

**Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2011 at  
Best Western Olympic Inn, 360 Route 12, Groton, CT**

**Presenters:**

**U.S. Navy:** Jim Gravette and Dick Conant

**Tetra Tech NUS:** Corey Rich

**Attendees:** See attached Attendee Roster

**Minutes Recorded by:** Nina Balsamo (Tetra Tech NUS)

**The following handouts were provided at the meeting:**

Agenda

Implementation of 2011 Community Involvement Plan

Area A Wetland – Site 2B, Naval Submarine Base – New London, Groton, Connecticut

NSB New London Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Site Status Summary

SUBASE RAB News (Newsletter)

**AGENDA**

**1. Open Meeting:**

Dick Conant gave a brief introduction.

**2. Community Involvement Plan:**

Corey Rich gave the presentation and showed slides (same as the handout). The focus of his presentation was to discuss the Navy's approach for implementing the Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The purpose of the CIP is to facilitate two-way communication between the Navy and the public. The CIP was finalized but the Navy is looking for feedback at today's meeting. There will be another update to the CIP within the next 5 years. A total of 22 interviews were conducted to gain an understanding of key local issues. The interviews indicated that the public generally trusts Navy but doesn't know the specifics of the ERP, and some residents unaware of how to get information. Fourteen (14) CIP implementation activities were recommended for the Subbase, as listed in the handout.

Corey Rich introduced Chris Zendan, the Public Affairs Officer, who is the Primary Navy Point of Contact. Jim Gravette and Dick Conant may also be contacted. The public indicated that they know how to contact Dick and Chris.

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Corey Rich asked if the mailing list was adequate, especially since email addresses change. The public indicated that it makes sense to contact them annually, and that electronic methods work well. Dick Conant mentioned trying to contact people who live along the northern property line.

The Subase EP website was launched in 2010. The Subase Facebook page will add a link to connect to the Subase ERP website. Corey Rich walked through process on how to access website. Members of the public indicated that they did see the newsletter and the link but did not yet try to access. The web site includes newsletters, RAB agenda, RAB minutes, and a link for each New London Subase site. Jim Gravette said they are still working out what goes into the newsletter. Dick Conant said there can be two versions – one version with just Chris as the PAO on Facebook, the other version with all the contacts. The Navy may reduce mailing information because local people can use Facebook page. Chris Zendan said at conclusion of the RAB meeting he would make a Facebook note with a link to the NAVFAC website for more information. If the NAVFAC website counts hits, the Navy can see if the hits increase and they reach more of an audience.

The Navy also maintains information repositories. One member of the public went to library but only one librarian knew that the Information Repository was there and where it was in the library. Dick Conant commented that the libraries no longer accept hard copies of the Subase reports, only CDs.

The Navy also maintains the Administrative Record (“Admin Record”), which includes documents up to and including the Record of Decision (ROD) for each site, but not post-ROD documents. The Admin Record is on the Subase ERP website. A RAB member said it is also on the EPA website, they look for it there.

The Navy also publishes public notices in the New London Day and Norwich Bulletin. Public Notices were historically published in the legal section of paper, but the Navy changed to having them as display ads to make them more noticeable to the public. A RAB member said that the New London Day and Norwich Bulletin are the right papers to put them in.

The Navy also prepares and distributes fact sheets. To date these have mostly been newsletters and PRAPs. Corey Rich asked if they have they been sufficient. The public indicated that the newsletter has been sufficient.

Corey Rich said that the Navy anticipates a RAB meeting in January to discuss the Lower Subase. Are the RAB members still interested? Deborah Motycka Downie is still the co-chair. Noah Levine, a RAB member, also attended the meeting. Deborah suggested contacting the other RAB members. Dick Conant said he should call them. Jim Gravette suggested when the Navy sends out cards, to ask them if they want to be a RAB member.

The public said the Navy should continue to mail the newsletter.

The public was asked for input regarding public meetings, but there were no questions or comments.

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The public was asked if the public comment periods were long enough, and responded that the schedule is pretty standard. A RAB member asked how many comments we get, and Corey Rich said less than 5, but there used to be more comments early in the process. A RAB member said if there were problems, there would be more people at the public meetings.

Dick Conant stated that he thinks the CIP will still play a role during long term management of the sites.

Jim Gravette asked how the time and location of RAB meetings worked out for the RAB members. A RAB member said the location is fine, but the timing often doesn't work for her.

A RAB member noted that earlier on there were news articles that drew more attention to the classifieds. Dick Conant mentioned that Chris Zendan did a news release for this meeting. Chris said they put the information out there, and then they count on their media partners.

