Meeting Minutes

Naval Weapons Station (WPNSTA) Yorktown
Yorktown, Virginia and
Cheatham Annex (CAX), Williamsburg, Virginia
Environmental Restoration Program (ERP)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
Yorktown Library
Thursday, November 8, 2018; 1300-1500

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role
LCDR Sean Owens	WPNSTA Yorktown Operations, WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX Representative
Steven Oyer	Citizen and RAB Community Co-Chair
Bryan Peed	Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for WPNSTA Yorktown and incoming RPM for CAX
Cecilia Landin	Navy RPM for CAX
Jennifer Podbesek	Navy Environmental Director for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Bob Stroud	United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)RPM for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M HILL Inc. (CH2M) Program Manager for CAX
Betsy Collins	CH2M Deputy Program Manager for CAX
Adrienne Jones	CH2M Program Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown
Brian Wachter	CH2M Field Team Leader for WPNSTA Yorktown
Monica Smeal	APTIM Deputy Project Manager for Area of Concern (AOC) 8 CAX
Mike Brand	Navy Public Works Department, Deputy Public Works Officer
Drew Robins	NAVFAC Yorktown
Jim Gravette	Navy RPM
Mark Pisarcik	Project Manager Tetra Tech
William Stubbs	Citizen

[Note: Attachment 1 is the Public Notice for the RAB Meeting. Attachment 2 is the RAB Meeting Sign-in Sheet.]

Mr. Bryan Peed started the meeting with introductions and welcoming everyone to the meeting. LCDR Owens says he is glad to be here and looks forward to the presentations. Mr. Steven Oyer comments on the meeting minutes from last time and had a suggestion about getting with the group to see if a fact sheet could be put out to county people on the administrative side; Mr. Peed says we do have the fact sheets and says we are trying to figure out the best way to do that. Mr. Oyer says his suggestion is to hand them out to the head of the boards at local community groups. Ms. Stephanie Sawyer says RPMs are transitioning, so once contact information is updated, these could go out. Mr. Oyer asks for timeframe. Mr. Peed says first of the year would be doable, and Mr. Oyer says he will assume first calendar quarter of 2019. Ms. Jennifer Podbesek says this could go to her and then Mr. Drew Robinson. Mr. Oyer asks about a site visit at CAX; Ms. Cecilia Landin says they are looking to do this after some more planting at AOC 8. Mr. Robins asked how many people usually are present for site visits and Mr. Oyer responds typically 5 to 10 people have joined.

PRESENTATIONS – CAX

CAX Program Update

Ms. Landin presented an overview of the active CAX sites. This overview included the work completed since the last RAB and work that is currently in progress at Site 4, Site 7, Site 9, AOC 1 North and South, AOC 6, AOC 8, and AOC 9.

Ms. Podbesek asks if Site 7 just has groundwater contamination onsite; Ms. Landin says soil, sediment, and surface water were remedied and closed out with no further action.

Ms. Podbesek asks for more information about why we are going through the explosive safety submission at Site 9. Ms. Landin says that while peeling back the surface material, a handful of 22-caliber shell casings were found, and work stopped to make sure that we have the safety procedures in place.

Ms. Landin says that for AOC 9 we hope to resolve comments and get into the field early next year. Mr. Oyer asks for an example of the comments that are being resolved; Ms. Landin says sample location selections and the analytical suites, generally making sure the data is of sufficient quality.

AOC 9 – Penniman Lake Historical Industrial Areas Update

Ms. Sawyer presented a background of AOC 9 and a schedule for upcoming activities. Ms. Sawyer says that Penniman Lake has been investigated since about 2000 when polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected, and based on those results, a catch and release program was implemented as a conservative measure. Penniman Lake is not the source of the contamination, something upgradient of the lake itself caused the PCB contamination. Ms. Sawyer says that as a result of previous investigations, the site area has expanded to the entire area shown on the figure. Ms. Sawyer shows a zoomed in figure of the AOC 9 study area. Ms. Sawyer says the Navy has been working to identify any current or historical sources of contamination, and to do that they plan to collect soil and sediment samples, establish a watershed-specific reference data set to make sure what we collect is due to the site and not naturally occurring, and to determine if polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) detected are a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) issue and

not from runoff for example. Ms. Sawyer says up to 20 groundwater monitoring wells will be installed, and the exact locations may change from the figure based on what is found in soil. Ms. Sawyer says a lot of samples will be collected to determine the source of the contamination to Penniman Lake and if there is an ongoing source, to shut that source off. Ms. Sawyer says fieldwork will be done in phases to make sure that we are collecting the best data we can.

CAX AOC 8 Removal Action Update

Ms. Monica Smeal presented location and history of AOC 8. Debris was located on the surface and in the subsurface throughout the AOC that was impacting the soils. Ms. Smeal reviews the site preparation tasks completed, including clearing and chipping trees, stockpiling clean backfill, installing a silt fence, setting up a haul road, and setting a turbidity curtain in the York River. Ms. Smeal says that in-situ samples of soil were collected initially to speed the waste disposal process. Ms. Smeal says once soil was excavated, samples were collected with a five-point composite for every 1,000 cubic yards. Ms. Smeal says a bunch of soil was stockpiled at Site 7 because it can be hard to find a source of approved clean backfill material. Ms. Smeal says the excavation is complete except for a small area on the south of Area A, where the extent of contamination has not been delineated. Ms. Smeal notes that there was a large berm at the site at first where storms had worn the area away, and this week large rip rap stone will be added to ensure that storm surges and tidal flows do not wash out what was done here. Ms. Smeal says most of Area A has been backfilled, as well as all the other excavation areas. Ms. Smeal says there are over 1,200 pots of plants/trees and 1,800 plug species that will be planted over the next couple weeks. Mr. Oyer asks if they are 1-gallon pots; Ms. Smeal says they are 2-gallon pots. Mr. Brand asks what types of metal were found; Ms. Smeal says a lot of metal rods were 2 to 4 feet long. Ms. Smeal says she does not have a quantity of how many loads were sent out off hand, but she can find out. Mr. Oyer asks if native plants are being planted; Ms. Smeal says yes, native species are being planted and those are detailed in the restoration plan.

PRESENTATIONS – WPNSTA Yorktown

WPNSTA Yorktown Program Update

Mr. Bryan Peed presented a review of the WPNSTA Yorktown ERP. Mr. Peed says 30 Environmental Restoration Program sites, 27 Installation Restoration Program and 3 Munitions Response Program, have been identified at WPNSTA Yorktown. Mr. Peed says that there are two pots of money that fund the Installation Restoration Program and the Munitions Response Program sites, and notes that the Munitions Response Program is basically the same but there are more safety requirements. Mr. Peed notes that there are 12 sites in the remedial investigation/feasibility study phase, which is the longest step in the process, 2 sites in Proposed Plan/Record of Decision phase, 1 site in the remedial action phase, and 1 site in the long term management phase. Mr. Peed says Site 31 is one of the first sites that came on board for vapor intrusion. Mr. Peed says there are really high concentrations of trichloroethene, which is a constituent of solvents, in soil at the site and once TCE builds up in the soil, it has the potential to come up as vapors to the surface. Mr. Peed says there is one MPR site, unexploded ordnance (UXO) 2, since UXO-3 was closed out and discussed in previous RAB meetings. Mr. Peed says that UXO-2 fieldwork will start around December. Mr. Robinson asks what a DGM

survey is; Mr. Peed says it is geophysical mapping to get a survey of what is under the ground. Ms. Sawyer says that digital geophysical mapping (DGM) will be added to the acronym page. Mr. Peed says a couple of decision documents will probably be coming in within the next couple years. Mr. Peed says it can be really expensive to remove waste from a landfill, so the soil at Site 1 has been capped, and we are addressing groundwater. Mr. Peed says for Site 3 soil has been closed already, and there is a proposed plan out to address groundwater. Mr. Peed says that Site 12 is the only site that is post-ROD, and there is a groundwater monitoring program in place. Mr. Peed shows a picture of a sign and gate for Site 12, which are common components of land use controls. Mr. Peed says that the Navy databases track any restriction on the land, so the land use controls are important to the program for implementing the remedies and beyond. Mr. Stubbs asks if any of the contamination would reach Lackey, VA since that is shown on the map; Mr. Peed says there is no impact to Lackey, it is contained onsite.

