

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA

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Taken before SAMANTHA E.  
NOBLE, a Court Reporter and Commissioner  
for Alabama at Large, at Fort McClellan,  
Alabama, on the 23rd day of January,  
2012, commencing at approximately  
5:00 p.m.

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MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Let's go ahead and call the meeting to order. I guess we can introduce -- obviously, of course, most everybody knows who I am. I'm Scott Bolton, the Army site manager here.

The most significant guest we probably have -- not to downplay the role of all the other guests -- but probably would be -- I think it's significant and we now have a new refuge manager from Fish & Wildlife, and it's Ms. Sarah Clardy. So, we are tickled that Sarah is on board.

And she's very knowledgeable and has some good experience with Fish & Wildlife and other refuges, so we're looking forward to working with her.

And we're fairly impressed with how she's been able to get her hands around some stuff in a relatively short period of time, because certainly what we have is overwhelming, and her having multiple refuges to deal with is certainly that, too. So, we do appreciate her presence, here.

And any other guests that we really need to introduce -- I guess we know -- Roger comes frequently enough. Randy, we know. Lisa, Brenda, so --

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: We're all regulars.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: So, once again, we do not have a quorum for approval of minutes, so that puts us in a little bit of a bind. And I've kind of reviewed some of the RAB rules, because a question came up, I think, the

last time about, you know, what kind of procedures you have. Do you dissolve a RAB. Do you not.

And the bottom line, it's almost whatever we want to do. We can let it continue on.

There are procedures to -- if you wanted to abolish one or disband one, you could do that, too.

My recommendation would be we just kind of -- we just continue on, because even if you disband it, you then have a requirement to constantly survey and try to build a new one. So, to me, it's kind of -- we might as well keep the -- at least keep the thing in existence.

What I would suggest is that we might, in the future, very near future, make a decision that -- I realize all the

excitement's over with, for the most part. You know, once we get to the execution of the remedies and so on, it's not near as interesting as say the selection of remedies or all of the things that go into the developing -- into the analysis of it and so on.

So, we may want to consider -- one thing I'd throw out for everybody's consideration is perhaps we go to a semi-annual meeting for a period of time and see if that helps, in terms of -- it may help us, in terms of attendance. It doesn't put as many demands.

Clearly, this time of year, and really, July was a tough time, and a lot -- everybody was on vacation and all that kind of stuff. So, that's been a

difficulty.

So, that's something to think about. I don't know that we need to come up with any kind of decisions or anything on it.

A couple of other things we're going to need to do is --

Mike Kimberly has resigned -- we need to come up with a community co-chair and a vice-chair.

Normally, the vice-chair just automatically steps up, if the community co-chair person, you know, is unable to serve or no longer serves.

Mike wants to stay -- Mike Kimberly wants to stay on the RAB -- he and I have talked about it. He again is tied up with business matters, but he wants to stay on the RAB, but he felt like the demands on his time were such that he

didn't want to -- couldn't serve as the co-chair or the vice-chair. So, that's another issue that we've got.

Obviously, we don't have a program today. As far as new business goes, we do have -- we do have the agency reports, as we always do. I guess, Brandi, do you want to summarize yours real fast?

MS. BRANDI LITTLE: Sure.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Or whatever. I mean, take as much time as you need to.

MS. BRANDI LITTLE: There is about three pages to our report, and it's the same, I guess, concept. It shows all the documents that we received during the last RAB period, the documents that we reviewed, and it's the conference calls that



we've had for the last meeting.

And I guess the only thing or two of note is the fact that we concurred on another final RI for the Army -- yay -- and we're hopefully getting close to concurring on another one for Baby Bains Gap Road. So, that's always a nice accomplishment.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: The significance of those are, those are really kind of the last of the cleanup actions that the Army has to hand off to the McClellan Development Authority under the ESCA. And so, at that point, once we have concurrence, regulatory concurrence on the RIs, then Roger and company will be picking it up from there and do the feasibility studies and the actual execution of any remedies selected and so on.

MS. BRANDI LITTLE: That's all I've got.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Okay. We have -- in the packet there is a report from the National Guard. The only thing that I saw of any particular significance is that the -- back in November, the Guard, on one of their remedies, has done one of their second -- second rounds of sampling to see what the results of their remedy are. And they don't have the results in the report, so we can't really talk to that.

