

Minutes of the
NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 13, 2001
North Charleston Olde Town Hall

RAB Members Attending

Tony Hunt	Navy Co-Chair
Don Harbert	Community Co-Chair
Wilburn Gilliard	Community Member
Wannetta Mallette	Community Member
Lou Mintz	Community Member
Dann Spariosu	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Oliver Addison	Community Member
Keith Collinsworth	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
Bobby Dearhart	Community Member
Arthur Pinckney	Community Member
Bob Veronee	SPAWAR

Guests Attending

Jim Augustin	Community Member
Paul Bergstrand	SC DHEC
Mihir Mehta	SC DHEC
Matt Humphrey	Caretaker Site Office
Jim Ferro	SouthDiv
Jim Beltz	SouthDiv
Rob Harrell	SouthDiv
Steve Kirk	SouthDiv
Gary Foster	CH2M-Hill
Dean Williamson	CH2M-Hill
Suzanne Zoda	EnviroComm
Keith Johns	EnSafe, Inc.

Welcome and Administrative Remarks

Tony Hunt began the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and introductions were made. The minutes of the RAB meeting of February 13, 2001 were not mailed to the RAB members but were presented at the March 13, 2001 meeting.

Immediately following the February 13th meeting, the RAB community representatives gathered to elect Don Harbert as the new community co-chair. Mr. Hunt thanked Lou Mintz for his service over the past two years, which had gone beyond the call of duty. Mr. Mintz on his own time was involved in meetings during the week at the project team house.

There were no comments on the February 13th RAB minutes.

Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports.

Mr. Hunt noted that Suzanne Zoda will be working to bring the Community Relations Plan up to date. The community relations subcommittee is going to meet again on May 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the project team house (Building 761, Avenue F on base).

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Building 225/Building 1189

Regarding the status of the Step-Ahead Program, Mr. Hunt informed everyone that the Navy's real estate branch has received the license extension request from the Redevelopment Authority. The Step-Ahead Program has indicated to the Redevelopment Authority that they will be able to vacate Building 225 by September 30th. The Navy will approve the current license past the March 15th date.

As an alternate location for the Step-Ahead program, the Redevelopment Authority has offered duplexes on St. John Avenue and Avenue H, by Turnbull Avenue. The duplexes need some renovations. The estimated cost is \$212,000. Charleston County is looking for funding for the renovations.

Mr. Mintz stated that the Step-Ahead Program will be making a plea for funds to Charleston County Council on March 22nd. If they're turned down and nothing else is found, Mr. Mintz indicated that it would be the death of the Step-Ahead Program. Mr. Mintz thought there might be another solution and asked the contractor (CH2M-Jones) if the cleanup could be accomplished within 60 days. If so, the Step-Ahead participants could stay in a college dormitory from June to August while cleanup was taking place.

Gary Foster (CH2M-Jones) replied that the cleanup period would also have to include document review and approval by the state (SC Department of Health and Environmental Control). He said that, in light of this, the 60-day time period may not be impossible but was unrealistic. Mr. Hunt stated that the Redevelopment Authority offered to do the renovations to the duplexes, but Step-Ahead (a Charleston County program) would have to pay the money back. Mr. Mintz stated that the County cannot commit money that's not in the budget.

Mr. Pinckney inquired if the residents could still move into the duplexes if the renovations are not done. He noted that the Redevelopment Authority had an agreement with the Civil War submarine Hunley group to do the same thing. Mr. Collinsworth stated that the Hunley had private donations. Mr. Mintz stated that the Step-Ahead program cannot receive private donations because they're a County entity, and the County does not have a not-for-profit 501C license, which allows a person to donate money and write it off on their taxes.

Mr. Hunt reminded everyone that the cleanup work being done to Building 225 is to protect the health of the residents there. Mr. Mintz responded that the contaminants have been there for 11 years and haven't hurt anyone yet. In his opinion, if the contaminants are left there, they won't hurt anyone now.

