

**ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes
5 June 2014, 1300-1430
Via Teleconference**

ATTENDEES (all via teleconference)	Affiliation
Janesse Brewer	The Keystone Center, Facilitator
Valerie Palmer	FUDS Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Jeremy Craner	Project Scientist, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Aaron Shewman	Project Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Lisa Geist	Project Scientist, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Andrea Elconin	NALEMP Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Curtis Dunkin	Project Manager, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Derek Seppilu	Native Village of Savoonga
Rye Wongitilan	Native Village of Savoonga
Sylvia Toolie	Native Village of Savoonga
Myron Kingeekuk	Mayor, City of Savoonga
Robert Annogiyuk	Native Village of Savoonga - NALEMP
Bryan Rookok, Jr.	Kukulget, Inc.
Delbert Pungowiyi	Kukulget, Inc.
George Noongwook	RAB Community Co-Chair
Vi Waghiyi	RAB member, ACAT
Kevin Zweifel	Norton Sound Health Consortium

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
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites
HQ	Headquarters
NALEMP	Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program
NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NVNC	Native Village of Northeast Cape
OSD	Office of Secretary of Defense
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
POL	Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants
QAR	Quality Assurance Representative
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

Call to Order and Introductions (1300)

Janesse B. from the Keystone Center facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone. Larry K., community elder, gave the opening prayer. The attendees on the phone introduced themselves. Janesse B. outlined the meeting's agenda, which included addressing old business, Northeast Cape FUDS project update on 2014 Remedial Action field work, 5-Year Review, Long Term Management Plan, and the status of the NVNC NALEMP project. Janesse B. stated she was in an airport and would likely be called away from the meeting on short notice to board a flight, for which she apologized. She noted the past few meetings have had great participation and this is appreciated. Janesse B. added her thanks for all the community efforts over the years, lending their expertise to the conversation.

Review/Approve RAB Meeting Minutes from January 2014

Janesse B. asked if there were any comments on the January meeting minutes. The minutes were sent out after the meeting last year. A few editorial comments were offered and accepted, and the meeting minutes became final after this meeting.

Review Action items from January 2014 meeting

Janesse B. reviewed the action items from the January 2014 minutes:

- 1. Letter requesting additional TAPP funds.*

The RAB Community Co-Chair prepared a letter requesting additional TAPP funds. Valerie P. reported funds have been requested and approved by the Alaska District and forwarded to HQ where they are awaiting Army approval.

- 2. Meeting attendee email addresses can still be added to the USACE mailing list if they would like more project information.*

No additional emails have been given to USACE since the last RAB meeting.

- 3. Follow-up with Bryan Rookok, Jr. regarding barrels and sludge seen in 2013.*

Bryan Rookok, Jr. clarified the barrels removed from the Site 24 pond had holes; sludge was evident when the pond was excavated.

Valerie P. to contact Bryan Rookok Jr. to get available information concerning the site prior to the field season. Valerie P. stated during the field season the QAR will visually inspect site. Bryan Rookok Jr. noted he would like all barrels removed from the road to Site 24.

- 4. Provide comments as part of the 5-year review*

Jacobs Engineering Group has received all of the comments on the 5-year review; the comment period is closed.

Vi W. stated that Matt Wilkening of the EPA prepared a 5-year review but did not offer the opportunity to comment; Vi W. stated the EPA 5-year review did not take into account reports other than those produced by the USACE.

Valerie clarified the EPA 5-year review was purely administrative. Lisa G. added the EPA developed the report so it was beyond USACE influence.

5. *Eugene T. and Pam M. observed free product during the 2013 cleanup.*

Valerie Palmer will follow-up with Pam M. offline.

6. *Andrea E. will 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.*

Andrea E. is looking in to what opportunities may exist and will continue to follow-up.

FUDS Project Update - Submitted Reports

1. *Revision 0 Northeast Cape HTRW Remedial Actions Report (January 2014)*

Pam and Vi submitted comments on this report.

2. *Revision 0 Northeast Cape HTRW Remedial Actions Work Plan (March 2014)*

Pam and Vi plan to submit comments within a week.

Northeast Cape – 2014 Field Season Tasks

Valerie P. presented slides 7 through 15 that highlighted the work planned at the site for 2014.

