

Minutes
Fort McClellan Restoration Advisory Board
Fort McClellan, AL
November 19, 2001

CO-CHAIR: Mr. Glynn Ryan; Mr. Craig Branchfield

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Scott Beckett; Mr. James Buford; Mr. Monty Clendenin; Dr. Barry Cox; Mr. Don Cunningham; Mr. Lamar Freeman; Ms. Donna Fathke; Dr. Mary Harrington; Mr. Jerry Hopper; Mayor Ed Kimbrough; Mr. Fern Thomassy.

BCT MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Ron Levy; Mr. Philip Stroud.

I. Call To Order: Mr. Branchfield called the roll and those present are listed above. The minutes from the October meeting were approved. The audience members were then asked to introduce themselves.

II. Old Business: None

III. New Business: Mr. Ron Levy introduced Mr. Alan Freed from the Army Environmental Center, who gave a slide presentation on RAB/TAPP. Since Ft McClellan already has an established and well-functioning RAB, he gave a quick overview of the formation and conduct of a RAB. Explaining that a RAB can provide information that can be beneficial for the Army and the community, he stated it is the responsibility of the RAB members to keep the community informed on important issues concerning the cleanup of Fort McClellan. He further defined responsibility of the Co-Chairs and their participation in the RAB.

Mr. Freed then provided a briefing on the Army's Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program. He explained the criteria for obtaining TAPP, briefly discussed the application process and handed out examples of a TAPP application. Mr. Freed identified projects that could and could not be eligible for TAPP. He provided the TAPP website address and reminded the membership that a TAPP handbook is available at Ft McClellan. Mr. Freed also gave a website that explains the TAPP. A short discussion period followed the presentation.

Mr. Branchfield encouraged the RAB members to consider identifying projects or other topics of interest they might have that might be considered in applying for a TAPP grant. He asked that the members contact him with any thoughts they may have on the TAPP program.

As follow-on, he asked that each RAB member be provided a roster with email addresses, phone numbers, and a schedule of next year's meetings.

Mr. Levy explained that Fort McClellan has a website for the public to view. This website includes the minutes, the newsletter, fact sheets and other documents.

Mr. Levy then introduced Mr. Dave Moccia, Foster Wheeler, who used maps and slides to present an overview of the EE/CA progress and the alternatives recommended for the M1.01 cleanup. First he explained the difference between a time critical and non-time critical removal action. Pointing out the location of the M1.01 site, he stated it was broken into three segments that required investigations and removal actions. He then identified the different segments and explained what ordnance and explosive (OE) items, if any, were found in the entire area. Mr. Moccia described the various factors that must be taken into consideration as the EE/CA is developed. He explained the six risk reduction alternatives and what each one entails. Mr. Levy reiterated that the deeds to the JPA have the notice or covenant of the potential for OE in it. After providing extensive information on the various factors that are considered in determining the most effective alternative, Mr. Moccia stated that the alternative that was being recommended was clearance of OE to one foot. He stated this would provide a high level of public safety and a long time solution. He gave details about the difference in cost of alternative five, which is the one that is going to be implemented, and alternative six. Alternative six, which involves extensive brush clearance and traversing with geophysical equipment, requires more personnel and additional removal activity. Responding to Mr. Branchfield's query of why going below a foot is not warranted, Mr. Moccia explained that the types of items that have been found in the M-2 area that is near M1.01 have been practice items with shallow penetration depth. In addition, he said all OE items that have been found in areas investigated near M1.01 were on the surface or two inches below. Mr. Levy asked Mr. Moccia to further explain the difference in clean-up procedures in alternatives five and six, which he did in great detail. An extensive discussion ensued concerning the data used in determining the recommended alternative, the methodology and analysis and the actual cleanup procedures. Mr. Stroud stated he felt the Army should go the extra step to an alternative 5.5. Mr. Levy said that based on historical knowledge of the type ordnance used there as well as depth of penetration, it is improbable that ordnance would be found below one foot, but there is a possibility and that is the reason it is in the deed notice. Mr. Ryan stated that this land is going to be used for everything from commercial to passive recreation and residential. A discussion then followed concerning other areas that are being tested deeper because of the different types of ordnance as well as designated impact areas. Mr. Levy reminded the RAB that the Army will take comments on the M1.01 EE/CA until 1 December and the Army will address them. He also explained the process that must be completed before the property can be transferred. Mr. Levy also stated that Mr. Thomassy also had written comments on the M1.01 parcel. Mr. Branchfield spoke to the board and explained his written comments and requested additional input from the RAB. Dr. Cox said he had reviewed the comments and saw no major issues and recommended that they go forward. Mr. Branchfield, along with Mr. Thomassy, then led the RAB through a discussion which addressed the role of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the appropriate methods

to inform the RAB and determine consensus for their recommendations. Dr. Cox recommended Mr. Hopper be added to the TRC and Mr. Branchfield said that while the RAB TRC currently has four members, he would welcome others. It was decided that other TRC issues should be discussed at the next RAB meeting.

Mr. Philip Stroud, ADEM, passed out handouts that reflected reports that have been done and the ones that are awaiting signatures. He explained that Mr. Doyle Brittain, EPA, was unable to attend this meeting, but he was in the reviewing process also.

Mr. Dan Cleckler, JPA, stated that marketing the transferred property is continuing and they are still working on the privatization of acreage near Reilly Field for an industrial complex. Responding to Dr. Cox' questions about privatization, Mr. Cleckler stated that they would be discussing more about this issue in January when a Department of Army representative is to attend their meeting and provide additional information about privatization. Dr. Cox suggested that maybe they could meet with the RAB as well. Mr. Ryan replied that it could probably be arranged, but not in January. Mayor Kimbrough asked if there were plans to use the RAB in any form if privatization occurs. Mr. Cleckler said that subject had not been addressed, however, he felt the RAB should be used in the same way it has always been used.

Mr. Levy then reiterated the information contained in the Action Summary Sheet that was provided to each RAB member. He informed the audience that this is a document that identifies the monthly progress on cleanup issues that come before the Restoration Advisory Board. He called for questions to his summary. Mayor Kimbrough made the statement that the issues with landfill three were of great concern to him because on 12 February 2001, a timeline was established which identified the completion date as no longer than nineteen weeks and to date, almost a year later, the corrections have not been made. He discussed his concerns at great length. Mr. Ryan explained that the timelines were established based on approval to access private property. He said that the work plan would be completed as soon as this access is obtained. Mr. Ryan also stated that no contamination had been found in the wells that the Army has been sampling. Mayor Kimbrough again voiced his concerns and Mr. Ryan said the Army will continue to work with the City of Weaver and Mayor Kimbrough and the sampling would continue to monitor whether any contamination was near Weaver wells.

After asking for audience comments and there were none, Mr. Branchfield thanked Dr. Cox for serving as Co-Chair for the past year. The time and effort he put forth for the RAB was very much appreciated.

IV. Adjournment: Mr. Branchfield received a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.