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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025 – 7:30 PM

\*This meeting was held in person, and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

**I.**

Supervisor Bermingham called the special meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Erler, and Township Manager Graziano. Supervisor Albert was absent.

**II.**

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Eckman.  
Vote: 4-0.

**III.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IV.**

**PRESENTATION**

Tara Mezzanotte gave a presentation on the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Expansion Project and ORV findings. Tara provided information to the BOS to decide if any Township Delaware River segments or tributaries should be added to the LDWSR designation. The Wild and Scenic River Act protects certain rivers that possess outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Tara discussed eligibility/suitability, partnership, Management Council/Plan, key tributary expansion facts, WSR Act 7 review of Federal (federally funded, DEP permitted, and hydroelectric), potential segments/tributaries, grant opportunities.

Supervisor Friedman asked about the Federal Government stipulating what we have to do. Tara stated no, whatever property exists, they cannot finish.

Supervisor Erler asked about a private resident wanting to build a new boat ramp, would they have any restrictions put on for this. Tara said they would have to do what they would normally do, permits, DEP, etc, because they are touching water. The National Park Service does not want to go into backyards to review docks, unless it is Federally Funded.

Manager Graziano asked why do we need this if we already have all of the triggers (Township, DEP, NCCD, etc) in place, why do we need another layer of government? He agrees with having the river included. Having the government come in prolongs everything. He is not seeing anything that says we need this.

Supervisor Eckman asked about a set amount of water withdraw. Can stipulations be put into place about how much water can be withdrawn? Tara stated that will be handled by the Delaware River Water Basin.

Supervisor Bermingham asked about the Management Council. Is the Management Council made up of the territories. Tara stated that each municipality has representation. Tara stated that the Management Council's job is to administer the management plan.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Rd., asked about the understanding of governance. He would like to see more of that. What does this mean for the residents?

There was a discussion on grant opportunities.

Lisa Pektor discussed excluded areas.

Tara discussed ineligible gaps in 2000. They were industrial. Industrial is no longer a disqualifier.

Tara discussed the Tributary ORV Summary of Slateford Creek, Jacoby Creek, Allegheny Creek and Mill Creek.

Supervisor Erler asked how this will affect small dams on private properties. Tara stated none.

Tom Gilmour, Morningside Dr., discussed dam removals and opening up historic habitat for fisheries.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Dr., asked if the Township can pick and choose as to what to sign on to (River/Tributaries). Tara discussed what the other Townships have chosen to pick. Tara stated that yes, you can pick and choose.

Lisa Pektor discussed potential users and being flexible if they will be using the river. Supervisor Eckman asked if doing this would hurt a potential buyer. Lisa stated that if the gaps that have been discussed, where there's that distance from their property, she doesn't think it would hurt a buyer. Tara stated that the only agency that could do a review is the National Park Service.

Supervisor Erler asked Tara for clarification with her meeting with RPL, their request was to increase the gap area by their property, ½ mile N., ½ mile S, which would

prohibit Jacoby Creek and Dellawana. Tara stated without using distance, instead use landmarks, proposed going up to Jacoby Creek and down to Dellawana so they could still be considered, and that was acceptable by RPL.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., stated that in 2008, there was a Resolution to be part of the Wild and Scenic, but attending committee meetings, they wanted to bring others on board, which didn't happen until a couple of years ago. This is a partnership, not regulated by the Federal Government, it's a partnership with your municipalities, your state, and your counties.

Stavros Barbounis, Potomac St., stated that he still missing the level of understanding he is looking for, how, who, or what does this protect. He does not see the objective, it's not clearly delineated or described in anything he has seen. If nothing is enforceable, how can you protect something.

Supervisor Erler would like to see the current Management Plan. Tara will send him the link.

**V.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the special meeting at 9:10 pm, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary