

**Draft**  
**Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Former Kelly Air Force Base, TX**  
**Kennedy High School**

**21 January 2003**

Attendees:

Dr. Gene Lené, RAB Community Co-Chair  
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Robert Silvas, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Mike DeNuccio, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Buddy Pletz, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Sam Murrah, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Nazarite Perez, RAB Community Member  
Ms. Bernadette Peña, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Roy Botello, RAB Community Member  
Mr. George Rice, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Paul Person, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Mark Puffer, RAB Community Member  
Ms. Guadalupe Alvarado, Community Member  
Ms. Angel Martinez, Community Member  
Mr. Chavel Lopez, Community Member  
Mr. Scott Lampright, Bexar County Fire Marshall – Environmental Management  
Mr. Nick Gonzalez, San Antonio Water System (SAWS)  
Mr. Garry Miller, Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)  
Ms. Abigail Power, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Mr. Mark Weegar, TCEQ  
Mr. Adam Antwine, Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)  
Mr. Doug Karas, AFRPA  
Mr. William Ryan, AFRPA  
Ms. Norma Landez, AFRPA  
Ms. Vanessa Musgrave, AFRPA  
Ms. Larisa Dawkins, AFRPA  
Ms. Linda Kaufman, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)  
Ms. Blanca Hernandez, SAMHD  
Ms. Nicole Rodgers, SAMHD  
Ms. Kyle Cunningham, SAMHD  
Mr. Jerry Needham, San Antonio Express-News  
Ms. Vianna Davila, San Antonio Express-News  
Mr. Eddie Martinez Booz Allen Hamilton  
Mr. Tim Sueltenfuss, Booz Allen  
Ms. Robyn Thompson, Booz Allen

Ms. Scott Courtney, Booz Allen  
Ms. Christine Best, Booz Allen  
Ms. Susan Hook, Booz Allen  
Ms. Lisa Hassell, Booz Allen  
Ms. Stephanie Treviño, Booz Allen  
Ms. Meg Schnebly, Booz Allen  
Mr. Hugh Farr, Booz Allen  
Ms. Susan Rose, Two Sisters Creative Inc.  
Dr. David Smith, Smith and Associates (Facilitator)

The meeting began at 6:44 p.m.

Dr. Smith welcomed the attendees and announced that the focus of the evening's meeting would be to elect new RAB members. Dr. Smith and Mr. Eddie Martinez requested that the prospective candidates introduce themselves to both the audience and the current RAB members.

### **RAB Elections**

#### **Round I (Election of Member from Affected Community)**

##### **Mr. Rodrigo Garcia Jr.**

Mr. Rodrigo Garcia Jr. introduced himself and spoke of his heavy involvement on previous RAB activities. He spoke of the need to develop a full agenda for the RAB in the upcoming year.

##### **Mr. Daniel Gonzales**

Mr. Daniel M. Gonzales introduced himself as a long standing resident who reported having lived in the affected area since the early seventies. He discussed the work he has done for the Headstart program, which serves low-income families. He said he was representing this agency as he sought out a position on the Kelly RAB.

##### **Mr. Albert Lemus**

Ms. Albert Lemus stated he had worked at the former Kelly AFB for 25 years. He said he worked closely with many of the chemicals that were used on base. He spoke of his desire to serve the people of the area.

##### **Mr. Ruben Peña**

Mr. Ruben Peña stated he was a 40-year resident of the community and currently serves on the pastoral advisory board at St. John Berchman's church. He said he currently serves on five State and five national organizations. Mr. Peña stated he was very interested in continuing to serve his community.

##### **Mr. Robert Silvas**

Mr. Robert Silvas said he appreciated the attendance of the audience. He spoke of the challenges of being a worker and a parent also stated that he wanted to continue to serve the community.

**Ms. Florencia Uresti Carvajal**

Ms. Florencia Carvajal said she has lived in the area since 1966. She spoke of her desire to help her community work through the issues in which the Kelly RAB is engaged.

**Mr. Sergio ‘Chico’ Rodriguez**

Mr. Sergio ‘Chico’ Rodriguez stated he was born and raised on south side of San Antonio and has worked politically to better the community. He thanked the members of the RAB for their continued service.

Dr. Smith asked the RAB members to select one member from the potential candidates, who live, work or own property in what was designated by the RAB as the affected community, and reminded voting members that nomination of a new member would require the candidate to receive a minimum of five votes. Mr. Rice asked if all of the candidates would be dropped from the list if no one got a majority vote. Dr. Smith replied no.

The RAB resumed session after a scheduled break. Mr. DeNuccio moved that the RAB elect Mr. Ruben Peña to the Kelly RAB, as he had received the most votes. The RAB affirmed the decision with a majority vote and Mr. Peña accepted the position. Dr. Smith officially recognized the nomination and began the second round of voting.

