individual who has worked hard as a handyman in the park in restoring the buildings at Walpack. She wishes well to the group he has formed and commended him for his dedicated service.

Ms. Wycalek reported that Friends of the Park only has eighty (80) members. The Bushkill Information Center, located at the Pike/Monroe County line re-opened this summer on 10 weekends and two holidays for more than 2600 visitors to the park. Generous donations from Fernwood Resort, Shawnee Resort, Lehman Township and the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau made funding the center's summer operations possible. The PMVB also donated staff to talk about area attractions and a National Park Ranger was present each day, along with volunteers from the Friends Group. The Friends hope to continue this service next year.

The Friends also, for the 6<sup>th</sup> year, funded the speaker for free lecture series. Another lecture series is scheduled for tonight at 7:00 pm, titled "Birds of Prey". It is open to everyone, admission is free and reservations are required. Contact person at DEWA is Mr. Johnny Carawan.

Mr. Gross suggested that the Friends Group expand their member recruitment efforts to not only the surrounding five (5) counties of the park but also to the three (3) hour distance radius of the park. He reminded that DEWA is an established National Recreation Area and 98% of visitors and hunters come from outside areas. He recommended recruitment efforts be made within Morris County, Sussex County and Philadelphia. Mr. Gross also commended the Friends for their accomplishments.

Ms. McDowell commended the Friends for their work, particularly given the constraints of funds and minimal membership.

Ms. Wycalek announced that the Friends are also supporting the park on work on the Woolly Adelgid. She said that more information regarding this type of support will be coming out soon and invited everyone in attendance to see her after the meeting for literature from the Friends Group.

Alicia Batko stated that the March 2007 CAC minutes have an error indicating that she is a representative from the Sussex County Historic Marker Committee, which she is not.

Ms. Batko is a Montague Township Historian.

Ms. Batko reported that two of the Van Campen Houses have been vandalized recently. She reported that a bag of trash had been left by the DeRemer House, one of the sites that had also been broken into. She tried to contact her township to ask for the garbage to be picked up but found the process to be much slower and in turn she called the park. The rangers informed her that they would take care of it. Ms. Batko said she looked through some documents found in the garbage, which had a Great Meadows, NJ address. She said that visitation and hunting activities increase this time of the year and dumping of garbage seems more prevalent.

Ms. McDowell advised Ms. Batko that hunters do not have habits of leaving trash behind. Ms. Batko agreed that there is more activity in the area this time of the year but that garbage may not necessarily be left by hunters.

Ms. Batko reported that a Historic Marker has been placed in Montague Township. It was installed from Old Brick House Village on River Road right off the intersection of Decker Town Turnpike (just north of it), which makes it right above the turn to the Milford Bridge.

Ms. Batko indicated that she received a document from the New Jersey State Preservation Office regarding the Trovato House, which is located on Tappan Road and is in very poor conditions. The letter informs that its eligibility status was revisited and a decision was reversed making the house eligible. This may indicate that there is possibility for making necessary repairs.

Ms. McDowell suggested that Ms. Batko speaks to Mr. Longcore.

## **Commission Report**

### Cultural & Historical Resources Committee

Mr. Longcore & Ms. Maxaner are also members of the SOS Sub-Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, Save Our Structures. The presentation was prepared with the

assistance of Tom Solon, DEWA Historical Architect and it was based on a priority list that was distributed during the May meeting. Rich Faas, photographer, also contributed to this slide show.

Special thanks from SOS committee to the following contributors:

Bushkill and Lehman Historical Society President Lynn Heller; Dingmans Ferry/Delaware Township Historical Society President, Joann Parsell; Dingmans Township Historian Sandy Leiser; Montague Township Historian Alicia Batko; Montague Association Restoration of Community History (MARCH) Historian, Alicia Batko; Sandyston Township Historical Society President Patte Frato; Slate Belt Museum and Historical Society Treasurer Walter Emery; Smithfield Township Secretary Jacqueline Ocker; Sussex County Historical Society Trustee, Patte Frato; Sussex County Historical Marker Committee Chairman Patte Frato; Walpack Historical Society Membership Chairman, Myra Snook; Anita Ray; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Historical Architect, Tom Solon; and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Historian, Sue Kopczyński.

Tom Solon thanked Cathie Maxaner for her efforts and contributions to the Historical Committee.

#### Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Gross inquired about notes he submitted to park personnel but were not included in the CAC Correspondence. The only item that he submitted and was listed is a newspaper clipping. Ms. McDowell explained that the notes had been shared and discussed during the recent Administrative Meeting. Ms. Maxaner asked Ms. McDowell for a copy of the material that was distributed during the Administrative Meeting.

