

**Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2005**

1. Call to Order & Reading of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Community Co-Chair LTC Tom Tadsen at 6:12 p.m. at the Newton Falls Community Center, Newton Falls, Ohio.

LTC Tadsen asked the board members if they had any additions or corrections to the minutes. No comment from the RAB members present. Mr. Tom Smith made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Delbert Woloski. LTC Tadsen called the motion to question...."All those in favor please say 'Aye.' All those opposed?" The motion carried, and LTC Tadsen announced the minutes were approved as printed. LTC Tadsen announced that copies of the July 20, 2005 minutes are on the back table along with some informational handouts.

Secretary Christy Esler took attendance with 16 members present, 1 excused and 7 absent (Floyd Banks, Kevin Cooper, Robert Daugherty, Mr. Christopher Smeiles, Sarah Lock, Irene Glavies-Lutz, Milan Markov and Mark Zigmont).

2. General Business

LTC Tadsen directed everyone's attention to the back table to pick up tonight's meeting presentation handouts and introduced Mark Patterson, the Army Co-chairperson.

Before LTC Tadsen turned over the meeting to Mark Patterson he mentioned that during the July 20, 2005 meeting Ms. Barbara Gaskins placed a comment card in the box requesting a PA system if possible. LTC Tadsen announced that were happy to oblige and that hopefully the audience will be able to hear the meeting and presentations more clearly than in the past. LTC Tadsen thanked Ms. Barbara Gaskins for her suggestion.

Mark Patterson discussed the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) contract to support the RAB. Mark announced that Janet Bishop of URS created and mailed a letter on June 5, 2005 to the RAB members regarding the amount of funds remaining and technical issues that could be addressed. Mark Patterson reminded the RAB members that JJ Leet commented at the May 18, 2005 meeting that the RAB would be interested in re-applying for another grant, especially considering recent issues. During the July 20, 2005 RAB meeting, JJ Leet was absent. LTC Tadsen suggested during the July 20, 2005 meeting that the members should table the vote until the next scheduled RAB meeting to further discuss the issue.

Charlie Ramer asked if the RAB could choose all three suggested topics by URS? Mark Patterson said that yes it is not limited to one topic.

Charlie Ramer moved to make a motion to complete the application to receive the \$25,000.00 grant and to contract with URS as the TAPP provider.

Mark Patterson reminded the RAB members that there is a small amount remaining from the last grant of approximately \$4,000.00 that they can apply to the suggested topics. Mark also explained that he has recently received an e-mail regarding the RAB's interest in applying for the grant.

Mark Patterson asked for a clarification of the motion on the floor. Is the motion also to remain with URS as the TAPP provider?

LTC Tadsen clarified the motion on the floor. This motion is to remain with URS as the TAPP provider and to submit an application for Fiscal Year 2006 \$25,000.00 grant.

Walter Landor seconded the motion.

LTC Tadsen called the motion to question...."All those in favor please say 'Aye.' All those opposed?" The motion carried.

Dr. Barbara Andreas suggested that the committee look into ranking the suggested topics according to technical difficulty.

RAB members agreed with Dr. Barbara Andreas suggestion.

Charlie Ramer made a motion to prioritize the suggested topics.

Delbert Woloski seconded the motion.

LTC Tadsen called the motion to question...."All those in favor please say 'Aye.' All those opposed?" The motion carried.

LTC Tadsen reminded the members that JJ Leet has accepted the chairperson position for the TAPP committee. JJ will contact the committee members which included; Nina Miller, Dr. Barbara Andreas and Charlie Ramer to set up a tentative meeting to discuss the application process.

Mark Patterson informed JJ Leet that he will forward the materials from the U.S. Army to apply for the grant.

LTC Tadsen addressed the RAB membership issues. Mr. Floyd Banks and Mr. Robert Daugherty have resigned from the RAB. Mr. Milan Markov and Mr. Kevin Cooper have exceeded the number of unexcused absences permitted according the RAB charter. LTC Tadsen requested that I contact the two members.

Dr. Barbara Andreas made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Floyd Banks and Mr. Robert Daugherty.

JJ Leet seconded the motion.

