

Minutes

General Meeting Ft McClellan Restoration Advisory Board August 16, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barry Cox; Alan Faust; Dr. Mary Harrington; Ron Hood; Mayor Kimbrough; Margarette Longstreth; Tom Turecek

BRAC CLEANUP TEAM (BCT) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Levy; Bait Reedy; Chris Johnson

CALL TO ORDER. Mr. Conroy was not at the meeting, so Mr. Hood officiated.
Mr.

Hood called roll and asked if there were any comments on the July meeting minutes.

There were only seven voting members present; therefore the minutes could not be approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS. Due to the absence of Mr. Conroy, the signing of the bylaws that were approved at a previous meeting was tabled until the September meeting.

Mr. Levy recognized Reverend Reynolds and thanked him for the use of his church for our meeting. Mr. Levy then introduced Mr. Ron Smith, a Wildlife Biologist who works in the Directorate of Environment on natural resource issues. Mr. Smith discussed the gray bat and gray bat habitat on Ft McClellan. After a brief description of the bat, he stated that this endangered species was first discovered on Ft McClellan in 1995. He said that besides having several bridges nearby that act as temporary roosts, the Cane Creek area was a prime foraging or feeding habitat. Mr. Levy added that the gray bat is the only endangered species identified on Ft McClellan that falls under Section 7, Endangered Species Act and as such, there are specific provisions to follow to ensure they are protected. These provisions are currently in place in the Parks & Recreation facilities lease, i.e., golf course, and they will be part of future deeds. A short discussion followed concerning restrictions and buffer zones along the creek banks; future potential removal from endangered list and specific foraging altitudes. Mr. Smith closed the discussion by explaining a roosting location had been identified under a bridge located on Highway 21 and the Department of Transportation had been notified.

Mr. Levy then opened the discussion on the response to the comments to EPA re the Parks and Recreation Facilities FOSL. He stated the Army still intended to go forward with the lease with unresolved comments.

Mayor Kimbrough asked about the status of the transfer of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. There was a short discussion concerning a grant application by the Anniston Water Board to the EDA for improvements to the collection system. Mr. Levy stated the Army's intent is to transfer as is, where is, and there is a contingency to carry on with the current contractor to maintain the plant should a delay in transfer occur. To ensure a smooth transition period, he said a 30-day turnover period whereby both contractor and water board will be operating together is expected. Mayor Kimbrough expressed interest in the final action because of an earlier commitment from Ft McClellan giving permission for Weaver to join onto the treatment plant. Due to the current transfer process this has been withdrawn and his city must now either move forward with building their own treatment plant or working with the Anniston Water Board. A discussion followed concerning what would happen if the Public Benefit Conveyance to the Anniston Water Board did not occur. Mr. Levy informed the RAB that by law, the Army will operate the plant until someone else owns it.

The RAE then discussed the golf course lease to the city of Anniston. According to Mr. Levy, the current Army position is it will not continue to operate the golf course after September 30. Ms. Kingsbury stated the lease was currently under review at TRADOC and we are uncertain of status. The RAE then discussed the various issues that would arise such as job loss, grass cutting, irrigation, etc, if the lease was not signed.

In response to Mayor Kimbrough's query concerning status of Yahou and Reilly Lakes, Mr. Levy stated they were not on the Parks and Recreation Facilities lease. Mr. Hood brought up Institutional Controls (ICs) as the next agenda item. After Mr. Levy stated the Army was incorporating some EPA ICs into the Parks and Recreation lease, Mr. Reedy discussed what sort of information was being sought in the preparation of base-wide ICs. Mr. Johnson said he thought this is going to be setting a lot of precedence for the Army and Mr. Reedy added their goal is to have a plan for the base and then site-specific plans. The RAB then discussed the need for ICs and how the community-based activities (RAB; LRA) could provide input.

After calling for topics for the next meeting, Mr. Levy suggested another real estate update. He then reminded the RAE that the next meeting would be held on September 20th and the expected meeting location would be Building 215.

Directions and location will be mailed to the members.

Following a short discussion concerning Senator Sessions' visit and the priority of cleanup efforts, the meeting was adjourned.