



**July 17, 2024 Minutes of the Meeting
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DATE: July 17, 2024
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-Chairman Bruce Stout and Commissioner Phillip Lubitz attended the meeting in the Commission office. Commissioner Designee Robin Madden, Commissioner John Reiser, and Commission Caryl “Chris” Shoffner participated via online platform and teleconference.

STAFF: Executive Director John Hutchison, Deputy Attorney General Jordan Viana, and Ms. Colleen Maloney were present in the Commission office. Commission Engineer Joseph Ruggeri, Communications Director Darlene Yuhas, and Executive Assistant Erica Vavrence participated via online platform.

GUESTS: Michael Sellar, Facilities Manager, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA); Maggie Mitchell-Strehl, Acting Superintendent, Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park; Heather Desko, Senior Watershed Protection Specialist, NJWSA; Vicki Chirco, Resource Interpretive Specialist, Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park; Robert von Zumbusch, Kingston Historical Society; Robert Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Craig Stires; Victoria Smith; Sydney Iatarola; Kathy Hale, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist, NJWSA; Joe Puleo; Kate Schiller; Lauren Crossey; Sarah Kusnirok.

Vice-Chairman Stout announced that this was a monthly meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and that the provisions of the “Senator Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act” (OPMA) had been complied with in the scheduling of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Stout announced that the meeting was being taped pursuant to the exception set forth at Section C.(1) of DEP Policy & Procedure 2.85 “Prohibition of Recording in the Workplace” Policy adopted on September 18, 2019.

Since Commission members were participating in person and via telephonic device pursuant to Article

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III, Section 4 of the Commission Bylaws, Vice-Chairman Stout directed the Executive Director to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Present
Commissioner Designee Madden	Present
Commissioner Reiser	Present
Commissioner Lubitz	Present
Commissioner Shoffner	Present
Commissioner Palmer	Present

Director Hutchison stated that a quorum was present.

Administrative Items

Confirmation of August 21, 2024, Meeting Date

Vice-Chairman Stout stated that the next meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission was scheduled for August 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the June 19, 2024, Commission Meeting

Vice-Chairman Stout inquired if any of the Commissioners wished to propose comments or corrections to the June 19, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as prepared by staff. Commissioner Shoffner made a motion to adopt the minutes as proposed, which was seconded by Commissioner Reiser.

Vice-Chairman Stout asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The minutes were approved.

Review Zone Actions

Zone A Projects

21-5780	600 Atrium Drive -- Proposed Warehouse (Franklin Township)
24-6138	Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority -- Force Main Upgrades -- (Ewing Township/Lawrence Township)

Vice-Chairman Stout asked if any Commissioner wished to discuss either of the Zone A projects separately. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the Zone A projects. Director Hutchison reminded the Commission that DRCC# 24-6138 was recommended for approval with three conditions, as outlined in the July 11, 2024, staff report. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to approve the

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projects, including with the conditions outlined in the staff report for DRCC# 24-6138. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reiser.

Vice-Chairman Stout inquired if any of the Commissioners had comment on the proposed projects. Commissioner Shoffner stated that although she recognized that DRCC# 21-5780 600 Atrium Drive -- Proposed Warehouse was compliant with the Commission's regulations, she was frustrated that the construction of warehouse projects continues as a development trend in New Jersey. Vice-Chairman Stout asked for further comment from the Commissioners and then the public. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Stout asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

Zone B Project

22-5931 24 Model Avenue -- Townhouse Development (Hopewell Borough)

Vice-Chairman Stout requested a motion to approve the Zone B project. Commissioner Reiser made a motion to approve the project, which was seconded by Commissioner Shoffner. Vice-Chairman Stout inquired if any of the Commissioners had comment on the proposed project. Hearing none, he asked the same of the public. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Stout asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported on the Commission workload for the period encompassing June 19, 2024, to July 16, 2024. He stated that in addition to the 3 projects listed on the June meeting notice, staff issued 21 deficient staff reports, 3 jurisdictional determinations, 3 certificates of approval, and 11 general permits. In addition to those matters, staff organized and conducted 16 pre-application meetings related to proposed and pending projects. As of July 16, 2024, the Director noted that 33 projects were undergoing staff review.

Director Hutchison reported that fee collections totaled a respectable \$49,200 for the month. He noted

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that it was a considerable improvement over June 2023 when \$25,000 in review fees was collected. He stated that this number is also higher than the \$25,000 collected in July 2023, and much more than the \$1,600 collected in July 2022. He expressed the hope that the monthly fee amount portends a return to stable revenue collections in Fiscal Year 2025, as the Commission strives to meet the revised anticipated appropriation amount of \$500,000.

