

**ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2014, 1300-1530
Savoonga City Hall and
Via Teleconference**

ATTENDEES

Please see the attached sign-in sheet for a complete list of attendees. Some names were not legible so do not appear below, but are documented in the attached list.

Savoonga	Affiliation
Janesse Brewer	The Keystone Center, Facilitator
Valerie Palmer	FUDS Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Aaron Shewman	Project Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Andrea Elconin	NALEMP Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Curtis Dunkin	Project Manager, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Kevin Maher	Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering Group
Julieanna Orczewska	Biologist, Jacobs Engineering Group
Mitchell Kiyuklook	IRA President, Native Village of Savoonga
Sylvia Toolie	Native Village of Savoonga
Eugene Toolie	Savoonga
Carl Pelowook, Sr.	City of Savoonga
Filma Noongwook-Toolie	City of Savoonga
Myron Kingeekuk	Mayor, City of Savoonga
Robert Annogiyuk	Native Village of Savoonga - NALEMP
Fritz Waghiyi	Village Corporation
Sam Mokiyyuk	City of Savoonga
Bryan Rookok, Jr.	Kukulget, Inc.
Paul Rookok	RAB Member
Mylon Kingeekuk	Kukulget, Inc.
Morris Toolie, Jr.	Kukulget, Inc.
Perry Pungowiyi	Kukulget, Inc.
Helen Kingeekuk	Savoonga
George Noongwook	RAB Community Co-Chair
Jeanette (Muffy) Iya	RAB Member
Flashman Noongwook	Clerk, City of Savoonga
Bob Kava	Bookkeeper, NALEMP
Delbert Pungowiyi	Savoonga
Derek Seppilu	Native Village of Savoonga
Larry Kava	Native Village of Savoonga
Jean Kava	RAB Member
_____ Noongwook	

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_____ Kava	Native Village of Savoonga
K. Seppilu	Native Village of Savoonga
Tom Akaya	Native Village of Savoonga
Wilson Okoomealingok	
Frank F. Seppilu	

Via Teleconference from Anchorage

Vi Waghiyi	RAB member, Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Pam Miller	ACAT
Heidi Zimmer	ACAT

Via Teleconference from Anchorage (assumed)

Jerry Reichlin	RAB Member
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Via Teleconference from Florida

Ron Scrudato	TAPP Advisor, R&M Technologies
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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
COCs	Contaminants of Concern
DD	Decision Document
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites
HQ	Headquarters
IRA	Indian Reorganization Act
ISCO	In-Situ Chemical Oxidation
Jacobs	Jacobs Engineering Group
mg/Kg	Milligram per Kilogram
MOC	Main Operations Complex
MNA	Monitored Natural Attenuation
NALEMP	Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program
NVNC	Native Village of Northeast Cape
NEC	Northeast Cape
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
ppm	parts per million
ppb	parts per billion
POL	Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
ROE	Right of Entry
SLI	St. Lawrence Island
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UAA	University of Alaska Anchorage

Call to Order and Introductions (1300) **Slides 1 through 3**

Janesse B. from the Keystone Center facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone. George Noonwook, RAB Community Co-Chair, again welcomed everyone and gave the opening prayer. The attendees on the phone introduced themselves. Ron S. had a poor phone connection, so it took a few minutes to work it out. Janesse B. outlined the meeting's agenda, highlighting 5-year review interviews were to begin that day and continue tomorrow, and Kevin M. and Julieanna O. were available to conduct interviews. A PowerPoint presentation was projected on a free-standing screen setup in the City Hall.

Janesse B. and Valerie P. proceeded to address old business, which included requesting final comments on the meeting minutes from the June 2013 RAB meeting.

Review Action Items from June 2013 Meeting **Slide 4**

Jenesse B. and Valerie P. then reviewed action items including:

- 1) *Requesting submittal of comments on planned future monitoring activities at NEC.*

Discussion: Comments are necessary because a long-term monitoring plan will soon be developed for NEC.

- 2) *Bristol was to inform corporations and the communities as to whether or not they are open to selling equipment after fieldwork is complete.*

Discussion: Bristol will be working at the site again summer 2014, so they will respond this summer as to whether or not they are open to selling equipment after fieldwork is complete.

