

**MEETING MINUTES
FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
ENMU – ROSWELL, CAMPUS UNION BUILDING
17 APRIL 2003**

RAB Members Present:

Ron Courts
Kay C. Havenor
David Henry
Kerry Hunter
Ethel Logan
Dick Smith

Affiliations:

City of Roswell
Geologist, Co-Chair
USACE, Project Geologist, Co-Chair
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen

RAB Members Absent:

Kathleen Aisling
Eva Gomez
Steve Harris
Ken Hirst
Julie Jacobs
LeRoy Lang
Raymond Prescott
Darryl Ward

EPA
Citizen
Chaves County
NM National Guard
NM Environment Department
NM Farm Bureau
Citizen
ENMU-Roswell

Guests Present:

Eileen McBride
Jerry Vincent

Sacramento District, USACE
Sacramento District, USACE

Facilitator:

Jim Morris
Lauretta Dozier

Tecumseh Professional Associates, Inc.
Note Taker

MEETING SUMMARY – APRIL 17, 2003

The RAB meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10pm, with welcoming comments and introductions of all persons present.

There was not a quorum present, although two additional members had indicated they would be present.

Ron Courts indicated that he had made contact with the radio stations and the newspaper to ask for publicity relative to the RAB meeting, with little results. No members of the public attended the meeting.

Jim Morris thanked Kay Havenor for the draft article he had submitted for the newsletter.

CO-CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Henry announced that one of the action items for this meeting was to have a draft newsletter for the RAB review. There is a rough draft under review, but it is not ready for distribution to the RAB members. It should be distributed to the members at or before the next meeting.

Kay Havenor discussed a meeting held with the Shaw Group on March 12th. The meeting lasted most of a day, and included discussions about cleanup problems. Previously addressed, as well as un-addressed problem areas were discussed. The Shaw Group will be re-evaluating the medical waste disposal area, as well as conducting a thorough re-sampling and evaluation of most monitoring wells on the base. Kay indicated that it was a good meeting and that there is activity directed at reaching conclusions and consensus relative to how to do and not do things on the site.

Ron Court agreed that the meeting resulted in concurrence relative to work to be done and relative to use of information gathered and evaluated to determine data gaps and future direction for work at the site.

David Henry stated that the Corps of Engineers has begun holding technical project-planning meetings whenever a new project begins. The Corps of Engineers brings in a variety of stakeholders including landowners, the RAB, contractors, and regulators to participate in planning the project process. Advance agreement by the stakeholders on the course of action minimizes conflicts as the project cleanup and closeout progresses. This is the first time this process has been used at Walker. In the future, this type of meeting(s) will be held each time a new investigation is started.

Eileen McBride indicated that they had used Data Quality Objective (DQO) steps to help define the processes followed at the technical project planning meeting. Steps followed in the DQO process at the meeting were:

- Definition of the Problem - This includes agreement on what the problem is. It was agreed to look at whether there is potential risk from the landfill to human health and the environment.
- Decisions to be Made – Are any receptors impacted by anything from the landfill?

- Inputs to the Decision – This would include chemical data, groundwater and soil analysis, hydrogeologic data, and air monitoring.
- Establish Boundaries – Spatial boundaries were established laterally fifty feet outside the limits of the landfills. Depth was 120 feet or to groundwater, whichever came first.
- Temporal – Complete the action in one event.
- Decision Rules – Comparing soil and groundwater analytical results to background, NM standards and EPA Region VI soil and water standards.
- Define Uncertainty – Quality control standards help set, in advance, how much uncertainty you will accept in laboratory results.
- GPS – All sampling locations will be entered into GPS database.

It was decided to install two new monitor wells on the south side of the medical waste landfill, along the fifty-foot boundary. Soil samples will be taken starting at 20 feet below ground surface to groundwater. The soil and groundwater samples will be analyzed. The two additional well locations were selected because of uncertainty relative to the groundwater flow direction and to optimize the sampling strategy and insure that the groundwater samples will be representative. Additionally, meeting attendees agreed on the type of analyses to perform at the medical waste landfill.

