

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD AND PUBLIC MEETING
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES via Teleconference from:

Savoonga

Robert Annogiyuk
Mitchell Kiyuklook
Verna Immingan
Jeanette (Muffy) Iya
Delbert Pungowiyi
Thor Noongwook

Affiliation

Native Village of Savoonga, NALEMP Project Manager
President, Native Village of Savoonga
Native Village of Savoonga
Savoonga, RAB Member
Savoonga
Native Village of Savoonga

Nome

Kevin Zweifel

RAB member, Norton Sound Health Corporation

Anchorage

Carey Cossaboom
Aaron Shewman
Valerie Palmer
Curtis Dunkin
Jerry Reichlin
Vi Waghiyi
Pam Miller

Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Project Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Project Manager, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Attorney for NVS
RAB member, Alaska Community Action on Toxics
RAB member, Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Colorado

Janesse Brewer

The Keystone Center, Facilitator

Massachusetts

Ron Scrudato

TAPP Advisor, R&M Technologies

ACRONYM GLOSSARY

ACAT	Alaska Community Action on Toxins
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Bristol	Bristol Environmental Remediation Services, LLC
CA	Cooperative Agreement
COC	contaminant of concern
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
FY	fiscal year
GPS	global positioning system
HAZWOPER	Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
HTRW	hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste
LBP	Lead-Based Paint
MNA	monitored natural attenuation
MOC	Main Operations Complex
NALEMP	Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program
NVNC	Native Village of Northeast Cape
NVS	Native Village of Savoonga
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
POPs	persistent organic pollutants
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
SLI	Saint Lawrence Island
SPIP	Strategic Project Implementation Plan
SPMD	semi-permeable membrane device
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

Call to Order and Introductions (1:05 pm)

Janesse Brewer from the Keystone Center facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone. The conference call attendees introduced themselves. Robert Annogiyuk conducted an opening prayer. Janesse outlined the meeting's agenda, which included comments from the last RAB meeting and resulting action items, Northeast Cape FUDS project updates, highlights from the December 2011 Dialogue Meeting, 2012 remedial action plans, and the status of the Native Village of Savoonga NALEMP project. Janesse apologized for not being able to meet face to face for the RAB, but offered condolences for the family of Betty Wongittilin whose funeral occurred the day USACE and ADEC were in Savoonga for the RAB. She noted there was a lot to cover during the meeting and the meetings often go longer than 2 hours to allow time for robust conversations, and she thanked everyone for being on the phone.

Review/Approve RAB Meeting Minutes from November 2011

Janesse asked if there were any comments on the March meeting minutes. The minutes were sent out after the meeting last year. Carey replied he had received no comments.

Review Action items from November 2011 meeting (Slides 3 and 4)

Carey reviewed the action items from the November 2011 minutes:

1. *Dean Kulowiyi and/or other community members to tell Robert Annogiyuk about locations of barrels, debris, other military concerns around the Island for inclusion in the NALEMP SPIP.*

Robert received information from Dean Kulowiyi regarding empty drums and spoke with others regarding cabin locations. Robert will try to include the information in the SPIP.

2. *USACE to investigate taking samples along the road to the former Radar Station in area of dead vegetation.*

Sampling will be done by Bristol during the 2012 field season.

3. *Videos were distributed to Dean Kulowiyi, Muffy Iya, and George Noongwook. Anyone interested in viewing field work activities should contact them.*

Videos (DVDs) were left in Savoonga by Carey. Anyone wanting a copy or wanting something different done to cover the 2012 field work should let Carey know. Vi saw the video and had no suggestions on how to improve on it for 2012 field work coverage.

4. *Continue conversation about petroleum contamination near the main complex and into the wetlands area to the north. Give any ideas of input to USACE.*

Ron S. has submitted comments for the work plan and this action item:

- Main Operations Complex (MOC) and south of MOC area monitoring wells: where are all of them and why were some left out of the planned sampling?

Carey: The work plan only discussed the wells that historically had contamination exceeding cleanup levels. All nine (9) wells will be sampled this season.

- Regarding the chemistry data for monitored natural attenuation (MNA): has concerns about the levels of methane and ferrous iron indicating anaerobic (vs aerobic) breakdown is occurring, which is less successful than aerobic bacteria.

