

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

July 10, 2019 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Holland Township Environmental Commission.

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Law by the Environmental Commission Secretary by:

1. Posting such notice on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building.
2. Publishing the notice in the December 13, 2018 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Jerry Bowers, Henry Gore Ted Harwick , Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: David Harrison and Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to dispense with the reading of the June 4, 2019 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion with the exception of Susan Meacham who abstained. Motion carried.

- PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – nothing to report other than PennEast is working on gathering data. Attorney General appeal of State lands is something PennEast is waiting for. . Adelpia Gateway pipeline project was discussed. **The developers of the Adelpia Gateway project claim that the project will provide southeastern Pennsylvania homes and businesses access to abundant, low-cost domestic natural gas.** Adelpia Gateway will use existing infrastructure to transport natural gas to the greater Philadelphia market. The developers assert that the fully converted 84-mile pipeline is purported to transport enough natural gas to meet the needs of more than 250,000 mid-Atlantic households each year, but that the project is being held up because it needs FERC approval. The industry has been in net export since 2013 – they have been exporting. There have been 100

problems with the Mariner East since 2017. Some interesting articles to help educate include but are not limited to:

. Updates for PennEast & Adelpia Gateway Pipeline Projects

Two important pipeline projects, PennEast and Adelpia Gateway, are at various stages of approval. PennEast is a \$1 billion (or \$1.2 billion, depending on the source) new greenfield pipeline project from Luzerne County, PA to Mercer County, NJ. PennEast will flow PA Marcellus gas to markets in NJ. Adelpia Gateway is an old oil pipeline, already in the ground, that runs from Northampton County, PA through Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester counties, terminating in Delaware County at Marcus Hook. Adelpia will flow Marcellus gas to the Philadelphia region. PennEast was announced in 2014, and Adelpia in 2017. Neither has yet begun construction. What's the status for each project?

Pipeline update: Where these 2 projects through the Lehigh Valley stand, amid continuing Pa. natural gas boom

Updated Jun 9, 2019; Posted Jun 9, 2019

By [Kurt Bresswein](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#)

Pennsylvania's natural gas production in 2018 was nearly four times greater than that of 2011, when hydraulic fracturing operations began to ramp up in the state's Marcellus Shale region.

To help get that gas to homes, schools, businesses and industries, two pipeline projects are continuing their march toward construction through the Lehigh Valley.

[PennEast Pipeline](#) is a roughly \$1.2 billion new pipeline from the Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale region in Luzerne County to Mercer County in New Jersey. Its constituent companies say the new line, reviled by environmentalists, is vital to safely and affordably meeting the region's natural gas and electricity needs.

[Adelphia Gateway](#) is an estimated \$339 million retrofit of an existing line originally built in the 1970s to transport oil from Marcus Hook outside Philadelphia for electricity generation at Martins Creek in Lower Mount Bethel Township. The line will transport both Marcellus and Utica shale gas to the Philadelphia region.

Natural gas boom

The Utica geologic formation lies beneath portions of eight states, including Pennsylvania, from Tennessee through New York and into Canada. The Marcellus formation is more central to Pennsylvania's natural gas boom, extending under 60% of the state, along with parts of West Virginia, New York, Ohio and Maryland, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration; it has the largest estimated proved reserves of any natural gas field in the United States.

Shale fracking -- injecting water, sand and chemicals at high pressure deep underground -- has made Pennsylvania second only to Texas in gross withdrawals of natural gas. Production in 2018 yielded 6.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Pennsylvania, or 16.8% of the United States' entire yield. Texas produced 8.8 trillion cubic feet, or 23.8% of the national total of 37 trillion cubic feet, the EIA says.

Natural gas, in turn, has helped make Pennsylvania the nation's biggest exporter of electricity, sending an annual average of 58 million megawatt-hours from 2013 to 2017 to other states, EIA statistics show.

In February 2019, natural gas-fired electricity accounted for 40% of Pennsylvania's net electricity generation, followed by 26.4% from nuclear, according to EIA data. In 2017, nuclear power supplied 42% of the state's net electricity generation, more than from any other energy source, the EIA says.

