

**Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range
21 March 2007
FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

The 21 March 2007 meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held at the Doubletree Hotel, 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014. The scheduled start time was 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Keith Wegner, the RAB's Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) consultant, convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. by announcing that neither of the co-chairs, Ms. Bonnie Rader, who had previously tendered her resignation nor Mr. Jerry Hodgson (USACE), could attend. Since neither of the co-chairs would be in attendance, Mr. Hodgson had asked Mr. Wegner to chair the meeting in his absence. Mr. Wegner then asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

- Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County
- Carol Maclennan, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD)
- James Schrack, City of Aurora
- Jeff Swanson, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Melissa Yoder, State Land Board (SLB)

Other attendees:

- Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
- Larry Liebrecht, Colorado Aviation Historical Society
- Warren Smith, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Keith Wegner, Correlation Corp.
- Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Teri Farrell, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Steve Gehring, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- John Mullen, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Lisa Stahl, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Rick St. Amand, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Chris Sundeen, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Meggan Pickner, Sky Research (Sky)
- Tim Blume, United States Army Environmental Command
- John Dalton, United States Environmental Protection Agency

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Wegner asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the January 17th, 2007 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the January RAB meeting were approved.

Mr. John Mullen, Shaw, was present to give the status updates for the Former Lowry Training Annex (FLTA) and the Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR) on behalf of Mr. Jerry Hodgson, USACE.

**FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)
FIELD WORK UPDATE**

(presentation posted on the web)

Since no new activities had been performed for the FLTA since the prior RAB meeting, Mr. Mullen informed the Board that no formal status briefing would be provided. However, Mr. Mullen did state that munitions response activities should restart in the FLTA by this summer, when further funding is anticipated to be in place. Ms. Carol MacLennan, TCHD, asked whether Shaw has the available personnel/UXO clearance teams to perform the anticipated work in the FLTA once funding is in place. Mr. Mullen responded that yes, teams are in place and will be utilized as necessary.

Mr. Jeff Swanson, CDPHE, added that he had recently spoken with Navy representatives regarding the Navy/DRI project. Mr. Swanson stated that the Navy has funding in place for the resumption of project activities, but that the Navy doesn't currently have a designated Project Manager. Navy/DRI work will resume upon the selection of a Project Manager.

**FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE (FLBGR)
FIELD WORK UPDATE**

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Mullen then presented an update on the current status of FLBGR project activities. The presentation included a summary of activities completed to date, ongoing activities, and future efforts. Currently, the focus of field work is on the Bombing Target 2 and Rocket Range sites. Three munitions response teams are working in Bombing Target 2 and two munitions response teams are working in the Rocket Range.

Mr. Mullen pointed out that this has been a tough winter for working conditions. Typically, the project loses 3 to 5 days per year due to inclement weather (e.g., snow, cold, wind). However, since the last RAB meeting (January 2007), the project site has been closed 9 of the 36 possible working days due to inclement weather conditions.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

One "Mag-and-Dig" grid has been completed at BT2 and two demolition shots were performed since the last RAB meeting. A total of 477 live items have been found to date in this target. Currently, work is being focused to the Western Extension Area of BT2; primarily on the portion owned by the City of Aurora. This includes removal operations within 24 "Mag-and-Dig" grids within the western extent of BT2 and an investigation of two higher density anomaly areas to the northwest of the target. Mr. Mullen stated that removal activities are ongoing and that work within the western portion of BT2 should be completed by the summer.

Rocket Range

At the Rocket Range, 14 grids have been completed since the last RAB meeting. This includes four "Mag-and-Dig" and 10 "Map-and-Dig" grids. To date, 93 live items have been found in the Rocket Range. Geophysical mapping activities are complete and anomaly reacquisition and removal activities are ongoing. Currently, there are 48 "Mag-and-Dig" and 77 "Map-and-Dig" grids remaining, with an additional 10 grids within the center target area reserved for a summer 2007 ERDC demonstration project.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Geophysical mapping activities at BT7 are complete. Anomaly reacquisition and removal activities for the remaining 80 grids are scheduled to begin in April/May 2007. Work will commence as soon as Sky Research, Inc. (Sky) remobilizes for the 2007 field season, with an anticipated finish date of July 2007.

2007 RAB Schedule

Meetings for the remainder of the year will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on the following dates:

- 16 May 2007
- 18 July 2007
- 19 September 2007, and
- 14 November 2007

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP)

STATUS UPDATE

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Wegner reported on his recent activities as they relate to the FLBGR RAB. After outlining the project task responsibilities for the TAPP, Mr. Wegner presented an update on the activities being performed in relation to the ongoing RAB community outreach effort.

