

COMMISSIONERS OF WAYNE COUNTY

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Solicitor

July 3, 2018

Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Governor Wolf:

We are writing to you today for assistance with the preservation of the Hankins Pond Dam in Wayne County.

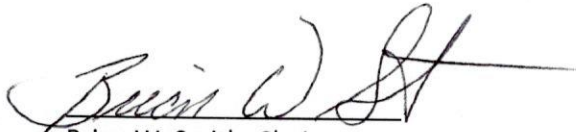
The Hankins Pond Dam in Mount Pleasant Township was constructed by hand in the 1830's as a reservoir to feed the Delaware & Hudson Canal, the 1000-foot-long dam at Hankins Pond was once used to propagate trout for the Pleasant Mount State Fish Hatchery. Dubbed a high-hazard dam by the Department of Environmental Protection because of the potential for damage to life and property downstream in the event of a breach, the pond was drained back in 2013. However, engineers at the PA Fish & Boat Commission say the hazard still exists because the remaining dam structure could hold back water and be compromised during a major flood event. The approved plan would demolish about 150 feet of the structure.

Wayne County has long built upon the legacy of the Delaware & Hudson canal and invested in its canal heritage, as have the towns along the route. The destruction of the dam would detract from those efforts. The Wayne County Commissioners would like to see the state create an alternate spillway that would not require the demolition of a 150-foot-long swath of the historic structure.

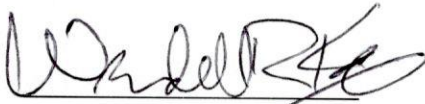
We have met with our local legislators, Representatives Fritz and Peifer and Senator Baker and as well met and had several conversations with Jason Anderson, PE, Project Manager at Fish and Boat Commission and Curtis Brown, PC, DEP – Civil Engineer Consultant. Several options have been discussed as an alternative for destroying this historic structure, but based on a letter of May 18, 2018 from DEP to Mr. Anderson, our efforts continue to not be considered as viable (attached).

COMMISSIONERS OF WAYNE COUNTY

We are asking for your assistance and guidance in a joint effort with local officials, state agencies and your office to formally discuss and evaluate any alternative solutions for the repair or modified breach of this dam. We appreciate your attention to this sensitive matter and thank you in advance for your support.



Brian W. Smith, Chairman



Wendell R. Kay



Joseph W. Adams

Cc:

John Arway, Exec. Director Fish and Boat Commission
Clyde Warner, NE Region Fish and Boat Commission
Jason Anderson, PA Fish and Boat Commission
Roger P. Adams, PE, Chief Dam Safety DEP
Mr. Edward Bonner, US Army Corp of Engineers
Mr. Ben Lorson, PA Fish and Boat Commission
Ms. Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, American Rivers
Cassandra Coleman, Governors NE Region Director
Senator Lisa Baker
Representative Michael Peifer
Representative Jonathan Fritz
Jamie Knecht, Wayne Conservation District