Carey: this year's scope of work for Bristol includes having them make the determination whether or not MNA will work and how long it will take. Additional wells will be added once the excavation at the MOC is complete.

Aaron: Anaerobic occurs within the plume due to high petroleum concentrations, aerobic occurs around the fringe of the plume. The anaerobic wells indicate high petroleum concentrations near or within the source area, and as one moves to the outside of the plume the wells should become aerobic.

Robert: Regarding the petroleum at the MOC: will it spread to the NALEMP work area?

Carey: Unlikely. The contamination will likely leach to the groundwater and then into the Suqi River without reaching the NALEMP work area. The MOC is too distant from the NVNC for it to affect groundwater at the NVNC.

Submitted Report (Slide 6)

Site 28 Technical Memorandum was finalized in February 2012.

2011 Removal Action Report from February 2012 is in "Draft Final" stage. Get any comments to Carey as soon as possible because the report will be finalized soon.

2012 Work Plans from May 2012. Carey has already extended the comment period. Comments received by 29 June 2012 can be incorporated in the current work plan and be approved by ADEC. Bristol is already at NE Cape. Any pertinent comments received after 29 June may be addressed via a contract or work plan modification.

December 2011 Dialogue Meetings Savoonga and Gambell (Slides 7 thru 13)

Carey gave a summary of who attended and the key issues from the meetings. Carey also followed up on action items from the meeting.

- Matt Wilkening from the EPA has a draft USACE cleanup effort review document that is available online. Matt is behind schedule producing a final version. Carey will notify RAB members with an anticipated completion date as soon as Matt gets back to Carey.
- Estimated duration of monitored natural attenuation will be addressed by Bristol in this year's NE Cape work.
- Additional sampling of the Suqi River will not occur until all removal actions in the vicinity have been completed. It is anticipated water and sediment sampling will be done at that time. The current sample results show contaminant levels are below cleanup levels.
 - ACAT discussed their sediment sample from the Suqi estuary and its results. Carey mentioned that the method used was a semi-permeable membrane device (SPMD) and was not an ADEC approved method for assessing contamination

cleanup levels. ADEC mentioned that the sample should still be considered as part of the overall status of the estuary. ACAT brought up Mirex as a contaminant of concern; Carey noted that it was not a COC for the FUDS cleanup, as has previously been discussed. ACAT would like to see more samples collected from the estuary including during winter and at breakup. ACAT also stated the NEC site is a significant health concern to the people of Savoonga.

- Delbert P. from Savoonga stated that he believes PCBs are coming from POPs, but the majority is coming from the military site. He also thanked ATSDR for agreeing to conduct the health study.
- ATSDR has reviewed Savoonga's request to conduct a public health assessment on St. Lawrence Island. Studies will be initiated in 2013. The study will not be able to determine the actual cause of disease. It cannot distinguish the source as coming from FUDS or global POP. It can assess whether SLI residents are being exposed to harmful contaminants and recommend how to reduce those exposures.
- ACAT is still working on their coordination with IRT Arctic Care, Norton Sound Corporation and the Cancer Registry in Anchorage. They are still working on finding points of contact for the latter two agencies.
 - Delbert P. from Savoonga stated he has recommended a health study to Norton Sound Health Corporation several times and doesn't know why they can't do anything. He went on to say every year more island residents are found to have cancer; residents have passed away and children are not diagnosed in time to get treatment.

2012 Northeast Cape Field Season (Slide 14)

Carey reported that Bristol arrived on site 18 June to begin setting up the field camp. Field work is anticipated to begin 1 July. Carey said an additional \$3.5M is to be awarded by end of this month, which, when added to the contract for this year plus the remaining amount (\$7.5M) on the contract from last year, totals about \$17M.

Slides 15 and 16

Carey reported the first task for the season will be to remove supersacks remaining from the 2011 field season. The schedule for this is dependent on when the first barge arrives. Barges must wait until ice melts to access Cargo Beach. Supersacks were staged at Cargo Beach, Site 6 and the Bristol refueling area (ISO tanks). Soil under the supersacks will be sampled to ensure no contaminated soil was spilled from the supersacks over the winter.

