



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 19, 2019

Contact: Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder Director

Suzanne.lagay@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Freeholder Director Urges Officials To Join Push For Black Fly Suppression Funding

Pa. Not Spraying Jersey Side of Delaware River

The Pennsylvania DEP has announced that black fly spraying will take place this week only along the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River and not the New Jersey side, prompting Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay to call on state and local officials representing areas along the river to join with the Hunterdon Freeholders and Senator Mike Doherty in pressing the NJDEP to expedite funding New Jersey's share of the cost of black fly suppression program.

Hunterdon County received notice on July 17 from the Pennsylvania DEP stating, 'PA DEP will be conducting an aerial black fly (biting gnat) control operation along the Delaware River on Thursday, July 17. The Black Fly Suppression Program will be treating the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's portion of the Delaware River. Without financial support from New Jersey, Pennsylvania can no longer manage and spray the New Jersey portion of the Delaware River.'

Lagay stated, "The state's failure so far to fund New Jersey's share of the black fly suppression program negatively impacts not only the quality of life for residents in communities along the river, but also on ecotourism and other outdoor economic activities. There is no excuse for New Jersey not to fund this effort, which we are advised costs \$200,000."

Pennsylvania had been spraying both sides of the river covering Mercer, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, with financial support from New Jersey, over the past few years.

Lagay said, "Senator Mike Doherty, on July 10, wrote to the NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe supporting immediate funding for the black fly suppression program. We greatly appreciate his support.

What is needed now is for all officials representing communities along the river to follow up with communications to the NJDEP advising on the importance of the black fly spraying program for their constituents."



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

Lagay reported that on behalf of the Hunterdon Freeholder Board, she has reached out to Senators Shirley Turner and Kip Bateman, Assembly members John DiMaio, Erik Peterson, Roy Freiman, Andrew Zwicker, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Anthony S. Verrelli, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, the Warren and Mercer County Freeholder Boards, as well as local officials representing communities along the river, seeking their support for the black fly suppression program.