LTC Tadsen called the motion to question...”All those in favor please say ‘Aye.’ All those opposed?” The motion carried.

LTC Tadsen asked if the RAB has any current Interest Survey’s completed. Nina Miller informed the members that Sue Boles of PIKA International had applied for a seat on the board. Nina Miller suggested to the board that since Ms. Sue Boles is present that we have her come forward to express her reason for interest to the board members.

LTC Tadsen announced Ms. Sue Boles to the members and asked her what her interest were to be a board member and her experience.

Ms. Sue Boles spoke about her interests to include the fact that she is a Palmyra Township resident and has been 29 for years. She also informed the board that she works at the Ravenna Arsenal for a sub-contractor called PIKA International as an Environmental Technician.

Nina Miller made a motion to accept Ms. Sue Boles as a member of the Restoration Advisory Board.

Marti Long seconded the motion.

LTC Tadsen called the motion to question...”All those in favor please say ‘Aye.’ All those opposed?” The motion carried, and LTC Tadsen announced that Ms. Sue Boles has been accepted as a member of the Restoration Advisory Board. LTC Tadsen asked Sue Boles to please take a seat at the board table.

Nina Miller announced that there are 3 seats remaining on the board that remain open.

LTC Tadsen asked if there was any additional new business.

Mark Patterson announced to the board members that they have been provided a copy of the Installation Action Plan on CD tonight.

The repositories (Newton Falls Library and the Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna) have an electronic copy and a hard copy of the document for public review. The only change in the Installation Action Plan is the total cost. There is no detail of the cost breakdown for the specific sites in the public version of the document. The detailed cost breakdown could influence future contract proposals and bids.

Mark Patterson announced to the audience that tonight would be his last RAB Meeting. Mark informed everyone that he has accepted a position at Fort Wingate in New Mexico. He thanked all the RAB members for their dedication and sincerity throughout his time here. Mark told the members that they should all be proud of themselves for all of the dedication

they have shown. Mark said that he is very proud to be a part of the RAB and will miss all of the technical folks and members.

Mark introduced Mr. Glen Beckham as the stand-in U.S. Army co-chairman from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Louisville, Kentucky District Office. Mark asked them to please welcome him as all of you did me.

Irv Venger will handle the decontamination and demolition contracts at the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant.

LTC Tadsen thanked Mark for his hard work, tough decisions and dedication he has shown. He said that, in the last 2 years Mark has improved the Installation Action Communication Plan and we thank you for that.

3. Update on the removal of explosively contaminated building at RVAAP using engineered burning.

LTC Tadsen introduced the presenters for the evening and informed everyone that Rick Callahan would not be presenting this evening because of prior obligations out-of-town, but Mark Patterson would conduct the update.

Mark Patterson stated that the Army is still awaiting comments from United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Army has funded the laboratory bench scale test. The Installation Action Plan (IAP) is a document that is relatively formal and takes a lot of time to prepare. The IAP mentions a number of buildings to be thermally decomposed, before the USATCES inspection that decreased the number to six initially.

Lakeshore Engineering is developing a general draft procedure for the laboratory test. Once they have completed the draft they will present the information to all of you. The test will be held in Columbus, Ohio and we are hoping that one or two RAB members, one public member and a member of the media will be available to attend the laboratory test. The test will be run and the data will be collected to analyze results.

LTC Tadsen added that the bench scale test idea came from members of the general public and we thank all of you for your input.

4. Presentation on the results of the Facility Wide Surface Water Study at RVAAP. Elizabeth Ferguson Ferguson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

RAB Members proceeded with questions directed to Elizabeth Ferguson.

JJ Leet- Are there any biological or chemical contaminants in Eagle Creek?
Elizabeth Ferguson- No contaminants were found over the screening value.

Brian Miller (sitting in tonight for Mr. Howard Furl) - Sand Creek, what about the soil sediments in the creek?

Elizabeth Ferguson- The sediment samples showed no contaminants above screening values.

LTC Tadsen requested the Elizabeth Ferguson defines the phrase “below the screening value.”

Elizabeth Ferguson defined the phrase by explaining that this is a conservative value, causing no impact to aquatic life. The screening level shows no negative effect for fish or invertebrates.