Director Hutchison reported that Commission staff continues to make progress on the update to the Commission's Master Plan. He stated that comments from other DEP program elements were incorporated into the plan Scope of Work document. He stated that a special dedicated account was established at the DEP into which the grant monies would be deposited, and that the DEP Office of Management and Budget signed the required New Jersey Historic Trust Transmittal and Payment Voucher, which would provide an initial \$440,000 payment of the \$550,000 grant. He noted that this progress indicates that the Commission is moving ever closer toward initiating the Request for Proposal (RFP) process with the Department of the Treasury to choose a qualified consultant to undertake the Master Plan revision.

Director Hutchison reported that the project file digitization project continues to make remarkable headway. He noted that in the last month 17 more file boxes were scanned. He noted that staff continues to label, organize, and rationalize the data in the Commission computer file folders.

Director Hutchison reported that the Commission staff received its first set of drone images of the canal, covering the Feeder Canal between Raven Rock and Prallsville Mills. He noted that Darlene Yuhas worked with Steven Jacobus of the DEP Bureau of Geographic Information Systems team to edit the footage, and he hoped the video imagery would be captioned in the coming weeks by Ms. Yuhas.

Director Hutchison reported that, on July 8, he attended another meeting regarding the project proposed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to construct improvements such as roadway resurfacing, drainage improvements, slope stabilization, guide rail upgrades, and installation of "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" (ADA) compliant curb ramps and sidewalks along three separate sections of N.J. State Highway Route No. 29 in Frenchtown, Stockton, Lambertville, Delaware Township, Kingwood Township, and West Amwell Township. He stated he is concerned about the visual impact of one section of the project upon the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, and he is also concerned about conflicting stances on the project expressed by the impacted DEP programs that have jurisdiction over the project. He stated that, hopefully, the impacted DEP programs will be able to meet and arrive at a consensus on how the project will proceed prior to the next meeting with NJDOT scheduled for August 26.

Park Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Mitchell-Strehl reported on the Five-Mile Lock wooden bridge situation. The bridge remained closed pending structural repairs. She noted that the Park Service was coordinating the repair effort with NJDOT, but that no timeframe had been devised to effectuate the necessary repairs.

Acting Superintendent Mitchell-Strehl stated that Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Agency (SEPTA) would be conducting repairs to the bridge that conveys the SEPTA West Trenton Regional Rail Line over the Delaware and Raritan Canal near Lower Ferry Road in Ewing Township (DRCC #23-6083 and DRCC #24-6083A). While the project would entail the erection of scaffolding over the park

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multiuse trail, no closures of the multiuse trail were anticipated, and work would be conducted between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Acting Superintendent Mitchell-Strehl reported that on June 20, New Jersey State Park Police successfully apprehended dirt bike riders on the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park multiuse trail near Washington Crossing State Park in Hopewell Township, Mercer County, resulting in an arrest and summons.

The Acting Superintendent reported that in early July work began to repair the former Belvidere-Delaware/Pennsylvania Railroad Belvidere Division railroad bridge (i.e. Trenton Greenway Bridge) located at point where the D&R Greenway trail splits from the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park multiuse trail in the City of Trenton in the vicinity of Jarvis Place. The project was coordinated by the State Park Service and NJDOT and would entail repairs to a historic railroad bridge. She stated the project scope of work included redecking, cleanout and repair of a culvert under the trail (DRCC #6146), replacement of metal fencing along culvert area, and the repair of a washout area on the trail. The estimated timeframe for completion would be one month and trail closures would be required during construction.

Acting Superintendent Mitchell-Strehl reported on the partial closure of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Scudder Falls public access area located near Bernard Drive in Ewing Township, Mercer County. She stated that Park Service staff had observed an increase in illegal activity and improper use of the public access area. She stated that some park users had been engaged in illegal activities, including alcohol beverage consumption and swimming/tubing in an area that is not served by lifeguards and is unsuitable for swimming. Heavy visitation had also resulted in large numbers of vehicles being parked along N.J. State Highway Route No. 29 and adjacent municipal streets, creating unsafe conditions. Based upon these public safety concerns, the Park Service had taken the decision to close the Scudder Falls public access area on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (and holidays) through conclusion of the Labor Day Weekend, at which point the closure decision would be reevaluated.

The Acting Superintendent reported that the Park Service was aware of the accumulation of trash at the Lambertville wing dam area of the park. Staff would work to encourage park users to comply with Park Service regulations regarding “carry-in/carry-out” of trash where receptacles are not provided, discourage use of grills and cooking fires in the area, and discourage swimming in an area that is not lifeguarded or suitable for swimming. She further noted that the Park Service had installed signage in the area addressing these issues; however, the signage was stolen by vandals within two days of being posted. The signage was replaced by Park Service maintenance staff. She noted that the Park Service was in the process of evaluating alternatives to address the ongoing trash issue.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority Report

Ms. Desko presented the NJWSA report for Mr. Sellar, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Desko reported that work on the rehabilitation of the Six Mile Run culvert had resumed.

