

Delaware County Sustainability Commission Minutes

June 11, 2026 – 4:00 – 5:35 PM

The Delaware County Sustainability Commission held its regular meeting virtually in June 2026. Chair Jaclyn Rhoads called the meeting to order following confirmation of quorum.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

PUBLIC MEMBERS (5 for Quorum)	GOVERNMENT MEMBERS (4 for Quorum)
✓ David Director ✓ Carol Martsolf ✓ Julie Prey ✓ Jaclyn Rhoads ✓ Michael Schneller Joi Washington ✓ Justin Tibbels ✓ Mike Fuller	Dave Moser, DCSWA (Alternate) ✓ Ron Aquilino, Planning (Alternate) Anne Stauffer, Parks Laura Goodrich-Cairns, Economic Development Danielle Floyd, Facilities ✓ Olivia Sansone, Sustainability ✓ Sue DePompeo, Sustainability ✓ Karen Lochman, Conservation ✓ Becca Yurkovich, Sustainability
SPECIAL GUESTS	ADDITIONAL STAFF & OFFICIALS
✓ Kate Raman, Natural Lands	✓ Connor Reardon, DCSWA ✓ Jordan Knox, DCOS

Quorum was established.

2. Opening Remarks

The interactive question was a call for ideas about sustainable vacations, and Commission members discussed staying home (stay-cation), woofing on a farm, driving to Adirondacks to float in a lake, carpooling, public transit, staying at environmentally conscious accommodations, reusing hotel linens, and purchasing carbon offsets when available.

3. Public Comment Instructions

Instructions for public comment were reviewed. Members of the public were advised they could raise their hand virtually, submit comments by email, or post comments through the Zoom chat.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by David Director to approve the May meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron Aquilino and approved unanimously.

5. Darby Creek Resilience, Conservation and Management Watershed Plan Update – Kate Raman, Natural Lands

Kate Raman provided an update on the Darby Creek Resilience, Conservation and Management Watershed Plan. She reported that comments received from Delaware County

had been incorporated into the draft plan and that additional comments from Delco Planning and the Darby Creek Valley Association were still being addressed. Discussion focused on mapping revisions (due mid-July), flood mitigation opportunities, stream restoration priorities, green stormwater infrastructure, municipal implementation strategies, and opportunities for regional collaboration. Kate said they're still editing to make it not too tech-heavy but still hold vital information. The **first section** covers the entire watershed (Upper, Middle and Lower) and includes outreach, demographics and land use patterns, **part two** goes over goals and strategies recommended to municipalities, and **part three** includes a chapter and ordinance review rubric for every municipality.

Resilience can be enhanced with commercial redevelopment opportunities. Park restoration is important, and impervious coverage was considered. Land protection was recommended for parcels over 10 acres. Golf courses and cemeteries are important as the last land left, so they're trying to enhance stewardship in those spaces.

Kate showed examples of "tear sheets" provided to municipalities for (1) **establishing a Darby Creek Waterway** with branding and signage of underground creeks and high-water lines, riparian buffers. (2) **Monitoring Stormwater Plans** is important, and EACs and Shade Tree Commissions can be tapped to help in this area. (3) **Identifying Parcels for Conservation** is also critical, and several were identified, as well as some for restoration. (4) **Establish, Improve and Enforce Existing Ordinances** were colorcoded according to their compliance in specific areas, and (5) **Promotion of Equity and Environmental Justice** was considered through commercial redevelopment and green stormwater Infrastructure, like providing shaded walkways to commercial areas or for cooling playground equipment. (6) **Prepare for Climate Change: Focus on Flooding** was addressed with the Delco Hazard Mitigation staff on buyouts, basins, debris removal and storm prep/recovery.

Becca said federal funding for the Delco hazard mitigation plan is still pending new specifications and will follow up.

