Management Council Approved Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2026 10:00 AM– 11:30 PM via Zoom
(Visit www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org for the Zoom and for additional reference information.)

Attendance:
Jeff Ackerman-Upper Mt. Bethel
Damon Aherne-Woodtiger Fund (Headquarters Bridge, Tinicum)
Diane Allison
Matt Babbitt-Heritage Conservancy
Arthur Baehr--Bridgeton-Nockamixon-Tinicum Groundwater Committee (BNT GWC)
Bill Ballantine-BNT GWC
Bruce Buechler-BNT GMC
Dana Caracciolo-Eastern PA Alliance of Climbers
Adam DePaul-Lenape Nation of PA
Richard Dodds-Chair
Stephen Donovan-BNT GWC
Chris Dunbar-Foodshed Alliance/Paulins Kill Watershed
Sam Erwine-Del. River Basin Commiss.
Stephen Freeman-Devil's Tea Table Alliance
Kelsey Hansen-PA DCNR
Tom Heilman-Williams Twp Land Preservation
Judith Henckel-Martins Jacoby Watershed
Amanda Khalil-Del. River Basin Commiss.
Martie Kyde-Vice Chair
Brendan Lamb-Hunterdon Co.
Carrie Manfrino-BNT GMC
Tara Mezzanotte-Warren Co.
Jackie Middleton-Hunterdon Land Trust
Michelle Purcell-Stockton
Tony Rizzello-Holland EAC
Michelle St. Andre-Knowlton
Lauren Seip-NJ DEP
Shana Stewart Deeds-NPS Consultant
Art Charlton-Phillipsburg
Steph Vannais-NJDEP

NPS: Sarah Bursky and Nathalie Negrete
Staff: Cindy Kunnas and Alison Sommers-Sayre

Call to order 10:01 AM

- **(5 min) Welcome - Richard Dodds, Chairman – <u>Introductions</u> and Land Acknowledgement**
  - We would like to acknowledge that our work as a Council is on the traditional lands and home of the Lenape People, Lënapehòkink, and we pay our respects to those who have stewarded this land from time immemorial and are still doing so today. We commit to improving this relationship, supporting Lenape recognition in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and working together on programs and projects to benefit the Delaware River.
  - Approval of March 2026 Minutes (attached)
  - Michelle Purcell first and Amanda second, unanimously approved the minutes.

- **(20 min) PADCNR Canal Work - Kelsey**

- Kesley gave a presentation on the canal projects. There was a ribbon cutting for Delaware Canal Lumberville Aqueduct and High Falls. Currently re-watering the canal.

- **(10 min) DRB PFAS Study - Amanda**
  - Webinar: www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/PFAS_Year3NFWF_report.html
  - Report: www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/PFAS_Year3NFWF_report.html
  - App: wq.drbc.net/pfas/

- **(10 min) Budget Update - Alison**
  - $14,000-$15,000 unspent, steering committee to review proposed projects

- **(5 min) Reviewing Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Plan**
  - An update on the "Expansion Study process"
  - Document mostly written, incorporated survey results (thank you for taking the survey). Will compile and put a draft to share with the Management Council for feedback, likely before the September MC meeting.

- **(10 min) Council Programs:**
  - **Mini-grant Update - Cindy**
    - Rising Nation River Journey, August 1-15 - Adam
      - https://www.lenape-nation.org/riverjourneytreaty
    - Received interim reports. The City of Lambertville needed an extension. Lenape when River Speak were unable to do the canoe making part of the project. Will send funds back.
  - **Awareness and Outreach Updates**
    - Outreach events-Represented at Lambertville and Frenchtown Green Fairs
    - Jr. Ranger Booklet Went to Print, Previewed the booklet. Sarah talked about how the program works.

