

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

May 24, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Notices

[Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program opportunity](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Finance (INFORMATIONAL)

MONDAY - 6/3/13

10:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

Informational meeting on property tax reform

House Democratic Policy Committee (INFORMATIONAL)

THURSDAY - 6/6/13

10:00 a.m., Room 418 Main Capitol (Rescheduled from 3/21/13)

Informational public briefing on PA Fish & Boat Commission's Fiscal Slope:
Spending Reallocation Plan and Revenue Generating Options

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

EX-PENN STATE PRESIDENT ASKS FOR DISMISSAL OF CHARGES

Former Penn State President Graham Spanier is asking a county judge to throw out criminal charges accusing him of helping to cover up abuse allegations against former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky. Spanier's lawyers filed the motion last week, citing his allegation that the university's former top lawyer violated attorney-client confidentiality when she gave prosecutors information about him.

LOTTERY PRIVATIZATION CONTINUES DESPITE RECORD PROFITS

Despite a trajectory that shows Pennsylvania Lottery profits on course to break the past year's record-breaking performance, Gov. Tom Corbett's administration has not abandoned its effort to privatize the lottery's management. Administration officials have been working with consultants and lawyers to revise the contract that Attorney General Kathleen Kane rejected in February, because she determined it was unconstitutional.

IN THE NEWS

Senate Approves Legislation with Carper-Coons Language Directing Restoration of Federal Funding to DRBC

(WEST TRENTON, N.J.) -- The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) today announced that the U.S. Senate on May 15 passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2013 (WRDA) by a 83-14 vote that included a provision directing the federal government to pay its share of the commission's annual budget. The bill, S. 601, must still be approved by the House of Representatives.

"We are very grateful to Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons for the leadership roles they played in securing this important DRBC funding language in the WRDA bill," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said. "The legislative process is still far from over, but we are very encouraged by the actions taken by the Senate."

The amendment advanced by Senators Carper and Coons (both D-Del.), which was included in the final legislation by unanimous consent, was cosponsored by Senators Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez (both D-N.J.), and Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (both D-N.Y.).

"We also would like to thank the five amendment cosponsors and the other legislators in the Senate and House who favor federal funding restoration, as well as the many individuals and organizations who have written letters and voiced their support of the commission," Collier said.

The federal government, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania agreed to support the DRBC's annual budget when President Kennedy and the four governors signed into law the compact creating the commission in 1961. However, the federal government has ignored this agreement by failing to fund its 20 percent "fair share" of the DRBC's annual budget in 16 of the last 17 years while remaining an active voting commission member possessing the same powers and authority as the other signatory parties. The cumulative federal shortfall since 1996 is nearly \$11 million, or almost double the size of the annual DRBC current expense budget.

"Many experts agree that river basin commissions like DRBC are the most effective and efficient way to manage interstate water resources," Collier said. "Sadly, the future of the DRBC is in serious jeopardy due to the unsustainable fiscal situation created by federal funding inaction and the ripple effect it is now having on contributions by our member states."

The Carper-Coons amendment directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to annually allocate funds from its general expenses to the DRBC, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin to cover the equitable funding requirement of each congressionally approved compact. If funding is not provided in a fiscal year, the amendment requires the Army Corps to provide a report to Congress explaining the reason for the lack of funds and the impact on water supply allocation, water quality protection, water conservation, drought management, flood loss reduction, and recreation.

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the 13,539 square-mile Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five commission members are the governors of the basin states (Del., N.J., N.Y., and Pa.) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

For more information about the DRBC budget, visit the commission's web site at www.drbc.net.

