

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 1997

1. Call to Order & Reading of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Community Co-Chair Adrian Stefanish at 6:00 p.m. at the Windham Town Hall, Windham Ohio.

Secretary Becky Carter read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as read.

Attendance was taken with 20 members present, 2 resigned due to a job moves, 2 excused and 1 absent (Bruce Nelson absent).

2. Army Co-Chair Tim Morgan announced the new RVAAP Environmental Protection Specialist is Mark Patterson.

3. Army Co-Chair then introduced Diane Kurlich, Ohio EPA who spoke on RVAAP Groundwater. Following her presentation, the following questions were raised from the members and audience:

Bernie Chmielewski: Is there quick sand in the area?

Diane: Explained "heaving sands" which in her geologist terms may be the same thing.

Alfred Friedl: Do you check the wells in the area or just within the arsenal itself?

Diane: At present only those within the arsenal but they hope to get funds to check outside.

Alan Coogan: Are there any pre-arsenal era wells?

Diane: No, and she explained that well logs came into being in 1950 so information before this time is sketchy and hard to identify.

Coogan: Topography suggests that the center of the Arsenal is a recharge area, what are your observations?

Diane: Center portion of the sites follow the regional flow of water then explained this flow.

Nina Miller: Why were samples taken at the areas chosen and not others?

Diane: Explained the flow, what happened if explosives or metals are found

Coogan: What data base for metals is being used?

Eileen Mohr: They will take samples and get more on these in Phase 2. Bob Whelove also commented on Phase 2 and what can be expected in the line of testing.

Coogan: Is the how clean is clean process used?

Eileen: They will discuss this later after the stats and tests are final.

Caryl Griswold: Commented about a company Kiwani who bored holes at the side of the road in the late 30s then came back and blasted the holes shut,

then the arsenal was created.

Rachel Craig: Are there any plans for computer monitoring of water flow?

Eileen: Not at this time.

Milan Markov stated When West Branch was dug, it sank 2 feet before filling and this was called a quick clay problem, could this be the same as the heaving sand?

Diane: Perhaps it was similar.

Richard Kern: How deep do you go when drilling -- to the first flow of water or deeper?

Diane explained their drilling and what they find for instance solvents and these are very difficult to remove. Drilling was to first water. This is the most cost effective way to sample because there are always traces of contamination in this area, if contamination exists at all in the ground water.

Adrian Stefanish: Are they randomly going to do more water sampling and testing?

Diane: Not at this time but perhaps some shallow well testing.

Eileen: As part of Phase II the existing wells will be resampled.

Nina: Testing was done in July and August which are usually very dry months, why do this testing when there is less water, would it be better if there was more water?

Diane: Actually less water is better, but they are going to do seasonal testing in the spring.

Nancy: Within the sandstone there are flow patterns and will these be checked?

Diane: Yes they are tested.

Bernie C: There are many cancer victims in the Holcolm and Minyoung Road areas, has this been checked or monitored?

Diane stated they did not look at this but will monitor the wells, etc.

4. Open discussion and questions

Rachel: asked several questions about the EPA letter on the review of the RRSE of previously unevaluated sites and wondered what response will be given or has been given?

Whelove: They have come to an agreement on high medium and low priority sites and will put this in the reports in the libraries.

Eileen: A response will come on the EPA letter.

Stefanish: Was there any change in the list of sites from high, medium or low priorities?

Eileen: A response will be coming as to the priorities and the board will get a copy of it.

Morgan: We can provide the RAB members with this information.

Rachel: Certain sites should be high priority...

Eileen: Mr Sheehy cannot change the priority, but they do want to put some

AOC sites to the front. Tim Morgan also commented on the AOC. Item 13 of the EPA letter was discussed also the risk ranking and assessments. Eileen stated they will look at the areas in the "worst case scenerio" which would be building a home on the area with children playing there and that would be the basis for possible clean up should that be the case. Whelove also commented on RRSE and explained assessment levels.

Stefanish: Has there been a clean up schedule made yet?

Eileen: This worst case scenerio is used and any areas now contaminated have been restricted for use with signs and barriers. We are not yet at a point to do clean up. The Army is reviewing the need to post signs and/or fence off certain areas to keep National Guard troops out during training.

Nina stated there are a lot of dust clouds coming from the arsenal and asked about the danger from these, also there have been loud firings from the area -- are these allowed?

Morgan: The National Guard has been holding manuevers in that area, thus causing the dust. Live firing is NOT permitted in this area, or anywhere at Ravenna. The National Guard uses blanks, flares, etc. It is very difficult to check into this because of the number of different users of the site. It could possibly be checked if we knew an exact date.

Bill Schultz requested a direct answer to this situation stating if the time, location, etc., could be checked from 8 to 15 years ago it would help.

Tim Morgan then read the letter to the editor from Warner Lange regarding the Phase 1 RI presentation made on September 3 and addressed the several points he raised as follows: Yes, Napalm was burned, the solid waste landfill was closed and capped, demo area 2 is dangerous and the area is off limits with signs posted, etc. The fish kill at Cobbs Pond is believed to have been caused by aluminum chloride from load line 12 Types of weapons tested at Firestone was asked about and Tim stated Tow and Dragon warheads were tested for metal penetration in the chambers there and further explained the testing done. None of the drums in building 1601 were buried. Ash from explosives burning operations was collected in drums and stored in 1601 until properly manifested and shipped off site for proper disposal. Some empty drums and cannisters were dug up at the suspected mustard gas site. No mustard gas/agent was found, just empty containers.

Coogan commented that he feels Lange's letter needs a like response and perhaps the secretary's notes could be used for a factual response to be put into the paper. Bill Schultz also stated the letter would show the workings of the RAB and a report in writing, goals of the group, etc might help. We need to build public confidence in our group and its purpose.

Morgan: The Army does not want to be a part of a letter writing campaign but the Army could answer to RAB then the RAB can put together an answer in the paper. Both Community Co-Chair Stefanish and Secretary Carter agreed to sign this letter and send it to the paper. Coogan commented on Mr. Lange's background. Jay Abercrombie stated he felt a letter to the editor would be the best answer from the RAB.

Morgan further answered questions about radio active materials and the fact

that these are being checked.

Roberts asked about the mustard agent site and it was discussed by Whelove with reference to the cannisters found. Eileen stated the testing of the surface soil was done so a RRSE could be done..

Richard Kern asked about a meeting between different RAB groups and was informed by Morgan that the meeting was cancelled because of lack of participants but they would pursue it again.

Schultz commented that he appreciated the candor of the questions and answers here tonight.

5. Schedule next meeting

Tom Smith suggested keeping Wednesdays. Bob Whelove suggested bi-monthly meetings but suggested a different Wednesday other than the third.

Chris Smeiles made the motion to hold the next meeting November 19 but the motion died for lack of a second.

Stefanish stated the next meeting will be November 12 at Paris Shearer Center.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca L. Carter, Secretary