

Fort McClellan Restoration Advisory Board  
Fort McClellan, Alabama  
May 15, 2000  
Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Craig Branchfeild; Dr. Barry Cox; Jerome Elser; Donna Fathke; Dr. Mary Harrington; Mayor Kimbrough; Bobby Weston

**BCT MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Levy; Phillip Stroud

**I. Call to Order.** Dr. Barry Cox opened the meeting to order and called the roll. The minutes of the April meeting were not approved because of a lack of quorum.

**II. Old Business.** After a discussion held in the April RAB meeting, it was proposed that a letter be sent to members of the RAB who had not met the minimum attendance requirements contained in the Restoration Advisory Board By-Laws. Ms. McKinney drafted a letter and explained the desired result of the letter was to encourage the RAB members to again attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Levy directed attention to the by-laws and read the applicable paragraphs concerning dismissal/replacement of RAB members. After the reading of the bylaws it was determined that Mr. Charles Turned and Mr. James Miller were the only two members who would be sent a letter. Mayor Kimbrough brought up that technically the criteria set forth in the bylaws would be met if the individuals do not attend the June meeting. Mr. Levy asked for any additional comments about forwarding the letter. Mayor Kimbrough stated that the letter said what it should say and that it was well done. Dr. Mary Harrington spoke her approval of the letter. A discussion ensued over the need for a quorum before such a letter could be forwarded. It was determined that this letter was an administrative action and therefore did not require a quorum or a vote. Additionally, under old business, the public meeting held on May 10 was brought before the board. Mr. Levy said he had been unable to attend but that there were members of his staff present who had attended and could discuss the meeting. Mr. Paul James stated that one member of the public, a Colonel Matteson retired, came to the meeting and he thought it was concerning the Eastern Bypass. Mr. James said Ms. Valerie Clinkenbeard, the project engineer for the M-2 Parcel, took him through the process step by step. Colonel Matteson was overheard stating that more people should have turned out for this because that way they could understand what is transpiring in the community. Ms. McKinney went on to say that Colonel Matteson was a well-known figure in the community and that she knew he had passed along much of what he had learned from Ms. Clinkenbeard to the Exchange club that had met the next morning. Dr. Harrington added, "But, please, don't break down and expect to get picked up". Ms. McKinney also mentioned that Colonel Matteson was a frequent caller of local talk shows but that she had been out of range of local talk radio the day following the meeting and did not know if he had mentioned the public meeting on the air. Mr. Levy stated that comments to the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report on the M-2 Parcel from the EPA and ADEM had been addressed and the comments received from the public would be addressed. Mr. Levy felt that things were positively moving in the right direction with the regulatory agencies. Mr. Levy asked if the RAB had any more comments or wished to discuss matters related to the M-2 Parcel. Mr. Levy brought up the special RAB meeting that was held May 4 to better inform the RAB of the unresolved issues still before the Army and the regulatory agencies concerning the M-2 EE/CA. Mr. Levy asked Dr. Cox what his feelings were about the

special meeting. Dr. Cox did not think that the meeting hit its mark in many ways. He mentioned that no one from ADEM was in attendance and that the representative from the EPA was not very forthcoming with comments. In his opinion not a lot was accomplished at that meeting. Mr. Levy explained that an ADEM representative was not there because of an illness in the family. Mr. Levy commented on the lack of discussion during the meeting. Mr. Levy said that what was desired by the Base Closure Team (BCT) was for the RAB members to show up and ask really tough questions to keep the BCT on the right track. Mr. Branchfeild mentioned the question he had asked at the special meeting about ordnance explosive (OE) risk assessment. He said that he realizes that the different agencies had different means for doing risk assessment and he wanted to know how consensus could be reached if there was no guidance. Mr. Stroud tried to answer Mr. Branchfeild by reviewing what he had learned at the conference he had attended in Anaheim Ca. Mr. Branchfeild stated that when you UXO and you have the word risk with a question mark. You clean it up and you have less UXO. You still have the word risk with a question mark behind it. And it is still a baffling question, nationwide, worldwide for that matter. Mr. Branchfeild said that was the answer given at the special meeting and it does get around the question of how are you going to address that from a procedure. How are risk assessments going to be addressed from a procedural standpoint during these evaluations? Mr. Levy answered by saying this has been the Army's dilemma with the regulatory agencies. How do you characterize risk for UXO? Mr. Levy went on to say this will impact on the community when they are told by the Army that a certain piece of property can not be transferred because one hundred percent assurances that there is no risk on that piece of property can not be given. Mr. Levy said that there is a methodology being developed that will allow UXO risk assessment to be quantified and suggested someone from Huntsville be brought in to adequately explain this methodology. Mayor Kimbrough asked if the M-2 Parcel EE/CA would be setting precedence for future EE/CAs. Mr. Levy replied that certain portions of the report that were setting up templates for future EE/CAs, but there would also be changes. Mr. Levy let RAB know that they would be afforded the opportunity to review future EE/CAs. Mayor Kimbrough asked about cleaning the areas adjacent to the eastern bypass area. Mr. Levy replied that some areas would be cleaned concurrently with the bypass others would be cleaned after completion of the bypass.

**III. New Business.** Mr. Levy stated the public comment period for the Eastern Bypass EE/CA began May 8; there will be a public meeting on June 7. Dr. Cox asked if there was a draft of the Bypass EE/CA. Mr. Levy said a copy would be provided to those you wish one. Dr. Cox asked for the approximate land area within the bypass that UXO was expected to be found. Mr. Levy said he would find out and get back to him with that information. Mayor Kimbrough asked what percentage of the bypass clearance had been completed. Paul James estimated seventy percent. Mayor Kimbrough asked if a statistical update of the clearance action could be provide the RAB at the next meeting. Mr. Branchfield asked if the process was not being conducted backwards. It seemed to him that the eastern bypass was being cleared and then the EE/CA was going to be approved. Mr. Levy explained that the procedures for UXO were somewhat different than for HTRW in that as you are assessing the character of the risk you can remove most of it. It will be determined after the EE/CA is approved whether any additional removal actions are necessary. Mayor Kimbrough asked why that same method could not have been used on the M-2 Parcel. Mr. Levy answered by saying the arrived at the risk level using only historical documents. The Bypass was rated by historical documents and on site investigation. Ms. Fathke suggested the starting time for the RAB meeting be changed to 5:30. Dr. Cox said that a quorum was not present so it would have to be

tabled until next meeting. Dr. Cox wanted to know if at the next RAB meeting a representative of the Army's Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP). Mr. Levy said he would support bringing a TAPP representative in to brief the RAB and the EPA equivalent. Mr. Levy stated that the RAB has a budget and would address amounts and uses at the next meeting.

**IV. Adjournment** Dr. Cox called for comments from the audience. There being none, the meeting was adjourned.