

**Military Installation Remediation and
Infrastructure Authority (“MIRIA”)
Board Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2021**

In attendance:

BOARD:

Todd Stephens, Chair
W. William Whiteside, Vice Chair
Thomas Panzer, Secretary
Theresa Harmon, Treasurer
Tara Conner-Hallston (absent)
Scott DeRosa (attended virtually)
Gregory Nesbitt (attended virtually)

STAFF:

Larry Burns, Executive Director
William Gildea-Walker, Deputy
Director
Mary Eberle, Esq., Solicitor

Mr. Stephens opened the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance at 9:07 AM in the Horsham Township Municipal Building at 1025 Horsham Road.

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any question or comments from the audience. There were none.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the June 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Whiteside motioned to approve the minutes to the June 4th board meeting. Ms. Harmon seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked if the Executive Director had a report. Mr. Burns confirmed that the audit of MIRIA’s 2020 financial results were complete, that they had been distributed to the board members and the audit had no qualifications. He confirmed that effective yesterday, July 1st that the reporting period for the Military Installation Remediation Program or “MIRP” had opened and the secure website was now active with the Department of Revenue. Mr. Burns noted that he had talked with Ms. Deana Zosky, the MIRIA’s compliance consultant earlier in the week and that an email to all parcel and business owners was in preparation. He reminded the board that last year affirmed that most required filers actual file in the last 30 days if not the last week of the reporting period and that we should expect the same in the current cycle. As it relates to the recreational sport fields study, Mr. Burns confirmed that the Sports Facilities Advisory team was in town on June 18th and the visit included a few hours of discussing concept and scope of the study as well as a tour of the township. In the coming weeks it is expected that a draft report should be soon available. Additionally, the traffic network study is progressing ahead. Eric Fray was available for a presentation at last months board meeting and is expected to have a draft

report and presentation available at the August board meeting. Regarding 986 Easton Road, there is a motion on the agenda that will begin various processes that are necessary ahead of the planned demolition of the property. Those things include a hazmat survey of the property to identify if there is any asbestos or lead paint that may require remedial action. Looking forward, he confirmed that two of the grant applicants, Warminster and Warrington Townships have requested quick response grants, and that those requests would most likely be reviewed at the September board meeting. Mr. Burns indicated that was his report and if anyone had any questions, he be pleased to address them. There were none.

Mr. Stephens made note that he wanted to acknowledge his colleague, Representative Megan Schroeder was in attendance. He also stated that he wanted to follow-up on a few things. In terms of compliance, in our first year, last year that there were a couple of folks that did not submit their information and that he and Mr. Burns were reviewing strategies to bring them into compliance in this year. Additionally, he had tried to make some tweaks to the program regarding the list of eligible properties, and that he and Representative Schroeder had had late night discussions with the majority leader, but was not successful in getting the Governor's office on board regarding them. He confirmed that he would keep the dialogue going in an effort to streamline the process, which has been burdensome both for MIRIA staff and for the folks at the Department of Revenue as well. Hopefully these conversations may get traction in the coming year.

Mr. Stephens referred to the next agenda item of bills or communications and asked for the will of the board regarding the list of checks. Mr. Panzer motioned for approval of the list of checks in the amount of \$1,124,187.82 for payment of MIRIA operating expenses and for funding of MIRIA project costs and disbursement of \$1,084,711.00 in grant funding for the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Whiteside seconded. Mr. Stephens inquired of the disbursement to the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority and whether that disbursement is because work has been completed and now being reimbursed? Mr. Burns confirmed that yes that was the case, that some of the funding was for reimbursement of operation and maintenance costs for GAC units, some funding was for dewatering costs of about \$291,000 related to the project on County Line Road, and for reimbursement to residents for connection costs from 2016 to 2019. All invoices were reviewed and validated. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens indicated the next agenda was new business. Mr. Burns confirmed that under new business there were services required to be engaged to move the process along for the eventual demolition of the 986 Easton Road property. A hazmat survey needs to be done to identify if there is asbestos or lead paint which would require special handling in the demo process, the decommissioning of wells on the property, the removal of the oil tanks at the property and other services that may be required. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to authorize staff to engage various services as part of the demolition of the property at 986 Easton Road. Mr. DeRosa seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked if anyone had any additional business? There was none.

Mr. Stephens said he had two things to add. While we were not successful in getting the proposed MIRP changes, we were successful in securing funding for Temple University to complete the cancer study related to PFAS exposure. It was a request that came in in January and Representative Polinchock, Schroeder and I reached out to the Governor's Office to urge them to include that funding in the budget and followed-up with a letter to our appropriations staff. For those that are unfamiliar with the subject, the federal government approved funding a health study but specifically excluded cancer. Fortunately, Temple University stepped up to fill that void and needed some funding. Also, he noted he is working on organizing a tour and visit of some of his colleagues. In discussions with Representative Polinchock and Schroeder, it is believed that our program is largely a mystery to a lot of people in Harrisburg, and the Willow Grove Naval Air Station and the issues there, and the potential that it has for both this community and for the Commonwealth, are largely a mystery to many of his colleagues. Discussions have taken place of assembling a group of our colleagues to come to Horsham and see and better understand the base property, maybe to look at Bucks County's base and the success story that exists there with all the economic development that occurred. To really make sure they understand the full potential economic impact for the region and for the Commonwealth. We are working on that, and maybe we'll be able to get that done before the end of the summer. We'll keep you all informed as that moves forward.

Mr. Stephens reminded all that the next MIRIA board meeting was to be held on Friday, August 6th, 2021 at 9:00 am at the Horsham Township Municipal Building.

With no other business, Mr. Stephens adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:21 am.

/S/

Thomas Panzer, Secretary