Document Submittals Progress Report

Dean Williamson (CH2M-Jones) summarized what has been accomplished in the last few months, and presented a list of acronyms that are often used. Ms. Mallette asked for a copy of

the list of acronyms. Mr. Foster advised he will attach a copy of the acronym list to the minutes.

Mr. Williamson said that cleanup, or corrective action, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is a very reports-driven process. He noted that it can be very quick to do the work, as in a “dig and haul” operation. But the report preparation and approval process can be very time-consuming.

Mr. Williamson reported that work needs to be finished on the Zones F, H and K RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). CH2M-Jones is working on a draft RFI Report for Zone I. They are also working on a Corrective Measures Study Work Plan for SWMU 17 and SWMU 9, which is the landfill and is a larger, more complicated site with chlorobenzene in the groundwater.

Mr. Williamson reported that pesticide contamination at SWMU 38 has been excavated. Sampling shows a small amount of contamination at the water table. CH2M-Jones will finalize the cleanup of SWMU 38.

In addition to these cleanup activities, they have prepared proposals for SWMUs 42, 47 and 518, and recently submitted the Phase Two Property Transfer document. He asked Mr. Hunt to quickly discuss the Phase Two transfer.

Property Transfer Status

Mr. Hunt presented a chart showing property transfers to the Redevelopment Authority. Phase One was transferred at the end of last summer. The Phase One property includes land on either side of Noisette Creek, some areas around Sterett Hall and the ball fields.

Mr. Hunt said that Phase Two is the next property to be transferred: the No Further Action sites on which CH2M-Jones has been working. This is mostly the border patrol property, but also includes three piers and the former Bachelor Officers’ Quarters building at the southern end of the base. Work on lead-based paint and asbestos has been completed in these areas, and a number of underground storage tanks corrective action plans are in place and are being monitored for corrective action. The transfer date is expected to be around June, 2001. The Navy expects to complete their review of the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) in April, and there will be a public comment period during the same time period.

Mr. Mintz asked if the dock area was totally clean from all contaminants and ready to transfer to the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Hunt replied that all the docks were not clean. Only those suitable for transfer were included in the Phase Two property. Mr. Foster explained a change in the Phase Two property list that was not included on the map used during the meeting.

Mr. Pinckney inquired about the area in the middle of the Phase Two property that appeared to be not included in the property to be transferred. Mr. Hunt replied that this area originally had lead contamination. The removal was done rather quickly, and now the team is going back to look at the confirmation samples to ensure that the removal was completely successful. The majority of this parcel of land was housing and is used to manufacture container trailers.

Environmental Program Status

Mr. Williamson provided the following updates:

- An Interim Measure Work Plan has been prepared for SWMU 516;
- CH2M-Jones is excavating arsenic-contaminated soil at AOC 700;
- CH2M-Jones is excavating arsenic- and hydrocarbon-contaminated soil at SWMU 42;
- AOC 607 and SWMU 166 need more investigation to design the appropriate remedial action;
- Investigations for SWMUs 25, 70, 139 and 196 are continuing;
- Corrective Measures Study has been initiated for SWMU 17;
- Work plans have been initiated for SWMUs 2 and 44;
- CH2M-Jones is waiting for the results of the indoor air samples from Building 225;
- CH2M-Jones is working on the completion of RFI reports for Zones K and G;
- CH2M-Jones is also moving forward with the Interim Measure Work Plan for AOC 607.

Mr. Foster stated that CH2M-Jones has been investigating 67 underground storage tank sites. No further action is planned for 20 of them. They have submitted corrective action plans on 33 sites, and 32 were approved by DHEC. CH2M-Jones has excavated a former underground storage tank site on Avenue D across from Building 400.

Mr. Foster presented several pictures of work in progress in the field. In AOC 516, CH2M-Jones coordinated with the tenants in that area to do the cleanup, and there were no problems with the cleanup process. Today they put the asphalt back down.

