

Minutes
Hamilton Army Airfield Restoration Advisory Board
Novato Police Station Meeting Room
Novato, California
January 11, 2007

Attendance**RAB Members Present:**

Marucia Britto, Joan Dekelbaum, Richard A. Draeger, Patricia D. Eklund, Sue Lattanzio, Matthew McCarron, Lance McMahan, Linda Rao, James Sullivan, Brian Thompson, Ray Zimny

RAB Members Absent:

Preston Cook, Jeff Johnston, Bill McNicholas, Ross Millerick, Manuel Mier, Tom Gandesbery

Others Present:

Tom Barry, John Kaiser, Jim Leland, Micky Mathison, Tim Mathison, Mary Ann Parker, Dr. Peter Theran, Maureen Williams

1. Welcoming Remarks- Matthew McCarron

Matthew McCarron, the Community Co-Chair, called the January 11, 2007 meeting of the Hamilton Army Airfield Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to order. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Old Business

The minutes from the October 11, 2006 meeting were discussed. Mr. McCarron noted that the minutes had been emailed to RAB members and asked if there were any comments or objections. There were none. Mr. McCarron requested that members contact him if any questions were to arise about the minutes. Karole Ward noted that a two-week turn-around on the minutes had been requested at the last meeting, but a three-week turn-around is more workable. There were no objections.

3. New Business**Discussion of By-Laws**

A meeting was held in December to update the RAB bylaws. Attendees included Richard Draegar, Sue Lattanzio, and Mary Ann Parker. A draft of proposed bylaws and a copy of the existing RAB charter were sent by email on January 10 to all RAB members. If adopted, the new bylaws would afford more structure than provided in the current bylaws. Members were asked to review the documents and send comments.

Patricia Eckland inquired about the Roles and Responsibilities sheet that was part of the packet given to meeting attendees that night. Mary Ann Parker explained that document was also a draft distributed for review and comment.

Subcommittees

Other documents available to meeting attendees were a list of Subcommittee Roles and Responsibilities and an application for membership in a subcommittee. Mr. McCarron opened a discussion regarding establishing some additional subcommittees and asked for comment. Proposed new subcommittees would include an operating procedures subcommittee, a technical (document review) subcommittee, and a community outreach subcommittee. Mr. McCarron invited interested parties to submit applications to join a subcommittee. Mary Ann Parker will collect the applications.

Outreach

Mr. McCarron opened a discussion regarding attendance and outreach.

Mary Ann Parker said she had called all of the board members who had been absent from meetings. Bill McNichols, Preston Cook, and Ross Miller indicated that they felt the project had come to a logical conclusion and wanted to resign.

Regarding community outreach, Ms. Parker noted that at one time the Corps had conducted an interest survey that included people within a 3 mile radius of Hamilton. Feedback was good and people from a larger footprint than just the base showed interest in the project. The plan at the time was to use the survey results to recruit people for the RAB. Mr. McCarron indicated the board did have members from other areas of the county in the beginning.

It was noted that some RABs have organizational members, such as a representative from the Sierra Club or another interested organization. Patricia Eklund asked why the Coastal Conservancy was not represented at the meeting. Mr. McCarron indicated that they had been invited but had decided before the July, 2006 meeting not to participate in the RAB. Ms. Eklund suggested a letter be sent to the Coastal Conservancy asking them to participate in RAB meetings.

It was agreed that Ms. Eckland will call and invite them again and Mr. McCarron will send a letter asking them to participate.

A question was asked as to how large the RAB should be. The charter has some flexibility – it says “generally” no larger than 20 members. It was suggested that there could be members and alternates who would attend if the primary member could not.

Mr. McCarron and others noted that ads are put in the Novato Advance, and should probably also be put in the Marin Independent Journal, a paper with a wider county readership. It was noted that the Independent Journal will publish free notices in the “In Your Town” section. Ads can also be put in the local libraries.

Mary Ann Parker suggested that having public meetings designed to offer information and answer questions is another means of outreach.

Discussion of Documents and Document Repositories

With regard to large documents that are sent to the board members for review, Patricia Eklund requested that CDs be sent rather than the large binders with hard copies. Ms. Eklund also requested that presentations and other materials be printed two-sided. It was agreed that when

large reports are sent to RAB members for review, they will be in CD form and the large binders containing hard copies will be placed in the document repositories.

A discussion regarding the document repositories occurred. Patricia Eklund asked if there is one repository for all of the Hamilton information. There is not. The Corps sends all of their documents to the Novato Main Library. Others send documents to the library in the Hangar building on Hamilton. BRAC is sending all of their material to Maryland, but it is also all on their website and CDs will be taken to the Corps library. Board members indicated a desire to have all documents in both libraries. Mary Ann Parker is working on a list of the documents housed in the Repositories. Karole Ward offered to send a list of what should be there from the Corps and Lance McMahan offered to make a list of what should be there from the DTSC. Mr. McMahan noted that the DTSC website has an "Enviro Store" area containing recent documents that can be downloaded. There are plans to go back and add older documents at some point.