Joe Beutler- The ponds you have mentioned are those all naturally occurring?

Elizabeth Ferguson said that Kelley’s pond, Upper & Lower Cobbs Pond were manmade.

Mark Patterson added that generally deeper depth ponds were created by man however some ponds date back to the original families who owned this land.

LTC Tadsen explained that the no name stream was created by beavers; the recent storms have taken out a number of beaver dams inside the installation.

Charlie Ramer asked if the computer model was adjusted to compensate for the current weather conditions.

Elizabeth Ferguson- said that they sample during the summer months from June to September.

Charlie Ramer then asked if the results were adjusted for dilution during the flood.

Elizabeth Ferguson- We did not sample during the flood, but we were here a few short days after the flood occurred.

Dr. Barbara Andreas- During the moss survey some of them were found that are not found in other parts of Ohio.

LTC Tadsen turned the floor over to the audience for further questions directed to Elizabeth Ferguson.

Maril Novak (Windham Resident) - Are you worried about contaminants like mercury, that is stored in the flesh? What about tissue analysis?

Elizabeth Ferguson- We did not complete any biological tissue samples. This phase of the testing is to look for chemicals in the water... and yes, while we do look for other chemicals of concern (COC), no mercury was detected.

Ron Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - What chemicals were found and what were the levels?

Elizabeth Ferguson- The report contains the full description of chemicals including levels. i.e.: semi volatiles, total alkalinity, metals, pesticides, propellants, PCB’s etc.

Ron Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - You did not look for volatile organic compounds (VOC's), what about them evaporating in the surface water (historical release)?

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - What did you find?

Elizabeth Ferguson- There is a complete list of chemicals that we analyzed for in the report, all the metals found were below screening level.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - What report are you referring to? And will all the chemicals be listed for all of the ponds and streams?

Mark Patterson referred Laura Duncan to the Surface water report, which is located in the library repositories and also in his office at 8451, State Route 5. The RVAAP documents in Mark's office may be reviewed by making an appointment.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - asked if there will be fish tissue samples?

Elizabeth Ferguson answered Laura Duncan by saying that fish tissue samples are not necessary because we did not find any contaminants in the water therefore the fish have not been affected. If the water showed contamination, we would have a valid reason to test the fish tissues. There was no contamination in the water.

Dan Spicer- How many ponds were checked?

Elizabeth Ferguson- A total of 11 ponds were sampled, 3 reference ponds, 1 reference wetland, 5 potentially impacted ponds and 2 potentially impacted wetlands.

Ron Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - asked Elizabeth Ferguson what chemicals did you sample for?

Elizabeth Ferguson- Target Analyte List (TAL) to include mercury, silver, copper, chromium etc.

Eileen Mohr concurred with the listing.

Ron Duncan (Middlefield Resident) asked Mark Patterson if this data was included in the CD's that Mark provided to him before the meeting tonight.

Mark Patterson told Ron that the CD's included the information that he had requested from the repositories when he and his wife visited RVAAP to review the documents.

Julie Smeiles (The Villager) – What about sediment sampling and data gaps during the flood?

Elizabeth Ferguson- We sampled before and after the flood, there was not a data gap in this study.

Elizabeth Ferguson- If contaminants were found in the water above the threshold levels, biological (tissue) samples would be in order. Since no contaminants were found in the water, there was no need to perform tissue sampling.

Bill Krimmer (Paris Resident) – You didn't take tissue samples, and there were no PCB's in the sediment or water?

Elizabeth Ferguson- If PCB's were in the sediment we would have detected them. PCBs bio-accumulate and would be found in the fish tissues, if they existed in the sediment.

Bill Krimmer (Paris Resident) - Did you test frogs or reptiles?

Elizabeth Ferguson- We tested the fish because this species is in the water 100% of their life span. Frogs and reptiles are not in the water 100 % of their life span.

Bob McNight (Windham Resident) - Did you test for herbicides and propellants?

Elizabeth Ferguson answered yes we did test for herbicides and propellants.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - Did you test the sediment? Where did the results come from? If you did conduct the tests, how far did you go?