RAB Community Outreach

Mr. Wegner stated that a draft outreach/recruitment letter and associated public notice have been drafted to promote additional community participation on the FLBGR RAB. The draft letter and public notice were developed with input from Shaw and have been reviewed by Mr. Hodgson. Both the letter and notice would ask that interested individuals respond to Ms. Lisa Stahl (Shaw). Copies of the letter and the notice were given to the attending RAB members for their review and comment. Electronic versions were also previously e-mailed to all current RAB members.

Mr. Wegner summarized the anticipated distribution for the outreach letter as follows: 7 adjacent homeowner associations (HOAs); 21 adjacent metro districts; ~110 landowners within the FLBGR footprint; lessees on SLB lands; and other individuals to be identified by the Board members. This would constitute around 140-150 total mailings. For the public notice, Mr. Wegner summarized the anticipated distribution as follows: Newspaper ads planned for the *Aurora Sentinel* and the *I-70 Scout*; and postings at other physical locations such as local post offices, libraries, granges, feed stores, community centers, meeting halls, and local college notice boards. Based on the current schedule, community responses would be due to Ms. Stahl by April 30th, 2007. Mr. Wegner would then evaluate the responses and report back his findings to the Board during the scheduled May 16th RAB meeting.

Mr. Wegner proposed that the approach for encouraging and recruiting additional community participation for the RAB should include soliciting and incorporating input and comments from the current Board members. He then asked if the attending Board members had any comments on the draft outreach letter, notice, and proposed distribution and schedule.

Mr. Jim Schrack, City of Aurora, responded that he approved of the overall tone of the letter, but would suggest that the letter include a specific timeline for returning any comments or suggestions. He also felt that the letter should detail the function of the RAB, its members, and the time commitment involved in being a RAB member. Mr. Swanson, CDPHE, suggested that the RAB should consider rewriting the letter and the public notice to be more of an invitation to learn about the FLBGR and the RAB. He also suggested that the letter be accompanied by a 1-page fact sheet briefly describing the location and history of the Range and the purpose of the RAB. The intent would be to provide the public with enough background information so they could get a sense if they would like to participate.

Mr. Swanson also suggested that they should invite community members to attend a RAB meeting to see how the process works and to learn more about the project. It was agreed that as part of the community outreach strategy, prospective members should be invited to observe the first possible RAB meeting to gain a better understanding of what the RAB is, how it works, what the level of commitment is. The identified RAB meeting should kick-off with a 1-hour orientation of the FLBGR project, to be followed

by a discussion of the current status of the project and a discussion of how the RAB works and the time commitments involved. A sign-up sheet and candidate questionnaire would be available at the meeting for prospective candidates. Prospective members could then choose whether or not to stay through the second half of the meeting. All Board members concurred with this approach and agreed that this community outreach and recruitment effort may be a lengthy process, but that the goal is to make prospective, qualified members feel welcome and comfortable.

Pertaining to distribution, Mr. Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County, suggested that the outreach effort should also target adjacent property owners immediately to the south of the Range (across County Line Road), in Elbert County. Ms. Melissa Yoder, State Land Board, mentioned that she had recently met with a planner from Elbert County regarding a portion of the northwestern section of the county that they are looking to develop. Ms. Yoder stated that this particular individual expressed an interest in being included on the RAB. Ms. Yoder committed to providing his contact info to Mr. Chris Sundeen, Shaw, along with contact information for the SLB lessees operating on the Range.

Ms. Yoder also suggested that Mr. Wegner might consider including a note in the mailings to the identified HOAs, asking that they distribute the letter and fact sheet to their respective members. Mr. Swanson concurred that the HOAs should be asked to encourage interested parties to attend RAB meetings and apply for RAB member openings, including the community co-chair position.

Other RAB suggestions regarding the dissemination of information included posting notices in Elbert, Arapahoe, and Kiowa County newspapers; posting notices on applicable city, county, and state websites; posting notices in Douglas and Elbert County Soil Conservation District newsletters, and the use of cable public access stations to advertise and televise RAB meetings. Mr. Schrack commented that the City of Aurora often uses public access cable to televise their city council meetings and that the response was positive. Mr. Warren Smith, CDPHE, commented that the State of Colorado also has a website that could be used.

Mr. Wegner then stated that under the current proposed schedule, the deadline for community responses to the outreach letter is April 30th, 2007 and suggested that with the revisions being discussed, it may not be possible to meet that schedule. Mr. Swanson concurred that the April 30th deadline is too soon and that a more realistic approach would be to invite community members to an orientation as part of either the scheduled May or July RAB meetings and then come up with potential nominees for vote at the following RAB meeting (July or September RAB meetings). It was decided that Keith Wegner should look more closely at what was being proposed and to come up with a realistic schedule for RAB discussion.

