

**HORSHAM LAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY • October 20, 2021 • 3:30 PM**

In Attendance:

Authority Board

W. William Whiteside, III, Chair  
Joanna M. Furia Esq., Vice Chair  
Eric Coombs  
Joseph Wade

Mark McCouch (Not present)

HLRA Staff

Tom Ames  
Larry Burns  
Mary Eberle, Esquire

William Gildea-Walker (not present)

Michael J. McGee (not present)

Chairman Whiteside called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Horsham Township Building at 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham PA 19044 and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Whiteside asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, there were none.

Mr. Whiteside asked for the will of the Board regarding minutes of the HLRA meeting on July 21, 2021. It was moved by Mr. Wade, second by Mr. Coombs to approve the minutes for the July 21, 2021 HLRA meeting. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whiteside asked for the Executive Director's Report. Deputy Director Tom Ames explained that Mr. McGee was not present and he would fill in.

Mr. Ames noted that the financial update had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting. He noted that the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) (formerly OEA) has awarded a new grant to the HLRA which was very similar to past grants. HLRA staff is currently working on submitting reports to close out the previous grant.

Mr. Ames advised the Board that the staff had been working to update the HLRA website. The current website is based on architecture which is out dated and no longer supported. The HLRA staff has evaluated other providers but determined that Catapult was the most economical alternative for the updated website. Mr. Burns added that a beta version was available and would

be provided to the Board members for review and comments. Mr. Whiteside asked when the new website would be operational; Mr. Burns stated that the goal was for a November 2021 roll-out.

Mr. Ames also advised the Board that the Navy and EPA have signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 3, selecting their preferred alternative of a soil cap over the contaminated areas. He noted that the Board had provided input to the Navy and EPA requesting that the contaminants be removed from the site but the Navy selected the soil cover alternative. Board members asked if any redevelopment could occur over the cap. Mr. Ames noted that the purpose of the soil cover is to prevent contact with the contamination; a road or parking lot could serve similar purposes.

Mr. Ames briefed the Board that the HLRA had participated in the Pennsylvania House Majority Policy Committee meeting held on September 15, 2021 in Horsham, PA. The meeting included a windshield tour of the closed NAS-JRB Willow Grove.

Mr. Ames also noted that the HRLA staff met with COL Thomey, the commander of the Biddle Air National Guard Base and his staff, to discuss options available to the Air Guard for upgrades to their Main Gate. Mr. Ames reminded the Board that they had provided input to the Air Guard that they supported a new gate accessing the base via a connection to County Line Road. COL Thomey briefed the HLRA staff that the cost of relocating the gate to that location far exceeded the cost of renovations to the existing gate.

Mr. Ames advised the Board that Biddle ANGB would be hosting a tour of their facilities focusing on controlling PFAS contamination at their site on October 28, 2021 for members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

Mr. Whiteside asked Ms. Eberle for the Solicitor's Report. Ms. Eberle noted that she continues to meet with HLRA staff on various matters.

Mr. Whiteside asked for the will of the Board regarding the list of checks. It was moved by Ms. Furia, seconded by Mr. Coombs, to approve the list of checks in the amount of \$73,482.29 covering the period from July 22, 2021 to October 20, 2021. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mr. Ames briefed the Board on recent progress made by the U.S. Navy and the Biddle Air National Guard Base to address groundwater contamination associated with the past use and releases of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He noted that both the Navy and

Air Guard have made progress in the effort to limit the impacts of PFAS on stormwater and groundwater in the area. A copy of the slide presentation is attached.

Mr. Whiteside announced that the HLRA Board would be meeting in Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss real estate issues.

Mr. Whiteside announced that the next Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority meeting would be on January 19, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Horsham Township Municipal Building. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

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William T. Gildea-Walker  
HLRA Secretary