



## FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

# Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Naval Research Laboratory – Chesapeake Bay Detachment

MEETING DATE: December 11, 2019

LOCATION: Northeast Community Center, 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, 20732

*Note: This meeting summary is based on informal notes taken at the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript. Rather, it is intended to summarize the overall discussions.*

## Welcome

Ryan Mayer from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) - Washington, is the Navy's Remedial Project Manager for Naval Research Laboratory – Chesapeake Bay Detachment (NRL-CBD) and welcomed the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members to the inaugural RAB meeting. Ryan Mayer opened the meeting with introductions of the NRL-CBD team which is comprised of members from the Navy, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Navy support contractors.

## Opening Remarks

CAPT Homer Denius, Commanding Officer for Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis, provided a few opening remarks and explained that NRL-CBD falls under the command of NSA Annapolis and as such he is the Navy's active military representative. CAPT Denius further comments that the RAB is an organized way to obtain community concerns and provide input into environmental restoration. He encouraged the RAB members to consider the most efficient ways to organize the RAB.

## Introductions

Ryan Mayer asked the RAB members to introduce themselves and state what brought them to join the RAB. The RAB members expressed their concerns and reasons for joining the RAB, which included:

- Wanting to know that the water they swim in and drink is safe
- Hoping that the RAB will provide transparency
- Concerns about noise emitted from NRL-CBD when the generators are in use
- Wanting to make sure that young pregnant women are not drinking well water
- Wanting to find out more about groundwater issues in order to make more informed decisions
- Wanting to understand more about base environmental issues and make sure that the Navy has the appropriate/correct information available about the shallow wells in the area
- Wanting to ensure transparency (local elected official)

## Restoration Advisory Board Orientation

Amy Brand, a community involvement specialist for CH2M, a Navy contractor, introduced her role and provided orientation information for the RAB.

- Provided introduction/explanation of a RAB
  - o The RAB only addresses issues associated with environmental restoration
- The purpose of the RAB is to discuss and provide feedback and advice on environmental cleanup plans and actions
- Ideally, the RAB is comprised of a cross-section of the community
  - o The Department of Defense (DoD) RAB Handbook is a good reference and the link is provided at the end of the RAB presentation handout
- What is the function of the RAB? The RAB discusses environmental restoration topics and community concerns, and questions about the environmental restoration topics.
- The RAB is an ADVISORY board; not a decision-making board. The goal is for the cleanup and management decisions to reflect and address community issues and concerns

Amy Brand and Ryan Mayer then addressed questions from the attendees.

**Question:** What environmental groups did the RAB reach out to?

**Amy Brand:** For this RAB, we asked people to submit applications instead of reaching out to specific targeted groups. The Navy received 17 RAB applications and all were accepted to the RAB.

**Question:** Which environmental regulatory agency is involved and what is their role?

**Amy Brand:** MDE is the lead regulator and their role will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Question:** I submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for results, but I have not received specific lab results.

**Ryan Mayer:** This is an issue that can be discussed after RAB presentation.

A meeting attendee then accused the Navy about not being truthful about contamination at the base, called the meeting a “dog and pony show” and left the room. Delegate Mark Fisher stated that this person and his concerns are known to him, but that he is not a Calvert County resident and his concerns are not representative of the local community. Delegate Fisher emphasized that he is here to represent Calvert County residents and to help ensure transparency in the process.

## Restoration Advisory Board Chartering

Amy Brand reviewed the RAB chartering and an example mission statement. There will be one official Navy co-chair, as well as a Community co-chair, to head the RAB. Three attendees identified themselves as representatives of organizations: two from homeowner associations and one from the local town council.

**Question:** Why will it take a year to establish the RAB?

**Amy Brand:** It will not take a year; the steps to establish the RAB will take place primarily during this meeting and the next one.

Amy then reviewed the suggested general attendance rules:

- The RAB will meet no fewer than 2 times per year
- The RAB will discuss and agree upon the meeting times and locations
- The RAB members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings

**Question:** Is it possible to place the meetings on a video feed to allow the public to tune-in? This could be carried on local cable channel and it would be helpful to those who cannot attend.