Slide 7: Removal of dangerous (physical danger, not chemical) debris from the tundra areas

Slide 8: Excavation and disposal of petroleum-contaminated soils at the Main Operations Complex (MOC) Sites

Slide 9: Map with pink shading indicates planned 2014 excavations. It was noted the field lab will be certified for POL-analysis, so conformation samples will be more immediately available

Slide 10: Site 21 Wastewater Treatment Tank, investigation efforts will be expanded by collecting additional samples (40 borings, 3 samples/boring = 120 samples)

Slide 11: Disposal of sediment in geotubes from work completed last year at Site 28

Slide 12 & 13: Installation of monitoring wells in the vicinity of the MOC. The existing monitoring well network will be expanded by 7 new wells, which will be used for long term monitoring. Existing wells will be reconditioned and resurveyed

Slide 14: Site 7 Cargo Beach Road landfill cap maintenance. Bristol is to remove exposed debris located mainly along the east side of the cap. Handwork and an excavator will be used

to remove exposed debris from the cap area and adjacent ponds, and the area will be re-capped as necessary

Slide 15: All soil supersacks to be removed from the island by the end of 2014. Valerie clarified that no soil supersacks were overwintered at the site, and any supersacks filled in the upcoming field season would be removed before the following winter.

Slide 16: 5-Year Review. The review began in the summer of 2013 and is currently in review at the USACE Center for Excellence. The final report should be available late summer/early fall 2014

Slide 17: Long Term Management Plan. Jacobs Engineering Group has been contracted to assist with the Long Term Management Plan process by developing the Plan for review by ADEC and stakeholders, and to conduct a CERCLA training session in Savoonga later this summer. Vi W. asked if she could attend the CERCLA training by phone, and Valerie P. stated she would work it out with Jacobs Engineering Group.

Questions (Slide 18)

In reference to Slide 5, Item 6, Delbert P. mentioned some items were brought to Savoonga. Andrea E. stated only Native Village of Northeast Cape is eligible for lead-based paint cleanup under NALEMP. Andrea E. will follow-up on Item 6 and provide info to locals on how to deal with lead-based paint and asbestos. Vi W. asked if there was any funding other than DOD/NALEMP. Andrea Elconin will research the possibilities.

Robert A. mentioned houses in Savoonga have items from Northeast Cape along with other cabins around the island. These dwellings are used year-round. He is concerned about lead-based paint health problems. Robert A. is concerned that although Sipepuk Camp is included in the SPIP, it is not being allowed to be cleaned up.

Valerie mentioned the locals may want to research other funding options outside of DOD.

Vi W. wants USACE to research funding because the locals were not initially warned about the dangers.

Delbert P. agrees something should be done and feels USACE should be held responsible because the locals were not warned. Delbert P. stressed he and his children inhabited a house with lead-based paint items from Northeast Cape, which is not a good situation.

Andrea E. stated she and Robert A. spoke directly with OSD and NALEMP, but only succeeded in getting NALEMP funds to address the Native Village of Northeast Cape. Andrea E. will give Robert A. contact information for OSD (Joe Sarcinella.)

George N. stated when the locals learned lead-based paint was toxic to humans he was very concerned and he wants to know what to do to protect the people from exposure to lead-based paint. He would like USACE to expedite research and dissemination of information about how

to protect people against exposure to lead-based paint. Andrea E. stated the general method for lead-based paint protection is to paint over it.

George N. said they care enough about their family and they will take action on their own.

George N. asked what "CERCLA" stands for. Lisa defined the acronym as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and clarified that Jacobs Engineering Group plans to teach locals about the CERCLA process later this summer.

George N. stated he wants any long term management plan to be a plan that can be changed while going forward.

Native Village of Northeast Cape NALEMP Update

At 1350, Andrea E. began presenting slides providing details of NALEMP activities planned for 2014 at the NVNC.

Slides 19 through 22: Andrea E. explained the FY13 Cooperative Agreement fieldwork will be performed summer of 2014. The purpose of the work is to remove the remaining environmental and health hazards present at the NVNC. The work includes removal of lead-based paint and asbestos, and re-painting 3 cabins at NVNC, as well as removal of contaminated soil and sediment from NVNC based on 2012 sampling results. The CA cost is \$642,485 and the CA is scheduled to expire July 31, 2015.