According to PJM Interconnection, which manages the power grid for 13 states in the Mid-Atlantic region, coal and nuclear resources generated 91% of the electricity on the PJM system in 2005, and gas just 6%. Today, it's about 31 natural gas, 29 coal and 35 percent nuclear. In 2018, natural gas-fired energy exceeded coal-fired energy for the first time across the grid.

More Pennsylvania households (around 51%) use natural gas as their primary home heating fuel than any other source, with 22% relying on electricity, 17% using fuel oil, 4% burning propane and nearly 3% burning wood, the EIA says.

Natural gas exports

PennEast, which is a consortium of five energy companies, and Adelphia Gateway, a project of New Jersey Resources Corp., are far from the only companies looking to cash in on Pennsylvania's natural gas boom.

The Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Williams Companies said Thursday it will reapply for key environmental permits, rejected Wednesday by New Jersey regulators, to build a hotly contested [\\$926 million pipeline that would carry natural gas from Pennsylvania through New Jersey](#), and under Raritan Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to New York.

On March 1, 2018, the [Dominion Energy Cove Point liquefied natural gas facility exported its first LNG cargo](#). Cove Point is the only LNG export facility on the East Coast of the United States, and the second export facility operating in the Lower 48 states after Sabine Pass in Louisiana, which began commercial operations in 2016, according to the EIA.

Environmental groups like the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and New Jersey Sierra Club say another LNG port is part of [Delaware River Partners' Gibbstown Logistics Center multi-use deep-water seaport and international logistics center](#) under development along the river in South Jersey's Gloucester County. Those environmental groups argue the LNG component of the project has been withheld from the public, and urged the Delaware River Basin Commission to cancel a hearing on the center slated for last Thursday in West Trenton. The DRBC told [njspotlight.com](#) the LNG component was not included in its permit application. A spokeswoman for Delaware River Partners told the website the company is [in talks with potential customers on "a variety of energy-related liquids](#), potentially including liquefied natural gas."

"[Freedom gas](#)" is how a U.S. Department of Energy official referred to liquefied natural gas in a news release last month about an expansion of the Freeport LNG Terminal on Quintana Island, Texas.

Both PennEast Pipeline and Adelpia Gateway maintain their projects are for domestic energy use, not export.

"It absolutely is going to be for domestic use," PennEast spokeswoman Patricia Kornick told [lehighvalleylive.com](#) last week. "That remains, that's always been the goal of the Penneast Pipeline. There are enough businesses and homes in the region that can benefit from reduced cost natural gas."

Katelyn McNally, a spokeswoman for Adelpia Gateway, said: "Adelpia Gateway has no plans to ship natural gas offshore. The natural gas transported in the pipeline will be used by customers in the Greater Philadelphia area and the surrounding region."

PennEast project update

The status of the PennEast project is that it's been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which by a vote of 3-2 last August rejected requests for a rehearing on its certificate of public convenience and necessity awarded Jan. 19, 2018, by FERC.

PennEast is continuing to conduct environmental surveys, expected to wrap up in the next few months, as part its resubmission for project approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. A ruling in federal court last December allowed those surveys to

move ahead where landowners refused to grant PennEast permission to do so. PennEast calls the surveys an important component of efforts to minimize project impacts. In addition, the consortium is working with landowners on fair compensation for easements across their properties.

"To date, approximately 72 percent of landowners along the route have reached easement agreements with PennEast," said Kornick, the project spokeswoman. "As it works with the remaining landowners to reach easement agreements that compensate landowners fairly and fully, PennEast continues to make very good progress on the surveys in New Jersey."

Opponents of PennEast in March hailed a separate ruling in federal court that granted the State of New Jersey's motion for a stay on the project.

"This is really good news," New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel said in a statement at the time. "The Court of Appeals will delay the PennEast pipeline until court case is decided. Any time you stop a bad project it is a win. The pipeline could be delayed for a year or even two to three years."