Ms. Desko reported that work on the rehabilitation of the western canal embankment in Stockton was largely complete, but that hydro-seeding of grass areas would take place during the fall to establish a

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resilient multiuse trail before opening the area to the public.

Ms. Desko reported that the project to replace 11 lock gate sluice gates and associated operating assemblies at four locations on the Delaware and Raritan Canal in Somerset County (DRCC #22-5924) was complete.

Ms. Desko reported that work to repair damage on the “lower roadway” at the Bulls Island Recreation Area caused by Tropical Storm Ida was proceeding and would be completed within the month.

Ms. Desko reported that the Island Farm Weir fish ladder was closed for the season.

New Business

2024 New Jersey Water Supply Authority Hydrilla/Chinese Pond Mussel Briefing

Ms. Desko made a presentation on the NJWSA programs to manage Chinese Pond Mussel, hydrilla, and harmful algae bloom (HAB) within and in the vicinity of the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Old Business

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Barth read a statement regarding preservation of Delaware and Raritan Canal artifacts and history on behalf of D&R Canal Watch, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.

Commissioner Lubitz noted that while the Commission supports the safe and legal use of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, limiting the use of the park through the closure of public access areas, would go against the mandate in the Commission Master Plan to provide a wide range of recreational activities. He asked Commissioner Designee Madden what could be done to ameliorate the illegal activities and attendant dangers and still ensure the safe, legal use of the Scudder Falls public access area so that weekend closures of the area would not be necessary. He noted that the parking area near Lockatong Creek along N.J. State Highway Route No. 29 in Delaware Township, had been a popular recreational and fishing spot, was another undesirable example where parking access was closed and denied to park users.

Commissioner Designee Madden stated that the closure at the Scudder Falls access area was not an easy decision, but that a surge of use, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic, had created a hazardous environment and unsafe conditions. She noted that the Park Service would reevaluate the closure decision after Labor Day. She also stated that the Parks Service used its social media platforms to educate and remind park users of State Park Service regulations, including the “carry in/carry out” policy and importance of keeping the park clean. She also noted that if park patrons wish to tube in the Delaware River, a tubing concession approved by the Park Service was available.

Commissioner Lubitz inquired as to what safety measures would be required to keep the Scudder Falls public access area open, and what additional resources would the Park Service or the New Jersey State Park Police need to maintain safe and open access for park users. Commissioner Designee Madden stated that the closure was a parks operations matter, and it would not be appropriate to take the time to discuss the matter in an open forum at the Commission meeting. Commissioner Lubitz maintained that

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the Commission had ample time to discuss the issue at the meeting. Commissioner Designee Madden stated she would prefer to discuss the matter outside of the context of the Commission meeting.

Mr. von Zumbusch stated that he supported the sentiments expressed in the statement read by Mr. Barth, noting that he was also concerned about policies and actions related to the preservation and interpretation of artifacts related to the history of the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Written Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Vice-Chairman Stout entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Reiser. Vice-Chairman Stout called for a vote on the motion to adjourn, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutchison", written in a cursive style.

John Hutchison, Secretary

Aquatic Invasives & Water Quality Updates for the D&R Canal

Heather Desko

Principal Watershed Protection Specialist
New Jersey Water Supply Authority



Topics

Chinese Pond Mussel

Hydrilla / Aquatic
Plant Management

Harmful Algal
Blooms/Water Quality

New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan



NJ AISMP Goals

- **Provide a framework to be used by the NJDEP** as the lead agency in cooperation with a series of working groups and collaborative organizations.
- **Identify technical, enforcement, and financial assistance** required to reduce the environmental, public health, and safety risks associated with AIS.
- **Focus on** how the State can identify **new and emerging threats** and focus limited resources on appropriate projects/areas.
- **Propose action items** with assigned priority rankings (critical, high, moderate, low).

APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL TASK FORCE IN MAY 2024

<https://dep.nj.gov/invasive-species/aquatic-management-plan/>



Chinese Pond Mussel (*Sinanodonta woodiana*)

- Native to: Eastern Asia
- Means of Introduction: arrived as larvae (glochidia) attached to the gills of imported invasive carp
- Hunterdon Cty, NJ: only known population in all of N. America
- Can parasitize native fish hosts and significantly outcompete native mussels and alter stream substrates



Biology of CPM

- Member of Unionidae, a family of freshwater mussels
 - Formerly of Genus *Anodonta*
- Three other species of *Sinanodonta* pondmussels currently recognized as invasive: *S. woodiana*, *S. pacifica*, and *S. lauta*
- Characterized by a parasitic larval stage where mussels attach to the gills of fishes