Olivia was grateful for the plan and **Mike S** wondered how designations for conservation were made. Kate said undersized parcels sometimes are not conserved because local ordinances aren't updated. **Mike F** mentioned a situation in Upper Darby where people are opposed to a possible zoning amendment could increase impervious surface and Kate said she was informed of the conflict. **Becca** wondered which ordinances might be confused as more protective of open space than they really are. **Kate** said flood plain, steep slope, and tree replacement are natural resource protection ordinances and can deter developers, but sometimes they aren't enforced enough. **Mike S** said that sometimes height variances can sometimes be helpful in finding solutions, and **David D** said the traffic situation alone should be enough to derail the Upper Darby proposal. **Karen** asked if NL found any agricultural land in their research, and **Kate** said the entire watershed is impaired, but she isn't sure if it can be traced to agricultural use. Karen said there are some agricultural conservation easements in place and bringing back the program could be explored. No public comments.

6. Old Business

Retreat Planning Committee: Becca reminded that people still need to fill out availability, and **David** said the committee identified Brittany Hales as a potential facilitator, and the committee continues to discuss retreat goals and structure. Sep 19 or Oct 17 are the possible dates.

Amended Bylaws: Becca reviewed proposed bylaw amendments. Discussion included updates to member categories, committee language, and terminology changes reflecting current county positions and organizations. **Sue** flagged that the “County Chief Sustainability Officer” is still there, and Becca was grateful for the reminder it needs to be amended to County Sustainability Officer. A motion was made by **Mike S** to approve the bylaw amendments with a correction changing 'Chief Sustainability Officer' to 'County Sustainability Officer'. The motion was seconded by **Ron A.** Motion passed unanimously with amendment.

7. Sustainability Office Updates

Becca provided updates on ongoing sustainability initiatives. She said that one energy and one water position are open, and that if any members want to review applications, please let her know. She reported on the regional solar procurement effort being led with neighboring counties and discussed bidder feedback received through the solicitation process, which ended in June. Additional updates were provided on energy efficiency projects, grant-funded initiatives, and implementation of Sustain Delco actions. She also said that *Red Days* of peak demand are coming for the summer, and shared last year’s peak days.

Becca said we’re still waiting for the waiver to acquire light fixtures, but 900 fixtures have been installed, there is a PA DEP Environmental Education conference and some retro EV grants. Then Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) is underway with a contract to be reviewed by the county June 16. SC office working on reaching NEPA requirements, and received a Local Share Account and is partnering with the Conservation District to expand the Salt Snapshot program.

Olivia Sansone shared updates on Keep Delco Beautiful initiatives, such as **library litter kits** (Team Up to Clean Up), and a Take Action newsletter with clean ups and tree planting efforts.

She mentioned community engagement efforts (Bike to Work, Campaign Sign Recycling and a Partner Cleanup with NMS), educational programming, and upcoming volunteer opportunities. Staff also discussed current grant opportunities, project coordination activities, and partnerships with municipal and regional organizations.

Jordan discussed how she’s been tallying water use in county facilities to set **benchmarks** over the last 5-6 years, and it’s ongoing with facilities. She’s also shoring up some land use requirements for the SWIFR grant, making sure there are no overlaps with existing plans regarding the siting of our transfer and composting stations. She’s also researching our pipelines to help with the climate vulnerability tool we have with the GIS department.

Mike S asked if battery back ups were considered during peak hours, which could help with savings and durability of the grid. **David D** said he thinks batteries may not be a part of this conversation, but we should definitely be looking at them. **Becca** agreed that batteries are important. She also reminded her maternity leave begins Sep 23.

8. Grants/other

Jaclyn noted there were no new grant opportunities.

9. Member Round Table

David said that moving his water heater reduced his use, as it shortens the distance water has to run before reaching the faucet. **Karen** said the Conservation District has a full board. **Mike F** shared a video of a new stormwater basin at Bond field in Upper Darby. **Becca** reminded of the importance to fill out availability for the retreat.

10. New Business

Becca asked about summer availability and **David D** moved to cancel the August meeting, **Mike F** seconded. **Ron** said he'd remove it from the website, and asked Becca to remove it from other areas.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by **David D** seconded by **Ron Aquilino**. The meeting adjourned following unanimous agreement.