"When it comes to pipeline or other natural gas projects, the more we can delay, the better the chance it could be stopped. Market conditions can change, and permits can be denied."

PennEast, however, maintains it plans to begin construction around the end of 2019, or possibly early 2020.

"When setting anticipated timelines, PennEast considers multiple variables, including permits, court rulings and weather," Kornick said.

First announced in August 2014, the roughly 120-mile, 36-inch-diameter underground line would originate in Dallas, Pennsylvania, and end at Transco's pipeline interconnection near Pennington, New Jersey. A single compressor station is proposed to be built, in Kidder Township, Carbon County.

Citing a report from Concentric Energy Advisors, PennEast last month said that had the pipeline already been in service, it could have saved families and businesses in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey \$435 million in energy costs last winter, and more than \$1.3 billion combined over the past two winters.

Opponents of the line, which would cross through Northampton and Hunterdon counties, say construction threatens 91 acres of wetlands, over 44 miles of forest, 88 waterways and, all told, more than 1,600 acres.

The route has continued to evolve, proof -- PennEast says -- that the consortium is working with stakeholders on the project. Most recently, [PennEast agreed last month to move the pipeline](#) by about 100 feet away from a neighborhood in Bethlehem Township, Pennsylvania, WFMZ-TV 69 reported.

Where Adelfia Gateway stands

Adelfia Gateway remains under review for FERC approval, which could come at any time, said Tamara Young-Allen, spokeswoman for the federal commission: "The commission may act at any time and does not announce in advance the date of issuance for its decisions."

FERC issued its environmental assessment on the project Jan. 14, and extended the comment period originally set to expire Feb. 8 through March 1, due to the partial government shutdown of 2018-19. That assessment found "the design poses no significant environmental impact and is the preferred path forward," according to Adelfia Gateway.

The project also has air quality permits in hand from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, but still needs its state water quality assessment.

Adelfia Gateway would convert 50 miles of an existing 84-mile pipeline from oil to natural gas, with the 18-inch polycoated seamless steel traversing portions of Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties.

The northern 34 miles of the pipeline, from western Bucks County to the Martins Creek Terminal in Northampton County, have already delivered natural gas since 1996. The project also involves the construction of two compressor station facilities, in West Rockhill Township, Bucks County, and Lower Chichester Township, Delaware County, as well as about 4.7 miles of new laterals in Delaware County and New Castle County, Delaware.

"We are eager to begin the construction phase of the project -- which will be minimal due to the repurposing of existing infrastructure -- and still anticipate the main southern line being placed into service by the end of this year," said McNally, the Adelfia Gateway spokeswoman.

Route 519 Widening Project –Detour is happening. Speed limit is being enforced. Be careful, be smart, be safe, and be respectful. The bridge on Route 173 in Bloomsbury is closed. Dwight Pederson mentioned that he spoke with Alan Hunt of the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) regarding the potential Phoenix Energy project and the MWA responded that they have not heard anything yet. Dwight Pederson also reported that MWA scientist/biologist, Nancy Lawler received a grant to study the stream and the impact of removing the dams. While collecting samples from the Musconetcong, MWA volunteers discovered, the New Zealand Mud Snail. The New Zealand Mud Snail is an invasive species that seriously threatens the ecosystem. They clone themselves and cover the bottom of the river. They have been found in the Musconetcong River in Finesville and Bloomsbury. New Jersey does not have anyone with experience so our area is the first. There is another grant to study the mud snail. They are

trying to keep it contained. Our fishermen could be transferring them on their equipment by failing to rinse their equipment before going from river to river. Secretary Kozak will post the information to the Holland Township webpage that was received by Dwight Pederson.

Musconetcong Watershed Council Meeting – Dwight Pederson, Holland Township liaison. His first meeting was in Allamuchy. Alan Hunt is president and there are representatives from towns along the Musconetcong. Holland Township is still not designated Wild and Scenic but they are working on our status along with Pohatcong Township.