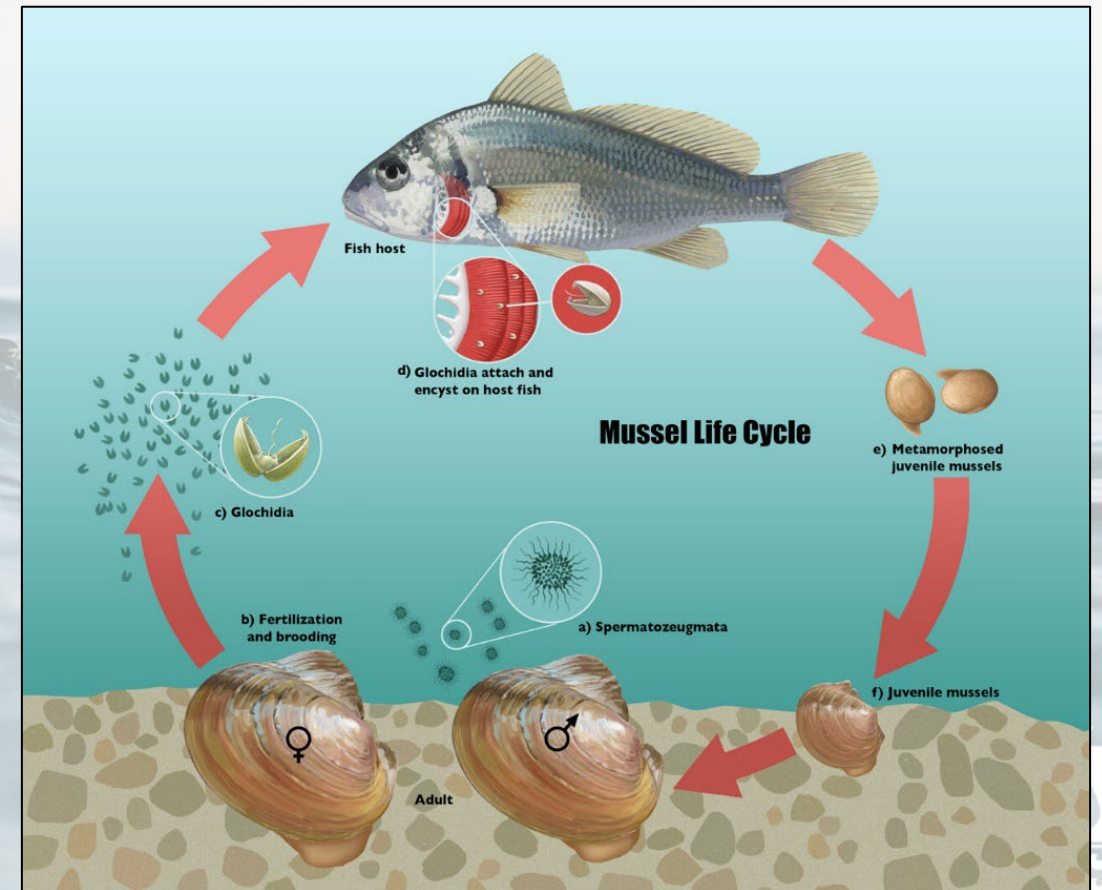


Image is by John Megahan of University of Michigan under a Public Domain license.

A brief history of CPM Management

- First detected in 2010 at the Huey Property Ponds
- Likely introduced as a result of carp aquaculture
 - Attached as glochidia to gills
 - Invasive bighead carp confirmed in ponds
- 2010: Drain ponds with subsequent Rotenone treatment
- 2015: Single EarthTec treatment
- 2019: Additional EarthTec QZ treatment effort conducted



Photo Credit: Wayne Parry/Associated Press

eDNA (environmental DNA)

- Organismal DNA found in the environment (e.g., water sample)
- Can detect presence of a species, relative abundance
- Relatively new and rapidly developing technique
- Can create species-specific assays
- Questions – How long does eDNA persist, even after an organism is dead? How far can it travel in water?



CPM in the Wickecheoke Watershed

- Rutgers eDNA lab conducted surveys at the Huey Property ponds (2020)
 - Consistent positive detection at Ponds W4 and W5



S = Surface Sample
B = Grab Bottle Sample

Green = No Positive Hits
Yellow = 1/3 Positive Hits
Orange = 2/3 Positive Hits
Red = 3/3 Positive Hits



2022 eDNA sampling

2023-2024 Efforts

- eDNA surveys along Wickecheoke Creek, Raritan, & Millstone Rivers (May 2023) – 25 sites
 - Only positive detections at Huey Ponds
- Physical (rake & snorkel) surveys along Wickecheoke Creek & Raritan (IFW)
 - DNA analyses of live individuals found
 - Feb 2023, June 2023 samples at IFW (negative)
 - May 2024 at IFW (still processing)
- Rutgers NFWF grant to develop Chinese Pond Mussel Rapid Response Management Plan for Delaware River Watershed



2024 Treatment

- 96 hours treatment with Natrix – copper-based molluscicide
- Bump treatments 2x per day based on near real-time copper concentration monitoring – to achieve max target dose of 1 ppm
- Gills of fish and crayfish collected for glochidia
- Sediments / cattails collected for copper concentration monitoring (on-going)





*all dead

On-going Planned Efforts

- Rutgers developing Chinese Pond Mussel Rapid Response Management Plan for Delaware River Watershed
- Planned eDNA surveys for 2025
- US Fish and Wildlife Service investigating listing *Sinanodonta* genus as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act
- NJ Fish & Wildlife video coming soon!