Mr. Gross inquired on the status of the following items:

Santos Farm: Superintendent Donahue explained that it is being pursued by the Trust for Public Lands who made an offer to owners covering 20 acres. The owners are still considering whether or not to accept that offer. The park is still pursuing all of the property except for the portion by the highway. As far as support from other public entities, Pike County has committed up to \$1 million. The State of Pennsylvania is considering \$2.5 million and with the expectation that the park service will match the other half of funds. The family, along with PPL, has tax issues they need to resolve. The park has a tremendous amount of support for securing the property for public use.

Harker Farm: Superintendent Donahue indicated that this property was purchased by a private owner. He added that there are deed restrictions. The new owners are under the assumption that they own Old Mine Dirt Road. The park has researched this claim and consulted with attorneys. Before his death, Mr. Harker left a will claiming ownership of the road. This is still being researched and DEWA will do whatever is necessary to avoid closure of the road.

Mr. Gross explained that Old Mine Road is a very important road within the recreational area and is used more by visitors than any other road. There is historic significance that should not be impaired.

Superintendent Donahue added that he has not met with the new owners who do have intentions of closing the road. The park believes they do not own it and can not gate it.

Mr. Gross said that the private property signs should be removed, as these deter public use. That road runs right through the owner's well, but they will have to put up with lots of traffic of people riding on that road from now until the end of December. It is important that the road remains open to public.

Mr. Gross explained that he has concerns having watched so many private properties that have been acquired by the Federal government while the Harker's Farm was not aggressively pursued by DEWA.

Mr. Donahue agreed with Mr. Gross' claim, adding that thousands of people sacrificed immensely to create this place for the public good. It is then the park's responsibility to maintain this for public citizens of the United States. It is true that the park did not in any way pursue the property in an aggressive fashion. However, if the property owners intend to close the road to the public, it will be pursued in any way possible. It is the park's desire that land owners return to the previous situation. Everyone is aware that Mr. Harker had strong opinion about the government, but his intentions were never to keep people out of the road. The park respected his privacy and he respected the need of the public. It is hoped that visitors of the area voice their opinion.

*Del Grosso:* Superintendent Donahue explained that the Nature Conservancy is in negotiations for DelGrosso. Originally Trust For Public Lands intended to pursue both properties, DelGrosso and Santos Farm, but the situation with Santos Farm was a much bigger project. However, the Nature Conservancy is occupied with DelGrosso dealings and a willing seller.

Mr. Donahue explained that the park has issues with land all around its boundaries. However, this is very likely to change. More money will be available for land acquisition. Both Santos Farm and DelGrosso are very promising.

Mr. Gross stated that most parks are indifferent toward matters of land acquisition. Members of the Natural Resources Committee are willing to meet and address this issue. He added that three Congressmen are also willing to provide support and there is no reason why the members should not meet with them and propose an Executive Order for money. Ms. Maxaner agreed adding that the Executive Order should be reviewed before meeting with any Congressman. Ms. McDowell agreed to schedule a meeting. Mr. Donahue reminded the members that an Executive Order is not effective without an appropriation. Mr. Donahue also reminded that DEWA is not indifferent to these matters. Mr. Gross stated he is referring to other parks.

Mr. Gross urged Mr. Donahue to look into adding more river access. Today is opening of duck season and hunters are out this morning. They pushed their boats 200 yards down to the river with all their gear. He said that the park has received flood money and asked if it can be used to add more access to the river instead of using it for parking lots.

Mr. Donahue explained that the park is restricted to use storm damage funds to replace assets that were damaged by floods and not to create new assets. Adding assets within Pennsylvania is much easier than doing such in New Jersey, which is almost impossible in terms of permitting.

Donahue explained the process of the New Jersey Swim Beach project, which has taken five (5) years. DEWA has held numerous conferences in the past weeks and hopes to see some progress. However, if progress is not seen, DEWA may have to return the funds.

Another example of New Jersey's difficult process for construction is replacement of culvert at Silver Spray Farm, which has been in their hands for the last five (5) months. Three Bridges, which is half owned by New Jersey, is another project which they have not supported in terms of keeping the bridge falling into the creek.

Kittatinny Visitors Center, on the other hand, went smoothly because no permitting activities were involved. It did not require a new septic and it was not in a flood plain. The project was accomplished without assistance from New Jersey.

The New Jersey Swim Beach project is one the park hopes to come into agreement with, particularly as the drowning incidents keep taking place. It is the park's wish to have safe swimming without drowning or degrading of resources.

Mr. Gross inquired about plans to repair areas that were severely damaged by the floods. Mr. Donahue explained that there are plans to begin repairs. DEWA received notice of storm damage funds in May but the moneys were not released for spending until July. DEWA staff did an excellent job in obligating funds for storm damage repair.

Mr. Hanley inquired about Milford Beach, which he noticed had been severely impacted by the storm and he thought did not have lifeguards on duty when he visited this summer.