- **(20 min) Local Issues of Concern - All**
  - Comments on issues below, resources listed below
  - Community updates and concerns

→ **June Delaware River Sojourn - 20th-26th**
Lenape highlighted on the 23rd, visit DRBC on the 24th in the evening, DRGP is hosting on the 25th
→ **MC September meeting date - 24th**

Available Resources

- New Jersey
  - NJ Philanthropy Hub: https://impala.digital/new-jersey
  - Funding for Regional Planning, applications due July 7, Resilient NJ NOFA Question & Answer Document https://dep.nj.gov/ocr/resilientnj/. A webinar recording and presentation slides are currently available on the Resilient NJ website: https://dep.nj.gov/ocr/resilientnj/. Learn more: https://dep.nj.gov/ocr/resilientnj/

Ongoing Matters

- Warehouses/Data Centers
    - Representing Martins Jacoby WA - Judy -Warehouses are now data centers in Upper Mt. Bethel Township and Lower Mt. Bethel Township, Talen Energy in with the developers.
    - Tony-Holland Twp. ordinance regarding data centers, Holland Town ordinance available online 2026-06. Municipalities can use it as a model. Allowed but restrictive, industrial zoned areas only. https://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/_Content/pdf/ordinances/2154-001.pdf
    - Michelle St. Andre in chat, "Thanks to Tara Mazzonate, Knowlton Twp is also being proactive in initiating an ordinance."
    - Adam-June 23-Adam there is a data center rally in Harrisburg. Event on website, https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/965115/
- Chris-working on study for Paulins Kill for W&S. Sparta Township headwaters passed a master plan consistency review to eliminate large data centers from being constructed in all the zones.
    - Foodshed Alliance is the intersection of food farming and the environment, engaging farmers to glean the fields and bring the fresh food to popup markets using volunteers to provide to economically challenged communities. The farming program provides affordable land for lease, education, and help with making a business plan. Environmental protection and monitoring program with residents.
    - Michelle St. Andre in chat, "The gleaning project that Chris Dunbar mentioned is called Local Share and has many opportunities for volunteering. Headed by Christina Parauda she can be reached through the Woodshed Alliance website. LocalShare is a fantastic and extremely successful project."
- Steph-had to close Scudders Falls river access on the weekends again due to picnicking and partying. Working with Army Corps engineers for hardscaping Pt. Pleasant and Fairview river accesses, helping long term soil stability.
    - Richard mentioned a jet ski accident at night involving rocks.

Issues with No Update

- Groundwater contamination
    - PFAS in Washington Township, Warren Co, NJ on the Musconetcong.
        - Recording of MWA's spring update
    - Sunoco Energy Transfer leak in Washington Crossing, Upper Makefield-Drilling more/deeper wells to recover jet fuel that seeped into groundwater. Fuel found in another private well.
    - PFAS in Lambertville (no update)
    - PFAS found in Wrightstown, Bucks Co., PA wells. Lobby for expanded state aid. (no update)
- Rockfall Rt 29 - Cindy
    - Devil's Tea Table -Inquiry sent from DTT Alliance and LDWS inquiring as to timing. Response: "NJDOT is continuing to work on designs internally and then will be coordinating with state agencies. We hope to reengage with the Design Working Group in the fall."
    - Lambertville/W Amwell
    - I-80 S-Curve and rockfall mitigation pushed back to 2030, pg 27 NJTPA minutes
- Finkle's/Strand Theater - Cindy Owners back with revised development proposal. "Event space" at Strand, seating up to 150. Demolish portion of historic railroad shed for parking lot. Waiver full site plan review. Refined Hospitality webpage on the project. Project withdrawn for now as of the beginning of April.
- Fleecydale Rd erosion
- Canal work on NJ side, NJ Water Supply Authority
- Hal H. Clark

- Durham Springs in Durham, on Rodges Run, a Landmark Hospitality venue. Updated plan with buildings sliced from 44 to 2, and partially hid the proposed pair of guest cottages (10 bedrooms each) behind a slope on the hillside property off Lehnenberg Road. No mention of the sewage plant in the latest plan.
- Washington Crossing Bridge Alternatives Analysis. Project video.
- NJ bill from June 2025, Authorizes construction, installation, and operation of certain energy project components on preserved farmland.
- Sandcastle Winery/Blind Fox Vineyard unpermitted work, stormwater runoff into canal. Zoning appeals proceed.
- Golden Pheasant Canal Bridge
- Warehouse- Upper Mt. Bethel River Pointe Logistics- Amazon pulled out.
- Creamery Rd Bridge
- Nockamixon Dam water release evaluation.

2026 Dates:

Thursdays 10 A.M.: September 24, and December 3

Adjourn: 11:27 AM

Attachments/Handouts

- March Minutes
- June Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669050457?pwd=a0lPeDlnb0FpdlhNcXRqMmZraTkwUT09

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