



## Eagle Conservation & Education Committee

### Meeting Minutes

06/01/2016, 6 pm | Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA

Present: Ken Myett, Brad Orey, Mitch Opresnick, Lori McKean, Ingrid Peterec, Patricia Diness  
Staff: Mary Anne Carletta, Simon Knox

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#### *Eagle and Education Events*

##### **Short Term Activities**

- The following 2016 summer events were discussed.
  - o Star Watch – June 3
  - o Farmers Market at Sculpted Ice Works – June 12
  - o Upper Delaware BioBlitz – Jun 24-25
  - o Zane Grey Festival – Jul 16
  - o Riverfest – Jul 24
  - o NPS 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – Aug 13
  - o Member/Volunteer Picnic – Aug 27
  - o Bethel Woods, Harvest Festival - Earth Day in Autumn – Sep 25?

##### **Long Term Activities**

- An update to the Hancock (East Brach), NY Eagle Blind from Jerry Vernold was provided to the committee. Lori suggested that Conservancy interpretative material be shared with Jerry and incorporated in their plans and structure.
- Next season's Eagle Volunteer Training will take place Dec 3, 2016.
- Green Lodging Partner presentations – Winter 2017
  - o Brad and Lori expressed interest in assisting the Green Lodging Partnership with eagle related presentations through the winter season in 2017.
  - o Brad offered to team up with Scott VanGorder and reach out to Skytop and present this Eagle Presentation opportunity as another means for encouraging Skytop to join the Partnership.
- Ingrid shared a brief update on the progress NPS is making toward an improved Visitor Welcome Center in Lackawaxen – possible winter 2019 season change.

#### *Administration*

##### **Staff Updates:**

- Simon shared an update on staff hiring:
  - o New Executive Director - Diane Rosencrance, September 2016
  - o Land Protection Coordinators – 2 offers have been made
  - o Development Administrator – update



#### **Committee Chair:**

- The need for a committee chair was discussed within the committee. Pat Dines agreed to speak with Pat Erhard and see if she would be willing to serve as chair.
- In order to foster better organizational communication, Pat suggested that a Board member could attend an Eagle Committee meeting. This could even rotate through available Board members.
- Brad agreed to speak with Paul Gamer about joining this committee

#### **Blind Locations and Maintenance:**

- The maintenance and location of blinds were discussed at the committee meeting.
  - o There were no tasks identified that could be accomplished by volunteers
  - o DEC blinds – Mongaup and Rio Reservoir
    - The office will follow up with Nathan about the proposed interpretive signage at the Mongaup and Rio Blinds that was shared with Pat V. in 2014.
    - Request DEC to improve the deterrent or install a screen/fence to prevent people from walking under the bridge when the snow levels are low.
    - Request DEC to move the Rio Reservoir blind closer to the dam wall. Lori is willing to assist in negotiating the best alternative location.
  - o NPS blinds/observation areas – Lackawaxen Boat Launch, Minisink (Barbara Yeamen Blind), Ten-mile River Boat Access, Barryville observation area
    - Ten-mile – Mitch will look into ways that this location could be improved
- Brad informed the group about the outdated logo/branding at the PA Welcome Center along Interstate 84 in Matamoras, PA.

#### **Webpage upgrade:**

- We are currently in the process of upgrading our website. Please let Bethany ([land@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:land@delawarehighlands.org)) know if you have any comments/suggestions for the Eagle tab by the September meeting.

#### ***New Business***

##### **Eagle Nest Monitoring:**

- Past efforts by the committee were discussed with the aid of the meeting minutes from March 2013 (*attached*)
  - o Lori suggested that this initiative requires a staff person to support the program, in order to ensure continuity.
  - o The balance between education or citizen science only was always an issue.
    - Ingrid – suggests a bit of both
  - o The nest locations are not as secretive anymore. The educational value of a region/environment that can sustain eagle nests has increased and fits in with the message of the Conservancy on a whole.
- Discuss renewing this initiative
  - o Who might be able to coordinate this initiative?



- Lori suggested a staff person
- What are we willing to take on?
  - Start with existing volunteers/public locations
    - Mongaup and Rio Dam can see nests
    - Promised Land State park
    - Kevin referred to a nest just outside of Port Jervis
  - Think of existing CE that might have a nest. Educate about easements and birds
  - What type and to who do we share the data.
- Who needs to be brought to the table?
  - NPS, DEC, PA Game Commission, Audubon, East Stroudsburg University, location specific
    - How scientific do they want us to be?
    - Could we have a grad student involved?
- What is an expected timeline?
  - Pat thought with all the changes that this might not happen in 2017
  - Brad mentioned that if the agencies had wanted this information they would have asked already.

#### **Clear Choices Clean Water – My Delaware River**

- Committee was asked to watch, pledge and share their pledges on <http://mydelawariver.clearchoicescleanwater.org/>

#### **National Geographic Tourism**

- Committee was asked to keep track of the <http://delawariver.natgeotourism.com/> website as it officially launches in June

#### ***Next Meetings***

June 08 Finance Committee 9-10am

June 08 Executive Committee 9-10am

June 08 Land Protection Committee 6-8pm

June 15 Legal Committee 2pm

JUN 15 – Special Board Meeting WED EVENING 5:00 – 8:00pm – Environ. Learning Center, Hawley PA

JUL 8 – Board Meeting FRIDAY ALL DAY – J. Ross home (Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club)

Jul 13 Finance Committee 9-10am 2nd Quarter and forecast for ye 2015

Jul 13 Executive Committee 10-11am

Jul 13 Land Protection Committee 6-8pm

Jul 20 Legal Committee 2pm



Aug 10 Executive Committee 8:30-10am

Aug 10 Finance Committee 10-11am

Aug 10 Land Protection Committee 6-8pm

Aug 17 Legal Committee 2pm

\*\*\* Aug 27 Annual Member/Volunteer Picnic \*\*\*

**Sep 7 Eagle and Education Committee 6-8pm, Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA**

**Upcoming Events:**

- For more events please go to: <http://www.delawarehighlands.org/newsevents/eventdates>