Bristol prepared the 2014 work plan which has been reviewed by Curtis D. of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and should be finalized next week.

The fieldwork is scheduled to take place mid-July through August. The tribe will be doing the work while Bristol provides technical oversight, directs soil removal, coordinates transportation, and samples contaminated soil and sediment. Bristol will also oversee the subcontractor who will remove lead-based paint and asbestos.

Robert A. provided details on sampling. Andrea E. pointed out that additional soil removal may be necessary next year (2015) and described the 2014 fieldwork map.

Questions (Slide 23)

Vi W. asked what other contaminants were found that will be removed besides POLs. Robert A. clarified there are 3 locations with PCBs, 16 supersacks to be filled. The workplan contains the details and should be available next week. Vi W. will read the final workplan to review the specifics.

Robert A. pointed out some details of the contaminants exceeding cleanup levels: 8 surface water, groundwater, and sediment locations as well as 25 other locations in soil.

Vi W. appreciates NALEMP funding for cleanup at NVNC.

Jeannette I. asked at how many sites PCB sampling will occur and if Ron S. will be onsite. Valerie P. pointed out that FUDS has no PCBs remaining, Andrea E. clarified there are 3 PCB locations at the NVNC that will be removed and the details can be found in the workplan. Valerie P. added she does not know Ron S.'s plans for the 2014 field season. Valerie P. clarified the FUDS field lab will be for only POL soil samples.

Jeannette I. is concerned about lead-based paint at the NVNC. She disagrees with the DOD finding that only the NVNC will be cleaned up and would like Andrea E. to pressure DOD to change their mind.

Andrea E. encouraged the tribe to contact OSD to ensure their voices are heard. Andrea E. said she did so last summer with Robert A.

Valerie P. asked Vi W. if she had heard any news on the ATSDR working group. Vi W. stated cancer rates on St. Lawrence Island are no greater than any other place in Alaska. She disagreed with this finding.

Joe Sarcone with ATSDR was asked to look at cancer rates of former Northeast Cape military personnel but he said the length of exposure was short and there would be no way to know where else the personnel may have been exposed to cancer-causing chemicals.

Delbert P. stated PCBs are cancer-causing, specifically aroclors. He believes the cancer rates have been down-played by the cancer registry and total PCB analysis is not sufficient; congener analysis should be added despite the additional cost. He feels a cancer rate 10 times higher than the nation average is too high and something should be done.

Lisa G. stated FUDS is held to the State of Alaska required analysis and cleanup levels, so FUDS cannot analyze for congeners.

Delbert P. was not satisfied and believes his concern needs to go directly to Congress.

Vi W. asked how many supersacks have been removed from St. Lawrence Island. Valerie P. answered by saying the amount is unknown at the moment, but no soil supersacks were left through the winter 2013-2014. Vi was glad to hear this.

Vi W. mentioned on 21-23 July Dr. Linda Birnbaum will conduct a community forum (NIEHS). Dr. Birnbaum wants to hear community health concerns. Vi W. hopes this will elevate the concern of the community to higher authorities.

Curtis D. asked when the draft 5-year review will be distributed. Valerie P. answered, at the end of June.

Sam M. requested the NALEMP provide 40-hour asbestos removal training to locals so they can do the removal.

Robert A. would like to visit with Andrea E. about buildings at camps other than the NVNC.

Action Items

At 1420 Valerie P. wrapped up the meeting by reviewing the action items:

1. TAPP funds have been requested and approved by the Alaska District and forwarded to HQ where they are awaiting Army approval. The status will be updated as soon as Valerie P. hears from HQ.
2. Email addresses can still be added to USACE's mailing list to receive additional project information.
3. Valerie P. will call Bryan Rookok, Jr. prior to the field season to obtain available information concerning the Site 24 barrels and sludge.
4. Valerie P. will follow-up with Pam M. offline concerning the observed free product during the 2013 cleanup.
5. Andrea E. will 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.
6. Andrea E. will research the possibilities of funding sources other than DOD/NALEMP.
7. Andrea E. will give Robert A. contact information for OSD (Joe Sarcinella.)
8. Bristol prepared the NALEMP work plan which has been reviewed by Curtis D. of the ADEC and should be finalized next week. Ensure the document is final and ready to go prior to the field season.

Valerie P. and Robert A. thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1430.