The Navy announced that Dominic O'Connor will replace Jim Gravette as the Navy RPM. Dave Smith will replace Dick Conant as the IR Program Manager and will be the new RAB co-chair. Mike Brown will be the new Environmental Department Manager. Dick Conant said Jim Gravette will not be leaving Navy.

### **3. Site 2B: Area A Wetlands**

Jim Gravette gave the presentation and showed the slides (same as handout). The Area A Wetland was created in the 50s using dredge spoils. The State used a Marsh Master to mow the phragmites. The State mowed, sprayed, mowed again, and will spray again to eradicate the phragmites. Jim Gravette described the selected remedy. An area of CERCLA-contaminated sediment covering about 1 acre will be excavated. Jim reviewed the remedial action objectives and said the Navy is currently doing a pre-design investigation. So far two phases of sampling have been done, but they need to go back in field to better define two areas. The Navy hopes to have lateral extent of the excavation areas defined and presented in a final report in January 2012.

Chris asked if there would be spraying but not mowing in August 2011. Dick Conant said yes just spraying; they will not eradicate 100 percent of the phragmites. The public expressed interest in the process. Dick Conant described the equipment (Marshmaster) and process used by the State to cut and spray the phragmites.

### **4. Subbase IR Program; Status Update**

Jim Gravette gave the presentation and showed the slides (same as handout). The Navy's goal is to have a remedy in place for all sites by fiscal year 2014 (FY14). The Lower Subbase FS is nearly done; they are working out the final comments. Pier 1 is part of a Lower Base Site. The Navy is not done removing contaminated sediment at Pier 1. Further Pier 1 sediment removal will use different dredging technology than the previous dredging there. Six sites are LTM, where sites continue to be sampled and inspected. Jim reviewed the LTM deficiencies. Most deficiencies were as expected due to the severe winter and general base activities, but some deficiencies were unexpected. The Navy is in the process of awarding the task of investigating AST. The AST replacement violated multiple procedures and Subbase

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instructions, so the Navy will be revising ERP training and getting the word out to Subbase personnel. One unexpected deficiency was a sinking museum display; a RAB member jokingly speculated it was because of kids climbing on it. Kymberlee Keckler (EPA) mentioned that land use control and their associated remedial designs are a big part of the remedies for many sites at New London Subbase, as well as at other Bases.

Upcoming Navy work includes the Lower Subbase PRAP. The PRAP includes many sites and media, and the Navy is trying to figure out how to write a PRAP that is useful to the public from such a huge feasibility study. It will be a large PRAP, not the usual. One RAB member said that made sense because it would be harder to understand the information if it were lumped together. Jim Gravette said the Navy will try to have stand alone PRAPs within a larger document, perhaps with summary tables at the front.

Jim Gravette introduced Aaron Bernhardt, who has been working on the Area A Wetland investigations and reports.

**5. Set Future Meeting Date/ Dick Conant's Farewell**

Jim Gravette announced that Dick Conant will be retiring. Dick Conant reminisced about his many years at the Subbase and passed around the plaque the New London Team had given him earlier that day. A photo was taken of Dick Conant with his plaque and the RAB.

The next RAB meeting will be held in January 2012. Deborah Motycka Downie suggested advance notice (2 or 3 weeks) so that it could be arranged for students, environmental clubs, etc. to attend.

The formal meeting was adjourned and the presenters, RAB members, and other attendees stayed for approximately one-half hour to talk with each other.

**U.S. NAVY  
SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

June 16, 2011

**Attendee Roster**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	E-MAIL
1. Kymburke Keckler	USPA	6179181385	Keckler.Kymburke@pa.gov
2. Dick Conant	Navy Subbase	860-694-3976	richard.conant@navy.mil
3. Mark Lewis	CTDEP	(860)424-3768	mark.lewis@ct.gov
4. Val Jurka	NAVPAAC	7573228319	val.jurka@navy.mil
5. Jim Gravette	NAVPAAC	7573412014	jeses.gravette@navy.mil
6. NINA BALSAMO	TetraTech	412 921 8132	NINA.BALSAMO@tetratech.com
7. <del>Noah Lewis</del>	<del>NAVPAAC</del>	<del>860 442 5115</del>	<del>nlewine01@SNET.NET</del>
8. CHRIS ZENDAN	SUBBASE PAO	860-694-5580	CHRIS.ZENDAN@NAVY.MIL
9. Carey Rich	TERRATECH	(412)921 8904	Carey.RICH@tetratech.com
10. Deborah Motyka Downie	Community Co-chair	860 572 3931	dmotyckadownie@haleyaktrich.com
11. Aaron Bergand	tetra tech	412-921-8433	aaron.bergand@tetratech.com
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