Hydrilla verticillata (monoecious)

- Native to Korea & Japan
- Means of introduction: aquarium plant
- Recent invader to Mid-Atlantic (1980s)
- Can reach lengths of up to 25 feet
- Can grow up to 1 foot per day!
 - Glomski & Netherland 2012: up to **191** inches/day
- Reproduces by fragmentation, tubers, & turions
 - Tubers can remain viable 6+ years



Hydrilla – “the perfect weed”

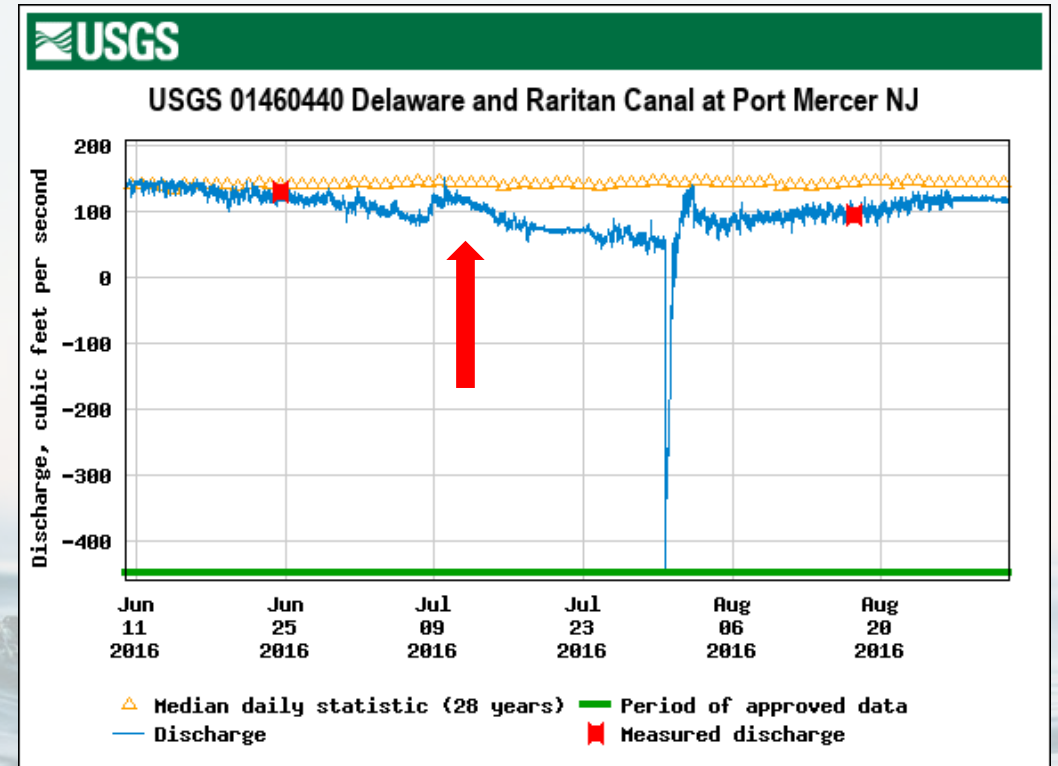
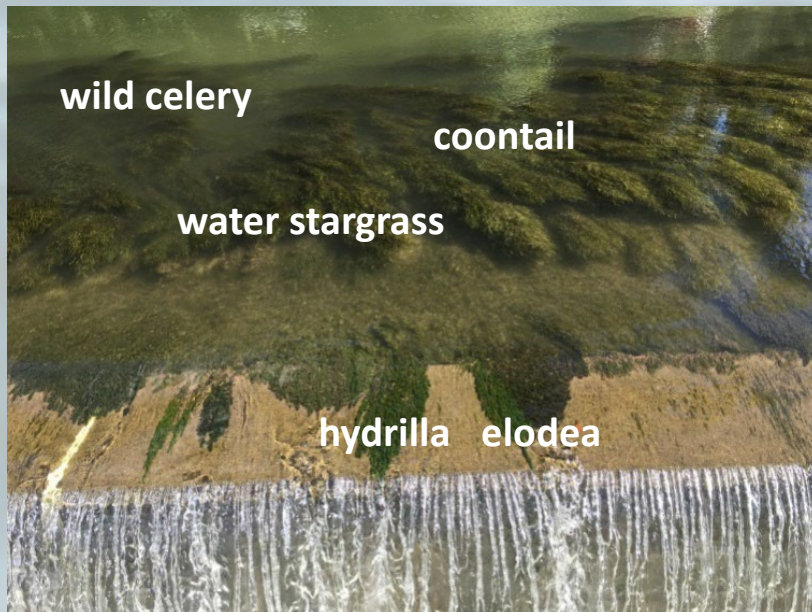
- Adapts to variety of conditions
 - Water depths – inches to 20+ ft
 - Lakes/ponds & rivers
 - Salinity 0-9ppt (possibly up to 13ppt)
 - Turbidity/water clarity
 - Low light tolerance
 - Even up to 10 weeks in total darkness! (Haug et. al. 2019)
- Impacts:
 - Native SAV & other biota
 - Water chemistry
 - Water flow
 - Recreation