**Amy Brand:** The Navy will take this under consideration.

During each RAB meeting, meeting minutes will be taken, and these will be posted on the Navy website. The Charter will cover information such as seating and ground rules.

**Question:** How will the charter be developed?

**Amy Brand:** A draft charter will be submitted to all RAB members to review and at the next meeting, the RAB will discuss the elements of the charter and sign-off on the document.

**Question:** What are the elements of the Charter?

**Amy Brand:** As shown on slide 11 of the presentation, the Charter elements include the mission statement; membership and member responsibilities; co-chairs; attendance; operating procedures and ground rules; and dissolution of the RAB.

## Overview of Environmental Cleanup Process

Ryan Mayer provided an overview of the investigation and cleanup process under the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (or CERCLA). A link to additional details on CERCLA is provided in the RAB presentation.

- The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) indicated that all federal facilities must comply with CERCLA
- SARA established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)

Ryan Mayer then reviewed a flowchart of the CERCLA process.

- During the Remedial Investigation phase, the nature and extent of contamination is defined, and human health and ecological risks are conducted. If risks exceed the threshold, then the site proceeds to a Feasibility Study (FS)
- During the FS, options to address the risk are evaluated
- The Record of Decision identifies the selected remedy for addressing the risk
- A Remedial Design is then prepared to implement the remedy. The next phase is the Remedial Action Construction (RAC) where the remedy response is conducted. Once the RAC is completed, a Remedy in Place is prepared to document the completion.

**Question:** Where is NRL-CBD in the CERCLA process?

**Ryan Mayer:** The answer depends on the site and the Navy will identify the NRL-CBD sites in the next part of this presentation.

**Question:** It is most important that people that are directly impacted be notified so that they can take action. What is the process for notifying these people outside the NRL-CBD fence line?

**Ryan Mayer:** At any point in the CERCLA process, the Navy can take immediate actions if they believe that there is a risk. In the case of NRL-CBD, the Navy implemented voluntary residential well water sampling for residents located within the groundwater flow path. Some residents opted not to have their residential well water sampled. If residents want to have their residential well water sampled at a later date, they can make that request. The Navy has not currently received any additional requests for residential well sampling.

## Overview of Environmental Restoration Sites

Andy Bogdanski, a project manager for CH2M, provided an overview of the environmental restoration sites at NRL-CBD. The environmental restoration sites include Installation Restoration sites, which focus on chemical contaminants, and Munition Response sites, which focus on explosive hazards as well as chemical contaminants from munitions. Andy Bogdanski explained that Areas of Concern (AOCs) are

areas that the Navy may investigate but have not been formally assigned as a “site” in the environmental restoration program. Ryan Mayer explained that the munitions response sites at NRL-CBD are not associated with explosive hazards; but rather they are associated with chemical contaminants which are referred to as munitions constituents.

## Questions and Comments

**Question:** Will there be any additional investigation into the radioactive material associated with Munitions Response Site (MRS) 001 - Hypervelocity Low Pressure Gun?

**Ryan Mayer:** The Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) is handling this investigation and their report should be issued soon. The NRL-CBD environmental restoration team does not handle this investigation; the Navy’s Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) coordinates this investigation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

**Question:** Has there been any analysis of sediments within the Chesapeake Bay itself?

**Andy Bogdanski:** No, not at this time. During these investigations, the investigation begins at the source to determine where the release occurred, and then follows the contamination. The Navy has not had a reason to sample off-Base. Any contamination identified in the Chesapeake Bay may be potentially associated with upstream sources.

**Question:** Which perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds are of concern at Site 10?

**Andy Bogdanski:** The Navy has sampled shallow and deep groundwater on-Base for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS. In the shallow groundwater all three constituents have been detected. In the deeper groundwater no detections have been found. Ryan Mayer added that when the Navy sampled off-Base drinking water, they sampled for 14 PFAS constituents.

