

**Military Installation Remediation and
Infrastructure Authority (“MIRIA”)
Board Meeting Minutes
February 06, 2020**

In attendance:

BOARD:

Todd Stephens, Chair
W. William Whiteside, Vice Chair
Thomas Panzer, Secretary
Tara Conner-Hallston
Scott DeRosa
Theresa Harmon
Gregory Nesbitt

STAFF:

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

Mr. Gildea-Walker opened the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM in the Horsham Township Building, 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham, PA.

Mr. Gildea-Walker introduced State Representative Todd Stephens. Representative Stephens made note that for too long, the US EPA and Pennsylvania DEP have provided an inadequate response to PFAS contamination resulting from the former NAS-JRB Willow Grove property. As a result, local communities have borne substantial costs to protect our residents and to take local systems to non-detect regarding these chemicals. These costs have been passed on to local rate payors with higher water costs and surcharges. With the help of State Representatives Bernie O’Neill, Kathy Watson and Meghan Schroeder, we focused on finding a dedicated funding source that would alleviate the burden on our local communities. PA 2019 Act 101 which was signed by Governor Wolf in November allows Pennsylvania State tax revenues generated in certain parcels in Horsham Township to serve as a new funding source to offset PFAS remediation costs to our communities and rate payors. Timelines for the road ahead are very tight and Horsham Township in the last few months has invested time and resources that will help this new authority meet the deadlines ahead. The new authority is expected to be in existence for 30 years and will provide a program that will help our water providers recoup costs for our communities and rate payors.

Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed to the audience that a sign-in sheet was available and encourage all to sign-in and provide their emails for future updates.

Mr. Gildea-Walker then invited board and staff to introduce themselves to each other and the audience. Board and staff introduced themselves.

Mr. Gildea-Walker asked if there were any question or comments from the audience.

Mr. Larry Menkes of Warminster indicated he's been a resident of the local community for over 23 years and has been suffering from various health issues that he believes is a direct result of the PFAS contamination. Representative Stephens agreed that other governmental agencies could have addressed these issues sooner and that some gains have been made. He thanks Mr. Menkes for his activism on this issue.

With no other questions or comments, Mr. Gildea-Walker indicated the next agenda item was the election and appointment of authority officers, and asked if there were any motions. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to appoint Todd Stephens as Chair, William Whiteside as Vice Chair, Thomas Panzer as Secretary and Larry Burns as Treasurer. Ms. Conner-Hallston seconded the motion. Mr. Gildea Walker confirmed it was a roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye

Mr. DeRosa – Aye

Ms. Harmon – Aye

Mr. Nesbitt – Aye

Mr. Panzer – Aye

Mr. Whiteside – Aye

Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gildea-Walker announced that Representative Stephens as Chair would now take over the meeting.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the consideration of the by-laws. Mr. Whiteside made a motion to approve as proposed the MIRIA By-laws. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye

Mr. DeRosa – Aye

Ms. Harmon – Aye

Mr. Nesbitt – Aye

Mr. Panzer – Aye

Mr. Whiteside – Aye

Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board in consideration of the appointment of staff. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion for the appointment of William Gildea-Walker as Executive Director and Larry Burns as Deputy Director of MIRIA. Mr. Whiteside seconded the motion. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board in the consideration of the appointment of the MIRIA Solicitor. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to appoint Mary Eberle of the firm of Grim, Biehn and Thatcher as the MIRIA Solicitor. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board in order to authorize MIRIA staff to solicit a Request for Proposals for an auditor for the MIRIA for 2020 and for its 2020 audited financial statement. Mr. Whiteside made a motion in favor, seconded by Mr. DeRosa. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will or the board in consideration of the MIRIA budget for 2020. Mr. Nesbit motioned to approve the MIRIA 2020 budget as submitted and to approve Resolution #2020-1 adopting same. Mr. Panzer seconded. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the staffing agreement between MIRIA and Horsham Township. Ms. Eberle briefly provided remarks regarding the purpose of the staffing agreement and the township license as mechanisms necessary so that Horsham Township would be reimbursed for its costs in supporting MIRIA efforts. Mr. Whiteside motioned to approve the proposed agreement between MIRIA and Horsham Township related to reimbursement by the MIRIA for costs related to staff. Mr. Panzer seconded. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nesbitt commented that undertakings of the MIRIA were a huge task with short timelines and a very complicated statute. Horsham Township had dedicated staff to moving efforts forward. Mr. Panzer confirmed his thanks to Horsham Township staff for its leadership in this effort for its hard work.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the township license agreement. Mr. Panzer motioned to approve the agreement as proposed between MIRIA and Horsham Township related to reimbursement by the MIRIA to Horsham for office space and other costs. Mr. DeRosa seconded. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding Resolution #2020-2 to establish bank accounts. Mr. DeRosa motioned to approve as proposed Resolution #2020-2 which authorizes staff to establish deposit accounts for the MIRIA. Ms. Harmon second. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

At the urging of Mr. Gildea-Walker, Mr. Stephens announced that the signatures for all MIRIA Accounts would require the signature of two of the following: Chair or Vice Chair and the Executive Director or Treasurer.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the proposed MIRIA Board meeting schedule for 2020. Mr. Nesbitt motioned to approve as proposed the meeting schedule for MIRIA board Meetings. Mr. Whiteside seconded. Roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye
Mr. DeRosa – Aye
Ms. Harmon – Aye
Mr. Nesbitt – Aye
Mr. Panzer – Aye
Mr. Whiteside – Aye
Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked if the Executive Director had a report. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed that today was the first MIRIA organization meeting. He thanked Representative Stephens for his hard work and determination over the last 6 years bringing PA 2019 Act 101 to fruition and providing a funding source for PFAS remediation cost reimbursement and infrastructure funds. The Act mirror some other economic development programs, but this program is the first of kind. Working with the Senate and Governor, Representative Stephens has provided a unique opportunity for local rate payors. He noted there's a lot of hard work ahead, with tight timelines. Staff has policies and procedure to devise, and grant guidelines, forms and applications to create.

Mr. Stephens again acknowledged the help of Representative Schroeder and Representative O'Neill. He noted it was truly a team effort to get the program over the finish line.

Mr. Stephens asked if Ms. Eberle had a Solicitors report. Ms. Eberle confirmed that the Articles of Incorporation for the MIRIA were sent to the State Corporate Bureau and as of February 4, 2020, we were officially on the list. She commented that the MIRIA first year has and will be a whirlwind, as the Authority will need to create policies and procedures, and interact with and engage other municipalities and municipal water providers. It's important that all involved are on the same page and work as a team to access the funding made available under the statute.

Mr. Stephens expressed his thanks to Ms. Eberle and the Horsham Township Staff.

With no other business, Mr. Stephens adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:29am.

/S/

Thomas Panzer, Secretary