WPNSTA Yorktown Site 24 Non-Time Critical Removal Action Update

Mr. Mark Pisarcik says that Tetra Tech, in partnership with SEA Alaska Environmental Services, was contracted to perform a removal action at Site 24. Mr. Pisarcik presents a history of Site 24. Mr. Pisarcik says the excavation depths range between 2 and 13 feet for these areas, and for all nine areas, the total acreage of excavation area was about 1.5 to 2 acres. Mr. Pisarcik says the contaminants of concern were low-level metals and PCBs that posed ecological risk. Mr. Pisarcik says work was stopped when munitions items were found during excavations. Mr. Pisarcik says an unexploded ordnance team was onsite when work resumed, and all the excavated material was scanned and any munitions related material were inspected. Mr. Pisarcik says isolated pockets of munitions materials were found. Ms. Podbesek asks about the type of munitions; Mr. Pisarcik says the first area had mine casings and torpedo tail sections (approximately 5 percent of material found), none of which were live, and throughout the rest of the action mine components were found. Mr. Pisarcik says that nothing was intact or live, but some items had triggers of energetics in them that had to be dealt with to properly dispose them. Mr. Pisarcik says the metal found was shipped to a disposal facility and the trucks went through a portal monitor to make sure there were no radioactive components, which is now a standard practice at recycling and disposal facilities. Mr. Pisarcik says that the first load went through and the second load failed, meaning low level radiation was detected, and work shut down again. Mr. Pisarcik says the portal monitors are set just above background for the region they are in, and it just so happens that the facility was in the Midwest which has a lower background in this region. Mr. Pisarcik says a lot of munitions items had accumulated in shipping containers onsite, and the remaining several boxes had to be assessed. Mr. Pisarcik says the load that triggered the alarm came back so radiation safety personnel came out and surveyed the box and determined it contained several items that triggered the alarm. Mr. Pisarcik says 100 percent of the items in those seven or eight boxes were surveyed, and about one shipping container of radiologically impacted materials above background was segregated. Mr. Robinson asks what the source was; Mr. Pisarcik replied it was the metal components themselves, not loose radiation. Mr. Pisarcik says at first only a few people were brought out, and then a larger team was brought out after seeing the amount of materials present. Mr. Pisarcik says items that potentially had an explosive hazard were temporarily staged in an onsite magazine and when enough were accumulated, onsite demo was done for those items which had to be deemed

inert and expended before sending them off site. Mr. Peed says the Navy's explosive ordnance disposal personnel also worked with this because some of those items are used for training. Mr. Pisarcik says after the containers were surveyed, that ended site activities. Mr. Pisarcik says that in the eight shipping containers, the soil that was on those containers settled to the bottom of the shipping containers, so that soil was contained in drums in case it was radiologically impacted. Mr. Pisarcik says the areas were backfilled and restored temporarily until a path forward is decided. Mr. Pisarcik says right now there are two shipping containers onsite, one with munitions items and one with drums of soil, fencing around the excavation area, and inspections are completed weekly. Mr. Pisarcik says when activities stopped, there was a small working pile of soil that was being prepped for disposal, and that is now tarped and covered. Mr. Oyer asks what you do with the pit you dig and cover to detonate the items remotely; Mr. Pisarcik says the material is inspected to determine everything is expended, and then the floor, wall, and ceiling material is sampled. Mr. Pisarcik says the detonation occurred in an area that had already been excavated and filled with clean material.