A need was expressed for a fact sheet on how to find all of the agencies' documents – FUDS, BRAC, Navy, DTSC, etc. A Hamilton website is in development that will contain fact sheets and newsletters.

Hamilton Overview Fact Sheet

Marucia Britto asked if there was a Hamilton fact sheet available. Karole Ward indicated the sheet was in preparation and would include a "Who's Who," a description of what is going on with the FUDS project, and other details on contamination and what is being done about it. Mary Ann Parker indicated the fact sheet will be sent to RAB members for review and comment.

4. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Update Presentation – Karole Ward, USACE

Karole Ward introduced the new FUDS Project Manager, Ray Zimny, and gave an update on the FUDS program. Highlights of the presentation are included here. A hard copy of the full presentation will be made available with these minutes. The presentation included:

- Review of the CERCLA Process
- Updates on:
 - Methane monitoring in Landfill 26
 - North Antenna Field Project

The CERCLA Process

The CERCLA process includes:

1. Preliminary assessment (PA)
2. Site investigation (SI)
3. Remedial investigation (RI – gathers information to help identify possible methods for clean up)
4. Feasibility study (FS – study to determine the best way to handle the problem)
5. Decision Document (DD – states what will be done)
6. Remedial design (RD – states how it will be done)
7. Remedial Action (RA – this is the actual clean-up)
8. Long Term Monitoring (LTM – ongoing monitoring)

Landfill 26 Briefing

Landfill 26 is now in the long-term monitoring stage of the above CERCLA process. Ms. Ward presented a number of charts showing results from methane vent trench monitoring and gas monitoring probes in the Landfill 26 area. The charts showed monitoring results for March, June, September, and December of 2006. The diagrams indicate that the trench vents are working. Most monitors showed less than 0.1 % v/v. The charts showed an expected decrease of activity in the cold winter months and slight increase in the warmer weather.

There are plans to install a new monitoring well late in January or early February this year. Estimated time to complete the work is about 4 – 5 days of activities over a two- week period. (The well is installed and cleaned out, then left for a couple of days. Then they come back and monitor.) Ms. Ward showed on the map where the monitoring well will be installed. When drilling, this is a noisy activity. Hamilton residents will be advised of the activities in advance.

Maintenance activities planned for April, 2007 include mowing weeds, covering exposed cap edges, repairing damaged monitoring wells, and repairing fences and posts. Estimate is ten days of activity. Again, people in the area will be advised in advance of the pending activity.

Patricia Eklund asked whether Shea builders were still sampling. A board member indicated the answer was no. Shea had sent a letter to the board saying they did not plan to do further monitoring because the houses had been built to provide a remedy for the situation. Correspondence has occurred between Marin County and Shea. The county is following up.

North Antenna Field

Feasibility Study

Ms. Ward reported that a contractor has been funded to do the feasibility study for the North Antenna Field. A draft report is due in May, 2007 and the Final Report is due in December, 2007. Patricia Eklund asked if there is funding to complete the project. Ms. Ward indicated funding is only given year to year. Ms. Eklund requested to have the opportunity to discuss the feasibility report. The RAB will be given the opportunity to give comments. There will be a 30-day review period for the documents.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)

The site planning and investigation schedule is as follows:

- February 15, 2007: Technical planning meeting. (Discussion: DTSC expressed the need to address the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); The project schedule and scope of work will be refined at this meeting to address this requirement.)
- August, 2007: Work plan is due.
- September, 2007: Field investigation to take place.
- May, 2008: Draft document of findings due.
- September, 2008: Final document due.

5. North Antenna Field Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC), Tim Mathison, Shaw Environmental

Mr. Tim Mathison gave a presentation on munitions and explosives of concern (primarily 40 mm grenades) that may be present in the North Antenna field. Highlights of the presentation are included here. A hard copy of the full presentation will be made available with these minutes.

Mr. Mathison's presentation included maps showing the area to be investigated in the North Antenna Field. The area is 36.5 acres in the easternmost section of the field, bordering on a levee on San Pablo Bay, near the old burn pit area. The area of concern was used during the Viet Nam era by security people practicing how to use M79 (shoulder weapon) grenade launchers. The M406 grenade used in the launchers has a very sensitive fuse and is considered very dangerous. Even the practice grenades can be dangerous. Mr. Mathison showed detailed drawings of the grenades and explained their potential.

When the site is investigated, an initial survey will be performed with hand-held magnetometers. These will find any shallow metal objects. Then a second survey using an EM61, a device that detects metal objects as far as 4 feet into the ground, will be performed. The EM61 creates a map of the investigated area showing buried items. Based on analysis of the maps, areas where munitions and explosives of concern are suspected will be carefully dug up, inspected, and removed in the removal phase of the project.

Discussion

There was a discussion regarding posting warning signs in that area. During a site visit that day, attendees of the meeting had seen a jogger in that area. Patricia Eklund said there should be signage out there. Ms. Ward noted there used to be signage and agreed that the Corps can put up signs again.

Ms. Eklund asked about the concentration of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and whether there would be a need to excavate the soil. Mr. Mathison said the concentration of MEC is expected to be very low and that it is unknown at this point whether the soil might be contaminated. He indicated there is sometimes a detectable amount of TNT with MEC but, in general, this particular type of round does not put out much TNT.

During the discussion of the Corps' proposed statistical survey, Lance McMahan expressed that the DTSC wants a 100% survey with all detections investigated. This will be discussed at the February 15 Technical Planning Meeting.

A question was asked regarding how long the assessment might take. Mr. Mathison said they will mow the weeds down before doing the investigation on the 36 acre parcel. They have 6 weeks to do the fieldwork and determine if there is a problem.

Mr. Mathison mentioned that the Air Force was known to have had a good cleanup routine. They performed clean ups on a daily, yearly, and regular basis.

6. USST Site 957/970 Status Reports, James Sullivan, Navy, and Travis Williamson, Battelle

James Sullivan presented an update on the former NEX Gas Station Site 957/970 and Ballfields Parcels. The presentation included a large map of the MTBE plume. Highlights of the presentation are included here. A hard copy of the full presentation will be made available with these minutes.

Former NEX Gas Station Site

Upcoming activities for the Former NEX Gas Station Site include:

- Quarterly groundwater / surface water monitoring in February 2007.
- Continued evaluation of the biosparging operations and request for regulatory approval of system shutdown if February 2007 monitoring event confirms MTBE trends
- Documentation:
 - Updated Health and Safety Plan based on DTSC comments
 - Annual SSR
 - Updated Sampling and Analysis Plan

Mr. Sullivan said that the November 6 data for the MTBE plume is now being processed. A report will be given at the next RAB meeting. Mr. Sullivan presented a chart showing the average MTBE concentrations in the performance monitoring wells from before the biosparging system was put in place (12, 851 ug/L in June, 2002) through December, 2006 (539 ug/L). There has been a 96% reduction and the latest figure exceeds the performance goal. They plan to go out again and take readings next month. If those readings confirm that the concentration is still that low, the Navy is considering approaching the water board with a proposal to turn off the biosparging system and then continue to monitor.

Mr. Sullivan said that a complete status report will be available the end of January. It will be put in the Library at the Hangar Building and a CD containing the report will be sent to Matthew McCarron. Sue Lattanzio and Patricia Eklund also requested CDs of the quarterly report.

Discussion

Brian Thompson of the Regional Water Board indicated they are in discussion with DTSC and with the Navy on how best to proceed with regard to continuing or stopping the biosparging. Patricia Eklund asked if the RAB will be advised before they make the decision whether to stop. Mr. Sullivan said yes, they will report their findings, probably at the next meeting. He noted that the plume is not touching any residential property or CT3 or school area.

Navy Ballfields Parcel Update

The Final Preliminary Assessment / Site Inspection Report was issued April 14, 2006. A draft Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) was made available to regulatory agencies and the public for a 30-day review in October 6, 2006. Two comments were received from regulatory agencies. In February, 2007 the final FOST will be issued.

7. Agency Status Reports

Lance McMahan – DTSC

A Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HHERA) was completed and an approval letter was sent. Mr. McMahan will forward the letter to RAB members.

Linda Rao – Regional Water Quality Control Board

Two site visits have been made in preparation for feasibility work. The Water Board is working with the Corps and Navy on land use covenants. Storage tanks, effectiveness of treatments are being discussed. The water board is interested to know which wells are important to monitor.

Dr. Peter Theran, Todd Road Working Group

This group includes federal, state, and local elected officials, 5 environmental groups, the Coastal Conservancy and area residents. The group was formed to make a decision on Todd Road. It was concluded that it should be moved. The group voted to continue to meet. Issues of funding and liability need to be addressed.

Group members originally were only residents from Todd Road, but now the group meetings are open to the public. Next meeting is May 3. Announcements of meetings will be in the Hamilton Forum, Novato Advance. Peter will send the group charter, agreements in principal, minutes and roster to Mary Ann Parker.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be on Thursday, May 3 in the same location (500 Palm Drive, Hamilton War Room).