June 18, 2019
Allamuchy Municipal Building, NJ

1. Call to Order (7:00 p.m.)
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call / Quorum
4. Greetings to guests, visitors, members of public
5. Open Meetings Act Statement: Meeting must be advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. A notice has been sent to the Star Ledger and Express Times announcing the meeting, and meeting dates are posted at the MWA River Resource Center and Allamuchy Municipal Building.
6. Approval of Minutes (7:05 p.m.)
7. New Business (7:10 p.m.)
 - Nomination and Election of Officers
 - Review Committee Memberships
 - NPS Unigrid Brochure and RTCA Assistance
 - Draft Stream Blockage policy
8. Old Business (7:25 p.m.)
 - Surface Water Quality Designations
 - New Zealand Mud Snail - Presentation
 - Squires Point Forge
 - Wild & Scenic Signs
 - Film Festival Update
9. Executive Director's Report (8:00 p.m.)

- Asbury Mill
 - Delaware River Basin Conservation Act & Wild & Scenic Rivers
 - Dam Updates & USFWS Site Visit
 - Adult Camp Musky
 - Camp Musky & In-School Program
10. Treasurer's Report (8:15 p.m.)
 11. National Park Service Report (8:17 p.m.)
 - DEP Staff Coordinator for Wild & Scenic Rivers
 - Segment C Update
 - Chevron/Getty Tank Pipeline Update
 12. Committee Reports (8:30 p.m.)
 13. Municipal and NGO Reports - Pending projects along the River (8:40 p.m.)
 - Franklin Township Truck Transfer Warehouse
 - Mt. Olive Asphalt Recycling Plant
 - Washington Township (Morris) Beatty's Mill and Newburgh dams
 14. Public Portion – Issue (s) outside of the Committees
 15. Adjournment (9:00)

Community Day & Green Fair – September 7, 2019. A Brownie Troop has reached out to help out with Community Day. We will be using the games provided by ANJEC and can use the Brownies help there. We will have our annual Stormwater Education Fishing pools which will be filled by the Holland Township Fire Department (with the help of Jerry Bowers). Susan Meacham will try to see if we can get someone to talk about Bees and Honey. Secretary Kozak to work with the County and the NJ Rebate program representative. David Harrison will try to put together a presentation about the collapse of the amphibian population. Mike Keady will talk with the MWA to see if they can participate. Mike Keady will also talk with the Highlands Council and Coalition to see if anyone is interested in participating at our event. We will need maps of the trails for the trees. Secretary Kozak to order a give-away.

Landscape Scale Restoration – Henry Gore proposes that we include this in our Community Forestry Plan. The program is for state agencies. Henry Gore will contact Community Forestry to see if this can support an existing task.



U.S. Forest Service Fiscal Year 2020 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Competitive Process National Guidance

Now Available!

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program is a federal competitive grant program that promotes collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and furthers priorities identified in [State Forest Action plans](#). The program helps ensure that our nation's forests continue to provide important benefits to the American public, including wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

LSR projects are encouraged to be cross-boundary and include a combination of land ownerships. Cross-boundary may include any combination of ownerships including state and local government, private, and tribal. It does not require the inclusion of federal land. However, coordination with and proximity to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state lands is encouraged. Additionally, LSR projects should focus on the restoration objectives (for example, water quality and watershed health improvement, wildfire risk reduction, fish and wildlife habitat improvement and rural prosperity) identified in the project.

Landscape Scale Restoration

The Landscape Scale Restoration Program is a Forest Service State and Private Forestry competitive grant program that promotes collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and furthers priorities identified in [State Forest Action plans](#). In doing so, the program helps ensure that our nation's forests continue to provide important benefits to the American public, including timber and fuel wood, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and well-paying rural jobs.

Landscape Scale Restoration projects cross multiple jurisdictions, including tribal, state and local government, and private forest land, integrating other Forest Service programs to address large-scale issues such as wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection and restoration, and the spread of invasive species, insect infestation and disease.