D&R Canal at Scudders Falls September 2016

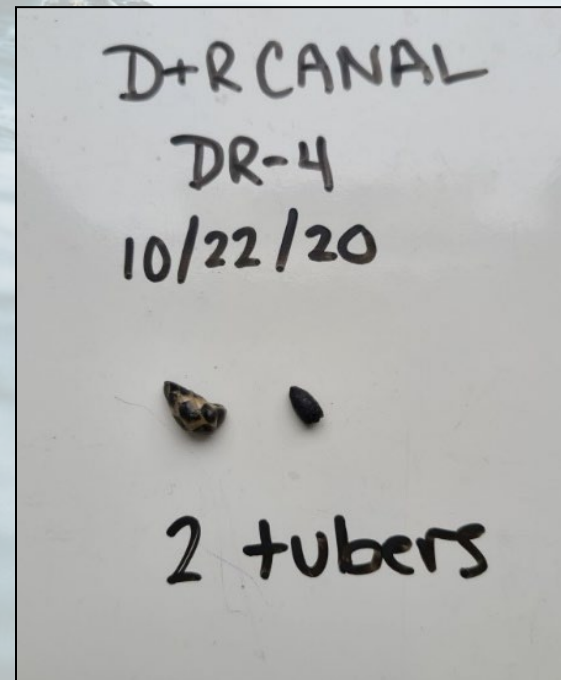
Way Back in 2016

- Water flow restriction due to excessive plant growth
- Canal water level below intake
- Hydro-raking: July-August



