

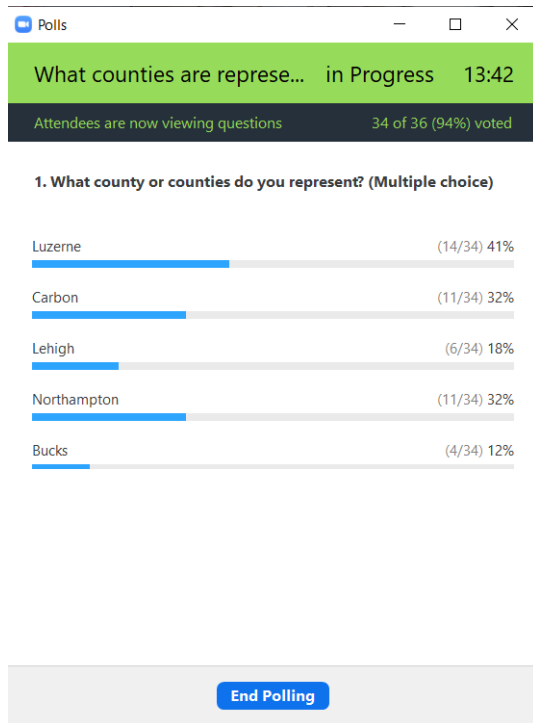
D&L Trail Ownership Council  
2021 Annual Meeting **NOTES**

1. Welcome and Introductions (10:00-10:15)

1.1. Rocky Ahner from Carbon County joined early, but has to leave for another meeting.

1.2. Polling shows 14 representatives of Luzerne, 11 representatives of Carbon, 6 representatives of Lehigh, 11 representatives of Northampton and 4 representatives of Bucks (including some that represent multiple.

1.3.



1.4.

2. 2020 D&L Trail Year in Review (10:15-10:25)

2.1. D&L Staff Transitions

3. D&L Program Updates (10:25-11:00)

3.1. Conservation Landscapes - Kathleen

3.1.1. Lehigh Valley Greenways

3.1.1.1. Program through DCNR

3.1.1.2. Pocono Forests and Waters, Lehigh Valley Greenways, Kittatinny Ridge, and Schuylkill Highlands in our region/corridor

3.1.1.3. Joint Leadership and core of public lands

3.1.1.4. Tackling big projects together

3.1.1.5. Mini-Grant Program

3.1.1.5.1. Lehigh Valley Greenways mini-grants open now (Jan 23-March 19)- small grants up to \$10K for trails and conservation projects.

3.1.1.5.2. Pocono Forests & Waters mini-grant (March 9-April 30);

- 3.1.1.5.3. Kittatinny Ridge mini-grant (fall- October);
- 3.1.1.5.4. Schuylkill Highlands (March to May)
- 3.1.1.5.5. PFW grant has done trail, camping, and boat launch work with East Penn Twp Trailhead.
- 3.1.2. Other Conservation Landscapes in the Corridor
  - 3.1.2.1. Poconos Forest and Waters (Luzerne and Carbon)
    - <https://pecpa.org/programs/watersheds/pocono-forests-waters-conservation-landscape/>
  - 3.1.2.2. Kittatinny Ridge (Parts of Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton)
    - <https://kittatinnyridge.org/>
  - 3.1.2.3. Schuylkill Highlands (northern Bucks County)
    - <http://www.schuylkillhighlands.org/>
- 3.2. Trail Projects – Liz
  - 3.2.1. Open trail - 146.4 miles
  - 3.2.2. Future Trail 33.2 miles
    - 3.2.2.1. Values are constantly changing – also – future may have started in some form

### Trail Projects at a Glance

PLANNING
Wilkes-Barre River Commons to Laurel Run (Luzerne)
Johnson Street to Black Diamond (Luzerne)
West Bank Rail Trail (Lehigh)
Allentown Area Trail Study (Lehigh/Northampton)
New Hope Main Street Crossing (Bucks)
Bristol Lagoon to Bristol Marsh (Bucks)

ENGINEERING
Laurel Run North to Oliver Mills (P2) (Luzerne)
Oliver Mills to Mountain Top (Luzerne)
Catasauqua to Hanover Township (Lehigh)
Bridge Street (Bucks)
Weissport Overflows & Trailhead (Carbon)

ACQUISITION
Oliver Mills Pedestrian Crossing (Luzerne)
Mountain Top Trailhead (Luzerne)

CONSTRUCTION
Laurel Run North to Oliver Mills (P1) (Luzerne)
Middleburg Road Pedestrian Crossing (Luzerne)
Carbon County Parking Lot (Carbon)
Northampton to North Catasauqua (Northampton)

- 3.2.2.2.
- 3.2.2.3. 6 in planning
- 3.2.2.4. 2 in acquisition
- 3.2.2.5. 5 in engineering
- 3.2.2.6. 4 in construction
- 3.3. Trail Programs – Imogen
  - 3.3.1. Trail Towns
    - 3.3.1.1. Focus on carbon and Luzerne; TFB
    - 3.3.1.2. [Event](#) & [Amenities](#) projects are open now. Projects are approved on a rolling basis and are open as long as funding is available. Typically small funding from \$1,000-\$4,000 with match requirements. Contact Imogen to discuss your project.
  - 3.3.2. Trail Tenders
    - 3.3.2.1. Volunteer trail maintenance program – one event per month – contact if you have maintenance needs; 2021 events covid compliant