How the Program Works

Open to state forestry agencies, Landscape Scale Restoration is a competitive grant program that bundles and coordinates several State and Private Forestry programs and authorities to more efficiently deliver cross-boundary impacts. While LSR funds can only be spent on non-federal lands, the program still delivers benefits to national forests by contributing to healthier and more resilient landscapes overall.

State forestry agencies are eligible to submit projects that address the top priorities identified in their [Forest Action Plans](#). Projects are developed in partnership with diverse stakeholders and effectively leverage local knowledge, expertise, and resources. Search and download project reports with the [LSR search tool](#) or explore LSR projects and landscapes with the [Landscape Scale Restoration Map Viewer](#).

Learn more about our [projects and partners](#).

The Landscape Scale Restoration Program leverages expertise and resources from numerous partners. Photo by Andrew Owen, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Funding and Accomplishments

- [Northeastern Area Grants](#)
- [Southern Grants](#)
- [Western Grants](#)
- [Project Search Tool](#)

Program Guidelines and Performance

- **NEW!** [National Guidance](#)
- [Forest Service Budget and Performance](#)
- [Forest Service Strategic Plan](#)
- [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act](#)

News Room

- [Restoring the Health of Portland's Greater Forest Park Region Benefits City Residents](#)
- [Restoring a Forest Landscape Rather than a Parcel](#)

Contact Us

Contact your [State Forestry Organization](#)

Contact your [Regional State Forester Organization](#)

Sub-Committees:

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Nothing new to report other than a recommendation by EC Liaison Thurgarland that the EC partner with the Holland Township Parks and Recreation Committee and possibly with the non-profit organization known as the Holland Township Park Association to arrange an orderly transfer of responsibility for the new trail at the Holland Park property. The subcommittee had a meeting and walked the trail. We still need signs to launch visitors to the trail in the right direction. Some concerns need to be addressed with the DPW Supervisor. The signs are confusing at the junction of the County trail and Holland Trail, better clarification is needed, and signage for rules of the trails as well as the duration of the walking trail (which is about a 60 minute walk) should be posted. The cork in the kiosk is a problem and better mowing would be appreciated. More signs are also needed in the area of the trail and the Park House. The trail is not as clear as everyone thought it would be.

Community Forestry Plan – Ray Note, David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Henry Gore (emeritus) and Secretary Kozak

Community Forestry Plan Grant - The Holland Township Community Forestry Plan 2014-2019 expires in 2019 and the Green Communities Grant from the DEP has been awarded to Holland Township to fund updating the plan. The subcommittee will need to meet to work on the Plan in order to work with Forester Ron Farr. The Plan will need to be submitted to the DEP for approval for the next five years.

Tree Inventory Update – nearly 900 trees have been inventoried. The Crestview subdivision is completed as well as parts of Stamets Road. There were a lot of Norway Red Maple Trees. Most people take care of their trees. Discussion took place about the inventory and if we are near the completion of this project. Discussions took place about the chance that there are other techniques that can be put into place. Secretary Kozak to reach out to Arborist Farr. All were reminded that the reason we are doing this is to help us plan. The next conversation was about how to keep track of the data collected. Arborist Farr created the spreadsheet being used after looking at the iTree website. We can do data entry however, Dwight Pederson wants to look at the best way to key the information into Excel so we can also import the data from Excel into iTree if we are interested in doing so as time progresses.

Girl Scout Silver Award - - Elizabeth Tamaro. Nothing new to report.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson.

Highlands Council Environmental and Economic Sustainability Grant Awards Program update:

Secretary Kozak is still working with Maser and the Highlands Council as a follow up to the various Highlands Council Tasks that have been worked on. Holland Township is the “poster child” for the Highlands Council. More information to follow.

The Planning Board will need to perform some housekeeping and adoption of elements to the Master Plan. More information to follow. Chairman Keady is still working with Maser on refining the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist with input to come from the EC. More information to follow.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary – Nothing new to report

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Susan Meacham – Nothing new to report.

The EC webpage is: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>. Please send any additions or corrections to Secretary Kozak for posting

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note and Henry Gore (emeritus) – Nothing new to discuss.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 8:50 pm Susan Meacham made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary