

**Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range
18 July 2007
FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

The 18 July 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. Jerry Hodgson, USACE, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:15 p.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

Bob Hastings, Citizen
Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (USACE), Co-Chair
Carol MacLennan, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD)
James Schrack, City of Aurora
Laura Terlisner Mehew (on behalf of Melissa Yoder, State Land Board [SLB])

Other attendees:

Jennifer Knox, Arapahoe Hunt
Tim Blume, Army Western Regional Office
Linda Strand, City of Aurora
Larry Liebrecht, Colorado Aviation Historical Society
Keith Wegner, Correlation Corp.
Melvin Gray, MMM Flying Club
Richard Arneson, Resident
Joyce Bartell, Resident
Charles Green, Resident
Jaime Jacob, Resident
Nicole Luke, Resident
Veita Minshall, Resident
Jeff Schmidt, Resident
Peter Payne, Saddlerock S. Homeowners' Association
Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Teri Farrell, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Steve Gehring, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Lisa Stahl, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Rick St. Amand, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Chris Sundeen, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Mike Cormier, Sky Research (Sky)
Meggan Pickner, Sky Research (Sky)

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Hodgson, USACE, asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the 16 May 2007 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the May RAB meeting were approved. Ms. Lisa Stahl, Shaw, then thanked the new attendees and prospective RAB members for

attending and called their attention to information provided on the new member questionnaire, which had been handed out at the sign-in table.

PROJECT ORIENTATION

(presentation posted on the web)

In order to give new attendees and prospective RAB members a clear picture of the project and the role of the RAB, Mr. Hodgson presented an overview of the project and its history, from its acquisition prior to World War II to the present on-going clean-up operations. Mr. Hodgson noted that initial disagreements between the USACE and the State of Colorado regarding site characterization methods and cleanup recommendations were resolved in 1998, leading to a strong working relationship between the entities with a resulting cooperative clean-up of the range. In discussing current clean-up activities, Mr. Hodgson focused on potential site hazards; major challenges, such as increased public risk due to rapid development within and immediately around the range; the general approach used for munitions response; and progress to date. The munitions response general approach includes addressing known immediate public hazards; characterizing known munitions response sites (MRSs); addressing known MRSs, either through conventional response (“Mag-and-Dig”) or more innovative methods (digital geophysical mapping [DGM] and anomaly removal [“Map-and-Dig”]); and post-removal verification. Mr. Hodgson also explained basic fieldwork procedures beginning with characterization of areas of concern (AOCs), dividing AOCs into manageable grids, searching the grids by unexploded ordnance (UXO) specialists, and then disposing of any discovered munitions items. The clean-up efforts at Lowry have resulted in disposal of over 3,900 live items, collection of over 350,000 pounds of munitions scrap, and clearance of over 1,870 acres. Mr. Hodgson also discussed the wide range of innovative technologies currently being used at the site, including airborne geophysics, post removal verification, and wide area assessment methodologies. These types of innovative technologies are being used to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the munitions response actions and to differentiate impacted areas from the larger, presumptively clean areas of the site.

Mr. Hodgson concluded the orientation by describing the Project Team’s approach to community support including the RAB and associated public meetings, the establishment and maintenance of a project website, and the Administrative Record file, as well as the ongoing public outreach effort. He then elaborated on the RAB’s current structure and the desire for new community representatives, especially a new Community Co-Chair, and encouraged interested individuals to apply.

In response to Mr. Hodgson’s presentation, a number of questions were raised. One attendee asked how the project was dealing with potential groundwater contamination. Mr. Hodgson responded that after careful study, the Project Team has concluded that there is little likelihood that the explosives compounds associated with the known munitions items would endanger groundwater. Another attendee asked whether, due to Colorado’s expansive soils, there was the possibility of unexploded bombs existing below current examination depths, which might become a problem in light of future development. Mr. Hodgson responded that it was unlikely that any munitions would be below current examination depths. The project currently investigates up to 12 to 15 feet below ground surface; anything below that would be undetectable by current technology. He added that even after the project is over, the USACE will be available for construction support and disposal should any munitions items be uncovered and that the USACE will reevaluate the project every five years as part of required follow-up inspections. Another attendee claimed that there had been several airplane crashes on the range and asked what, if any, attempts would be made to recover remains of the airmen or the crash debris. Both Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Morey Engle (Shaw) stated that they were not aware of any crashes on-site, nor had any crash debris ever been discovered.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP)