WPNSTA Yorktown Site 33 Field Work

Ms. Adrienne Jones presented an overview of the recent field activities conducted at Site 33. Ms. Jones says that fieldwork was completed at the site and we are still waiting on some of the results from the laboratory. Ms. Jones says that Site 33 was originally identified as blast grit deposited on the ground surface outside of building 530, which is no longer there, and the area of investigation expanded due to identification of two waste dumping areas northeast and southwest of the building. Ms. Jones says soil and groundwater samples were collected from the disposal areas a couple years ago. Ms. Jones says the goals this year were to collect additional volatile organic compound data from the groundwater and PAH and metals data from the soil to better define the contamination and use those data to determine if there are additional data that need to be collected such as surface water, sediment, or seep samples. Ms. Joins notes a membrane interface probe (MIP) was used to help identify locations to collect groundwater samples. Ms. Jones shows an example of a MIP and explains a drill rig pushes the probe into the ground, heats it up, and as it heats up it vaporizes the chemicals in the subsurface. Ms. Jones says this method is good because it gives you real time data. Ms. Jones shows two examples of MIP graphs from this work and mentions the conductivity probe on the left and then the halogen specific detector (XSD) probe, that show the chlorinated compounds. Mr. Oyer asks what the MIP does not pick up; Ms. Jones replies that it is not for metals, it is primarily for volatile organic compounds. Ms. Jones says some of the other graphs might be better at picking up things other than chlorinated compounds such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX).

Final Comments/Closing Remarks

Mr. Peed says that Mr. Jim Gravette will be the Yorktown RPM at the next RAB meeting, and Mr. Peed will be the CAX RPM for the next meeting, with Ms. Landin going to a different base. LCDR Owens says he appreciates every coming in and requests to please let him know what he and the WPNSTA chain of command can do in support. Mr. Oyer says to keep doing what you are doing, and for site visits, it is not important to him what the state of the site is.

Action Items:

Schedule site visit with Steve Oyer.

Distribute base fact sheets to Jennifer Podbesek to go out to the community.

Next RAB Meeting: To be determined
(Will be advertised on the public websites and
in the *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette* newspapers)

Location: York County Public Library

Points of Contact for Questions, Comments, or to Request Additional Information:

Ms. Cecilia Landin, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for CAX, cecilia.landin@navy.mil or (757) 341-0380

Mr. Bryan Peed, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown, bryan.peed@navy.mil or (757) 341-0480

Public Websites:

CAX: http://go.usa.gov/DynP

WPNSTA Yorktown: http://go.usa.gov/DynG

ATTACHMENT 1

Public Notice

Public Notice of

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING for Naval Weapons Station Yorktown & Cheatham Annex

Thursday, November 8, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
York County Public Library - Yorktown
8500 George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, Virginia

The Public is Invited to Attend

Under Mission Cleanup, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown & Cheatham Annex is inviting the community to participate in the RAB to ensure continued protection of public health and restoration of land and water. Mission Cleanup relies on ongoing public awareness and engagement in the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) cleanup process, as public participation is critical to our ability to *Clean, Protect, & Restore*. This is your opportunity to participate in the process by providing direct input about site cleanup activities.

For additional information regarding the RAB Meeting or the ERPs at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown or Cheatham Annex, visit our websites:

http://go.usa.gov/DynG (Naval Weapons Station Yorktown)
-or-
http://go.usa.gov/DynP (Cheatham Annex)
or contact the Navy Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (757) 322-2852
#MissionCleanup – *Clean, Protect, & Restore*

Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on November 3 and 4, 2018, respectively. (In addition, post cards of the notice are mailed to the Community Co-Chair and community members on the mailing list.)

ATTACHMENT 2

Sign-in Sheet

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, Virginia and Cheatham Annex, Williamsburg, Virginia

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
York County Public Library – Yorktown (Meeting Room)

Attendance Sign-In

Name	Organization	Phone	Email
Adrienne Jones	CH2M	757-671-6236	adrienne.jones@ch2m.com
Brian Wachter	CH2M	757-671-6289	brian.wachter@jacobs.com
Bob Straud	EPA Region III	410-305-2748	straud.robert@epa.gov
Sean Owen	NWSY Ops	757 887 7682	Sean.r.owen@navy.mil
MICHAEL D. BRAND	DPWO NWSY	757 887-4637	MICHAEL.D.BRAND @NAVY.MIL
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Bryan Peel	NAVFAC	757 341-0480	bryan.peel@navy.mil
STEVEN OYER	CO-CHAIR	YOU HAVE IT!	→
Jim Gravelle	NAVFAC MIDLANT	757-341-2014	james.gravelle@navy.mil
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Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M/Jacobs	757-671-6273	Stephanie.Sawyer@jacobs.com

The ship in the background photo is The USS Simpson (FFG-56). It conducted the first frigate to frigate weapons transfer.