

Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR)
16 April 2008
MEETING MINUTES

The 16 April 2008 meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Avenue, Aurora, CO 80016. The scheduled start time was 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

- Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County
- Mark Harding, Rangeview Metro District
- Bob Hastings, Citizen
- Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (USACE), Co-Chair
- James Schrack, City of Aurora
- Jeff Swanson, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE)
- Larry Falsetto, Citizen
- Joe Freund, Citizen
- Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy
- Carol MacLennan, Tri-County Department of Health
- Joyce Bartell, Citizen
- Melissa Yoder, State Land Board

Other attendees:

- Marilyn Null, CDPHE
- Warren Smith, CDPHE
- David Rathke, U.S. EPA Region VIII
- Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
- Lynn Robbio Wagner, Tri-County Department of Health
- Pete Sims, Lend Lease
- Polly Jessen, Kaplan Kirsch for Lend Lease
- Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Steve Gehring, Shaw
- John Mullen, Shaw
- Rick St. Amand, Shaw
- Lisa Stahl, Shaw
- Chris Sundeen, Shaw
- Meggan Pickner, Sky Research (Sky)
- Mike Cormier, Sky

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Hodgson, USACE, asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the 16 January 2008 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the January RAB meeting were approved.

NAVY/DRI

Navy Update

Ms. Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy, presented information on upcoming activities associated with the Former Lowry Training Annex (FLTA), Navy/DRI site. Ms. Holmes reiterated that there has been very little activity for some time at the Navy/DRI site, however, that will be changing as additional Navy funding was approved as of week ending 11 April 2008, allowing work to resume beginning this fall.

Ms. Holmes stated that the Navy's plan is to start the munitions response effort from scratch due to quality issues related to the previous work/existing data. The munitions response effort will include the collection of new geophysical data from across the entire site and the subsequent intrusive investigation of the resulting metallic anomalies. This will be the same type of "map & dig" process being implemented at the adjacent Air Force portion of the FLTA and at the adjacent FLBGR site. The Navy work will be performed separately from ongoing work currently being performed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). However, Ms. Holmes anticipates that lines of communication would be open between the two entities. Mr. Hodgson agreed, saying that he didn't foresee any issues arising from the Navy work.

FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)

Air Force Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson reported on munitions related work completed to date within the East Extension Area of the FLTA. No munitions response activities were performed within the East Extension Area since the last RAB meeting. However, FLTA removal data compiled by Shaw Environmental (Shaw) and Sky Research (Sky) are currently being reviewed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for completeness and adequacy. Munitions response activities for the entire East Extension Area, including final post-removal verification, should be completed during the summer of 2008. Final reporting for the Air Force portion of the FLTA should then be completed in late 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. The areas listed highest in priority are the Jeep/Demo Range (JDR) and the Rocket Range. Currently, there are two munitions response teams at the Rocket Range, one team in the Mortar Range, and one team in Bombing Target 6 (BT6). Geophysical field crews will be remobilizing to the site in May for the summer field season. To date, the project has had 3,001 days without lost time due to injury.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

Since the last RAB meeting, the site boundaries for BT2 have been adjusted. Twelve grids to the north, three grids to the east, and three grids to the south have been added to address munitions impacts. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that AOC boundaries are not set in stone and that as field teams get to a boundary edge, the Project Team reevaluates the site data and expands the AOC, as necessary, to ensure that the entire impacted area is addressed. Approximately 18 "map-and-dig" grids, as well as 35 "mag-and-dig" grids remain for clearance. Project activities will continue through the remainder of 2008. Since the last RAB meeting, 40 "map-and-dig" and 1 "mag and dig" grids have been completed and one demolition shot was performed. To date, 516 live munitions items have been found within BT2.

Bombing Target 6 (BT6)

Since the last RAB meeting, the site boundaries for BT6 have been adjusted. Fifteen grids have been added to the north and nine grids to the south to address munitions impacts. Approximately 24 "map-and-dig" grids, as well as 51 "mag-and-dig" grids remain for clearance. Project activities will continue

through the remainder of 2008 with the intent of being substantially complete at BT6 by the end of the year. Since the last RAB meeting, eleven “mag and dig” grids have been completed and no demolition shots were performed. To date, 1,153 live munitions items have been found within BT6.

Rocket Range

The Rocket Range is substantially complete. However, since the last meeting the site boundaries for the Rocket Range have been adjusted. Five additional grids have been added to both the northern and western boundaries of the range to address munitions impacts. Approximately 21 grids remain for clearance. Project activities will continue through the remainder of 2008. Since the last RAB meeting, three “mag and dig” grids have been completed and no demolition shots were performed. To date, 119 live munitions items have been found within Rocket Range.

Mortar Range

The Mortar Range is substantially complete. However, since the last meeting the site boundaries for the Mortar Range have been adjusted. Seven additional grids have been added to the northeastern portion of the range to address munitions impacts. Approximately six “map-and-dig” grids, as well as six “mag-and-dig” grids remain. Project activities will continue through the remainder of the 2008 field season with the intent of being substantially complete at the Mortar Range by the end of the year. Since the last RAB meeting, nine “mag and dig” grids have been completed and three demolition shots were performed. To date, ten live munitions items have been found within Rocket Range.