And again, this is out at Pelham Range, where the majority of their environmental work is going.

I guess the next thing we have in the packet is from McClellan Development Authority. Roger, do you want to address that for

us?

MR. ROGER HALL: Yeah. And I'll try to be fairly brief, too, without reading about each project for the most part, that of -- those of concern are landfill three, groundwater up in the northwest corner has again been, I guess, postponed, the remedy has been postponed due to funding constraints. Even in this year where we had drastic increase over the last year and even the year before, the directions given to us by the board and the committee this year did not include us jumping on landfill three. That's a pretty large groundwater project to begin.

And by the time we filtered down through our cut line, we didn't pick up landfill three

groundwater.

Most of the rest of these, small weapons repair -- we're basically monitoring groundwater for a remedy that was put in place.

T-6 is still an operating sparging and vacuum system that we're continuing to monitor and evaluate. T-5 is about ready to begin the field sampling.

We do have a few things to note, motor pool 3100 for example, we're in the very last throes of getting it finally put to bed. When you get to the point of doing an environmental covenant, you're just about finished with everything related.

The one good thing I would like to get down to talk about is something we call Alpha UXO.

It's the very last piece of unexploded ordnance cleanup that is north of Bains Gap Road on the -- in the Alpha area. We only lack what we call step-outs. There are some areas where we have found some items that cause us to move a little further in an arc away from the point of study.

We hope to have those step-outs completed pretty much by the end of the month, maybe, if we don't find anymore. They've been occurring on a regular basis. And you can't predict when you're going to find one, so that's -- and that's really this MRS-12 and 13 that I mentioned down at the very end of the report.

A lot of after action reports are underway for some of the

other MRSs.

We did do a prescribed burn -- that's maybe worth mentioning -- here awhile back, and got very few complaints about it.

Usually, we get complaints from neighbors that they smelled smoke and wonder why we chose to burn off a hundred acres of undergrowth. But it's so that our guys can get in there without blowing their toes off or worse.

So, that's about all I have, unless there are questions.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Are y'all familiar, when we talk about step-outs, what we're talking about? Basically, when we do these investigations, the agreement we have with ADEM -- as MDA does, as well -- you have these areas for

example, some sort of a boundary area, okay, and this is a cleanup boundary area. And if you get in, as you get towards that boundary area, if you find an item, we've agreed that what will happen is, within two hundred feet of that boundary, that we will step out two hundred feet from that item just to make sure that you've built yourself sufficient buffer, if you will.

And so that's -- you know, the nightmare would be, I guess, if you find one little item and then you step out again and you keep going out, you know, you start looking like a gerrymandering political district or something. But thus far, I don't think -- we certainly didn't find any on any

of our ordnance cleanups, anything like that, and I don't know that Roger and them have, either. So, that's probably good news, as far as the way things are distributed and so on.

On the Army side of things, we're going to continue to move on. Again, our cleanup area responsibility is, of course, what's now part of Fish & Wildlife Refuge, mountain longleaf refuge. And the -- we are in the process of -- we've got a contract in place, and we're in the process of work plans and so on.

We also, this year, will have a five-year review for remedies that were completed five years ago. And all completed remedies, you keep rolling them



into the cycle and review all your completed remedies, at that point. So, we've got that -- the work plan for that is underway, as well. We'll have that this year, as well.

We should start -- I think the plan was for us to start fieldwork on our latest interim removal action in the Fish & Wildlife area, what, February, late February, we're talking fieldwork. So, we're getting close to starting fieldwork there.

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: Well, that won't happen February, because we've still got to get the document --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah.  
Document --

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: -- dated for review.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Uh, that's true. So, it won't --

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: It's going to be delayed.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah. But it should be in relatively short order, within the next, you know, month or so, we should be actually out in the field again, once again.

And so, like I say, that is always good to be able to actually do something. And we keep chipping away at it in that respect.

