



# HLRA Update

February, 2020

Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority  
1025 Horsham Road Horsham, PA 19044 p 215.643.3131 www.hlra.org mail@hlra.org

## HLRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

William Whiteside III  
Chairperson

Joanna Furia, Esquire  
Vice Chairperson

Dr. Curtis Griffin  
Member

Mark McCouch  
Member

Joe Wade  
Member

## HLRA STAFF

Michael J. McGee  
Executive Director

Tom Ames, P.E.  
Deputy Director

Larry Burns  
Deputy Director

## HLRA MEETING SCHEDULE

All HLRA Meetings are open to the public.

- 3:30 pm April 15, 2020 at the Horsham Township building.
- All meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

## HLRA Welcomes New Board Member

At the January 15, 2020 Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority's Board Meeting, Chair Bill Whiteside welcomed Joe Wade to the HLRA Board. Mr. Wade, appointed by the Horsham Township Council to a five year term, replaces Bill Donnelly.

Mr. Wade, a long term Horsham Township resident, has extensive ties to the Horsham community. He most recently served on the Board of Directors for the Hatboro-Horsham School District and



formerly on the Township's Police Pension Board. Joe brings a well-rounded background in insurance and financial planning to the Board and we welcome him enthusiastically to the HLRA Board.

The HLRA Board thanks Bill Donnelly for his many years of service on first the Horsham Township Authority for NAS-JRB Willow and then the current Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority. Bill was instrumental in helping develop the plan for the redevelopment, insuring that the local resident's voices were heard during the initial planning period.

## HLRA Announces Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Dates for the next four HLRA Board meetings are:

April 15, 2020

July 15, 2020

October 21, 2020

January 20, 2021

All meetings are scheduled to be held in the newly renovated Horsham Township Building at 3:30 PM. The dates, times and locations are subject to change, so please check the HLRA web site prior to each meeting to confirm meeting specifics.

## PA 2019 ACT 101 Authorizes New Authority

Legislation signed by PA Governor Tom Wolf in November 2019 has resulted in the creation of a new municipal authority in Horsham Township. The Military Installation Remediation and Infrastructure Authority (MIRIA) was formed in late January, 2020 by Horsham Township Council. The primary purpose of the new authority will be to use state tax revenues generated by land parcels, companies and residents on or near specific closed military facilities to off-set costs associated with remediation of environmental contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PA State Representative Todd Stephens was instrumental in sponsoring the legislation and gathering bi-partisan support for the new law.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, are a family of human-made chemicals that are composed of fluorine and carbon bonded with different combinations of other elements. The PFAS family is complex because it contains over 6,000 chemical compounds. Two of the most commonly known chemicals in this family are perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

PFAS chemicals were added to firefighting foams to create aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). AFFF's unique ability to quickly extinguish fires, particularly petroleum-based fires, made it a common-place product for emergency service providers and established itself as the industry standard firefighting product for fire departments, airports, military bases, oil refineries, and manufacturing plants.

AFFF was used at the former Naval Air Station – Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove (NAS JRB), and the Air Force Reserve Base (renamed Horsham Air Guard Station) located in Horsham Township. Spills, releases and training activities over the years resulted in PFAS compounds entering the local groundwater aquifer and reaching public water supply groundwater supply wells. The Horsham Water & Sewer Authority, as well as other local public water suppliers, have addressed the PFAS contamination, first by removing the impacted wells from service and then installing filter systems that removes the contamination. Certain costs of the remediation were covered by cooperative agreements between the water authorities and the Navy/Air National Guard, but other costs had to be borne by local rate payers.

MIRIA, using the guidelines established in the law, will assist the PA Department of Revenue in identifying the land parcels, companies/corporations and local residents whose state tax payments that would otherwise go to the State will now be eligible to be directed to MIRIA to cover the costs associated with PFAS contamination from the former military base as well as transportation improvements and the redevelopment of the former NAS JRB Willow Grove.

### NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

***THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND***

**Next Meeting:**

**March 18, 2020 6pm**

Horsham Township Library

435 Babylon Road, Horsham, PA 19044

For further information please visit:

[www.bracpmo.navy.mil](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil)