



HLRA Update

October, 2013

HLRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

W. William Whiteside III
Chairperson

Joanna Furia, Esquire
Vice Chairperson

William Donnelly
Member

Dr. Curtis Griffin
Member

Mark McCouch
Member

HLRA STAFF

Michael J. McGee
Executive Director

Tom Ames, P.E.
Deputy Director

CONTACT US

1025 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044
P: 215.643.3131
F: 215.643.0448
www.hlra.org
mail@hlra.org

MEETING SCHEDULE

October 16, 2013
November 20, 2013
December 18, 2013

**3:30pm in the
Horsham Township Bldg.**

A Message from the HLRA Board Chairman, W. William Whiteside, III

As a longtime resident of Horsham Township and a member of Horsham Township Council since January of 2000, I understand the impact that the Department of Defense's decision to close NAS-JRB Willow Grove has had on our township and the region. As Chairman of the HLRA, I have used this insight to help advance a process that will benefit Horsham Township well into the future and help to insure that our community continues to be recognized as a great place to live and work.

In 2005 after losing our battle to save the base and, immediately following the NAS-JRB Willow Grove closure announcement, Horsham Township Council started planning the community's response to the loss of the base. This effort evolved into the creation of the Horsham Township Authority for NAS-JRB Willow Grove (HLRA) and its' recognition by the Department of Defense. The HLRA Board, with extensive input from the public, finalized the vision for the redevelopment of the base in March 2012. The Redevelopment Plan, when fully implemented, will provide many benefits for the community, including over 7,000 employment opportunities, a wide range of housing choices, 40 acres to be transferred to the School District at no cost, a significant increase of acreage for the air museum, and over 200 additional acres of open space to be added to the township's extensive park system.

As the Navy completes its required environmental review of the Redevelopment Plan, the Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority (the "implementation" HLRA) that was created by Horsham Township Council in 2012 has been working diligently on preparing the Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) application for submission to the Navy. The EDC application submission will be the basis for the negotiations with the Navy on the terms, conditions and timing of the property transfers. We will carefully analyze the current and future market opportunities to insure we get the most favorable terms for the transfer.

(continued on page 2)



HLRA Board Members L to R: (bottom row) Joanna Furia, Vice Chair, William Whiteside III, Chairman, Dr. Curtis Griffin (top row) William Donnelly and Mark McCouch

HLRA briefs Federal and State Officials on NAS-JRB Willow Grove Redevelopment

In late August 2013, Michael McGee, Executive Director of the Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority (HLRA) and W. William Whiteside, III, Chairman of the HLRA, met with U.S. Congressman Patrick Meehan (R-7), State Representative Todd Stephens (R-151), C. Alan Walker, Secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development, Cosmo Servidio, Southeast Regional Director of Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection and members of their staffs.

A briefing on the HLRA’s Redevelopment Plan was followed by a tour of the closed Navy base providing an opportunity for these key officials to visualize the development potential which will be available after the property is transferred. It is expected that the group will focus on some of the transportation challenges that currently exist in the region.

We will continue to work with federal, state and county officials as well as the local business community to address the much needed current and future transportation improvements.



Pictured left to right: Horsham Township Manager William Walker, HLRA Chairman William Whiteside, III, Secretary Alan Walker, U.S. Rep. Pat Meehan, State Rep. Todd Stephens and HLRA Executive Director Michael McGee toured the Route 611 corridor as well as the former NAS-JRB Willow Grove on August 22, 2013. Courtesy: Todd Stephens



A Message from the HLRA Board Chairman, W. William Whiteside, III

(continued from page 1)

Implementing the Plan is a long term endeavor. My fellow board members and I have confidence that Horsham Township’s citizens, businesses, civic organizations and government officials, as well as those in our surrounding communities, are up to the task.

The ultimate development will benefit the entire region by providing more jobs, tax revenue, public open space and economic stimulus than that which occurred when the federal government owned the property. We, the HLRA and the many involved citizens of this community, are dedicated to making a positive contribution to Horsham Township as we complete the acquisition of the property and concentrate on the business of the redevelopment of the former base.

HLRA TIMELINE ~ LOOKING AHEAD

Late 2013	Early 2014	Spring 2014
HLRA consultant to complete Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) application to be submitted to Navy.	HLRA to submit its official Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) Application to the Navy.	Negotiations begin between HLRA and Navy on transfer terms of former NAS-JRB Willow Grove.

HLRA Continues to Monitor Navy’s Environmental Cleanup



Willington Lin, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on September 4, 2013 .

As the U.S. Navy’s long term environmental cleanup effort continues, the HLRA is participating as a stakeholder in the quarterly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings. Most of the former base will be available for transfer immediately following the completion of the environmental impact statement. All costs associated with the environmental cleanup are the responsibility of the Department of Defense.

Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Horsham Township Library located at 435 Babylon Road, Horsham, PA 19044.

All environmental documents associated with the cleanup effort are available at the Horsham Township Library or on its website at: www.horshamlibrary.org under the “Jump to” heading, scroll down to *Willow Grove NAS Admin Record*.

RAB MEETING SCHEDULE

December 4, 2013 @ 2:00PM
 March 5, 2014 @ 2:00PM

Environmental Review of the Redevelopment Plan

Before transferring any property, the Navy must analyze the environmental effect of the property transfer as required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a federal law signed in 1969. The analysis is summarized in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) which is scheduled for release in the Fall/Winter 2013.

The Draft EIS will evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of the NAS-JRB Willow Grove Redevelopment Plan (the “proposed action”) as well as several other alternatives. The report will recommend reasonable measures that might be taken to avoid or mitigate environmental effects. The Draft EIS will study human health/safety impacts, community/infrastructure impacts, traffic impacts and natural resources impacts.

Additional information on the EIS is available at <http://www.willowgroveeis.com>.

NAVY TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF EIS PROCESS

