

## MINUTES

### General Meeting Restoration Advisory Board August 18, 1997

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Turner, Mark Anderson, Ike Brown, Pete Conroy, Mary Harrington, Ron Hood, Mayor Kimbrough, James Miller, Alan Faust, Jimmy Parks, Fern Thomassy, James Buford

#### BASE CLEANUP TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER. Mr. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. Mr. Turner welcomed new members, Mr. Buford and Mr. Faust.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The meeting minutes of July 21, 1997 were approved by the RAB.

#### IV. GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION.

Fort McClellan National Wildlife Refuge Feasibility Study. Mr. Pete Conroy from the Environmental Policy and Information Center at Jacksonville State University presented a brief overview of his findings on the feasibility of establishing a wildlife refuge at Fort McClellan. Mr. Conroy explained that the resource on Fort McClellan of particular importance is the mountain longleaf pine ecosystem. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a particular interest in protecting and educating the public regarding unique habitats such as Fort McClellan's longleaf pine ecosystem. The Alabama Department of Conservation's Game and Fish Division is interested in developing a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has an interest in managing this area for game species. A copy of the report was given to Ms. Kingsbury for reproduction and distribution to the RAE and local repositories.

#### V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Charter and Membership. Mr. Turner made a motion for Mr. James Miller from the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board to be an ex officio member of the RAB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson. Motion carried. Mr. Turner stated that he has asked Mr. Miller to provide a briefing at the next general meeting.

Mr. Turner suggested that the RAB continue with relaxed by-laws and that election of officers and other official actions should require only a majority vote. The RAB agreed, providing that Mr. Turner revise the by-laws and present them at a future meeting.

Community Relations. Ms. Kingsbury distributed draft copies of the RAB home page for discussion. Ms. Kingsbury asked that the RAB decide if they want their addresses and phone numbers included on the home page. After some discussion, most of the members agreed they were reluctant to show their addresses and phone numbers on the internet. Mr. Turner and Mr. Thomassy questioned the need for including biographies on the home page. Mr. Turner and Mr. Anderson suggested that the RAB put the questions posed to the DERTF and their answers to those questions on the internet. Other suggestions included economic benefits from cleanup activities, executive summaries from feasibility studies, and maps showing UXO areas of concern.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS.

Election of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Turner made a motion that the RAB vote to have: Mr. Thomassy ascend to the chairmanship as community co-chairman of the board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson. Motion Carried. Mr. Thomassy made a motion to open nominations for vice chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. Mr. Thomassy nominated Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Miller nominated Mr. Parks. Mr. Parks rejected the nomination. Mr. Parks nominated Mayor Kimbrough. Mayor Kimbrough rejected the nomination. Mayor Kimbrough made a motion to close nominations. The motion to close nominations was seconded by Mr. Buford. Mr. Anderson made a motion to table the close of nominations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomassy. The motion to table the motion to close carried. Mr. Anderson nominated Mr. Conroy. Mr. Anderson made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Mayor Kimbrough. By a show of hand vote, Mr. Conroy was nominated Vice Community Co-chairman.

Meeting Locations. Mr. Anderson distributed a list of potential locations for future RAB meetings. Mr. Turner made a motion that the next general meeting be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hood. Motion carried.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS.

Endorsement of Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Turner made a motion for the Fort McClellan RAB to endorse the concept of establishing and operating the mountainous undeveloped region of Fort McClellan as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, national wildlife refuge. The refuge would be operated for the sake of resource protection, recreation and tourism, in partnership with the Alabama Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, Fort McClellan Development Commission, and the local governments of the surrounding region. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Site Investigation Workplan. Ms Kingsbury distributed the Site Investigation Workplan for RAB review. Mr. Turner asked if the Final Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) was available for distribution. Ms. Kingsbury stated that the EBS and BCP were both under a stop work until funding was received.

Request for RAB Presentation. Mr. Brown stated that the Oxford Rotary Club was looking for someone from the RAB to speak to their group. Mr. Thomassy volunteered to provide the presentation. Ms. Kingsbury volunteered to coordinate it.

Quarterly/Bimonthly Meetings. Mr. Thomassy stated that there is a tremendous amount of information yet to be passed out and absorbed, and that proposing to have less frequent meetings at this point is premature. Mr. Thomassy stated that since the subject was brought up, that it should be on the agenda for a vote at the next general meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.