

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

April 26, 2004

Attendees:

Mr. Ruben Peña, RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Daniel Gonzales, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Henry Galindo, RAB Community Representative
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Sam Murrah, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Michael Sheneman, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Nazirite Perez, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Robert Silvas, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Pete Muzquiz, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Armando Quintanilla, RAB Community Representative Alternate
Mr. George Rice, RAB Community Representative
Ms. Carol Vaquera, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Adam Antwine, RAB Government Co-Chair, Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)
Mr. William Ryan, AFRPA
Mr. Douglas Karas, AFRPA
Ms. Larisa Dawkins, AFRPA
Ms. Norma Landez, AFRPA
Mr. Sam Sanchez, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health)
Ms. Linda Kaufman, Metro Health
Mr. Gary Miller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Mark Weegar, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Ms. Abigail Power, TCEQ
Mr. Brendan Smith, Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)
Ms. Megan Mabee, Booz Allen
Ms. Christine Best, Booz Allen
Ms. Susan Hook, Booz Allen
Ms. Stephanie Trevino, Booz Allen
Mr. Hugh Farr, Booz Allen
Dr. David Smith, Smith/Associates (Facilitator)
Ms. Brittany Watts, Smith/Associates
Mr. Joe Acord
Mr. Glen Wilkinson
Ms. Julie Wallace
Ms. Blanca Hernandez
Ms. Susan White
Ms. Anna Gonzales
Ms. Delia Silva
Mr. Ben Galvan

Ms. Belinda Silvas
Ms. Debbie Suarez
Mr. Tom Smith
Ms. Rose Ramos
Ms. Gloria Ramos-Cortes
Mr. Adrian Cortes
Mr. Gilbert Ramos
Mr. Don Barker
Mr. Richard Zunisa
Ms. Charmaine Marin
Mr. Tony Hoffman
Ms. Jill Johnston
Mr. Jeffrey Aguillon
Ms. Jennifer Billings
Ms. Bonnie Webber
Mr. Reynaldo Martinez
Ms. Gina Castaneda
Ms. Elizabeth Gomez
Mr. Edward Morales
Mr. Gilbert Sosa
Ms. Tanya Tapia
Ms. Michele Mendez
Ms. Angela Tann
Mr. John Tinder
Ms. Michele Marshall
Ms. Shannon Gutierrez
Ms. Sylvia Rodriguez
Ms. Kristen Lagow
Mr. Greg Pilly
Ms. Celida Martinez
Ms. Michelle Lopez
Ms. April Esquivel
Mr. James Wittmer
Mr. Stan Guyewski
Mr. Matthew Kraus
Ms. Paula Romo
Ms. Lupe Reyes
Mr. Linden Till
Mr. Vince Quintanilla
Mr. Felix Campos
Ms. Patricia Pearson
Mr. Matthew Yasta
Mr. Alfredo Odluna
Ms. Tasha Gonzales

Members Absent:

Ms. Sandra Converse, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Mike DeNuccio, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Gary Martin, Greater Kelly Development Authority (GKDA)
Mr. Paul Person, RAB Community Representative
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Bexar Metropolitan Water District
Mr. Sergio Rodriguez, RAB Community Member

The meeting began at 6:36 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. David Smith

Dr. David Smith welcomed all the RAB members and meeting attendees. He explained that due to the RAB community co-chair elections on tonight's agenda, Mr. Adam Antwine would be opening the meeting in place of the former community co-chair, Mr. Ruben Peña.

Mr. Antwine called the meeting to order. He asked for the approval of the January, February, and March 2004 RAB meeting minutes. Mr. Robert Silvas requested that they go back and make changes to the October 2003 meeting minutes. He claimed that they were never approved with his changes. Mr. Antwine said the RAB could not go back to reapprove minutes that have already been voted on at a previous meeting. He added that he would be happy to accept any recommended changes Mr. Silvas wanted to make on behalf of those minutes, but the RAB needed to focus on approving the minutes at hand. Mr. Silvas stated that there was never a consensus made to approve those minutes. Mr. Antwine added that he would be happy to review the meeting tapes and minutes to confirm Mr. Silvas' claim. Mr. Dan Gonzales made a motion to vote on the January, February, and March meeting minutes. Mr. Sam Murrah seconded the motion. Mr. Silvas and Mr. Nazirite Perez opposed and abstained from the approval of the minutes. However, the remaining members proceeded to approve the minutes.

Mr. Antwine led the RAB in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Dr. Smith discussed the goals for the meeting and the contents of the supplemental packets.