**RAB Elections Round II  
(General Election of RAB Members)**

**Mr. George Baum**

Mr. George Baum introduced himself as a non-native San Antonian. He discussed his background and working knowledge of chemicals, as well as his career in the military.

**Mr. Dewey A. Biscotto**

Mr. Dewey A. Biscotto introduced himself as a retired Southwestern Bell External Affairs Liaison. He discussed how this had permitted him to serve on many community boards. Mr. Biscotto said he wanted to serve his community positively. He offered his lobbying experience to the RTAB to assist with related issues facing the community.

**Dr. Gene Lené**

Dr. Gene Lené introduced himself as a professor of environmental geology at St. Mary’s University. He reported that he has served on the RAB for the last six years and during that time he had taken many students to the former Kelly AFB for informational tours.

**Mr. Sam Murrah**

Mr. Sam Murrah introduced himself as a former Department of Agriculture employee. He stated he is currently a resident of Kerrville, Texas. Mr. Murrah said he anticipates working on the RAB and focusing on Kelly issues.

**Mr. Robert Silvas**

Mr. Robert Silvas apologized for being sentimental and said that his passion lies with the Kelly cleanup issue. Mr. Silvas concluded his presentation by reading an excerpt from the transcript of a public meeting held last summer. The statement outlined an individual's concerns about the disposal of Agent Organge.

Mr. Person asked the candidates how many RAB meetings they have attended in the past. Mr. Person noted that only five of the potential candidates had ever attended a RAB meeting. He asked why. Some responded that they were new to the area and had just heard of the issue, while others remarked that they were interested in getting involved more deeply. Mr. Rodriguez said he had spent all his life in the affected area and has family living there.

Dr. Smith called the RAB to order upon completion of balloting. He thanked the candidates for their attendance and reminded candidates that in the event they are not elected, they could always serve as an alternate for a voting RAB member. Mr. Martinez posted the results. The newly elected members of the Kelly RAB were Mr. Rodrigo Garcia Jr., Dr. Gene Lené, Mr. Sam Murrah, Mr. Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez, Mr. Robert Silvas and Mr. Daniel Gonzalez.

**Mr. Doug Karas**

**Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Update**

Mr. Doug Karas introduced himself to the RAB as the Public Affairs Officer for the AFRPA at Kelly. Mr. Karas began describing the CIP as the outline or roadmap for determining what works and what does not work as far as communicating clean up information to the community. He indicated that the CIP is a document that undergoes scheduled revisions every five years. The last revision of the CIP took place in 1996 and the 2001 closure of Kelly and the departure of the Air Logistics Center (ALC) were developments that required documentation in the CIP. Mr. Karas also discussed the three overarching goals of the CIP. The accurate capturing of community concerns, communication with the community itself and bringing community concerns to the regulators attention. He stressed that the CIP was continuously improving in order to best meet the needs of the community. Mr. Karas also spoke about what the community had stated as its most important goals. Keeping the public informed, ensuring public input in the process and the protection of human health and safety through an effective clean up plan were the three top community concerns that emerged during this process. According to what the community has indicated. Mr. Karas said, the best way to communicate public information is through direct interaction with the community. He added that the Speakers Bureau Program has been actively trying to reach out to any and all local organizations who are interested in learning about the Kelly environmental cleanup program. He said group size is not a factor. As an example of how the community has had an influence on how the Air Force provided information to the community, Mr. Karas pointed to the relocation of the information repository to the

Environmental Health and Wellness Center (EHWC) and the possible revamping of the newsletter to include questions and answers. Mr. Karas concluded saying that the CIP was scheduled to be completed in Spring 2003 and that it would be a public document to be distributed to RAB members. Ms. Galvan expressed concern that the Air Force had not paid sufficient attention to the community's Spanish speaking residents. Mr. Karas thanked Ms. Galvan for her question and pointed out that the AFRPA translates its fact sheets, community bulletins, and newsletters in English and Spanish and makes every effort to ensure that the Spanish speaking community has Kelly cleanup information provided to them. Ms. Galvan read a letter from U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez in which the *La Prensa* newspaper is cited as the only bilingual newspaper in which public meeting notices in Spanish appear. Mr. Karas agreed that the *La Prensa* newspaper was the best bilingual forum for the Spanish speaking community, however he disagreed with Mr. Tino Duran's assertion to Congressman Rodriguez that no effort was taken to advertise public meetings in the *La Prensa* newspaper. He added that miscommunication had occurred and that the AFRPA could provide documentation that demonstrated that the AFRPA had advertised its public meetings schedule in both English and Spanish in the *La Prensa* newspaper. Mr. Ruben Peña asked if the CIP would acknowledge specific community members by name in the body of the document. Mr. Karas replied that all comments made would be a part of the appendix to the CIP.

