

**Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) Meeting  
Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

**Participants:**

Randy Brown, PA DEP / CZM; Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers; Abbey Gancz, Urban Engineers; Jim Boyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Josh Lippert, City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections; Kathleen Hogan, East Falls Development Corporation; Amy Verbofsky, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief project description and concept development plan were submitted to the committee in advance of the meeting. These documents are attached to these meeting notes.

**1. East Falls River Landing**

Abbey Gancz of Urban Engineers presented the project background and concept plan. East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC) is Urban Engineer's client for this project. EFDC received a William Penn Foundation grant to develop a path and boat launch along the Schuylkill River, adjacent to an existing parking lot. The proposed path will allow people to drive to the area, unload their boats from their cars, and access the river. Abbey noted that Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) conducted a tree survey of the site, surveying a total of 13 trees. PPR determined that two trees (noted in the plan documents) should be preserved, but the remaining trees were either diseased or of lesser importance. Urban Engineers considered both the location of the priority trees as well as the presence of informal foot paths when determining the location of the proposed path.

Randy Brown, PA DEP / CZM, asked who the applicant would be when applying for permits. He noted that the project would qualify for a General Permit 2 if EFDC was the applicant and a Small Projects Joint Permit if the City of Philadelphia (City) acted as the applicant. The Small Projects Joint Permit requires a more extensive application than the General Permit. It will require a floodplain review as well as a historic review. Mr. Brown noted that the General Permit 2 generally takes 30 days to review and costs \$175. The Small Projects Joint Permit takes 93 business days to review and typically costs substantially more; however, permit fees would be waived if the City were the applicant. For EFDC to be the applicant, they would need to show some kind of agreement, such as a lease agreement, between EFDC and the City.

Mr. Brown also noted that project may require a Submerged Lands Licensing Agreement for the apron but that fees would be exempted since the boat launch is free and open to the public. The license agreement is not an additional application and would be something that DEP would issue in house.

Jim Boyer, USACOE, noted that the permit applications always go to the State first and then PA DEP will determine if it requires USACOE review. However, Mr. Boyer did not anticipate

needing USACOE review for this particular project, with the possible exception of requiring a historic review.

Kathleen Hogan, EFDC, noted that the EFDC does not currently have a lease agreement with the City for the path and boat launch site. EFDC sees themselves as the project sponsor but would like the City to take ownership and maintenance responsibility. However, EFDC will discuss with Urban Engineers and their Board as to the best way to move forward.

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, asked whether either of the regulatory agencies had any concerns regarding the structure itself. Both Randy Brown and Jim Boyer replied that they did not.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Boyer encouraged Urban Engineers and EFDC to complete their PHMC and PNDI reviews and then submit their permit application.

The development team thanked the attendees for their comments.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Post Note: David Kovach of the DRBC emailed the following comments:

The DRBC's floodplain Regulations do apply in this non-tidal area of the Schuylkill River in the Delaware River Basin; however, the on-grade path and concrete apron boat launch is a permissible project within the floodway and flood fringe under DRBC regulations. Furthermore, the project does not entail 50,000 square feet or more of structure area and is thereby not reviewable under the Commission's floodplain regulations. No further involvement from the DRBC is required for this project.