- 3) *A request was made for a site visit by community representatives during 2013.*

Discussion: The request for a possible site visit for community representatives was fulfilled during the summer of 2013. Paul R. announced he was among those who visited the site. He spoke of seeing soil bags being filled, Cargo Beach lined with soil bags, and Site 28 dredging. He also saw the NVNC and thinks there is more work to be done there. Ron S. also visited the site and was impressed with the large-scale excavation. He said he believes in-situ cleanup would be effective and should be looked at. Valerie P. said that we tried in-situ remediation at the MOC and it didn't work well, so the Corps is doing soil removal to remediate contamination. Ron. S. said aerobic bacteria could be introduced, and the ISCO pilot test a few years ago at the site should have included bench-scale testing before mobilizing to the field. The pilot test was performed in peat soils which made it ineffective. Valerie P. pointed out the contaminated soil in the area of the ISCO pilot test has since been excavated and removed, so the point is moot. Pam M. said she was also concerned excavation will be ineffective. Ron S. stated he recalls finding PCB concentrations in Suqi River sediments up to 0.5 ppm in 2002. Valerie stated a few sediment samples will be collected from the Suqi River after the site cleanup remedies are in place. It was agreed a discussion on this topic would continue via a follow-up conference call.

- 4) *Ron Scrudato to recirculate 2012 paper.*

Discussion: Ron S. sent his 2012 paper to Curtis Dunkin as agreed last meeting.

- 5) *TAPP advisor funds were to be pursued between the June 2013 RAB meeting and the January 2014 RAB meeting.*

Discussion: Existing TAPP funds were due to expire 31 December 2013, but were extended to 31 January 2014. There is still approximately \$1,300 left on Ron S.'s contract, but it cannot be extended; the contract is limited to 5 years duration. The RAB must prepare a letter formally requesting additional TAPP funds from USACE. Once received by Valerie P. she will send the request on to USACE HQ. Valerie P. pointed out there are two more planned RAB meetings, one on or about June 2014, and the other sometime during the winter of 2015. Jeanette I. said Kukulget, Inc. already sent a letter of support. Valerie P. stated she had not received a letter. Valerie P. encouraged the RAB to write the letter soon to ensure TAPP funds would be requested in time for an advisor to be present at the June RAB meeting. Valerie P. stated that there is no guarantee that Ron. S. would be selected as the new TAPP. George N. said he will prepare the letter on behalf of the RAB.

- 6) *George N. was to send a list of June 2013 RAB meeting attendees to Valerie as part of finalizing the meeting minutes.*

Discussion: Janesse B. encouraged everyone present at this RAB meeting to sign-in today and write neatly so the names would be readable.

- 7) *Ron S. and Curtis D. were to discuss PCB detection limits and report back to the RAB.*

Discussion: Ron S. and Curtis D. announced they had a discussion after the last RAB meeting. Curtis then stated the USACE collected sediment and surface water samples for PCB aroclor analysis during and following sediment removal from the Site 28 Drainage Basin in 2013. The report arrived this week, but he had not yet reviewed it. Curtis also said the USACE can evaluate chronic exposure to aquatic organisms by collecting samples that will result in a division of arochlors, although not congener-specific. Ron S. requested congener-specific analyses and results with lower detection limits. It was agreed this discussion would be tabled and would continue via a follow-up conference call.

FUDS Project Update - Submitted Reports

Slide 6

Valerie P. announced there were no draft reports out for review and comment at this time, but she also mentioned the draft ATSDR report on Savoonga is expected in early 2015. A separate report will be prepared for Gambell. The ATSDR reports should assess human health impacts in those communities.