05-23-2013

Newberry Twp. election results could affect future of Valley Green Golf Course

The Newberry Township Board of Supervisors election results are in and the changing of the guard could end efforts to rezone the Valley Green Golf Course. On Tuesday night, candidates Dave Cantrell and Will Toothaker won six-year supervisor terms against a field including incumbents Robert Conley

and... - [York Daily](#)

- 05-22-2013 **Buyers say they'll reopen Woodcrest as golf course**
The Marlton real estate group that won the auction for Woodcrest Country Club is planning to reopen the Cherry Hill club as a public golf course, township officials said Tuesday. The Haydingers - principals of First Montgomery Group - contacted Mayor Chuck Cahn on Tuesday and shared their plans for the property, saying "they... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-21-2013 **Game commissioners come out in opposition to merger**
HARRISBURG — It's official: The state legislature is once again going to explore the idea of merging the Pennsylvania Game and Fish and Boat commissions. But game commissioners don't like it, as they made clear at their work group meeting in Harrisburg on Monday.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-21-2013 **City to back golf authority loan**
Members of St. Marys City Council approved on ordinance authorizing backing an \$89,000 loan for the Benzinger Township Golf Authority to purchase maintenance equipment. During their Monday evening meeting City Solicitor Tom Wagner explained First Commonwealth Bank has agreed to lend the money... - [Saint Marys Daily Press](#)
- 05-20-2013 **'No easy answers' to bass dying in Susquehanna, researcher says**
When it comes to the health of the Susquehanna River, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection don't agree on much. But they do agree that smallmouth bass are dying at an epidemic rate, and Vickie Blazer, a biologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, is perhaps the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 05-24-2013 **Pa. hearing to focus on rules for political groups**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — A group that aired a TV ad critical of Republican Gov. Tom Corbett is the impetus for a planned hearing before the House State Government Committee, the panel's chairman said Thursday... - [AP](#)
- 05-24-2013 **Government consolidation a tough sell, state Senate leader says**
Panel studies reshaping government Dramatically reshaping Pennsylvania's web of municipal governments and school districts is difficult because of entrenched interests that oppose changing the system, but rising costs might force the issue, state Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa said Thursday.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-23-2013 **Memorial Day weekend traffic expected to be slightly lighter than last year**
The unofficial summer travel season is expected to start slowly, with fewer people taking trips over the Memorial Day holiday weekend than last year, AAA said Wednesday. The automotive trade group predicts 34.8 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday period that begins today and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-23-2013 **Corbett launches reelection web site**
Gov. Corbett's campaign web site has crackled to life again, with a rebranded splash page designed to get supporters' email addresses, recruit volunteers and accept donations. It is a sure sign that the governor is warming up his political organization ahead of the 2014 reelection campaign, which has already... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-22-2013 **Peduto wins Democratic nod for Pittsburgh mayoral race**
This story was written by James O'Toole based on his reporting and that of Post-Gazette staff writers Rich Lord, Joe Smydo, Alex Zimmerman, and Tim McNulty. With a convincing win for the Democratic nomination for mayor of Pittsburgh Tuesday, Bill Peduto was on the threshold of capturing the office he's... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 05-22-2013 **Pa. gov seeks to clarify proposed school standards**
HARRISBURG, Pa. - Gov. Tom Corbett has asked state education officials to clarify that a set of proposed academic achievement standards for Pennsylvania public school students are not uniform national standards, a step a spokesman said Tuesday is designed to respond to criticism of the... - [AP](#)
- 05-21-2013 **Federal judge hears arguments in Corbett lawsuit against NCAA**
A federal judge in Harrisburg said she'll decide in the next couple weeks whether to dismiss Gov. Tom Corbett's antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA over penalties against Penn State... - [AP](#)
- 05-21-2013 **Pa. primary will settle municipal, judicial, races**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Nomination battles for mayor in several Pennsylvania cities and an open seat on a state appellate court are expected to be settled in a statewide primary... - [AP](#)
- 05-20-2013 **State bridges better, but still need work**
Across the state and in the region, a bad bridge situation has gotten better in recent years. Although Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in structurally deficient bridges, the number of state-maintained bridges in that category has fallen from 5,600 in August 2010 to fewer than 4,500 in the most recent... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-20-2013 **2013 state primary: Election heating up in Pa. cities**
HARRISBURG — In Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary, most of the action will be in Democrat-controlled cities: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Harrisburg... - [AP](#)