STATUS UPDATE

(presentation posted on the web)

Next, Mr. Keith Wegner (Correlation Corp.) introduced himself and explained his role as the independent voice and technical translator for the RAB. He presented the TAPP progress report, focusing on the ongoing public outreach effort, which included the invitation/recruitment letter, information sheet, and public notices. He added that the Ad Hoc Membership Committee (Julio Iturreria, Carol MacLennan, and James Schrack of the RAB; and Warren Smith of CDPHE) were provided with proposed membership selection criteria and would over the next few weeks evaluate candidates and then recommend prospective members and a new Community Co-Chair to the full RAB. Mr. Wegner concluded by reporting that the current TAPP contract is 100 percent complete and though a new contract is in place, he was resigning as TAPP for the project. As Mr. Wegner was stepping down from his position with the RAB, Mr. Hodgson presented him with a farewell gift; a munitions hazard warning sign, signed by the RAB members present.

FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)

AIR FORCE UPDATE

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson reported on munitions related work completed to date at the Former Lowry Training Annex (FLTA). Since the last RAB meeting, one grid had been completed, nine live items have been found in the East Extension Area, and four demolition shots have been performed. Field work within the remaining southern area of the annex is ongoing and should be completed this fall with the entire site potentially completed by early 2008.

FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE (FLBGR)

PROJECT STATUS AND FIELD WORK UPDATE

(presentation posted on the web)

Lastly, Mr. Hodgson presented a briefing on the current project status of FLBGR activities. His presentation included a summary of activities completed to date, ongoing activities, and planned future efforts. Currently, the project has had 2,728 days without any lost time due to injury. In addition to the field work summarized below, Mr. Hodgson noted that at the Jeep/Demolition Range everything except the center area of the site has been cleared but that the remaining area is so full of metal debris that the Project Team is evaluating other more cost-effective methods to complete the response in that area.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

Recently, work has been focused to the Western Extension Area of BT2; primarily on the portion owned by the City of Aurora. As a result, response activities for the western boundary of BT2 are considered complete; including 24 “Mag-and-Dig” grids, 38 surface sweep grids, and 2 test grids within the western extent of BT2. Two demolition shots were performed at BT2 since the last RAB meeting.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Since the last RAB meeting, 77 “Map and Dig” grids were completed at BT7. To date, five live items have been found. Mr. Hodgson stated that the target boundary has been expanded to both the south and west based on the type and density of items found and that the response effort at the site is estimated to be approximately 85 percent complete.

Rocket Range

Geophysical mapping and anomaly reacquisition have been completed and removal activities are ongoing. Since the last RAB meeting, 34 grids have been completed and six demolition shots have been performed. Currently, there are approximately 48 “Map-and-Dig” grids and 27 “Mag-and-Dig” grids remaining and the response effort at the site is estimated to be approximately 74 percent complete.

Bombing Target 6 (BT6)

Mr. Hodgson stated that a significant amount of BT6 has been completed and that the response effort at the site is estimated to be approximately 69 percent complete. Project activities are expected to last through the summer/fall 2007 field season. Since the last RAB meeting, 15 “Mag and Dig” and 14 “Map and Dig” grids were completed. To date, 1,116 live items have been found.

Other

Mr. Hodgson then presented the current completion percentage for the FLBGR, stating that the project is projected to be 54 percent complete and that he anticipates significant progress over the coming year. He also observed that significant progress is being made at BT7 and that the response effort at the site is close to being finished.

Mr. Hodgson concluded his briefing by announcing that the next meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel and then opened the floor to any other topics or discussions. Ms. Carol MacLennan (TCHD) underscored how at first the RAB process wasn't very constructive due to mistrust between the Army and the local citizens, but that it is now functioning very well. She described the current RAB process as open and transparent. Mr. James Schrack (City of Aurora) wanted to again thank Mr. Wenger on the work he had done for the RAB, and to echo Ms. MacLennan's sentiment, added that everyone associated with the RAB has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that much of the credit goes to his contractors. At that time, Mr. Hodgson adjourned the meeting.