Slides 17 and 18

Carey reported that another initial task Bristol will attempt to accomplish is removal and disposal of dangerous poles and wire from the tundra. Poles that have previously been cut off at ground level have frost-jacked several feet, creating a hazard to snowmachines. A machine designed to pull the poles from the ground will be used. If the poles are frozen in place, a system to inject hot water around the pole will be used to free the pole. An excavator may also be used. This work is planned to be accomplished while the tundra is still frozen to minimize impacts from the heavy equipment travelling across the site without roads.

Slides 19 and 20

Carey reported that excavation of petroleum-contaminated soil at the Main Operations complex (MOC) will continue. Excavation activities will likely continue into 2013. Efforts for this year will be concentrated on the pad; there is no current solution for the deep contamination in the wetland area.

Slides 21 and 22

Carey reported that excavation and disposal of PCB-contaminated soil from Site 13 (Heat and Power Plant) and Site 31 (White Alice Communication Station) will continue. The PCBs are deeper and spread further away from the apparent source than was anticipated. Bristol is doing a good job of mapping and excavating the soil. While it is unfortunate that there are more PCBs than anticipated, the good thing about this site is the PCBs are underground, so they are not exposed to wind and weather. The goal at these sites for this summer is removal of the remaining PCBs.

Slide 23

Excavation and disposal of arsenic-contaminated soil will continue at Site 21 Wastewater Treatment Site. The wetland and groundwater are impeding soil excavation. Per ADEC guidance, the excavation will extend only two feet below the groundwater table. Excavating deeper than two feet becomes ineffective. We will continue the excavation laterally.

Slide 24-25

Additional sediment characterization and mapping will occur at Site 28 Drainage Basin this summer. A Phase I sediment removal project will also be done. The plan is to remove up to two feet of sediment from active stream channels and ponds. Two methods for removal will be evaluated. Only a small area will be attempted this summer. One method is to vacuum the sediment out, but this will present a challenge to deal with the water produced. The second method is removing it with an excavator, but this presents a challenge with accessing the area with the equipment. We don't want to make things worse with the sediment removal. We have to prevent removing too much sediment which would cause the stream to begin eroding upstream into the MOC. This will be a delicate operation. ADEC has requested that the new sediment map be discussed before Phase 1 sediment removal occurs.

Delbert P. asked that with PCB excavation, what's done to prevent PCBs spreading in the winter when they're done working. Carey responded that a fabric called Tytar is placed over the excavation and extends up and over the side walls. Clean dirt is then placed on top of the fabric to hold it in place. This past year Supersacks were placed around the excavations to prevent anyone or any reindeer from falling into the excavation. ADEC also added that the fabric liner helps prevent cross-contamination between clean and dirty soil.

Slide 26

Soil sampling along the radar dome road will be done this summer as a result of community input from the RAB and dialogue meetings. Areas of dead vegetation will be sampled this summer.

Jeannette from Savoonga asked if workers will be properly trained to handle the contamination on site. HAZWOPER does not train you to handle PCBs at these concentrations. Carey responded that yes, all workers will have the appropriate training and HAZWOPER does prepare workers to handle PCBs. She also asked if NALEMP workers will be handling contamination on site. Carey responded that no, NALEMP did not include handling contamination this year, only sampling. The NALEMP workers will have their HAZWOPER training and medical monitoring. Jeannette expressed concern about using supersacks for very wet soil. Carey stated Bristol is working on an alternate solution for draining sediments. Jeannette also expressed concern over PCBs mobility in air versus soil.

Robert from Savoonga pointed out that personal lead monitoring last summer did not show lead while NALEMP workers were moving and burning debris, so when the NALEMP workers grew too hot because they were dressed in Tyvek suits, they removed the suits.

BREAK 3:00 – 3:10 pm

Slide 27-28

Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) at of petroleum-contaminated sediment and surface water at Site 8 will continue this year. Carey reported in the last two years only one sample exceeded a cleanup level. He could not remember what the compound was or the level of the compound, but mentioned it was reported in the draft Removal Action Report that will soon be final. He said monitoring at the site will continue this summer.

Slides 29-30

MNA of groundwater from monitoring wells in the vicinity of the MOC will also occur this summer. Results presented in the Work Plans suggest that the groundwater contamination may be getting better, but more wells, and more samples, are needed to be sure. The future monitoring procedure and frequency will be determined after the soil removal is complete. The Corps will add additional monitoring wells once the excavations on the MOC pad are complete.