Kay Havenor stated that he feels this is a good process. It allows clean up for the entire site to be broken down into bite-sized pieces that can be evaluated or remediated and taken off the books.

David Henry stated that the result should be more cost effective solutions, because all parties agreed to the process in advance, rather than disputing the processes after the project is complete.

David Henry stated that a consensus was reached at the meeting. He said the meeting resulted in a solution different from the Corps' original assumptions. It was determined that the potential hazard to humans and the environment was from groundwater and its migration. As a result, the emphasis was to determine whether the landfill had impacted groundwater. The City of Roswell is the landowner and controls access to the surface area of the landfill.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS UPDATE

David Henry had just gotten off vacation and had not had the opportunity to study the quarterly test results. However, it does not appear that there has been much change. David will give an update on the last two quarters of sampling, and Pump House #7 at the next RAB meeting.

It is difficult to project what will be done relative to sampling and plans at Pump House #7 until after Sacramento District has completed the data gap analysis. It may be next fiscal year before the next sampling event at Pump House #7.

Work is progressing on plans for the Medical Waste Landfill, and for the base-wide sampling event. It will be early fall before the sampling is done. At that time the irrigation season will be complete and the groundwater levels will be stabilized.

Jerry Vincent reported on the data gaps analysis. To date they have received all the documents available from the Tulsa District. The contractor has gone through the documents and has reviewed all documents that are in the official administrative record. They have indexed all the new documents not in the original administrative record and printed all the documents that were in electronic format. They have reviewed all the technical and historical documents that were collected to date. Out of 159 reports that were presented, they have reviewed and extracted data out of 66. Once work on all 159 reports is completed, they will put together a master spreadsheet. This will provide a summary of where data is available and will allow determination of where additional data is needed.

The contractor has begun analyzing documents for each of the sites. They have completed analysis at 3 of the 22 sites established for this work. Some sites were combined to make up the 22 sites, not including the Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites.

By the October meeting of the RAB, there should be a rough draft of the spreadsheet for all sites. This will give a rough picture of all sites and the data gathered from each. This will enable a look at the overall picture from a holistic rather than site-specific perspective.

By the end of this fiscal year, areas will be identified where more data needs to be collected. Sites with sufficient data for close out will also be identified. This data will allow for prioritizing and programming expenditures for future work.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business other than that covered in the Co-Chair Announcements.

OPEN FORUM

David Henry stated that the Corps is planning projects for next year, based upon the data gaps analysis. He asked if the RAB had input on priorities for work. The TCE plume will continue to be a priority.

In answer to a question, David Henry and Jerry Vincent indicated that FUDS funding for this year was about the same as for last year. Next year, there will be a cut and re-distribution nationwide. This South Pacific Division will drop from \$30 million to about \$28 million. However, the Albuquerque District funding (approximately \$3.5 million)

for next year remains about the same as this year. Prior to this year, Albuquerque District FUDS funding was about \$600,000 per year. With the funding increase to \$3.5 million, much more work can be accomplished, and Walker is on the priority list. Walker actually gets funding from both the Albuquerque and Sacramento Districts.

Dick Smith informed the RAB that the Environment Department (NMED) is doing a study on the lower Pecos River and are sampling water from Brantley Dam south. Dick is concerned that there is an attempt to drop the allowable standard for total dissolved solids (TDS) from 14,000 to 5,000. Dick will have access to the results of the study.

ACTION ITEMS

At last meeting, an action item was to have a draft of a newsletter by this meeting. As previously discussed, the Corps has a draft under review, and it should be ready for RAB review by the next meeting.

The State received a draft of the report for the Waste Oil Disposal Area, and gave their comments. The State has now received the final report and when they finish their review, the results will be presented to the RAB.

At the last meeting, the RAB discussed new processes for working with guests who attend the meetings. The agenda has been re-arranged to accommodate guests, and the Sacramento District provided aerial photos for display, and posters for publicizing the meetings.

Much time and effort was expended to generate interest in the RAB from the public but resulted in no increase in attendance. David suggested that RAB meetings might be scheduled as needed when there is data to report, rather than on a quarterly basis. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Thursday July 17, 2003 at 7:00 pm., ENMU – Roswell, Campus Union Building.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.