

**Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range
28 November 2007
MEETING MINUTES**

The 28 November 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 6:10 p.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

- Joe Freund, Community Member
- Julio Iturreria, Arapaho County
- Mark Harding, Range View Metropolitan District
- Bob Hastings, Community Member
- Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
- Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (USACE), Co-Chair
- Carol MacLennan, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD)
- Pete Pagano, Community Member
- James Schrack, City of Aurora
- Melissa Yoder, State Land Board [SLB]

Other attendees:

- David Rathke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Larry Liebrecht, Colorado Aviation Historical Society
- Jennifer Oldham, Community Member/Coldwell Banker
- Larry Falsetta, Crosswinds RC Club
- Shawna Hansen, Community Member
- Eric Hansen, Community Member
- Pete Sims, Community Member
- Warren Smith, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- 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)
- John Maus, 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 18 July 2007 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the July RAB meeting were approved.

**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, approximately 300 grids have been completed, 50 live items have been found to date in the East Extension Area, and 20 demolition shots have been performed. Field teams identified a disposal pit within a drainage area. Items found within this disposal pit included non-ordnance scrap and some ordnance. This pit encompassed an area of about three grids, and had a rather significant effect on the budget and schedule for the work being conducted in this area. While this disposal pit did have an effect on field work budget and schedule, work within the remaining southern portion of the East Extension Area 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)

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 2,861 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)

The geophysical mapping and anomaly reacquisition of the area is now complete. Field teams will be focused on the remaining approximately 146 “Map and Dig” grids, and the 34 “Mag and Dig” grids. Twenty-six (26) grids have been completed and two demolition shots were performed at BT2 since the last RAB meeting. As this area is in proximity to the site compound and should weather conditions allow, it is anticipated that field work will continue in this area during the winter months.

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 focused on the remaining approximately 60 “Mag and Dig” grids. Since the last RAB meeting, seven “Mag and Dig” and 262 “Map and Dig” grids were completed; and 18 demolition shots were performed. To date, 1,153 live items have been found. As weather conditions allow, it is anticipated that field work will continue in this area during the winter months.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Response activities in this target area were completed this summer – 57 “Mag and Dig” grids, 112 “Map and Dig” grids, and 37 additional grids south and west of the target boundary. The USACE is currently reviewing the field results to confirm that response activities are complete, and to determine if post-removal verification activities can be initiated in 2008, with site closure also expected in 2008.

Mortar Range

The geophysical mapping and anomaly reacquisition of the area is now complete. Field teams will be focused on the remaining 16 “Mag and Dig” grids. One hundred eight (108) “Map and Dig” grids have been completed, seven live items found, and one demolition shot was performed at the Mortar Range since the last RAB meeting. As this area is in proximity to the site compound and should weather conditions allow, it is anticipated that field work will continue in this area during the winter months.

No Name AOI

This area of interest (AOI) was identified during the Wide Area Assessment. It is located east of the Mortar Range and is comprised of 26 acres. Prior use as a grenade training area was verified by initial items found during investigation activities. Geophysical mapping is complete and anomaly reacquisition and investigation is planned for early 2008.

Rocket Range

Geophysical mapping and anomaly reacquisition have been completed and removal activities are ongoing, with approximately 21 "Mag and Dig" grids remaining. Since the last RAB meeting, 277 grids have been completed and seven demolition shots have been performed. Should weather conditions allow, it is anticipated that field work will continue in this area during the winter months.

Other

Mr. Hodgson then presented an overall field work update. While the overall cost basis is approximately 61 percent complete, the actual percentage of area cleared is much more. This does not take into account the work yet to be conducted at the Air to Ground Gunnery Range. This is a large area for which a plan is currently under development.

Discussion then turned to the RAB meeting schedule for 2008. The 2008 meeting schedule reflects quarterly meetings, beginning in January. To keep meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, the schedule would be as such: January 16, April 16, July 16, and October 15. Mr. Iturreria noted that should additional meetings be necessary, they should be accommodated. Mr. Hodgson indicated that any requests for additional meetings should be coordinated with the Co-Chairs, and they will alert the other RAB members. Mr. Schrack added that this matter was included in the RAB Guidance Handbook, which would be covered during the community involvement update.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATUS UPDATE

(presentation posted on the web)

Ms. Stahl provided an overview of the 2007 public outreach effort, which included mailing and distributing the invitation/recruitment letter, information sheet, and public notices to various stakeholders and community points in and around the project site. This outreach effort resulted in the receipt of four applications for joining the RAB. The Ad Hoc Membership Sub-Committee (Julio Iturreria, Carol Maclellan, and James Schrack of the RAB) met in October to evaluate candidates and recommend prospective members to the full RAB. Updating the RAB Charter also was addressed during this meeting. It was also suggested that a guidance handbook be compiled to include activities or understandings related to RAB business that do not necessarily belong in the Charter. Copies of the red-lined Charter and a draft Guidance Handbook were provided to the RAB members for their review and comment.

Mr. Schrack then provided an overview of the sub-committee's activities since the last RAB meeting. He reviewed the criteria against which the applicants were reviewed, and provided summary information for each candidate. All of the candidates are residents in proximity to the project site, and represent a variety of interests. The selection process, as determined by the sub-committee, is as follows: nomination of candidates to the full RAB would be a joint decision by the sub-committee; an informal interview session to be conducted prior to the November RAB meeting with those candidates able to attend; request that the candidates attend the November 2007 and January 2008 meetings if possible to learn about the RAB process and responsibilities; sub-committee to revisit with the candidates after attending RAB meetings to determine if they were still interested in joining the RAB and if their addition made sense for the RAB. Additionally, it was agreed to by the sub-committee that the selection of the Community Co-Chair be postponed until any new RAB members had a chance to participate in at least 2 RAB meetings. Mr.

