# Notes

D&L Trail & Conservation Board Committee Jan. 17, 2020

Meeting called by: D&L Trails & Conservation Department

Attendees: Trail & Conservation Committee

Location: D&L Offices Hugh Moore Park, Easton, PA

### Introductions 10:30 – 10:40

Brian Greene, Claire Sadler, Jim Birdsall, Pat Hunt, Scott Slingerland, Christine Dettore, Devin Buzard, Jessica…, Dan Ullman, Elissa Garofalo, Darrel Crook, Andy Hamilton, Lauren Golden, Sean Robbins (via phone)

Jim Birdsall began introductions, briefly detailed the history of the D&L as an organization, its mission, and its general funding as it pertains to staff and programs

Elissa detailed her role with the D&L, the establishment of the D&LNHC, the story of the corridor, and connecting people to the story via the D&L Trail

### D&L Staff Updates 10:40 – 11:10

1. Department Director Updates: Brian detailed the changes within the department that have occurred since fall 2019. Additional details regarding DDS and improvements to staffing efficiencies will be part of the workshop section.
2. Trail Program Updates: Shift to part time for health reasons has brought on Emily Diggs. Work reduction will focus on Trail Tenders planning and Lehigh Valley Greenways. Get Your Tail on the Trail summarized, Jim Birdsall asked for status update on Wilkes-Barre chapter. Bucks County is covered by Lehigh Valley chapter of GYTOT
3. Trail Project Updates: Lauren highlighted notes from January Board Report and explained the separate sub-committee for trail projects. Invited interested folks to attend (first Friday of each month).
4. Conservation Updates: The LVG CL constitutes the majority of D&L involved conservation work over the last 16 years. Annual retreat included roughly 45 organizations determining the LVG goals for 2020. Claire will share when available. THE LINK is now the face of LVG trails initiative. Coalition development is still underway, hoping for formal kick off in 2nd quarter 2020.

### Committee Updates:

Jim Birdsall and Lauren Golden attended a public meeting regarding the FE Walter Dam operations and flood/drought control procedures. The meeting was very well attended. The primary purpose of the study is to determine if FE Walter Dam can help in managing, the salt line of the Delaware River can be

better managed under extreme drought with additional releases from FE Walter Dam. The study does not anticipate adverse impacts to flood control or recreation activities. Study will last into 2021.

Bucks County is embarking on a study to explore connecting the Delaware Canal near Washington’s Crossing to the Neshaminy Creek area

Jim attended a DC21 event regarding water quality in the Delaware Canal. Protocol for sampling and tracking was being developed, with the active tracking to begin later with funding separate from current study. Jim asked if D&L knew additional info regarding timeline. Claire explained that the grant funding the DC21 study will expire in late February, so work will need to wrap by then for grant closeout. Work is behind schedule but deadline remains firm.

Lauren attended Del Canal Advisory Committee meeting. Two major aqueduct projects underway. As construction on aqueducts and additional bridges progresses Del Canal State Park will announce trail impacts as details become available. Jim B asked that meeting minutes from Del Canal Advisory Committee meetings be distributed to D&L Trail & Conservation Board Committee Meetings

Andy is working to formalize the overlay of the 9-11 Memorial Trail on trails/roads throughout Pennsylvania. Additional 9-11 activities involve supporting trail acquisition coordination with Norfolk Southern.

### Workshop Items 11:15 – 12:15

### Brian explained the information that has been gathered and developed as part of the Data Driven Sustainability Grant. Adaptive Management was explained. Examination of visitors to the National Canal Museum from outside the LV Region and the Circuit Trails Pipleline project impact potential were detailed as examples of using data to drive adaptive management decisions.

Each committee member was asked to rank the D&L Trails and Conservation department responsibilities and then ranking were shared in a structured way. Three groups ranked their top 5 department priorities and not all groups agreed.

A: 1. Trail Construction 2. Ownership Council 3. Trail Maintenance 4. D&L Website 5. Trail Towns

B: 1. D&L Website 2. Trail Construction 3. Trail Maintenance 4. Canal Maintenance 5. Trail Maps

C: 1. Trail Construction 2. Trail Maintenance 3. Trail Maps 4. D&L Website 5. Ownership Council

### Action Items 12:15-12:30

1. Discussion on committee format

How can this committee be structured so that time and outcomes are maximized?

Brian and Jim suggested that the full Trails & Conservation Committee only meet 3 times per year, with the intent of allowing the committee members to focus on their preferred work areas in sub-committees like the Trail Project Management Meetings.

Andy expressed that this feels like a logical maturation of the committee function

Darrel asked what the priority for the committee is- is it to inform the group of activities or to provide direction to staff of goals/priorities? Claire and Lauren felt that the objective is both in order to stay working towards the goal but also keep the board in the loop on progress. In response to that Darrel felt that big picture goals and guidance should be placed at the top of the agenda. Committee members chimed in to express that more time should be given to discussion/analysis of department goals.

If full Trails and Conservation Committee meets 3 times per year, should these be un-coupled from the full board meetings…. Andy asked if trail project meeting notes could be distributed as a stop gap. Reporting logistics would need to be refined. Christine Dettore asked if 4 meetings would be better than 3, but the consensus was for 3 meetings to remain coupled with the board meetings. Andy asked that committee meetings remain less than 2 hours. Sean agreed that committee meetings stay coupled with the board meetings. Jim stated a preference that meeting agenda items be distributed earlier with a call for agenda preferences.

Brian reiterated that committee members work to engage more on specific areas of interest or expertise.

Jim reminded all that staff can bring grant resolutions directly to the board if the committee has not met relative to the grant application timing.