We have a big meeting tomorrow to work some more on the EE/CA. We're hoping to finally eventually get to the -- towards the end of that process, which will give us a more overall characterization of the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Because of an agreement between Army and Fish & Wildlife Service, we pretty much, once we can define the areas, is to, you know, kind of what's cleanup area and what's not. We know what to do within the cleanup areas, there is no doubt about it, because it's kind of driven by a site agreement between Army and Fish & Wildlife, based on their reuse needs and topography and long-term management and some other things. So, that will be good, too, because we can perhaps come up with a more overarching plan in a year or two, once we get all of those things there.

The water tank transfer, that -- I would say that that is imminent. The last traffic I saw on it was between the MDA

attorney and Corps of Engineers attorneys. And I think they've -- I just couldn't -- there's nothing substantive. I think it's all kind of procedural, when can you get up and sign it first, or can I sign it first or whatever.

And I think they've got it walked out. So, I mean, I think it's just a function of schedules, as to literally getting somebody up to sign off on the deeds, get the deeds recorded and so forth.

So, that will be good. That will be -- once that goes, that will have us down to about twenty something acres.

And then we're in the same kind of boat with the Iron Mountain Road addition, that we're all currently driving

on. And when we did the -- sometimes you get lucky. When we did the ROE for that road, the right of entry for that road allowed ALDOT to construct, maintain, and operate the road, which is good, because otherwise, you'd be hung up with a -- once again, it's all in the attorney bailiwicks and, you know, formatting a deed and these kind of things that, so -- but that should go.

Once that happens, we'll be down to about twelve Army acres, will be the last Army-owned property associated with this installation. Not bad from forty-two thousand. But, of course, half of that forty-two went to the National Guard at Pelham Range, but we still count it.

So, that's about what I have here.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: Scott, what's your budget this year?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Ours -- I should have looked at it, because we're about to go into the validation of it again. For cleanup here, ours isn't very much. Do you remember what it is off the top of your head, Lisa?

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: Not off the top of my head. I'm thinking a couple million for --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah, I was going to say --

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: -- cleanup in the Charlie area.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: It's, again, for munitions cleanup in the Charlie area. Now, some of it, like the contract that we're

about to go into the field with, really that contract got awarded, what, FY11 was the award on that.

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: Uh-huh.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: And so, we're kind of married up, two sets of money, if you will.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: So, it's carry-on?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah. Uh-huh. So, we're able to award the contract, because there's all these things they have to do, you know, in advance of actually going out. And so, the FY12 budget basically just tacks onto that one. And so -- but I think the combined was somewhere, what, around four million or less, for the two of them? I don't recall off the top of my head.

MS. LISA HOLSTEIN: It was a little over three million.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah. So, it's -- we compete for the same, you know, I mean, dollar, if you will. And that's one of the difficulties that I think that we'll see in the future, to some extent, is that -- or challenges, whatever, the budgets are going to be what they are, and we really don't have a good feel for what they're going to be.

I really, for no particular reason, had thought that maybe things would be drastically reduced this year. But I think, overall, from what I heard, the BRAC budget was only reduced about two million dollars, you know. And so, you know, that wasn't a huge reduction. You



know, that was probably about a 2 or 3 percent reduction over last year. So, it was way better than we had any good reason to anticipate.

I don't know what the future is going to bring, because what happens is, not only are we competing for the same dollars that McClellan Development Authority is, but of course, we're competing with Fort Ord and whoever else out there. And so, like I say, it remains to be seen.

I think overall we're in pretty -- we have some decent shape, because of where we are, because we have the ESCA set in place, and they've made good progress on that, so you can kind of sell that. We have the agreements with Fish & Wildlife

Service, so that will, you know, kind of always helps us to say, hey, we still need to make progress, we still need to -- but once you take the pool of -- their process essentially is, when they find out what their budget is, they turn around and they look at what they call must-fund items. And a lot of those things, if you're under an administrative order from a regulatory agency for example or certain other things, you know, those are all kind of scriben in stone. So, those come right off the top.

And then they turn around and they say, okay, what's left out of that overall budget. And then they divvy that out, you know, to the -- to all of the sites that need work.

So, it's not real certain. But then I guess nothing economically right now is particularly certain. But the good news is, we are getting some and going forward.

