

**Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Water, Water, Everywhere Conference
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
West Branch Angler
Hancock, NY**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Registration/Coffee/Light Refreshments

9:00 AM

Introductions and Welcome

9:30-9:45 AM

Upper Delaware River: The Year in Review

9:45-10:00 AM

Through the course of the year, the Upper Delaware River is affected by a variety of different factors. These include ecological impacts associated with water releases, flows, temperatures, and weather conditions. It also includes policy changes at the local, regional, and national level that will have future impacts on the watershed. This session will provide a snap shot of the most important developments that shaped our river in 2017.

Session 1: Protecting the Upper Delaware River Watershed Below the Reservoirs

10:00-10:45 AM

The Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition (UDRTC) will be finalizing a tributary protection plan for the region below the NYC reservoirs in December 2017. The plan will help ensure that tributaries draining to the main stem are clean and cool, support healthy aquatic habitat, and mitigate the devastating impacts of flooding due to the increasing frequency and severity of storms. Representatives from the UDRTC will provide an update on the plan and explain how it will be used as a blueprint for the future management and protection of tributaries below the dams in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

Speakers:

Dean Frazier, Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs

Shelly Johnson-Bennett, Delaware County Department of Planning

Break 10:45-11:00 AM

Session 2: A New Management Plan for the NYC Delaware Reservoirs

11:00-12:00 PM

The five Decree Parties (NY, NJ, PA, DE, and NYC) failed to reach agreement on a plan to manage the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs by the May 31, 2017 deadline. As a result, an archaic plan from the 1980's

known as Revision 1 was automatically reinstated which calls for extremely low water releases to the Upper Delaware River. Thankfully, NYC initiated a voluntary release program that provided more water to the river but that is due to expire on October 10, 2017. This is a tenuous situation which requires a long- term solution that is fully protective of the river. Representatives from all five Decree Parties will discuss their views and perspectives on the challenges of developing a new reservoir management plan that meets the needs of all watershed stakeholders.

Speakers:

Paul Rush, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Mark Klotz, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Steve Domber, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Jennifer Orr, PA Department of Environmental Protection
David Wunsch, Delaware Geological Survey

Working Lunch: Update on New Fisheries Plan for the Upper Delaware River

12:00-1:00

The PA Fish and Boat Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are partnering on a new fisheries management plan for the Upper Delaware River. This effort ushers in a new era of cooperation and collaboration among the two states and a recognition that the Upper Delaware River needs to be managed as one ecological system. In this session, representatives from both state agencies will lay out their plan for the future management of the UDR fishery.

Speakers:

Tim Pokorny, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – Region 4
Daryl Pierce, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Session 3: Update from Washington D.C. and the new USFWS Delaware River Program

1:00-1:45 PM

The Upper Delaware River stands to benefit from a new national program that recognizes the entire Delaware River as an ecological treasure and begins to provide funding and other resources towards its long term protection and restoration. This session will provide an update on the progress being made in the development of the program and how it can help advance conservation interests in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

Speakers:

Mike Slattery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Madeline Urbish, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed
Grant Larouche, National Wildlife Federation

Break 1:45-2:00

Session 4: The Dwarf Wedge Mussel - A Game Changer for the Upper Delaware River?

2:00-2:45 PM

The dwarf wedge mussel is a federal and state listed endangered species that colonizes in the Upper Delaware River. Protecting mussel populations is an important consideration in the development of the NYC Delaware River basin reservoir plan and it engages two federal natural resource agencies – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. This session will explore our current knowledge of mussel populations in the Upper Delaware River watershed and potential management initiatives that can ensure it's long term viability.

Speakers:

Mike Slattery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kris Heister, National Park Service
Dan Plummer, Friends of the Upper Delaware River

Session 5: Coalition Building in the Upper Delaware River Continues to Grow

2:45-3:30 PM

Coalition building is one of the most important ways for Upper Delaware River advocates to increase their influence and broaden their voice in a way that makes a difference. In recent years, the Upper Delaware River region has seen a significant increase in the development and growth of coalitions that has expanded our voice from Hancock, NY all the way to Washington, D.C. This session will provide an overview of the coalitions we work with and explore new ways for UDR advocates to continue to increase our strength and influence in the coming years.

Speakers:

Kelly Mooij, New Jersey Audubon
Jeff Skelding, Friends of the Upper Delaware River

What's on Your Mind? Audience Participation

3:30-4:00 PM

The strength and backbone of the effort to protect and restore the Upper Delaware River comes from the dedication and perseverance of our members, supporters, partners, and coalitions. The combined efforts of these groups and individuals are directly responsible for the increasingly successful community based effort to ensure the long-term protection of the watershed. This session is an opportunity to hear from the conference audience on a wide range of topics that impact the social, cultural, economic, and ecological landscape of the Upper Delaware region.

Moderator:

Dan Plummer

Closing Comments

4:00 PM