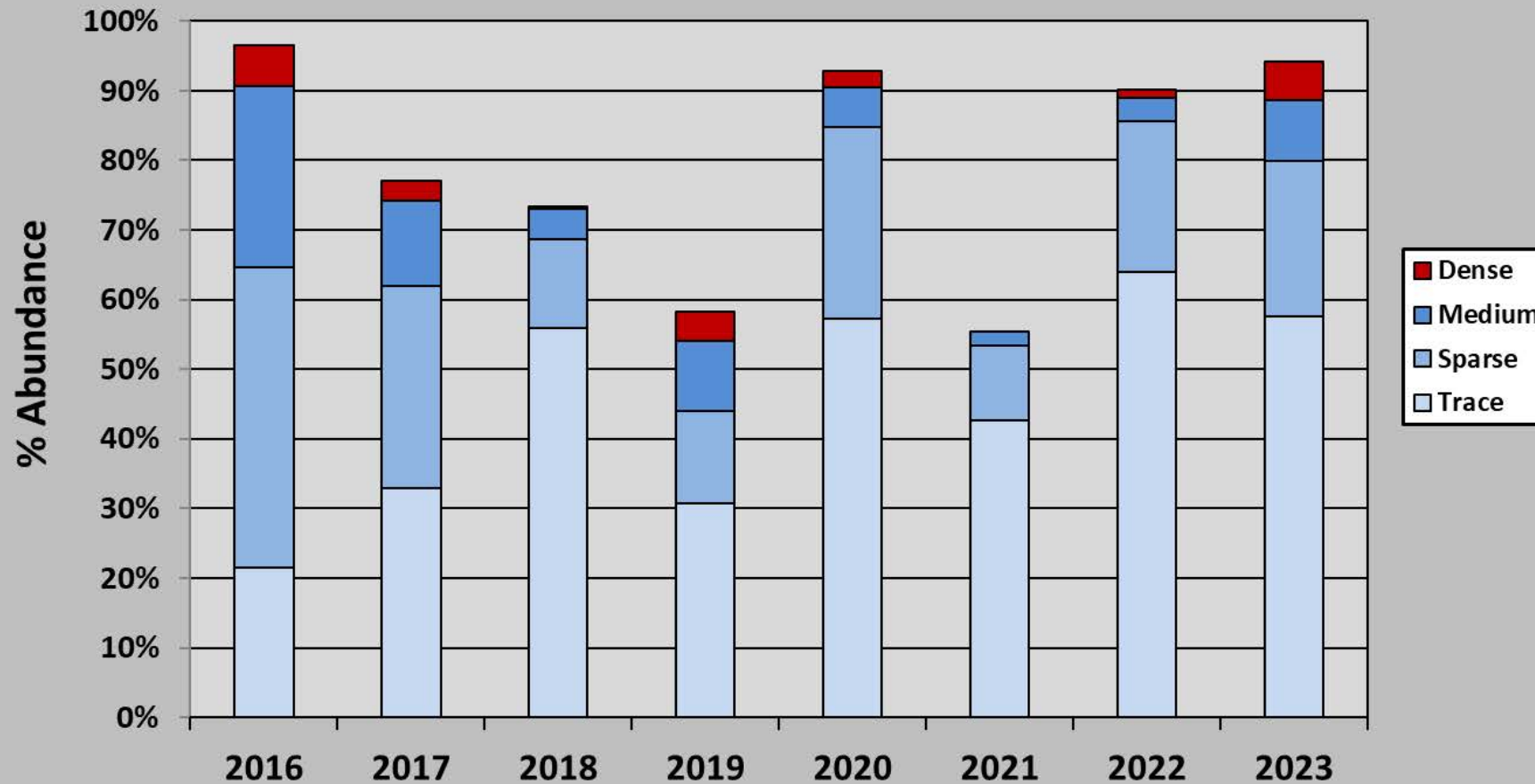
D&R Canal Management In Review

- Herbicide (Sonar Genesis – ai fluridone) application:
 - Late May-late September (60-120 days)
 - Target dose rate: 2-3 ppb
- Treated 2017-2022
- Herbicide application occurred 2 years beyond the last hydrilla plant/tuber finding (2020)
- Shift towards monitoring vs. treatment (2023 + beyond)



Hydrilla fragment found
in June 2020

Overall Aquatic Macrophyte Abundance Delaware and Raritan Canal Treatment Area 2016 to 2023



Mid-season “Treatment Area” Visual Survey (6/2024)

- Fragments, trace, and sparse amounts of:
 - Wild celery
 - Leafy pondweed
 - Common waterweed
 - Water starwort
 - Muskgrass
 - White-water crowfoot
 - Water bulrush
 - Watershield
 - Duckweed
 - Benthic filamentous algae
 - Emergent plants: arrowhead, spatterdock

**BIODIVERSITY!
ALL NATIVES!**

2024 Plan

- Continue intensive vegetation monitoring throughout Canal
 - Mid-season visual survey (conducted late June)
 - Intensive point survey in late August/September (2/3 of Canal)
 - Tuber surveys (late Oct)
- Add: water quality monitoring
 - The significant change in aquatic vegetation community may impact the algal community



Delaware River @
Washington Crossing

Water Quality Monitoring / HABs

- Monthly sampling May-November at 7 sites along canal
- Parameters
 - Total Iron
 - Ammonia
 - Nitrate/Nitrite
 - Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
 - Total Phosphorus
 - Orthophosphate
 - Chlorophyll a
 - Phytoplankton Assemblage



The Authority is releasing from Kingston Waste Gate in the summer rather than 10 Mile to keep flows elevated in the Millstone River

Water Quality Results 2024 (to date)

May 31, 2024

Parameter	Limit	DRC – 1: Raven Rock	DRC – 2: Washington's Crossing	DRC – 3: Port Mercer	DRC – 4: Kingston	DRC – 5: Blackwells Mills	DRC – 6: 10 Mile Lock	DRC – 7: Landing Lane
Total Iron	>0.3 mg/L	0.0872	0.25	0.179	0.267	0.218	0.206	0.0896
Ammonia	>0.3 mg/L	0.077	0.128	0.12	0.2	ND	0.075	ND
Nitrate/Nitrite	>0.3 mg/L	0.99	1.2	0.84	0.78	0.81	0.66	0.67
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	>0.3 mg/L	0.352	0.344	0.379	0.308	0.408	1.29	0.622
Total Phosphorus	>0.03 mg/L	0.066	0.08	0.072	0.086	0.077	0.078	0.073
Orthophosphate	>0.03 mg/L	0.045	0.026	0.056	0.063	0.057	0.055	0.051
Chlorophyll a	NA mg/m3	1.94	---	0.97	1.85	2.57	---	4.56

*Results written in **RED** indicate that value exceeds acceptable limits.

June 25, 2024

Parameter	Limit	DRC – 1: Raven Rock	DRC – 2: Washington's Crossing	DRC – 3: Port Mercer	DRC – 4: Kingston	DRC – 5: Blackwells Mills	DRC – 6: 10 Mile Lock	DRC – 7: Landing Lane
Total Iron	>0.3 mg/L	0.333	0.774	0.431	0.565	0.401	0.374	0.24
Ammonia	>0.3 mg/L	ND	0.126	0.118	0.669	0.142	0.188	0.15
Nitrate/Nitrite	>0.3 mg/L	0.64	0.49	0.71	0.69	0.69	0.81	0.68
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	>0.3 mg/L	0.621	0.698	0.572	0.446	0.461	0.452	0.43
Total Phosphorus	>0.03 mg/L	0.093	0.162	0.135	0.137	0.133	0.135	0.124
Orthophosphate	>0.03 mg/L	0.03	0.051	0.059	0.063	0.061	0.056	0.064
Chlorophyll a	NA mg/m3	ND	---	ND	0.002	ND	---	ND

*Results written in **RED** indicate that value exceeds acceptable limits.