Some general comments were offered at this time: Bryan R. said he spoke to someone during cleanup at the site this summer when he saw barrels and sludge (Site 24?). Bryan R. said Site 24 was all flat, but he saw sludge underneath the pond where drums were stacked. Valerie P. said she would get more information from him on that so the Corps can look into it. He said he would show the USACE where he saw this on a map. Paul R. stated he is concerned Site 28 Drainage Basin is a continuing source of contamination. He has seen a rainbow effect on water coming up. He also said there is a lot of work to do at the beach. Delbert P. supports cleanup of PCBs using ISCO in addition to digging it up. He wants the site cleaned up so NVNC can be re-established. He spoke to Joe S. of ATSDR while ATSDR was in Savoonga and is concerned about the rate of PCBs dissolved in the blood of Savoonga community members.

Northeast Cape –2013 Field Season Tasks

Slides 7 through 19

Slide 7

We expect the draft report of the 2013 field season will be available in early February and will detail exact quantities of items removed. Several tons of debris was removed from the site again in 2013.

Slide 8

Valerie P. discussed that quite a bit of POL-contaminated soil was removed from the MOC in 2013. There are only two areas remaining for excavation at the MOC this summer.

Slide 9

Valerie P. showed which areas were excavated in 2013 and which remain for 2014. There was a discussion between Valerie P. and Ron S. regarding limits of the soil excavations. Valerie P. explained that the UVOST delineation was a starting point for excavation, and that the excavation extended until the area reached cleanup levels. Ron S. asked if the PCB analyses were done in a field lab or off-site lab. Valerie stated confirmation samples were done in an off-site lab.

Slide 10

Valerie P. stated PCB excavation at Site 13 was complete. The area has been backfilled and reseeded. No work remains for this site.

Slide 11

Valerie P. stated PCB excavation at Site 31 was also complete and the site has been backfilled and reseeded. All PCB excavations at NE Cape have now been completed. Curtis Duncan stated that Sites 13 and 31 combined are probably one of the largest FUDS PCB cleanups across the U.S. ADEC is pleased all the PCB-contaminated soil above the clean-up level was removed without reaching groundwater.

Slide 12

Valerie P. explained additional arsenic soil was removed from Site 21. Sampling and other activities are planned for 2014.

Slide 13

Valerie P. explained that sediment removal for Site 28 had been completed. The water was run through the large green granulated activated carbon filters shown in the photo and then further filtered through the large white geotubes in the photo. The geotubes were left on site for the winter to dewater. They will be shipped off site in 2014. There was a discussion of the water treatment at Site 28. Ron S. asked if the treatment took the color out of the water, and Valerie P. said yes. Curtis D. clarified that ADEC requires all treated water to be sampled before it is released. Also, the tundra on which the treated water was released was sampled. The water was treated for all Site 28 COCs. Curtis was impressed with the clarity of the treated water. It appeared very clear. All sample results will be in the 2013 removal action report.

Slide 14

Site 10 clean-up is complete.

Slide 15

Groundwater wells at the MOC were sampled again. Valerie presented some unofficial results – none of the monitoring wells had contamination above clean-up levels. Some wells that have historically been above cleanup levels were decommissioned due them being within the footprint of the excavations. Those monitoring wells will be replaced in 2014. Ron S. said he is concerned about MNA – aerobic vs. anaerobic. He wants us to look at aerobic bacteria. Pam M. said ACAT is working with Dr. Fred Rainey of UAA to evaluate microbial activity at the site.

Slide 16

Valerie P. discussed that Bristol collected some other miscellaneous required samples. In the slide photo it showed sampling being done where Bristol stored their fuel to ensure no contamination was left by Bristol's fuel tanks. Results will be provided in the upcoming report. Pam M. mentioned she is concerned about free product she saw where Eugene T. showed her near the former AST locations. She questions the effectiveness of the remediation there. Valerie P. said she was not sure on the details of that area and would get back to Pam M. on that. Eugene T. then spoke to those present at the RAB meeting and described the original AST release back when he worked at the active facility of NEC. He said the release occurred on Friday night and the clean-up was started on Monday. He said 90% of the fuel went out to sea, and 15% was on the frozen ground. He said the ponds in Site 28 Drainage Basin caught a lot of fuel. He said at least 200,000 gallons of fuel was spilled. He said Site 7 Landfill had drums filled with oil until Bristol dug them up and removed them. They did a good job. He stated Site 9 has buried drums, too, but Bristol did not dig them up before they built the cap on the landfill. Eugene T. also stated he remembers equipment being abandoned on the beach when the military left the site many years ago, and the fuel leaking from the equipment. He also said lots of stuff was salvaged in '68-'69.

