

NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Minutes of June 9, 1998
Live Oak Community Center
2012 Success St., North Charleston, SC

RAB Members Attending

Ms. Ann Clark
Mr. Daryle Fontenot
Mr. Tom Fressilli
Mr. Gussie Greene
Mr. Donald Harbert
Mr. Ralph Laney
Ms. Wanetta Mallette-Pratt
Mr. Arthur Pinckney
Mr. J. Michael Reubesh (for Bobby Dearhart)
Mr. Henry Shepherd
Mr. Dann Spariosu
Mr. Bob Veronee

Guests Attending

V.P. Simmons
Ms. Evelyn L. McCullough
Mr. Wayne Fanning SCDHEC
Ms. Melissa King SCDHEC
Mr. Johnny Tapia SCDHEC
Mr. Paul M. Bergstrand SCDHEC
Mr. Austin Hilligas RDA
Mr. Tony Hunt NAVFAC, Southern Division
Mr. Reece Batten NAVFAC, Southern Division
Mr. Gabriel L. Magwood NAVFAC, Southern Division
Mr. William A. Drawdy NAVFAC, Southern Division
Ms. Susan Dunn Grassroots/RDA
Mr. Rick Albers Environmental Detachment
Ms. Diane M. King
Ms. June Mirecki College of Charleston
Ms. Earttey Washington
Ms. Olive K. Perry
Mr. R.E. Tennessy
Mrs. R.E. Tennessy
Mr. Ken Ayoub Chicora/Cherokee
Ms. Lorraine Ayoub Chicora/Cherokee

Mr. Skip Perry
Mr. Gus Irving Washington
Mr. Jack Stender Carolina Marine Handling
Mr. Larry Bowers EnSafe
Mr. Todd Haverkost EnSafe
Mr. Don Cooke EnSafe

Introduction of RAB members and Guests

Mr. Daryle Fontenot, Navy Co-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He began by introducing himself. Member and audience introductions were made.

Administrative Remarks and Discussion of the Last Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fontenot asked for comments on the minutes from the April meeting. Mr. Tapia commented that on page 3, the last paragraph of the presentation on public participation, the sentence reads that “NAVFAC” will make decisions on all comments. That's a misunderstanding; it should read “SCDHEC.”

Mr. Fontenot announced that Mr. Lou Mintz, Community Co-Chair, will not be able to attend because he's an election poll manager for an election in Mount Pleasant.

Subcommittee Reports

Community Relations Subcommittee

Mr. Fontenot stated that he, Lou Mintz, Arthur Pinckney, Wanetta Mallette-Pratt and Fouche'na Sheppard are members of this committee. The latest Fact Sheet, #12, will be mailed out by the end of the week, but a few copies are available tonight.

This committee has initiated work on a fact sheet dealing with the radiological cleanup of the base. The Detachment and the Naval Civil Command are providing support for the fact sheet.

Mr. Fontenot presented information on attendance of meetings by RAB members, Community members, non-Community members and Contract workers. In January, 55 people were in attendance, and in the last meeting, about 25 were in attendance. The highest attendance by RAB members has been 18 people. Several times there were only two community members in attendance. Mr. Fontenot urged the RAB members to make an effort to get the word out about the meetings and the information presented.

Ms. Mallette-Pratt inquired whether there's a correlation between attendance and the possibility that RAB members are not getting the word out. Mr. Fontenot again urged RAB members to get the word out. Ms. Greene asked if the media are being used to announce the meetings. Mr. Fontenot noted that a press release is sent out to every TV station and newspaper. They are notified and choose not to pursue the story.

Mr. Reubesh asked if there was a difference in attendance, positive or negative, since changing to

meetings every other month. Mr. Fontenot responded the location has helped increase attendance, but not sure if going to every other month has helped or hurt the attendance. Meeting every other month ensures that RAB has enough new information to discuss.

Ms. Greene commented that meetings are held at a bad time of day and asked if the budget would allow for coffee or soda. Mr. Fontenot answered that he will check into the budget for refreshments. Another question was asked that, when the meetings were changed from one hour to three hours, if attendance started falling off. Mr. Fontenot replied that most meetings are still around one hour.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Mr. Fontenot provided an update on the asbestos program. The survey is complete and the Navy is preparing a cost estimate for the abatement of friable, accessible asbestos in housing. The same is true for the lead-based paint program - they've completed a survey and are getting cost estimates.

On the underground storage tank program, 126 tanks have been removed, and we're now moving into site assessment. There are only about 30 removals left. Large posterboard maps were provided that showed each underground storage tank and any action taken there to date.

At the Chicora tank farm, one tank was cleaned in January. The remaining five are to be cleaned and demolished. Around June 22, 1998, the Navy planned to move some dirt and demolish the first test tank closest to the school, which is the tank that's currently clean. If this is successful, the cleaning and demolition of the tanks will continue and the pipeline will be properly abandoned.

A question was asked whether any of the materials from demolition at the Chicora Tank Farm is of any use. Mr. Fontenot noted that the majority of debris will be disposed onsite. The tanks are made of concrete reinforced steel, so they'll be broken apart onsite and, therefore, are of no use. Piping and associated metal structures have to be recycled or sold for scrap.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Update

As reported by Mr. Fontenot, there is no new information on the RCRA corrective action program. He directed questions on the program to Mr. Tony Hunt after the meeting.

Reuse Presentation on Chicora Tank Farm

Dr. June Mirecki (College of Charleston) presented a poster prepared by two graduate students, Paul Campbell and Eldon DeLong, in the master's program of environmental studies at the College of Charleston. Their idea is to convert that land into an educational/recreational facility. It would include open space and park land in support of the school. The development of this idea is dependent upon future funding. Some funding could come from community development grants or the federal Brownfield program. One of the problems in park development, said Dr. Mirecki, is that you have to make sure that operation and maintenance money is available; otherwise, the likelihood of parks becoming vacant fields is fairly great.