Mr. Williamson commented on the membrane interface program. This innovative new device has real-time sensing of the contamination. The device is put on the end of standard penetration rods that are pushed into the ground. The special membrane lets the chemicals permeate through it. A hose carries nitrogen gas into the probe, past the membrane and nitrogen returns to the surface and a truck-mounted detector. This process gives an instant readout of the levels of organic chemicals in the ground. One of the advantages is the ability to take additional samples without waiting for samples to be sent off to a lab and waiting for results to come back. This process has helped to refine CH2M-Jones' overall understanding of where the contamination is.

Similar technology was used at SWMU 196 to collect groundwater samples since the contaminant at this site (dichlorobenzene) will not permeate the membrane. There were 35 individual geoprobe locations in this area. To help understand this data, a computer program provided visualization of all these samples taken, kind of like x-ray vision. CH2M-Jones is looking at cost estimates to remediate this site and trying to figure out which is the right technology to use. A Corrective Measures Study will be done afterwards to address the dissolved phase plume that remains.

At SWMU 39, by Virginia Avenue, there's a chlorinated solvent plume with not extremely high levels. One of the technology cleanup candidates for this area is a "fermentable biodegradable substrate." CH2M-Jones would inject lactic acid polymer in the ground. As it dissolves, it induces the naturally-occurring bacteria to generate hydrogen. Then, microbes that use chlorinated solvents and hydrogen as a food source "eat" the contamination. This process may take six months to have the microbe population increase enough to see a pretty good impact.

Mr. Foster presented a list of local contractor awards. EMEG has done surveying. Waste Management is handling disposal of excavated material. Columbia Technology is doing FIP

pilot study. Precision Drilling is doing work at SWMU 25.

Mr. Pinckney inquired if there were any minority contractors on board. Mr. Foster answered not yet. He added that many activities are still to be completed, and CH2M-Jones is just getting started. Mr. Hunt stated that, as in any government contract, there's a certain percentage of small and minority subcontracting that CH2M-Jones has to comply with.

Mr. Hunt inquired about pace of progress. Mr. Foster explained that DHEC has been sending out documents pretty quickly and believes that CH2M-Jones can move forth pretty quickly also.

Mr. Mintz noted that CH2M-Jones was still doing investigations, and asked what would happen if they found something that they were not expecting. Mr. Foster responded that's why the contract is a fixed priced insured contract. If unknowns are encountered, CH2M will look to their insurer to help cover those costs.

Mr. Pinckney inquired, based on the timetable, where the progress is now. Mr. Hunt replied that he looked at RAB minutes from 1994 and the estimates back then were for completion in 1997. Since then, there have been transitions in personnel and contracts. Mihir Mehta (DHEC) suggested the RAB look at the years 1998 and 1999 and compare how many documents have been approved since then, how much field activity was done, how much work was initiated or completed.

Mr. Mehta then stated that DHEC had to take time to get adjusted to the new contractor, their working style, and how they prepare documents. Mr. Mehta stated that the group working on this project is turning out documents faster than anyone else in DHEC right now. Dann Spariosu (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - USEPA) noted that USEPA is using new ways to cut down on the number of documents and set up blanket standards so no one has to repeat the same kind of studies. Mr. Spariosu is impressed with DHEC getting enough people on this project to get the project done fast.

Mr. Hunt mentioned that CH2M-Jones put an executive steering group in place with management from each of the agencies. These managers sat down and identified where the group needed help. The team has been able to develop decision-making processes. This will be a lot more organized in terms of how the decisions are made. When this contract was put in place, there was a two-year target date for property transfer, which is April 2002. The contractor built a schedule to meet that two-year time frame. Mr. Hunt noted that monitoring will be going on for a number of years beyond 2002.

Agenda For Next Meeting

Mr. Hunt will try to provide a presentation on where we stand with the sediments and the work on Zone J. If there are any other ideas, please feel free to call Tony Hunt. Ms. Mallette would like to have a site visit during the cleanup work at the Step-Ahead Building. Mr. Foster stated it will be fenced in, but you can see everything from the outside.

The next RAB meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on May 8, 2001, at the same location (1077 East

Montague Avenue, North Charleston).

Meeting Adjourned.

Tony Hunt
Navy Co-Chair

Don Harbert
Community Co-Chair