Slide 17

Road sampling for fuel and PCBs was done based on input from a community member. Valerie P. reported that all sample results were below cleanup, and details can be found in the upcoming report.

Slide 18

Sampling for suspected pipeline break was done based on input from a community member. Valerie P. reported that all samples results were below cleanup, and details can be found in the upcoming report.

Slide 19

Valerie P. reported that all soil supersacks were removed from the site this year. No supersacks were overwintered at NEC.

Slide 20 and 21

Northeast Cape –5-Year Review

The 5-year review topic was also covered by Valerie P. She reiterated the 5-Year Review of NEC began during the summer of 2013. In the 5-year review report, cleanup remedies in place

will be defined, and how well the remedies are functioning (i.e., protectiveness) will be discussed. She encouraged everyone to visit with Kevin M. and Julieanna O. from Jacobs to complete the questionnaires or give verbal comments. Pam M. noted the upcoming Bristol report of their cleanup activities last summer would be valuable before giving comments, so she requested an extension. Valerie P. stated the questionnaires were originally sent out in November, and there is not much flexibility in the 5-yr. review schedule, however, she could move the comment due date back to Jan. 24. Pam M. said she is concerned Jacobs may have a conflict of interest in the project because Jacobs did work at the site in the past. Valerie P. stated Jacobs has not been involved in the post-decision document cleanup remedies, therefore Jacobs is not in conflict.

Slide 22

Northeast Cape –2014 Look Ahead

Valerie P. stated the 5-Year Review Report will be completed fall 2014. She announced the 2014 field work had been awarded to Bristol. Cleanup activities will include additional soil removal at the Main Operations Complex, additional work at Site 21, groundwater sampling and additional well installation, and additional debris removal.

Slide 23

Northeast Cape –Questions?

Valerie P. stated she and the other USACE personnel in attendance today will be available for questions until they depart tomorrow. She also encouraged everyone to complete a 5 Year Review questionnaire while Jacobs was there to assist them.

Native Village of Northeast Cape NALEMP Update

At 1500, Andrea E. presented slides describing the FY12 and FY13 cooperative agreements, as well as results for samples collected during 2012. Andrea E. stated the FY12 CA work was completed. Most of the work was completed in 2012. Work included building demolition and debris removal, and some soil and water sampling. Some soil and debris was shipped off island in 2013. Andrea E. explained the FY13 CA was awarded in September and no work has been conducted under it yet. Work includes lead-based paint and asbestos removal at three remaining cabins. Andrea E. also stated contaminated locations would be excavated during the summer of 2014 under Robert A.'s supervision.

Andrea E. explained the Sipekpuk Camp was determined by HQ and DOD to not be eligible for NALEMP, and neither were other cabins. Robert A. stated he was trying to convince USACE they should be eligible because the material used to build them came from NEC. Jerry R. suggested more information could help make the connection between the camps and NEC operations, and people with that knowledge were likely sitting at this RAB meeting. Andrea agreed.

Perry P. stated when the military abandoned Northeast Cape, Savoonga locals scavenged materials from the abandoned buildings to build cabins at fish and whaling camps throughout the east part of the island. Delbert P. stated no one in Savoonga knew the materials were contaminated, so the military should take responsibility for cleaning them up. Paul R. pointed out the signs the military left behind to warn of contamination were in English, not Yupik, so the

signs could not be read by people from Savoonga. Robert A. stated the cabins at NVNC were built of salvaged materials just as other cabins throughout the island. He thinks because we are cleaning up the cabins at NVNC, the other cabins should also be cleaned up. Robert A. went on to say the NVNC cabins are routinely seasonally inhabited. Bryan R. stated his family owns a cabin on the island with some construction materials from the military site at Northeast Cape. He wants to know if he should remove the contaminated items and bring them to Northeast Cape for disposal. He asked if the local could get more information about how to properly remove or remediate lead-based paint. Andrea E. said she would get back to the cabin owners with an answer. Aaron S. also said there was a NALEMP work plan currently under review and it should include information.