**Question:** Of the 14 constituents, which were detected off-base?

**Ryan:** There are health advisories for two constituents, PFOA and PFOS, and of the three detections off-Base, there were no detections above the lifetime health advisory (LHA) level of 70 parts per trillion.

**Question:** If the EPA lowers the LHA, does this automatically trigger notification?

**Ira May (MDE representative):** The MDE website includes a listing of the PFAS compounds as well as all of the community wells that have had PFAS detections.

**Question:** Is there technology to scrub PFAS out of drinking water outside the Base?

**Ira May:** Currently, activated carbon can be used as treatment system. PFAS are now coming to light with the EPA and it will take time to understand the health effects and identify other treatment options.

**Question:** What is the impetus for forming a RAB now?

**Ryan Mayer:** During the recent off-Base drinking water sampling event, the Navy identified the community’s interest in establishing a RAB.

**Question:** Have the researchers that have been involved with PFAS been notified?

**Ryan:** Yes, and they are still actively conducting research.

**Question:** Would it be possible to get a list of all RAB members?

**Ryan:** Yes.

**Question:** How will the RAB be advertised?

**Ryan:** The Navy placed an ad for interest in the RAB in the *Calvert Recorder* in August 2019. The Navy also has a website that is updated regularly (<https://go.usa.gov/xQFuV>). Also, the Navy has notified the

Town of Chesapeake Beach of these meetings. A Town of Chesapeake Beach Councilman stated that the Town can place these ads on their website.

## Future Meeting Planning

Amy Brand asked the attendees if 5:00 pm is a good time for future meetings. The majority agreed. She informed the attendees that the draft charter will be forwarded for their review prior to next RAB meeting (tentatively planned for the week of February 17, 2020 or March 9, 2020).

**Question:** In the RAB handbook, are there links to example charters?

**Amy Brand:** If you conduct an online search, you will likely find links to other RAB charters.

Between meetings, there may be some emails and member coordination, but not much else in the way of time commitment. Amy Brand pointed the attendees to the links on slide 37 of the presentation and mentioned that these links are case sensitive.

**Question:** An attendee asked if a link to the PowerPoint presentation can be provided to the attendees (to allow easier access to links).

**Amy Brand:** yes.

Amy Brand informed the RAB that the Navy is in the process of developing a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and if attendees are interested in being interviewed for the CIP, to let her know and she can conduct an interview.

**Question:** One attendee stated that he is having a difficult time identifying the magnitude of the PFAS issue – is this a 3, 7, or 10 in severity?

**Ryan Mayer:** The Navy can't comment as we are in the process of investigating the issue.

**Amy Brand:** This is the first of our conversations and the Navy wants to work through this issue with the community.

## Closing Remarks and Adjournment

CAPT Denius closed the meeting, thanked everyone for coming, and reiterated that the Navy is trying to set up an organized way to communicate these issues with the community by establishing the RAB.

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
NRL-CBD  
DECEMBER 11, 2020  
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

<b>Bruce Bolt</b>	<b>Brendan Lumsden</b>
<b>Kevin Britt</b>	<b>Greg Morris</b>
<b>Vivian Cawood</b>	<b>Allison York</b>
<b>Pat Durbin</b>	<b>CAPT. Homer Denius</b>
<b>Mark Fisher</b>	<b>Ryan Mayer</b>
<b>Michael Gilliam</b>	<b>Scott Lonesome</b>
<b>Will Hager</b>	<b>Wendy Martinko</b>
<b>David Harris</b>	<b>Zoe Johnson</b>
<b>Robin Harris</b>	<b>Peggy Williams</b>
<b>Lawrence Jaworski</b>	<b>Andy Bogdanski</b>
<b>Amy Brand</b>	<b>Laura Lampshire</b>
<b>Ira May</b>	<b>Cindy Peil</b>
<b>Pat Elder</b>	<b>Bill Peil</b>
<b>Linda Gustafson</b>	<b>Regina Adams</b>