Mr. Donahue acknowledged that Milford Beach had been severely impacted by the recent floods and explained that it was opened all summer and that lifeguards were on duty all season. Chief Selleck added that it was open until September 3, 2007.

Mr. Hanley inquired about the park's attempt to open another beach, particularly when there is evidence that the floods have swept away one beach, which has resulted in waste of funds.

Mr. Donahue explained that it is the park's intention to repair pre-existing boat launches at Milford Beach, Dingmans access, and all other pre-existing boat launches, and possibly re-establish a motor boat ramp.

Mr. Hanley stated he does not support the idea of a swim beach in New Jersey as another flood will easily erode it, that no one he talks to has expressed any interest on it, nor has he seen any studies that prove otherwise.

Mr. Donahue explained that the park did the archeology of the current location and determined it not to be an important archeology site. Before the second flood the entire site was just a

patchwork of holes, which is one of the arguments with the State of New Jersey. Part of the interaction with the State is based on their computer model vs. pictures that clearly reflect the aftermaths of a 30-foot-of-water flood. The issue is about Stream encroachment for where the road will be placed, whether or not the building and the bathroom will be sustainable. As far as the Depue site, visitation was of about 600 people per day. After the first storm, the water washed it out. Clearly that was not a good place for a beach. There have been three floods, and the park is now aware of what would happen to the buildings at the current location. Clearly, the buildings can withstand the impacts. Intensive work is required. If another flood occurs, there will be work involved, but the buildings will withstand. However, DEWA is hopeful not to see another 100-year flood.

Mr. Donahue added that visitors are continuing to use the Kittatinny Point site for swimming and there have been drownings. Mr. Hanley stated that the fact that DEWA has beaches results in attracting more people to the regulated swimming areas, but that these get overcrowded and in turn visitors go swimming in other areas of the river that are unsafe. He said that overcrowded beaches result in unnecessary re-direction of swimmers to other areas of the river where drownings have occurred and will continue to occur. He said that this type of regulated swimming results in drowning of visitors.

Mr. Price reported on a Climate Change meeting that he attended this past Thursday, which was coordinated by retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife aquatic biologist Ed Perry. Perry warned of the dangers posed by global warming to fish and wildlife before 30 people who attended the event that took place at Pocono Mountain East High School. Perry came out of retirement to work for the National Wildlife Federation and tours Pennsylvania with an hour-long slideshow explaining how climate change will affect. His presentation was sponsored by the Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Mr. Price, also a member of the sponsoring group, reminded the crowd that global warming was still a controversial issue.

Ms. McDowell inquired about the Skyland Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society and if it has been working with the recreation area to improve habitat for ruffed grouse. Chief Lynch explained that there is activity ongoing and that they have worked in the park in the past. Mr. Donahue added that the park does put up signs recognizing their efforts.

Ms. McDowell inquired about the need for the Society to take training to operate machinery they are required to use. Mr. Donahue explained that the park has State lands in boundaries and asked Chief Lynch to research this further and report back to the Commission.

A brief discussion on training of volunteers took place. Mr. Donahue explained that volunteers are welcomed to participate in training courses; however, some courses are limited to specific professions for which other form of training and certification is required. Some of the training given to volunteers is hands-on, on-the-job training provided under supervision, and or provided as needed. He added that there is training provided only to specific professions that cannot be provided to volunteers, particularly to do work with restoration of endangered species and restoration of historical structures.

Recreation Committee

This committee does not have members at this time.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Price referred to a newsletter that had been distributed by Mr. Tom Hoffman. Mr. Price cited the paragraph on the article that reads as follows:

*“Rep. Christopher Carney (D-PA) Ph: 570-585-9862 (Clarks Summit). Declined through staffer Ed Zygmunt to contact Department of the Interior. My. Zygmunt said he would ‘call my old friend, Jim Price, who’s on the Commission.’ Mr. Price once tried to use his seat on the Citizen Advisory Commission to sell a book he had written.”*

Mr. Price added for the record that the statement is false and disturbing and that he has never attempted to use the CAC meetings to sell books.

### **New Business**

Mr. Gross referred to Correspondence Item No.52, which refers to hunting activities. He said that he takes exception to the comments made by the author of the electronic mail, as the commission has committees with diverse backgrounds and interests and he feels this person is insulting the members. Mr. Donahue explained that he has responded to the individual’s comments in the past and that laws and regulations have been explained.

Mr. Murray stated that the park service appears distant to involvement with township officials. Clearly there is an increase of population and development in the area which impacts the park and its surrounding areas. Mr. Murray said he would like to see the park involved and provide feedback to the commission members on the long-term effects of population growth.

