

RAVENNA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 1997

1. CALL TO ORDER AND READING OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Adrian Stefanish, Community Co-Chair at 6:00 P.M. at the Paris Shearer Community Center, Paris, OH.

Secretary Becky Carter read the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Milan Markov stated that it was confusing to call the RAB members community members of the committee. Tim Morgan explained that in accordance with the Army RAB guidance, the RAB is made up of community and government (non-community) members. Everyone except the OEPA and Army Co-Chair, are community representatives on the Restoration Advisory Board. We are a board, not a committee. During RAB meetings, the general public are those not on the board. The terminology of community and non-community RAB members is from the Army RAB guidance. Bill Schultz suggested defining these in the minutes.

Non-community Members: RAB members appointed by the installation Commander or Commander's Representative and/or the regulatory agency that oversees the Installation Restoration Program. The Commander appoints one individual as a Co-Chair and may also appoint one additional installation representative. At Ravenna, the Ohio EPA has appointed one representative.

Community Members: Individuals from the general public who serve on the RAB. At Ravenna, these members were selected by a community selection panel made up of Township and County officials.

The minutes were approved with the above addendum.

Attendance was taken. Two excused absences - Barbara Andreas and Richard Kern.

2. AREAS OF CONCERN (AOC) MAPS AND LEGAL QUESTIONS

Tim Morgan distributed a copy of the RVAAP AOC map and a memorandum from Mr. Tom Jackson, U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command (IOC) Legal Office to each member of the RAB. The IOC memorandum was read. Discussion ensued on item #2a. concerning the RAB's function as an "advisory committee." The Army does not consider the RAB to be an "advisory committee" as described in the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The RAB's purpose is to bring public opinion on cleanup to the meetings and give input on the order of cleanup, not necessarily scientific guidance. The RAB does not assume the responsibility for the cleanup. The Army is responsible. The Army must first educate the RAB members on internal government and regulatory processes that govern the cleanup effort. RAB members serve in an individual capacity. There is no known law that enables the Army to use public funds for RAB member legal fees.

Bill Schultz - The RAB is a public relations body.

Nancy Ambers-Massar - questioned the RAB vote (Board Opinion) on issues. Tim Morgan explained that according to IOC guidance, the RAB offers advice as individuals. IOC Legal was not able to provide him clear guidance on the difference between individual opinions and a vote by the RAB.

Mr. Alfred Friedl - stated that the RAB is a way to transfer information back and forth.

William Roberts - questioned if the meeting was announced in the newspaper. Tim Morgan said that the major papers in the area were notified.

Mr. Bob Whelove, IOC Environmental Office was introduced. He explained that the RAB will be very involved in helping the Army to decide the priority in which limited funds are spent.

3. FINALIZATION RAB POLICY/CHARTER

Items 19 through 27 of the draft RAB Operating Policy were discussed, amended, voted on and approved.

Item 20 - Added two year term limit for those appointed by Trustees and Commissioners. Approved.

Item 21 - Approved.

Item 22 - Added clarification to ensure that Township and County representation on the RAB can not be eliminated. Approved.

Item 23 - Approved

Item 24 - Added language to make the membership committee responsible for all issues related to membership and attendance. Approved.

Item 25 - Deleted item 25.g. Approved.

Item 26 - Added language to 26.e. to make the RAB external affairs committee responsible for ensuring that documents are available for public review, if and when, such a committee is formed. Approved.

Tom Smith - stated that he didn't understand why we were going through the exercise of forming a RAB, a charter, and committees. He feels that the RAB has no validity and that the Army does not want the RAB's advice.

Tim Morgan - explained the Army's position and that the RAB is a valuable mechanism for sharing information with the public and getting public input for decision making. Yes, the RAB is not a decision making body for the Army, but RAB input can help the Army make better decisions for the community.

Bob Whelove - indicated that the RAB is valuable and their input can help the Army decide things like which projects to do first when limited funds are available.

Milan Markov - indicated that he felt the Army doesn't want the RAB to know too much and will not support RAB members if sued.

Bob Whelove - indicated that the RAB will have information and that all documents will be put in the public repositories.

Tom Smith - indicated that he feels the Army is trying to give the community a warm feeling.

Alan Coogan - explained that the RAB was seen as needed, and the Army agreed to form it, due to a request by the public.

William Roberts - stated that the RAB can be a source of public information.

Bill Schultz - stated we are better off with the RAB than without it.

Tim Morgan - discussed the distribution of information to the repositories, mailing list and RAB members. This is currently being done by the RVAAP staff and is time consuming. The RAB external affairs committee is welcome to do this. The problem is the lack of funding to pay RAB members for their time and necessary office equipment.

Bob Whelove - stated that the RAB should at some point become self functioning

and handle the distribution of information to the public. The RAB will get copies of future reports for review before final drafts are released to the public.

Tim Morgan - Each RAB member will not get an individual copy of each document because some of them are, and will be, very lengthy. The Army intends to provide executive summaries to the RAB members and allow RAB members to have access to the documents at the RVAAP, as well as in the repositories.

Item 27 - Approved.

Item 1 - Tim Morgan discussed the wording of this item and indicated that it was not acceptable because it implies that the Army has the capability to provide open public access to the RVAAP for RAB activities at the plant. The RVAAP can not commit to open public access to the installation. The RVAAP is a restricted access base and the RAB policy can not be written in such a way to imply that the base is open to the public. Limited public access can be accommodated, but not unrestricted access.

Milan Markov - reported on a local superfund cleanup and indicated that he felt the government could have a cover up.

Adrian Stefanish - stated that the RAB is able to be on site. Can some non-RAB members of the general public come on site?

Bob Whelove - explained EPA rules and how they affect RAB and how cleanups are handled.

Bill Schultz - indicated that the RAB has the right to invite outside experts to these sites, and that this would build trust.

Tim Morgan - indicated that this was true, but we have to be cautious on who we consider an expert and what their motives are.

Jay Abercrombie - questioned who is an expert, and what are their motives. There are a lot of experts trying to make business contacts and get environmental work from the government.

Adrian Stefanish - suggested that a technical committee could be formed to review this when the time comes. The RAB could vote on guests to be invited to activities on base.

Chris Smeiles - suggested controlling public access only at activities held at the RVAAP.

Kathleen Chandler (public) - suggested having an open public meeting after RAB activities on the RVAAP.

Adrian Stefanish - indicated that this would be difficult.

Tim Morgan - stated that all RAB meetings are open to the public and that the Army will allow public access to the RVAAP within our regulations and capability to provide adequate supervision. The press will be invited to activities on the installation.

Eileen Mohr - indicated that Ohio EPA records are all open to the public for review. She also stated that OSHA regulations should be considered when public access to the RVAAP is being considered.

Item 1 was amended and approved.

There were still some items of the policy to review before the final vote, but due to time constraints they were not addressed. Finalization and voting on the policy was put off to the next meeting.

4. REVIEW INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

Eileen Mohr, Bob Whelove, and members of the Corps of Engineers discussed the Army Installation Restoration Program and the federal regulations and government policies that drive this program. The Louisville District Corps of Engineers is the servicing district for this program at the RVAAP. Mr. Whelove was unable to finish his talk on the budgeting process, and so agreed to continue his discussion at the next meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for the third Wednesday in February, 19 February 1997, at the Freedom Township Hall located at the intersection of routes 88, 303, and 700 in Freedom Township, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Because the Army has a lot of information to go over, the RAB voted to hold the next six meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. The location of these meetings will be decided at the February meeting.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. by Adrian Stefanish.