No Name Area of Interest (AOI)

The No Name AOI, which had been identified during the Wide Area Assessment effort and is located east of the Mortar Range, should be essentially complete in the near term. However since the last RAB meeting, the site boundaries for the AOI have been adjusted. The northern grid row has been eliminated and five additional grids have been added to the southwest portion of the site. Approximately five “map-and-dig” grids remain. Project activities will continue through the remainder of 2008 field season with the intent of being substantially complete by the end of the year. Since the last RAB meeting, 20 “map and dig” and 1 “mag and dig” grids have been completed and one demolition shot was performed. To date, seven live munitions items have been found within the AOI.

Jeep/Demo Range (JDR)

At the JDR, one grid has been completed since the last RAB meeting. To date, 380 live munitions items have been found within the JDR and the clearance effort at the site is approximately is 85 percent complete. No demolition shots were performed at the JDR since the last RAB meeting.

The focus of future field activities will be on the 30 uncleared grids remaining within the center berm area, especially the remaining area inside the berm. When it was an active range, the area within the berm had been used for demolition activities, which means that significant quantities of small munitions fragments are present. The density of these munitions fragments within the central berm area precludes using a “map and dig” response. Further, using conventional “mag and dig” methods would be extremely labor intensive and cost prohibitive. The current plan for the area, pending CDPHE review, is to perform large scale excavation and removal of the near surface soil (down to ~ 1 foot) within the berm area using scrapers and other heavy equipment, followed by mechanical and/or manual sifting of the excavated soil to remove UXO and other munitions related items. Once the surface soil is removed, geophysical mapping and final “mag and dig” clearance of the ground surface will be performed to ensure achievement of project goals. This process would address an estimated 131,000 tons of impacted soil and would require approximately 15 to 19 months to complete at an estimated cost of \$4.5 million.

Mr. Hodgson stated that project work within the JDR area has recently been suspended as the USACE’s right-of-entry (ROE) for the area has expired. Over the last year, the USACE has been working with the

City of Aurora to get the ROE renewed, but no more site work within the JDR can be performed until a new ROE is authorized by the City.

Additionally, due to the large cost of this effort in relation to the annual budget for the entire FLBGR project and the anticipated 15 to 19 month duration, the USACE is considering waiting to address the remainder of the JDR area until work at the rest of the Range is substantially complete (approximately 3.5 to 4 years from now).

Discussions

Mr. Jeff Swanson, CDPHE, asked if there will be a change in the schedule for Bombing Target 3 (BT3). Mr. Hodgson replied that the schedule for BT3 has not changed; geophysical mapping for the entire site remains the priority. He added that mapping at BT3 will begin this summer.

The question was then raised how the shift in priorities at the JDR would affect the City of Aurora's plan to build a school adjacent to the site. Mr. Swanson acknowledged that the public would have concerns with a munitions response site being located within a quarter mile of a brand new school and with demolition shots occurring during the cleanup effort, especially in light of recent munitions discoveries at a Florida public school built on a former World War II JDR. Mr. Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District, stated that a bond election will occur this fall but that it doesn't currently include construction of the school, but it does include design. Therefore, it would be approximately three years before construction on the school could begin.

The discussion continued with several RAB members wondering if the USACE had considered alternate plans for clean up at the JDR, for example burying the area and applying strict land-use control regulations prohibiting future development from digging too deeply. It was suggested that the USACE look at a series of alternatives and to consider going through a Feasibility Study process to formalize these alternatives. Mr. Hodgson acknowledged that the USACE could consider alternative technologies or alternative cleanup strategies based on considerations of other potential future land uses. However, he stated that the City would have to definitely commit to the future land use of the area prior to performing this type of evaluation. Additionally, the USACE won't commit to a formal Feasibility Study process for one AOC as opposed to the FLBGR site as a whole.

Field work update

Mr. Hodgson then presented the estimated percent complete of fieldwork for each of the AOCs. He acknowledged that the progress since the last RAB meeting shown on the graph didn't look significant because of the aforementioned added grids. Mr. Hodgson stated that the response effort for all of those sites is getting close to being complete and that it takes a little more time to pin down and complete the response for the last of the impacted areas. Mr. Swanson pointed out that the cleanup effort at FLBGR represented about 10 percent of the approximately \$40M currently allocated for cleanup in the FUDS program.

Adjournment

Mr. Hodgson reminded RAB members and other attendees that future RAB meetings will be held quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16th, 2008. The July meeting will be held at the USACE Site Compound followed by a technology demonstration and a brief site tour. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the technology demonstration and site tour would not be open to the general public but rather solely for RAB members and key project team members. It was felt that a large group would be too chaotic and that a smaller group would be preferable for the tour.

The RAB decided that a shortened RAB meeting could be held in the project team trailer, which possibly would include a brief presentation by the City of Aurora on the anticipated land use for the JDR area, followed by a technology demonstration and a tour a nearby AOC.

The meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.