As a result of these discussions, it was agreed that Mr. Wegner (assisted by Shaw), will revise the draft community outreach letter and public notice to address the RAB's recommendations and generate a FLBGR fact sheet to accompany the outreach letter. The revised letter, public notice, and fact sheet should be prepared by the end of April 2007 for informal RAB review. Distribution would then occur in early/mid May 2007.

The Board also agreed that a membership subcommittee should be formed to further evaluate and develop selection criteria, evaluate responses, and help select potential community candidates for full RAB consideration. Mr. Wegner stated that he has developed a draft set of selection criteria for RAB consideration, based on the criteria used to select the original RAB members. It was agreed that the subcommittee would review and revise (as necessary) the proposed selection criteria. At this point, Mr. Schrack, Mr. Iturreria, Ms. MacLennan, and Mr. Warren Smith, CDPHE, volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Mr. Smith was introduced as the CDPHE community involvement manager who has replaced Ms. Laura Bishard.

RAB Charter Revisions

At this point, Mr. Wegner shifted the discussion to the RAB Charter, which has not been updated since January 1999. Copies of the RAB Charter were given to the attending RAB members for their review and comment. An electronic version was also previously e-mailed to all current RAB members.

Mr. Wegner proposed the following items for RAB discussion:

1. Removing RAB members who no longer participate,
2. Setting of a quantity goal for new at-large members (Charter currently allows for up to 20 members),
3. Determine whether the community co-chair should be reaffirmed on an annual basis,
4. Determine voting requirements for new members and the community co-chair,
5. Determine whether the voting process should be formalized in the Charter, and,
6. Determine whether a subcommittee should be formed to recommend updates to the Charter.

Ms. MacLennan, TCHD, stated that in the past, RAB voting has operated on a majority and consensus basis. She also stated that the voting process has never been formalized, with exception of the periodic AOC prioritizations. Mr. Swanson stated that in his opinion, neither he nor Mr. Hodgson (USACE) should be able to vote on RAB issues since their role is to gather input from the RAB and to follow RAB recommendations to the extent possible. Mr. Swanson also suggested that a RAB subcommittee could be formed to evaluate the RAB Charter and voting requirements, which would then make recommendations for full RAB consideration. He suggested that the subcommittee formed for community outreach and membership selection could also address Charter revisions.

Mr. Schrack then asked if the Board thought that the Charter should be updated prior to recruiting new members. The Board decided that the Charter should indeed be reviewed and most likely updated, but that the community outreach and RAB recruitment efforts should occur simultaneously. Ms. Yoder asked if Mr. Smith, CDPHE, could assist the Board by reviewing the current RAB Charter in relation to how other RABs operate and in relation to the revised DoD Rule governing the RAB process. Mr. Smith agreed to Ms. Yoder's request and agreed that he would report his findings back to the membership subcommittee and to the full RAB. Ms. Yoder suggested that the Board could conduct an e-mail dialog regarding potential Charter revisions, in addition to discussions at formal RAB meetings.

Mr. Wegner then raised the question concerning whether a new membership goal should be established for the RAB. It was suggested that an odd number of members (for voting clarification), with less than 10 members total might be ideal. Mr. Swanson commented that with a membership of 10 members or less, the committee might again find itself in the future with a low membership due to attrition (like the situation it currently is in). One solution suggested was to have assigned alternates for each sitting member. When a sitting member resigns their position or is unable to attend a RAB meeting, the designated alternate would become their replacement. Mr. Smith further suggested that the RAB could develop a standing "advisory" committee that would not be allowed to vote on RAB issues, but could be used as a pool of potential future RAB members. Mr. Wegner responded that provisions could be added to the Charter to address any of these situations. After some further discussion, it was agreed that the subcommittee should further evaluate the issue and report back to the full RAB with recommendations.

Mr. Wegner then raised the issue of eliminating absent, or non-participating, RAB members. Mr. Wegner recommended sending a letter to members who have not been present for at least two consecutive meetings to inquire if they are still interested in participating on the RAB. The Board agreed that an e-mail inquiry would be sufficient and asked Mr. Wegner to e-mail the respective RAB members and determine if they wish to continue to participate on the RAB.

Mr. Wegner closed by presenting the TAPP budget performance, which showed that TAPP efforts were 82.6% complete. At this point, the floor was opened to any other topics or discussions. As there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.