Superintendent Donahue explained that DEWA has held meetings with Township Supervisors. One present issue being addressed, for example, is Community Drive, which the township has promised to donate to the park; however the new supervisors seem to have a change of mind. It appears that the township is planning on re-opening the road. Pike County has a special interest in opening the road, which commuters want to use to access River Road. Smithfield Township; on the other hand, will be receiving that traffic and they are not very pleased on how Middle Smithfield is addressing this without considering the impact on them.

Mr. Donahue explained that this incident highlights the importance of Mr. Murray’s concern. The park has established good relationships with townships in Pennsylvania, but it is still struggling to interact more with the New Jersey side, including Sandyston and Montague Townships.

The park recently had three states involved in addressing wildlife management. Planners came to talk about how the agencies can collaborate in a tri-state regional approach, particularly with DCNR. Chief Lynch and his staff are developing maps for Pike County’s wildlife corridors.

In response to Mr. Price’s question, Mr. Donahue explained that there is no particular committee to interact with the townships but that various members of the Management Team and other DEWA staff do participate in any interactions with the townships.

Mr. Donahue added that the critical issue with growth of population and increase of development is the roads.

Mr. Murray advised that the park needs to be proactive and asked if the park has a particular plan to address this matter. Mr. Donahue explained that there are numerous plans in process and explained a few strategies used by the park, which are all in line with the park's General Management Plan and the NPS Management Policies. Developers are included in planning processes as there are mutual interests in preserving the environment, the quality of life and access to nature in this area.

Mr. Murray asked to be included as a member and suggests that all CAC members be included as well. He also asked that the park provide feedback of these activities on a regular basis.

#### Future Meeting Dates

The members decided on having their next CAC meeting for January 19, 2008. Snow Day is January 26<sup>th</sup>. Discussion to hold another meeting for either March 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> also took place. Ms. McDowell will contact all the members before finalizing the March meeting date.

The location for the January meeting remained pending. Mr. Donahue and his staff will assist in securing a location, possibly Fernwood Resort.

Various suggestions were made about holding meetings on Saturdays and not on Thursday evenings due to late hours and accessibility of locations. All members agreed that future meetings will be held on Saturdays and not on Thursday evenings.

#### **Public Participation**

Tom Hoffman addressed Mr. Murray on the subject of lands surrounding the park and the impacts of population growth and developments. He referred to Section 3.4 Cooperative Conservation, of the NPS Management Policy manual. It reads as follows:

*Superintendents will be aware of and monitor state government programs for managing state-owned submerged lands and resources within NPS units. When there is potential for such programs to adversely impact park resources or values, superintendents will make their concerns known to appropriate state government officials and encourage compatible land uses that avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts...*

Mr. Hoffman recommended the commission members to go to township meetings and find out what is being said about the impacts of population growth and developments. He also suggested that they bring feedback information to CAC meetings.

Mr. Hoffman addressed Ms. McDowell and asked why the commission no longer applies Robert's Rules of Order for their commission meetings. Ms. McDowell explained that they have now implemented a loose format meeting and that they no longer go by those rules.

Mr. Hoffman said that what happened between Mr. Corey and Superintendent Donahue proves the importance of following rules and that it was unfortunate that Mr. Donahue had to engage in such unpleasant situation. He added that as a result of not following rules, Mr. Hanley felt it was appropriate to be rude to him (to Mr. Hoffman). He said that every government agency needs to establish and adhere to some form of rules.

Ms. McDowell explained that the commission is required to have by-laws but not required to have specific rules. Mr. Hoffman asked the commission to consider re-establishing the rules.

Mr. Hoffman said that a National Recreation Area should have a Recreation Committee and suggested that the commission establish this committee. Ms. McDowell explained that recreation falls under Natural Resources and that a specific committee for recreation will not be established. This was discussed during the last Administrative Meeting and decided upon. Ms. McDowell thanked Mr. Hoffman for his comments.

Jeff Buttz stated he is speaking as an individual member of the public and not as a representative of any group. He added that he disagrees with Mr. Hoffman regarding the need for rules. Mr. Buttz feels that informal meetings are more encouraging to the public to give opinions and express more openly.

Mr. Hanley addressed Mr. Hoffman stating that on countless times he (Mr. Hoffman) has expressed himself about interests and devotions to free speech. Mr. Hoffman, however, has twice during this meeting, referenced to comments that are personal in nature and that have nothing to do with this meeting. Mr. Hanley added that he (Mr. Hanley) is entitled to his ability to free speech. Every commission member is a person, a private person, and a public person and only a public person when the commission meeting begins. The members have the same rights of free speech as Mr. Hoffman does who had no right to infer about anything that was done during informal time. Mr. Hanley requested that this statement be reflected on the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Damaris Colon, Secretary

“Certified to the best of my knowledge”

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Jan McDowell, Chair