Water Quality Monitoring: D&R Canal

Sample Date: 31 May 2024

May 31, 2024

DRC – 1: Raven Rock			DRC – 2: Washington’s Crossing			DRC – 3: Port Mercer						
Diatoms	1	2	3	Green Algae	1	2	3	Cyanobacteria	1	2	3	
Asterionella	596			Closterium	745		298					
Fragilaria			3874									
Navicula	149											
Pinnularia		158										
Golden Algae	1	2	3									
Mallomonas		316						Results				
				Euglenoids	1	2	3		Site	1	2	3
									Total Genera	3	2	2
Dinoflagellates	1	2	3						Cells/mL	1,490	474	4,172

Results

Site	1	2	3
Total Genera	3	2	2
Cells/mL	1,490	474	4,172

Water Quality Monitoring: D&R Canal

Sample Date: 25 June 2024

June 25, 2024

DRC – 1: Raven Rock			DRC – 2: Washington's Crossing			DRC – 3: Port Mercer					
Diatoms	1	2	3	Green Algae	1	2	3	Cyanobacteria	1	2	3
<i>Cymbella</i>	421			<i>Closterium</i>	70						
<i>Nitzschia</i>			70	<i>Coelastrum</i>	1,718	947	140				
<i>Pinnularia</i>	806	280	175	<i>Desmodesmus</i>	1,542	421	280				
<i>Stephanodiscus</i>	526	245	105								
<i>Synedra</i>		105									
Golden Algae	1	2	3								
								Results			
				Euglenoids	1	2	3	Site	1	2	3
								Total Genera	7	6	5
Dinoflagellates	1	2	3	<i>Euglena</i>	35	70		Cells/mL	5,118	2,068	770

Results

Site	1	2	3
Total Genera	7	6	5
Cells/mL	5,118	2,068	770



Contact:
Heather Desko
hdesko@njwsa.org





P. O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553

What to Do with Our Historic Artifacts

The D&R Canal State Park and the D&R Canal Commission are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. The D&R Canal opened in 1834 and closed to boat traffic in 1932. Then in 1944 it opened as a water transmission system to supply water to over one million people in Central New Jersey. The D&R was one of the most successful waterways in the country. It is a famous canal because in one year (1866) it carried more freight than the more well-known Erie Canal.

Considered the second most visited state park in New Jersey, the D&R hosts walkers, bikers, birders, anglers, canoeists, kayakers, nature lovers, history buffs, and folks who just want to get away and relax. There are very few historical artifacts that date back to the beginning of the canal age. These include locktender and bridgetender houses (5 of which will be open to the public on Sunday, September 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary), the actual lock walls (without the lock gates), and the ditch itself. There are a few artifacts from the early 1900s, including swing bridge mechanisms on two road bridges and two railroad bridges (the Princeton Dinky and a current pedestrian bridge in South Bound Brook).

There are some gate actuators from the late 1940s on the lock dams that are being replaced as we write this. For such a storied canal, there should be more we can do to save this history. The two swing bridges that are being replaced at South Bound Brook and Landing Lane provide the perfect opportunity to save some of the history of this historic waterway before it is too late.

The Landing Lane bridge is to have its swing mechanism salvaged. We hope that it will be visible to the public after the work is completed and an interpretive sign installed to explain its workings and value.

The South Bound Brook swing bridge is to be replaced with the possible loss of its swing mechanism. The D&R Canal had unlimited height restriction because all of the bridges swung out of the way. That was one reason it beat out the Erie Canal.

Why not save the South Bound Brook swing bridge and move it to the Lock 11 Park. Mount it on a pad of concrete or permeable macadam (to cut down on grass growing and help flood recovery) and put it on display with interpretive signage. It would give the public an opportunity to learn about the swing bridges of the D&R and save one of the last historic artifacts of the canal.

You might ask, well, who's going to pay for this? A number of years ago the park received two million dollars to create a replica historic swing bridge as mitigation for the I-95/I-295 bridge replacement at Scudder Falls. Plans were drawn and archaeological work was done to site the replica bridge at Moore's Creek.

What happened? The bids came in too high, and the project disappeared. Why not use what's left of that two million dollars to save the South Bound Brook authentic and historic swing bridge and move it to Lock 11 Park for all to enjoy instead of losing one more piece of our historic register D&R Canal?

Sincerely,
Linda J. Barth
President, D&R Canal Watch