And we've done like we've done in the past, we always kind of build in some options. And we've learned -- and you can thank Lisa for that -- we learned several years ago to build in options. And so, what happens if -- as you get towards the end of a fiscal year or something, or somebody recognizes somewhere else something happened, and they say, hey, you know, I'm not going to be able to use this money, and they turn it back in, we're always -- you know, we get these phone calls that says, how

fast can you obligate this money. And we're, like, twenty-four hours. Send it, you know. So, we've been fortunate in that by we learned our lesson there, to have those kind of in hand, and then you just have to exercise that option.

So, we -- I think last year was the first year we weren't able to really profit from that. We usually snatch some money at the end of the year by doing that. So, hopefully, we'll get lucky again this year, too.

But like I say, it's -- it's difficult to project, you know, what those budgets are going to be, and hence, what the long-term timelines are going to be. We'll know more maybe next month because we have our work plan meeting in the end of

February, I think it is. So, for our next meeting, what is it, April, we may have a better feel for what things look like, but I doubt it.

So, are there any other questions?

Karen, we kind of glossed over real quick what was in your report, if you wanted to add anything for the National Guard.

MS. KAREN PINSON: Okay. We've just done a few things since -- I guess, our last meeting was in October. But did you say you did go over my report or --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Very, very briefly. I kind of said, you know, that you'd conducted another sampling round, I guess, on your remedy out there, what, range J or K, which --

MS. KAREN PINSON: Yeah.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: -- and that was about it.

MS. KAREN PINSON: Yeah, that's correct.

So, we've got a lot of data -- well, the second round of -- the second annual report will be out shortly for range J and K, and so there's a good bit of data that we've developed over the last couple of years. And ADEM, you know, will be looking at that, has already looked at it, and will be looking at it some more.

So, we think things are progressing as planned for those two sites. And, yeah, that's pretty much the newest thing that's happened since the last meeting.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Okay.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: Is that separate money, too? Are they funded --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yes.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: They're funded, and then y'all are funded, and then the MDA is funded?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Well, ultimately, at some point, it comes from the same pool.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: Yeah, but I mean, it's --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Okay. But it is separate, yes.

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: Okay.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Right. Now, BRAC funds, obviously, funds our efforts here, and BRAC also funds the McClellan Development Authority --

MR. ED KIMBROUGH: Right.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: -- money --

I mean, the -- actually, they've automated the financial module, so now myself or Lisa has to kind of go in and push a button for the money to ultimately get sent to McClellan Development Authority, but it really doesn't -- that's just the mechanics of how the system works.

The National Guard's comes through the -- you guys get funded through IRP, don't you?

MS. KAREN PINSON: (Nods head.)

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Okay. The National Guard gets funded through what's called the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, i.e., the Installation Restoration Program, if you're into acronyms. And basically what



that means is that environmental money comes from Army Environmental Command, comes through them. Whereas, our -- the cleanup work that we do, and that the MDA does comes through BRAC, through the BRAC office. But ultimately, you go up above those two, and it's all environmental restoration Army money.

So, it's -- but active installations, the National Guard, and these other installations called non-BRAC excess, which were excess installations that were not BRAC, but got dumped into BRAC to manage, all are funded through the Army Environmental Command, so -- Installation Restoration Program.

And then BRAC is -- so, we

even have things, like, say in BRAC that -- my site in Tennessee does not get funded through BRAC. It gets funded through the same source as the National Guard's. We do that to keep the enemy confused and on their toes.

But anyway, does anybody else have any other questions? Is there any other new business or programs?

One of the things that I know Gene and I had talked about -- we're having a tough time getting a quorum to conduct regular business, so my suggestion would be that -- I guess our next scheduled meeting would be, what, April, like the 16th or something. Does anybody know? I think I saw that on my phone here --

MS. BRENDA CUNNINGHAM: It's April 16th. It's on your agenda.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: It's on my agenda. Okay, well, that would make sense to read it, April 16th, okay.

And so what I think my suggestion -- assuming everybody else kind of feels the same -- or any alternate ideas, please, bring them up -- my suggestion would be we go ahead and hold this as intended during April. We'll make a real lobbying effort to -- I appreciate y'all showing up, I really do -- make a real lobbying effort to make sure everybody -- to try and get us a quorum in so that we can dispose of some of the old business that's lingering, which is

basically approval of minutes.