Elizabeth Ferguson- We had a contract with laboratories; Severn Trent Laboratories (STL) and GPL Laboratories. We went to the 1st six inches in the sediment - that is where the biological community lives.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - commented that the Arsenal was active long ago, what about contaminates that were here and washed away.

Elizabeth Ferguson- Sure that is possible that they were here and were washed away.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) inquired about the life expectancy of the fish.

Elizabeth Ferguson- 1 to 2 season life span.

LTC Tadsen- said that the bowfin and grass carp have a longer life span.

Elizabeth Ferguson agreed and said that yes - larger fish could live 5 or more seasons.

Jill Kovacs (The Tribune) - When the burn happened, how did this affect the surface water?

Elizabeth Ferguson answered by saying that our sampling events occurred before and after the burn. There are wind direction variables and other various planning steps that occurred.

Mark Patterson- Load Line 6 & 9 did not contain PCB's.

Maril Novak asked if the truck (that Elizabeth Ferguson had mentioned in her presentation) that washed into the Arsenal in the South Branch, Eagle Creek during the 100-year storm could have caused contamination

LTC Tadsen explained that the truck that was washed into the stream from private property by the flood waters was only a shell, and contained no engine or drive train. During this flood 50 ft. of perimeter fence was knocked down by the truck. The water level was 9 to 10 feet above normal levels.

Ron Duncan- directed a question to Mark Patterson in regards to any off site ground water monitoring wells.

Mark Patterson answered by saying that no, there are no off site monitoring wells. In 1998 OEPA completed off site ground water well testing with no contaminants found. We have installed ground water wells downgradient from the AOC's and there is no indication of contamination.

Ron Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - are catfish bottom feeders?
Elizabeth Ferguson- yes, bass are top water surface feeders.

Laura Duncan (Middlefield Resident) - inquired about the residential well tests.
Mark Patterson said that yes, OEPA completed the testing.

Eileen Mohr- the OEPA went to the residents and asked permission to sample their wells. We considered the location of the wells, proximity to the facility, screen, pulled well installation logs, inspected the plumbing to by pass any water softener system. We also communicated to the home owner that we needed to run the water for a length of time to insure the sample was not from the holding tank water.

Bill Krimmer- directed his question to Eileen Mohr; how many wells were tested in the surrounding residential areas? I spoke to individuals who refused to let you test their wells.

Eileen Mohr- Approximately 25 residential wells, and yes a number of people refused us access for testing.

Bill Krimmer requested that Eileen Mohr provide him with the ground water testing data.
Eileen Mohr obliged and would send him the information.

Julie Smeiles (The Villager) asked, 121 buildings have been surveyed and deemed not necessary to burn?

Mark Patterson said that the initial inspection was completed on 121 buildings and 6 of the 121 buildings are contaminated with explosives and must undergo thermal decomposition. The remaining 115 buildings will be demolished using the conventional method. In Load Line 11, gross contamination with explosives was not found, totaling 18 buildings. One building in Load Line 11 is still standing and that building could possibly be used for the trial burn.

Mark Patterson- Buildings with PCBs in excess of 50ppm (parts per million) will be reevaluated, and it will take heavy equipment to bring them down.
Julie Smeiles (The Villager) – Will you notify the public?

Mark Patterson- Yes, as we have in the past, but this is a year or longer down the road.

Bill Krimmer asked Mark Patterson if the one remaining building in Load Line 11 is the building they saw during the tour.
Mark Patterson said that the building I am referring to is behind the building you saw during the tour.

Bill Krimmer asked if they will analyze this building.

Mark Patterson- We completed a full asbestos abatement removal process. All asbestos was removed. The anti-static flooring was factored into the air emissions. There is no asbestos in these buildings, and no composite type flooring. A pre-abatement asbestos survey was completed with samples, dates and pictures.

Mark Patterson invited Bill Krimmer to visit RVAAP with an appointment to review the survey report.

LTC Tadsen asked the audience if there were any additional questions.

LTC Tadsen announced that the next RAB meeting will be held October 19, 2005 with the location to be announced. LTC Tadsen reminded the audience that we have placed a question box with 3x5 cards in the back of the room, for any additional questions or comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Esler
RAB Administrator