Hodgson did ask if any of the sitting RAB members were interested in the Co-Chair position; to which no interest was expressed.

Two of the four RAB candidates were in attendance at this meeting, and arrived early to participate in an informal interview session with the RAB sub-committee. The informal interview process was useful for both candidates and the sub-committee to share project information and to provide additional information as to the responsibilities and expectations of RAB members. Mr. Schrack iterated that the dialogue was useful for both groups so as to ensure that a good fit is made with the selection of new RAB members.

RAB Charter updates were identified by the sub-committee and were captured in the red-line version of the Charter provided to RAB members for review. The Guidance Handbook, to be used in conjunction with the RAB Charter, provides additional information on the operating principles for the RAB. Once the RAB members have a chance to review, comment, and accept the Handbook, it was requested that it be made available on the www.FLBGR.org web site.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Funding

Mr. Hodgson was asked about the funding level for FY 08. Mr. Hodgson indicated that he anticipates full funding by the end of the year for the \$8 million dollar request he made for the FLBGR project. Mr. Hodgson was also asked about the fixed-price contract and whether that was included in the overall funding or whether that was a separate one-of-a-kind event. Mr. Hodgson indicated that was separate funding and that at this time, there is not any interest in further pursuing that type of funding path. He also noted that the real focus for funding is the USACE FUDS Site Inspection Program; this program is receiving the majority of available funds (about 20-30 percent). He does not see any other money becoming available in the near future that could be used for FLBGR activities.

Mr. Hodgson was asked if the Site Inspections related to the FUDS program are similar in location with regard to encroaching development as FLBGR. Mr. Hodgson responded that he is not aware of any similar sites; the sites included in that program are all old World War II sites in more remote locations.

Status of non-USACE sites at FLBGR

Mr. Hodgson was asked about other sites at FLBGR and their status.

- Mr. Hodgson deferred to Ms. Yoder who noted that the Navy was working with Malcolm Pirnie to re-evaluate the existing data associated with the Navy/DRI sites located next to FLTA. The Navy, SLB, and Malcolm Pirnie are working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) with regard to next steps; they are trying to combine the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection efforts so they can keep the project moving forward. They are hoping to provide an update at the January RAB meeting. Ms. Yoder commented that she was pleased with the approach the Navy was taking with regard to this site – it is proactive and rigorous. Ms. Yoder also stated that she thinks the Navy has enough money to keep activities moving forward.
- The Air Force FLTA site is essentially complete. The field teams encountered a disposal trench which took more money than expected to clear. The Air Force has been notified, and Mr. Hodgson has asked for more money to complete response activities at this site. He anticipates work being complete at this site in the next fiscal year.

Permit Request

Mr. Iturreria raised an Arapahoe County Planning permit issue to the RAB for consideration. Specifically, a permit request for the expansion of activities associated with a gravel quarry located west and south of the Rocket Range site. The area identified for expansion extends into the area between the

Air to Ground Gunnery Range, BT7, BT5, and the Rocket Range. While the permit was originally approved in 2004, the company was just now at the point of seeking its issuance.

- A concern was raised about the timeline of approval to the actual request for the permit. Mr. Iturreria raised this issue as he has concerns about the proposed expansion area and the possibility of encountering military munitions. He raised concerns about procedures to be followed should any munitions items be encountered during their excavation activities. Mr. Hodgson indicated that the Corps would be willing to meet with the land users and provide ordnance recognition training and construction support.
- It was noted that the gravel company operates under a 10-year lease, but it is classified as “hold by production” so the timeframe only kicks in once production begins. The company is applying for all of the identified area. Mr. Harding noted that for all the concerns being raised, this company has been working in the area for some time now and should be familiar with the ordnance concerns and protocols to follow should something be encountered.
- Mr. Iturreria requested that the RAB make a formal statement with regard to this permit application, as he does not want to miss an opportunity to provide knowledgeable input to the process. However, some of the RAB members raised the point that the RAB has not previously provided any input to other development activities in proximity to the project site and that the need to do so for this issue was not apparent. The consensus of the RAB was to encourage the use of the public comment and the CDPHE regulatory review process (particularly by Jeff Swanson) in the issuance of the permit, as provided by existing statutes and regulations.

RAB Applicants Acceptance

Mr. Harding asked if now as a good time to vote on accepting the RAB applicants. Mr. Schrack replied that the accepted approach by the sub-committee was to wait to ensure that the applicants are still interested in joining the RAB and to make sure they are a good fit, and that this process would take a little more time.

Audience Questions

The plan to clean up the center of the Jeep Demo Range was mentioned; Specifically, when is the anticipated start of that work? Mr. Hodgson indicated he would be reviewing the plan proposed for the area the next day and that he would be bringing recommendations to the RAB for discussion. He also stated that this area is still a high priority for the USACE and the RAB.

Why are you cleaning the entire project area – for future development? Mr. Hodgson replied that there is no way to know exactly where future development may occur and that future development could very well occur throughout the entire FLBGR area, as that has already occurred in many areas adjacent to and in proximity to the project site. Mr. Iturreria concurred with Mr. Hodgson and reviewed all the various areas of land-use and development that has occurred in the area thus far.

Mr. Schrack reminded the RAB members that at the January meeting, the RAB members would be asked to reaffirm their status for serving on the RAB, per the RAB Charter provisions. Mr. Hodgson concluded the meeting by announcing that the next meeting is scheduled for 16 January 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel, and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.