Ms. Greene remarked that this particular use is something the community has been pushing for a

long time. Mr. Pinckney inquired if this plan was presented to the Town of North Charleston. Dr. Mirecki replied, not yet. A question was also asked if this poster had been presented to the Harmony Project. Dr. Mirecki responded that she hasn't explicitly shown this to Mel Goodwin, although he was aware of it. Dr. Mirecki also said that she and Tony Hunt would be happy to attend the community meeting when Dr. Goodwin presents his results of the land use survey.

Presentation on Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Program

Mr. Fontenot described this program sponsored by the Department of Defense. This program provides independent assistance for interpretation of scientific information to RABs.

The goal of the program is to enhance the public's ability to participate in the decision-making process, providing the community a source of credible expertise, if it's needed, and demonstrating the Department of Defense's commitment to the community. TAPP assistance is for RABs only, and is not available to community action groups or political action groups. This program was announced in February.

The program has a lifetime cap of \$100,000, with no more than \$25,000 a year. If the RAB chooses to implement the TAPP, they will determine what technical assistance is needed, outside of what the Navy, SCDHEC and EPA can provide. The need must be compatible with program guidelines.

The Navy co-chair person assists you in preparing the application, then forwards that application to the contract people to provide the service. Once a purchase order is processed, the Navy co-chair becomes the technical go-between with the RAB and the contract people. Then there's a close-out report on whatever services are provided, and eventually it ends up with a report to Congress on how well the TAPP program has been used and which RABs have had a benefit.

Types of eligible projects include:

- interpretation of technical documents
- review of proposed restoration technologies
- participate in relative risk evaluations
- understanding health and environmental site cleanup
- installation restoration site investigating
- reviewing engineering decision documents
- reviewing risk assessment documents
- reviewing human health assessments
- understanding the function and/or the technology for cleanup
- understanding alternate remedial technology
- understanding corrective measure studies
- interpretation of potential health implications
- understanding health implications of exposure to site contaminants
- understanding the residuals left after cleanup
- training in risk assessment
- training in evaluating sampling plans
- training in legal issues

Projects not covered by the TAPP include:

- political activity
- lobbying
- litigation
- additional sampling
- reopening final decisions
- epidemiological or health studies
- community outreach programs

To obtain this grant, first, a need has to be determined. The RAB must demonstrate that the federal or local agencies -- SCDHEC, EPA, the Navy or its contractors -- do not have the technical expertise to sufficiently explain or provide a certain type of service. In addition, the grant may be provided if the RAB can demonstrate that its use is likely to contribute to the efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of the environmental activity.

Other programs are available, along with the TAPP program. Local, state and federal staff that are part of the project team are available now for technical assistance. EPA also has some grant programs for information interpretation and assistance.

Mr. Spariosu noted that the EPA has a similar program called Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). TAGs are usually awarded to a community group that is not a RAB. TAPP is for RABs, and TAG is for independent groups.

Reuse Update

Mr. Hill provided the latest information in a summary update. There are 4,080 full-time or full-time equivalent jobs on the base. That doesn't account for the other people on the base, like 1,000 border patrol trainees per year; 400 academic high school students, and 300 national civil community volunteers. Civilian jobs now outnumber federal jobs. A graph was presented showing where the tenants projected they would be in three to five years, and RDA figures show approximately 9,256 civilian and federal jobs will be on the base.

Since the last RAB meeting, there have been two Redevelopment Authority (RDA) board meetings. Mr. Hill has copies of those minutes. At the April 28th meeting, the RDA approved a lease for a motion picture group out of the College of Charleston. On the 19th, the RDA approved a large lease for NEI, and another lease with the College of Charleston for a warehouse to store records. The next RDA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th at 12:30 p.m. in the RDA offices on the base.

The environmental detachment office and the Navy caretaker's office will go away after their work is complete. September 30, 1999 is when the environmental detachment is scheduled to be disbanded. Private contractors will be doing any remaining cleanup. Mr. Hill said that the environmental detachment has nice facilities and equipment, and the RDA would like access to that to generate more jobs in the private sector. Originally, there were 17,000 military personnel and 5,000 civilian workers on the base.

RDA is closing in on replacing the civilian jobs. The RDA is concerned with making sure the base is cleaned up for the redevelopment.

Shipyard Creek Update

Mr. Wayne Fanning from SCDHEC advised that on April 30, 1998, the Department issued an emergency order banning the consumption of shrimp, crabs and oysters from Shipyard Creek as a result of high levels of chromium. This advisory does not apply to fish.

SCDHEC has posted 20 signs around Shipyard Creek at different locations, both facing the water and at different access points on land. If anyone knows of any access points that are not posted, please advise SCDHEC, and they'll put a sign there.

There's a certain percentage of people that are allergic to the chromium through the organisms, mud or the water. In addition to closing the creek, the EPA and SCDHEC have begun an emergency Superfund removal in order to deal with the runoff. The advisory will last until SCDHEC takes corrective action and there's data to support that it's no longer unsafe, which could be months. The sampling that has been done in previous years was only of fish. This year's sampling was of the shrimp and crabs, which were not previously sampled. The Macalloy Corporation may continue to participate voluntarily in conducting this action themselves.

Comments and Questions

No other comments were made. The next RAB meeting is August 11, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at the Live Oak Community Center, 2012 Success Street, North Charleston, SC.

Adjournment

Minutes approved by:

Daryle Fontenot,
Navy Co-Chair

Louis Mintz,
Community Co-Chair