Election/Appointment of RAB Community Co-Chair

Dr. David Smith

Dr. Smith invited RAB members to make nominations for the community co-chair. Mr. Pete Muzquiz nominated Mr. Peña. Mr. Gonzales seconded the nomination. Mr. Silvas nominated Mr. Sergio Rodriguez (not present) and Mr. Perez seconded that nomination. Mr. Murrah motioned to close the floor to nominations and Mr. Gonzales seconded.

Mr. Silvas expressed interest in discussing Mr. Rodriguez's nomination. He proceeded to ask Mr. Peña to answer a few questions. Mr. Peña stated that he thought it was unfair to have only one nominee present to answer questions that both candidates should have to address. Mr. Silvas asked what the length of the term is for the community co-chair. Dr. Smith replied that the term was one year in duration. Mr. Silvas made a motion to postpone the election until the May 11 RAB meeting. Ms. Esmeralda Galvan seconded the motion.

A motion was made on whether to vote and fill the co-chair position at this meeting or to wait until the May 11th meeting. The motion resulted in seven people moving to select a co-chair at this meeting, which was voted on and passed.

Mr. Silvas asked what the qualifications are for the co-chair position. Mr. Peña stated that there are not any specific qualifications other than being a RAB member. Mr. Silvas asked if Mr. Peña is an American citizen. Mr. Peña announced that today is his birthday and he was born in Kingsville, Texas, in 1955. Eight community representatives voted to elect Mr. Peña as community co-chair. There were two votes for Mr. Rodriguez and two people abstained. Dr. Smith announced that Mr. Peña had been re-elected as community co-chair.

Environmental Progress Update

Mr. Doug Karas

Mr. Karas provided a brief update concerning the final sampling results of wells around the plume. He said the Air Force samples the groundwater every year to ensure that the systems are working properly. A community member asked how long some of these systems will be in place. Mr. Karas said about forty percent of the sites are closed. He stated that by 2010 the Air Force expects to have around 93 percent closed. He said seven percent of the sites required long term monitoring and would not close for some time. Mr. Karas stated that the Air Force will continue to test every year to ensure the success of the cleanup systems.

Mr. Silvas asked if there was any testing for porcelain in the groundwater, air, or soil. Mr. Karas said he could provide the Site S-7 closure report to Mr. Silvas. He added that this document contained the evaluation information of the site upon closure that might help answer Mr. Silvas' question.

Ms. Galvan asked when the permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) are going to be installed at Commercial Street. Mr. Karas said they are scheduled to be in place this summer. Ms. Galvan added that the maps in the presentation packets are hard to read. She requested better copies of the maps.

Mr. George Rice asked Mr. Karas about the success of the PRBs in the community. Mr. Karas said that he could not speak specifically to the data, but that he could get the information for him. Mr. Rice said he would like to schedule a tour with Mr. Karas and another person who could help explain the PRBs to him.

Operating Guidelines Update

Mr. Ruben Peña

Mr. Peña recognized two visiting groups: the environmental nursing students from the University of Texas Health Science Center, and a group of students from a toxicology class at Palo Alto Community College.

Mr. Peña thanked everyone who attended the March RAB workshop. He stated that at that workshop, three RAB members were identified to form a task committee to review the current RAB guidelines and discuss potential revisions.

Mr. Garcia stated that he has been involved because he feels there are a lot of situations that need to be redefined. Ms. Galvan, as well as Mr. Silvas, asked why the operating guidelines were being revised. Mr. Peña replied that Mr. Silvas had the option to attend the workshop, and that his input can be voiced later before the operating guidelines are voted upon. Mr. Muzquiz asked the RAB to review the addendum to the guidelines in their binders and bring their revisions to the next meeting for discussion and vote.

Community Comment Time

Dr. David Smith

Dr. Smith announced the community comment time. He reminded the community that each speaker would have three minutes to speak, and Ms. Brittany Watts would be timing them.

Mr. Armando Quintanilla stated that he has lived in the surrounding community since 1952 and was a member of the RAB until 2002. He expressed that he thought the facilitator was not allowing the community the opportunity to speak. Mr. Quintanilla suggested that the operating guidelines do need revising, but thought the RAB should wait until the new *Draft Revised Proposed RAB Rule, January 2004* becomes effective. He said that the TRS committee should be meeting more often. He mentioned that the Kelly Community Involvement Plan (CIP) illustrated that the surrounding community has no trust in the RAB or the Air Force and that the Air Force is not accountable to the community. He stated that it reinforced his disappointment in the RAB. He concluded that the RAB needs to reach out to the community and let them be heard.