But then we may want to -- I will try to have some ideas as to how we might want to restructure either our meeting schedules or perhaps even the membership, itself, so we can -- you know, if you have fewer members, hey, it takes a smaller quorum, or some things along those lines. And if y'all would be thinking of those, since we can count on y'all being the regulars to show up for the most part, if you would -- if y'all would think about those, we could get some ideas.

MR. GENE HOWARD: Isn't this organization, as meager as it is, it has a function, and the function is to gain the confidence of the public.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Right, it's

part of the Army's public participation program.

MR. GENE HOWARD: So, officially, it serves that purpose.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Correct.

MR. GENE HOWARD: And as long as it can go on -- as long as it can sustain itself, then, you know, it's a viable organization.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Right.

MR. GENE HOWARD: Whatever you have to do or whatever we have to do to get it to continue that, waive some rules, reset it, do some reorganizational tweaking, just to keep it going.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah, I agree with you. I think it's worth to keep going. I mean, it's a good mechanism, not just for the Army, but I think for

the community, as well.

MR. GENE HOWARD: Well, there is an exchange of information here --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Uh-huh.

MR. GENE HOWARD: -- that you don't find anywhere else. And an individual can come in here and leave knowing more than when they arrived.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: True. I hope.

MR. GENE HOWARD: And particularly about a piece of property this large here.

And by the way, do we have any more information on the bypass going through? Have there been any changes?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: We're talking about the --

MR. GENE HOWARD: We're looking at the fall of '13?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah, I don't have any information there. I mean, that would be something I guess we can harass Shannon Jones about and find out and we -- so --

MR. GENE HOWARD: But I mean, I'm curious.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yes.

MR. GENE HOWARD: That's a community conversation.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah. It's kind of beyond the scope of the RAB, but we know it's related and linked into it, yeah.

MR. GENE HOWARD: Yeah. It's not us --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: But --

MR. GENE HOWARD: -- but it's part of what --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: No, I mean, if we get any information -- we can probably make a note of

that, and we can ask Shannon or somebody, or when we talk to DeJarvis or somebody.

MR. GENE HOWARD: You don't have to have ALDOT in here --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: No. But we can ask questions --

MR. GENE HOWARD: -- just sort of what the schedule looks like. Would that be all right?

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah.

MR. GENE HOWARD: Okay.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: Yeah. We owe them a phone call, anyway, like, where is our deed.

MR. GENE HOWARD: We're just being nosey, so --

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: That's right, so -- and oh, by the way, when you going to open that bypass.

Yeah, that will be interesting to see, because I'm sure that's



contingent upon funding, as well. I'm always suspicious when they chop off a road and start planting all the grass for erosion control at the end of it. You kind of go, huh, that might be a clue, but I don't know.

MR. JIM MILLER: I was suspicious when I saw the plans and it didn't have any end to it.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: That's -- okay. But, yeah, we can certainly ask that question, because we need to ask the -- we need to follow up on kind of our deed process with them, too, at least at the local level, because I think their organizational attorneys and ours will sometimes forget about the guys on the ground, trying

to -- look, we want the road to work.

Do we have any other questions? Well, then, for the few of us that are here, do we have a motion to adjourn?

MR. GENE HOWARD: Motion to adjourn.

MR. SCOTT BOLTON: I say we're adjourned then. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 5:30 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALABAMA)

CALHOUN COUNTY )

I, SAMANTHA E. NOBLE,  
CCR, a Court Reporter and Notary Public  
in and for The State of Alabama at  
Large, duly commissioned and qualified,  
HEREBY CERTIFY that this proceeding was  
taken before me, then was by me reduced  
to shorthand, afterwards transcribed  
upon a computer, and that the foregoing  
is a true and correct transcript of the  
proceeding, to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY  
this proceeding was taken at the time  
and place noted above, and was concluded  
without adjournment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto set my hand and affixed my  
seal at Anniston, Alabama, on this the  
30th of March, 2012.

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SAMANTHA E. NOBLE (ACCR 232)  
Notary Public in and for  
Alabama at Large

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 11-9-2013.