

RESOLUTION NO. 66

**TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER TAILWATERS COALITION (UDRTC) POSITION STATEMENT SEEKING CHANGES FOR IMPROVED WATER RELEASES UNDER THE DECREE PARTY REVISED FLEXIBLE FLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN (FFMP) AND OPERATION SUPPORT TOOL (OST)
DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, the OST/FFMP has produced a number of incremental improvements in water releases to the river since its inception in 2008, there remains an opportunity to improve upon those management decisions for the economic and ecological benefit of communities and the fishery below the reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition was formed to represent the interests of the Towns of Colchester, Deposit, and Hancock, the Villages of Deposit and Hancock, and the Friends of the Upper Delaware River through the promotion of sustainable and consistent releases from the Delaware River Basin Reservoirs to improve local economic and environmental conditions, enhance recreational attributes of the cold water portion of the river, and strengthen resiliency to flooding impacts and benefit the needs of all parties downstream; and

WHEREAS, the current interim OST/FFMP is under review for renewal on June 1 of 2014; and

WHEREAS, water releases from the Cannonsville, Pepacton and Neversink reservoirs directly impact municipalities below the dams related to:

- the social-economic impacts resulting from flooding
- the positive economic impacts of a world renowned cold water fishery and other recreational attributes
- inadequate sediment transport yielding unnatural sediment depositions affecting the tributaries to the East and West Branches of the Delaware and the main stem

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Delaware County Board of Supervisors supports the following UDRTC positions:

1. Recognizing drought circumstances must be a priority, we support the UDRTC efforts to seek new standards and protocols for improved management of the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs including consistent year-round water releases with special consideration during the months of May through September that:
 - Improve flood protection from spills that effect downstream communities and manage reservoir releases to correspond with natural bank-full runoff events which enhance sediment transport in the main stems delivered by tributaries.
 - Increase releases to the maximum extent possible to balance reservoir management objectives for flood-related issues and the economic value of the tailwater system.

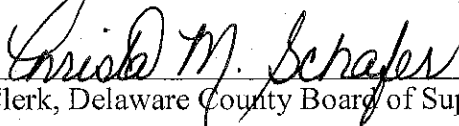
- Maintain a thermal condition for a safe fish habitat with an optimal goal of 68°-72° F at Lordville, NY.
 - Provide water flows adequate to protect people, communities and the economic vitality of the region.
 - Manage both conservation and directed releases for smoother transition in river flows.
2. The request for improved transparency regarding the management of the entire NYC water supply and the development of the OST/FFMP is needed to understand how it affects releases from the NYC reservoirs and the local impacts. It is imperative that DEP and Decree Parties provide a forum for education and transparency on the OST so interested parties understand OST impacts.
 3. The revised FFMP be extended for just one year to determine the impacts of the newly reactivated East-of-Hudson NYC Croton Water Supply System and other factors that may require timely changes to the OST/FFMP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward certified copies of this resolution to the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, the Mayor of New York City, the 5 Decree Party Principals, United States Senators Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, Congressmen Chris Gibson and Tom Marino, New York State Senators John Bonacic, Tom Libous, James Seward, Assemblypersons Cliff Crouch, Peter Lopez and Claudia Tenney, the Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director and Upper Delaware River Council.

State of New York
County of Delaware

I, Christa M. Schafer, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Delaware County, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on the 26th day of March 2014 and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Board at Delhi, New York, this 26th day of March 2014.


Clerk, Delaware County Board of Supervisors