### **Eddie Martinez**

#### **Introduction of Community Involvement Staff**

Mr. Eddie Martinez spoke briefly about Booz Allen Hamilton and its supporting role in the Kelly cleanup process. Mr. Martinez introduced the Kelly CI staff and highlighted their roles as points of contact for community members needing information.

### **Kelly RAB Overview Presentation**

#### **Dr. David Smith**

Dr. Smith's presentation consisted of a review of the functions that RAB members play with regard to cleanup efforts at the former Kelly AFB. Dr. Smith added that RAB members play a vital role in terms of relaying information to and from the community with regard to the clean up. He added that RABs, while not a decision making body, do provide recommendations that can influence clean up processes and procedures.

### **Announcements**

#### **AFRPA**

##### **Budget**

Funding for FY 03 is estimated to be 15.3 million.

- Obligated: 12.1 Mil
- Non-obligated 3.2 M

##### **Construction Projects**

- Proposed Zone 5 Plume B permeable reactive barrier (PRB)

- Sonic drilling scheduled to begin 10 February to obtain site design data
- Drilling and potential installation of PRB will occur on 34<sup>th</sup> street Bldgs. 301 and 360 PRB
- Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in March. Bldg. 326 Remediation Project
- Removal of underground plumbing
- No effects on traffic, as construction will be located in an alley

**Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) Deed Transfer**

- 145 Duncan Street

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department (SAMHD)**

**Mr. Sam Sanchez**

Mr. Sanchez addressed the RAB saying that the Environmental Health and Wellness Center (EHWC) continued to provide health screenings to community members. He added that the Department of Energy (DOE), in partnership with the EHWC was conducting Beryllium screenings for former workers at Medina Base only. Ms. Galvan asked Mr. Sanchez what would be required for former Kelly workers to receive Beryllium screenings. Mr. Sanchez replied that it was a public policy issue and that it would require congressional action in order to include former DoD workers. He also stated that the SAMHD had completed a preliminary assessment of the fruits, nuts and cactus in the area and that the results would be provided to the community at the next RAB meeting. Ms. Galvan said she understood that the study had already been completed. Mr. Sanchez replied that the SAMHD wanted to get a more accurate assessment by sampling not only within the plume area but outside as well. Mr. Sanchez added that he understood the need to collect cactus samples because many Hispanic community members consume cactus during the Easter season in spring in San Antonio.

**Spill Report**

Between the November and the January RAB, three spills have occurred. The first spill happened at Site SD-1 and was reported by AFRPA and consisted of fifty gallons of hydraulic oil. The spill area was excavated and soil was placed in a roll-box and covered with plastic. A second spill was also reported by the AFRPA at the DRMO site. There one hundred gallons of hydraulic oil were spilled. The City of San Antonio, (CoSA) Public Works will remove absorbent waste and transport it in drums. The site will be steam cleaned after absorbent has been removed. The third spill occurred at Pad 33. The spill consisted of 120 gallons of JP-8 jet fuel. The spill was contained by Boeing and a spill response team was able to prevent any of the fuel from reaching the storm drain. The remaining fuel was picked up with absorbent material.

**Community Comment Time**

Ms. Angel Martinez addressed the RAB during the community comment time. Ms. Martinez asked that the RAB members take their roles seriously. She added that it was important to provide the community with responsive leadership with regard to the

cleanup effort at the former Kelly AFB. Mr. Chavel Lopez spoke about his involvement in the Kelly clean up and he asked that the new RAB members take their positions seriously. Ms. Guadalupe Alvarado stated there was a need to recognize that members of the community had serious health problems due to the contamination. She said low weight babies had been born and that the issue of health needed to be taken seriously. Mr. Peña asked why the community comment time had not been scheduled at the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Smith replied that in order to facilitate the RAB election process during this meeting, the decision was made to provide community comment time at the end of the meeting. He added that normally community comment time is scheduled at the beginning and end of each RAB meeting. Dr. Smith acknowledged Mr. Peña's suggestion and stated that the next RAB meeting would have a community comment time at both the beginning and the end of the meeting.

### **Action Items**

- Mr. Garcia requested that all members be contacted about the meeting with AACOG to see if they would also like to attend.
- Mr. Silvas inquired as to why Alamo Aircraft has engine parts lying out in the open. He suggested that this could potentially lead to further contamination. Mr. Garcia suggested that AFRPA speak to Code Compliance.
- Mr. Silvas asked about the status of the wastes being produced from the demolition of Bldg. 329.
- RAB Member Orientation suggestions
  - Cleanup Overview Presentation
  - Health Department Involvement
  - GKDA
  - Explanation of TRS
  - Acronym List
  - FAQs

Mr. Peña suggested that a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance be added to the agenda.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.