Slide 31

Excavation and disposal of drums from Site 10 will be done this summer.

Questions? (Slide 32)

Ron asked if there was a plan for monitoring at other sites. Carey responded only the MOC, perhaps Site 8, Site 9, and Site 7 will be monitored. Site 7 is scheduled to have its 5 Year Review

in 2014. Ron requested that the pond on the other side of the road from Site 7 be sampled during that review. Carey thought that was reasonable.

Pam asked if all sites will be on the same 5 year review schedule. Carey replied no. Not all sites will need a 5 year review. It was also discussed that petroleum-only sites do not get the full CERCLA 5-Year Review, but ADEC may request a similar type of review. Pam requested a table showing what sites will be monitored and when their reviews will be scheduled. Carey said we could provide this by the next RAB meeting.

Delbert P. said he understands that areas heavily contaminated with diesel spread more and more. Maybe we should try using absorbent pads? Carey stated that excavation is more efficient at this time.

Robert asked what sites were closest to the NALEMP area. Carey responded that Site 3 is closest and was sampled and excavated under FUDS. Site 6 is the next closest.

Native Village of Savoonga NALEMP Update

Slides 33 - 36

The 2012 CA proposal was submitted by the Native Village of Savoonga to USACE by Robert Annogiyuk and consultant, Bristol Environmental. Carey reported it had not yet been approved. Proposed tasks include the collection and removal of remaining non-burnable debris from the NVNC; contain, transport, and dispose of non-hazardous metallic and non-burnable debris; perform a comprehensive Site Investigation and environmental sampling program at the NVNC.

Slide 37

Carey reviewed recently awarded CA's and mods as well as the proposed FY12 CA.

Slide 38

Carey said the lead-based paint (LBP) in the 3 remaining cabins at the NVNC remains undecided. He said the Army wants to either fund painting the inside of the cabins one time, or tear down the cabins and dispose of them. The tear down and disposal doesn't have to happen now. It could be at some unspecified future time. If painting is chosen, then it will be a one-time event and then future responsibility will be with the Native Village of Savoonga or the owners of the cabins.

Robert and Carey discussed other possible alternatives and decided Carey would discuss with the Army the possibility of completely abating (removing the LBP) and repainting. Carey pointed out a consultant would do the abatement, but NALEMP could repaint. Robert asked if NALEMP would repaint in 10 years. Carey wasn't sure, but thought that abatement would like be thorough enough the first time so that repainting will not be considered.

Delbert P. asked if there was asbestos insulation in the cabins. Carey said no. There was some asbestos tile and pipe that was removed. Delbert P. asked if the LBP boards could be removed from the cabins. Carey said the Army does not want to risk the structural integrity of the cabins, so removing the boards was not an option. Dilbert had a final comment, "Gross Negligence".

Robert pointed out there are other cabins on the island built from NEC FUDS materials. Carey said the SPOP must be updated with cabin locations to be considered by NALEMP. Robert said the SPIP will be updated with cabin locations and photos. Carey pointed out GPS coordinates would also be good to add to the SPIP.

Carey stated he is concerned about NVS NALEMP fund accounting. Robert said he will check with the bookkeeper, then asked if he can send NALEMP laborers to have their physical exams. Carey said there should be sufficient funding from the 2011 CA because the physicals were included, but without an accounting of NVS NALEMP funds, he cannot say whether or not NVS NALEMP has funding for the physicals.

Delbert said he appreciates face-to-face meetings and the condolences for the recent death of his cousin. [It was his cousin's funeral the day USACE and ADEC arrived in Savoonga to meet face-to-face with the RAB, but cancelled due to the funeral.]

Action Items

Carey Cossaboom reviewed the action items:

1. Provide comments on the Removal Action Report to Carey as soon as possible. It's about to go final.
2. Provide comments on the 2012 Work Plan as soon as possible (by 29 June). If you miss the deadline, please still submit your comments. Comments will be considered and it's possible to modify the contract.
3. Carey will notify the RAB when the EPA's assessment is final.
4. Develop a table showing what sites will be monitored and their likely review schedule.

Carey Cossaboom thanked everyone for attending the meeting via teleconference. He announced meeting minutes will be drafted for review soon. If anyone has suggestions for a specific date for the November/December RAB meeting, please let him know.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.