- 3.3.2.2. Let Imogen know of projects
  - 3.3.3. Trail Patrol
    - 3.3.3.1. Active volunteer program. Contact Liz if you have questions.
- 4. Break (11:00-11:05)
  - 4.1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiGZP84YCYc>
- 5. Group Discussions (11:05 – 11:25)
  - 5.1. Trail Project and Trail Tender Needs (Liz and Imogen)
    - 5.1.1. Nicole Beckett, Lehighton: Public works crews maintain entire trail/trailhead, need volunteers, improving signs/sites, public works crew takes pride in maintaining trail but have other jobs especially in summer month, “as needed” basis or a few days throughout the year w/clean-ups, they will share news w/community groups, last year did prep/paving trail—funding for improvements, section is relatively new, want to keep it in best shape w/ongoing maintenance, Trail Patrol has been great, notified them of fallen trees, etc., like the implementation via social media
    - 5.1.2. Bill Schwab, East Penn Township: Hired “park warden” who does more maintenance than anything else, cuts down trees, paid for about 9hrs, but probably out about 30hrs (volunteering), applying for mini-grant, Golden Trail trying to go west to Riverview (connecting trail to Schuylkill Valley)
    - 5.1.3. Larry Newman, Diamond City Partnership: missing link in Wilkes-Barre, where do things stand for next steps/planning? Liz will set up a meeting to discuss the status and next steps.
    - 5.1.4. Rich Kanaskie, Bethlehem Township: Would like to discuss the Township’s planned repairs for a box culvert leading to the Lehigh River. Could use funding support, but likely too far along for a grant- have cost estimates and want to act fast. May need to shut the trail down at some point for construction. Liz to set up a meeting with Rich to discuss how the D&L can help- with Brian
    - 5.1.5. Kathy, LCRC: Would like D&L’s help determining a game plan and funding for a partial wall collapse at the Weissport Trailhead where a retaining wall in the parking lot was not installed correctly. Liz to set up a meeting with Kathy and Denny to discuss next steps- Brian and Claire may know of this project already- it’s a long-standing issue.
      - 5.1.5.1. visitor/guest almost fell/fell into canal and had to be rescued, ongoing issue w/retaining wall, not installed correctly to begin w/, beyond timeline & cannot go back to the contract for repair, going to be very costly, will need some help to get a grant & assess- 7 community owners of the area, desperately needed, need to get it stepped up right now, issues w/spillways & canal, not original to canal system, created spillways w/2 little bridges, 1 is not safe, not wide enough, do away w/bridges & create something else, spillways should not be there to be historically accurate, retaining wall is separate from spillways, need to get \$ to do repairs, studies have already been done.

5.1.6. Linda Szoke, White Haven: Would like D&L's help coordinating the PennDOT Rt 80 bridge construction project to ensure trail user safety is considered. Liz to set up a meeting to discuss with Linda, Chris Chapman and April Hannon from PennDOT.

5.1.6.1. PennDOT construction at Rt 80 bridge, boro managers have concerns @ 940 pedestrian/bike crossing, contact for PennDOT firm doing plans, importance of detour & how it's going to impact trail especially visitors crossing main street & under bridge, what safety precautions for bikers, construction coming closer & closer, no solid answers, should pre-plan before there's a problem or backup on 940 & access to trail, drilling for environmental study-

5.1.6.2. Chris Chapman, Luzerne Co: PennDOT committed to environmental study in White Haven. Linda noted they already started testing

5.1.7. Dick Cochrane ASTA- Middleburg Road progress? The RR and PennDOT are coordinating a timeline to finish the final steps of construction.

5.1.8. Sherry Acevado, Northampton Co: D&L should consider expanding trailheads and adding water access where possible. Increased parking @ trailheads, kayak launching/fishing tiers/kayak racks (kayak shortage—like bike shortage), good amenities to add, integration of trailhead facilities, feedback comes from owners, Slatington Trailhead people are parking along street as well, where are we directing people to go, expansion possible in smaller areas and busier trailheads.

5.1.9. Linsay NLRA: Through the Trail Tenders program, can we secure basic equipment for trail cleanups, like rakes and trash grabbers? Response in chat: through Trail Tenders, the D&L has a tool library and we can loan out equipment for a public event or small group use.

## 5.2. Amenity, Event, and Conservation Projects (Brian and Kathleen)

5.2.1. Discussed numerous projects that landowners have done in the past (trailhead improvements, signage, events, etc.) Excitement for doing public art in key locations.

## 6. Landowner Topics (11:25-11:45)

### 6.1. COVID-19 Best Use Practices

6.1.1. Signage Options

### 6.2. High Trail Use Issues - Imogen

6.2.1. Trail etiquette

6.2.2. Go to different places or at different times

### 6.3. Wayfinding Signage

6.3.1. Co-branding

6.4. Site Visits in 2021 (staff are not allowed to ride in vehicles with non-household members)

## 7. Open Q&A Forum (11:45-12:00)

7.1. Sherry Acevedo- grant opening- Northampton County Livable Landscapes. Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant Program. Feel free to contact Sherry Acevedo about Livable Landscapes grant program opportunities [sacevedo@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:sacevedo@northamptoncounty.org)

<https://www.northamptoncounty.org/PUBWRKS/PARKREC/Pages/default.aspx>

7.2. Chris Stroehler- Lehigh River Land and Water Trail plan- looking at water trails and water access improvement areas. Mini-grant for water trails in April- up to \$5K and requires a 1:1 match- DCNR funded. Share River related challenges with Chris to share with state level. And let him know who is plowing water access points- curious to see the trends.

7.2.1. Chris Stroehler- [cstroehler@wildlandspa.org](mailto:cstroehler@wildlandspa.org)

7.3. Andy Hamilton- 9/11 Trail- follows D&L from Jim Thorpe to Easton- would like to coordinate with landowners to ID the trail as part of the 9/11 trail via signage.