The other nine individuals who turned in cards announced that they each chose to donate their three minutes to Mr. Glen Wilkinson. Dr. Smith stated that the culmination of speakers equals 27 minutes of community comment time.

Mr. Wilkinson said he was brought up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and worked at Kelly in the past. He said he knows Agent Orange was sold in 1974 by Texas Surplus to the Sabine River Authority. He stated that he believes there were two warehouses at the former Kelly AFB where barrels of Agent Orange were stored. He added that he thinks the Air Force and the state are covering it up.

Mr. Rice asked the Air Force to look into these allegations and have someone give a brief report of it at the next meeting. He asked Mr. Mark Weegar if he knew anything about this.

Mr. Weegar stated that he is aware of the old Site S-7. He added that this is the first time he has heard about the potential that Agent Orange was stored in warehouses at Kelly. He said there is nothing wrong with the chemical being stored there. He said if it had been disposed of improperly, TCEQ would have known about it. He recommended Mr. Wilkinson talk to the Air Force to get clarification on the warehouses.

Mr. Weegar motioned to have the Air Force evaluate the Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) report at the next meeting to see if there is a documentation of warehouses in which Agent Orange might have been stored. Mr. Rice seconded the motion and it became an action item.

Ms. Gloria Ramos-Cortez asked to use the last six minutes of Mr. Wilkinson's unused time. Mr. Peña explained to Ms. Cortez that the community comment time is not set up to address or answer questions. Ms. Cortez reiterated that she was speaking for her family members. Mr. Peña explained the community comment time process: the board listens to the community comments, takes notes, discusses them, and then outlines a way to address them. He added that it is very difficult to answer questions or respond to concerns immediately after they have been voiced.

Mr. Rice asked to clarify the previous motion. He said he wanted the action item to state all instances where Agent Orange may have been used or stored at Kelly. There was no opposition, and the motion passed.

Mr. Silvas made a motion to have an expert from the Veterans Administration Hospital come and brief the RAB about Agent Orange. Ms. Galvan seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed to become an action item for the next meeting.

Announcements

Mr. Sam Sanchez stated that Metro Health is having a workshop on June 26, 2004 at Our Lady of the Lake University to address community health issues. Mr. Silvas asked if there could be an expert on Agent Orange there. Mr. Sanchez stated that there are health experts that can address that topic at the workshop.

Ms. Norma Landez introduced herself and reported the BRAC meeting results since February 2004.

Mr. Sanchez discussed the air quality monitoring conducted by Zephyr Environmental during the installation of the PRBs. He said that the report on their findings might be available by the May meeting. He added that there are not any air quality monitors on the south side of San Antonio. He said they are working on getting monitors installed so they can start getting information on the air quality in the area.

Mr. Garcia mentioned that he has continually requested information from the federal regulators on the air pollution studies and air quality reports in the area. He reminded Mr. Antwine to keep him updated on this issue.

Mr. Antwine said that he will discuss Mr. Garcia's concerns with him later. He added that he wanted to mention that air quality is a big concern not just for Kelly, but for the entire city. He said the issue of air monitoring stations is a valid question, but the Air Force cannot answer all air emission concerns. He stated that the RAB is awaiting the past air emissions report from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Mr. Antwine mentioned that he expects this report to address how the air might have been affected in the past.

Mr. Quintanilla reiterated his earlier statement that the community does not trust the Air Force. He stated that it is the RAB's job to change this view. Mr. Antwine and Mr. Quintanilla exchanged opinions concerning the scope of the RAB and the amount of money the Air Force has spent to clean up the surrounding community.

Mr. Antwine expressed frustration with the opinions that Mr. Quintanilla had voiced. He later apologized for his comments and asked the community and the board members to realize the Air Force is doing its best to clean up the area around Kelly. He added that the Air Force does keep the health and safety of all individuals in mind while doing so. He added that Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH) is available to answer any health related concerns.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the ATSDR past air emissions report should be released this summer.

Action Items for May 2004 RAB Meeting

- Air Force will evaluate the EBS for references to storage of Agent Orange at Kelly
- The Air Force will invite a Veterans Affairs (VA) Administration expert to brief the community on Agent Orange at the next RAB meeting
- The RAB Executive Committee will decide how spill report summaries should be reported to the RAB.

Dr. Smith reminded all the RAB members and attendees of the upcoming RAB and TRS meetings. Mr. Silvas reminded the community that the RAB was trying to do its best to serve the communities around the former base.

Mr. Garcia stated that he had been sick, but that he was trying to do his best to serve his community. He added that the board member's emotions should be kept under control at all times during these meetings because there was a lot of work to do and much more to do in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.