Robert A. pointed out 40 soil samples were above cleanup levels: 3 locations with PCBs, 8 sediment sample locations with contamination, and 1 contaminated water sample from a pond between Eugene T.'s and Raymond T.'s cabins. He described the plan during summer 2014 is to fill soil supersacks with contaminated soil dug from holes that measure 5 ft x 5 ft x 2 ft at each contaminated sample location. He said confirmation soil samples would then be collected. He mentioned two small dumps with cans of lead-based paint were also found during removal of debris last summer.

Paul R. asked why NALEMP was not allowed to use heavy equipment that was being used at the FUDS cleanup. Andrea E. described the FUDS and NALEMP projects being two different pots of money that cannot mix. Someone mentioned that heavy equipment was used when needed for the NALEMP work. Paul R. said the native landowners have allowed Bristol to over-winter their equipment for several years but have not been paid. He does not think this is fair. Delbert P. stated the locals welcomed the military during World War II, yet the local village corporations get no payment for over-wintering equipment. He does not think this is right. Mitchell said it was \$1 million in Bristol's pocket. Valerie P. replied the issue of FUDS paying rent to the landowners was discussed last year as a result of input from the RAB. The \$1 million saved by over wintering equipment does not go into Bristol's pocket, but is \$1 million more that can be applied to site cleanup rather than transporting equipment to and from NE Cape. Also, the right of entry to the land, signed by the landowner, states no rent payments will be made.

Eugene mentioned that the tank shown on the photo of the slide (Slide 27) at NVNC was a water tank, not a fuel tank. He remembers hauling water to it to use at NVNC.

Action Items

Janesse B. reviewed the action items:

1. Follow-up with George N. about preparing letter requesting additional TAPP funds for continuing to have an advisor to Savoonga on this project.
2. Meeting attendees to pass along their email address to the USACE if they want more project information. In the near-term, there will be a follow-up call with Ron S. to discuss his questions.
3. Valerie P. to follow-up with Bryan R. regarding where Bryan R. saw barrels and sludge (Site 24?) during the summer of 2013.

4. Provide comments as part of the 5-year review. Meeting attendees can provide comments to Jacobs representatives after the meeting through the following day in Savoonga, or via email or mail. The comment period was extended to Friday 24 January.
5. Eugene T. and Pam M. are to describe where Pam M. observed free product during site cleanup last summer.
[Aaron S. received clarification immediately after the meeting from Eugene T. Eugene T. stated the free product he showed Pam during her 2013 visit to the site was yellow coloring that appeared to float on the water in one of the open excavations located near where the ASTs were located in the past. Aaron S. told Eugene T. that during previous remedial action efforts, when Bristol or others observed a yellow coloring, or a “rainbow sheen”, on water contained in an excavation, Bristol deployed petroleum-absorbent booms and pads to soak up the fuel, if present. It was unclear whether or not booms and pads were present in the excavation Pam M. and Eugene T. were looking in at the time of Pam M.’s 2013 site visit.]
6. Andrea E. to provide guidance to owners of cabins at fish and whaling camps regarding how to deal with lead-based paint on materials salvaged from Northeast Cape.

Closing

Janesse reminded everyone the RAB is coming to an end in about one year, but the USACE will continue to receive comments from everyone regarding Northeast Cape; The USACE door is always open. Public meetings will be occasionally held to discuss future monitoring results annually or every other year. Valerie P. also reiterated even though the removal activities at the site are coming to a close, it’s not the end of USACE involvement at the site. Groundwater sampling and long-term management will continue for many years, as will 5 Year Reviews. The RAB will dissolve after approximately January 2015, but public meetings will continue at a less frequent pace.

Bryan R. and Delbert P. stated they want the RAB to continue. Delbert P. also stated he does not like the fact the landowner was not included on signing the Decision Document, especially given the local sacrifices during World War II.

George N. thanked all for coming.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1530.