

Kelly Air Force Base
Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
October 16, 2001 Meeting Minutes
Kennedy High School

Members/Alternates Present

Community Members

Dr. Gene Lené,
RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Robert Silvas
Mr. George Rice
Mr. Carl Mixon
Ms. Peggy Grybos
Mr. Phillip Farrell (Mr. Roberson's alt.),
GKDA
Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. Mark Puffer
Mr. Sam Murrah
Ms. Dominga Adames
Mr. Tony Martinez
Mr. Názirite Pérez
Ms. Tanya Huerta
Ms. Annalise Peace
Mr. Roy Botello
Mr. Paul Person
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia Jr. (newly elected)

Government Members

Mr. Adam Antwine, AFBCA
RAB Installation Co-Chair
Mr. Sam Sanchez, SAMHD
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr., BMWD
Ms. Laura Stankosky, USEPA
Mr. Mark Weegar, TNRCC
Ms. Abbi Power, TNRCC

Facilitators

Dr. David Smith

Meeting Goals

1. Provide education on selected health issues.
2. Receive updates on remediation projects.
3. Discuss changes due to the base's official closing.

I. Meeting Convenes

The RAB Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Dr. David Smith introduced himself, expressed his appreciation for the number of people in attendance, introduced the Community and Government Co-Chairs, and began the meeting with asking the RAB for approval of the July 17 RAB Meeting Minutes.

Discussion

Ms. Laura Stankosky : Asked why the letters “NCM” were placed by her name.

Dr. Smith: Stated that the letters “NCM” stand for “Non-Community Member”.

Mr. Paul Person: Added that his name needed to be corrected in the minutes from Chuck to Paul.

Dr. Smith: Asked if there was a motion to accept.

Ms. Tanya Huerta: Made a motion to accept.

An additional RAB member made a second to the motion and the minutes were accepted.

Dr. Smith led the agenda review. The primary topic of discussion was the Zone 4 shallow groundwater update. Dr. Lené invited RAB members to provide input continuously. He stated that the City Council meeting was another avenue to provide input.

II. Community Comment Time

Dr. Smith began the Community Comment time by explaining the process. Each person was to fill out a card in order to speak. Each person would be limited to three minutes.

Mr. Chavel Lopez, Director for Southwest Workers Union, presented the RAB with a letter addressed to them outlining the actions that he and other members of his group would like to see take place. The letter demanded that 51 percent of the RAB members be from the community. It included additional requirements such as child care availability and more timely and frequent translation of materials to Spanish.

Mr. Armando Quintanilla gave a presentation on what the neighborhood would like to see as a cleanup solution. Ms. Yolanda Johnson and Ms. Ramirez (first name unknown) yielded their time to Mr. Quintanilla, giving him additional time to speak. He stated that the group has been meeting on the six cleanup options and identified certain goals that they would like to see accomplished. The Air Force should ensure that the option cleans up the contamination and that it does not just cover it up. They would like to see an expedited and aggressive cleanup; 20 to 30 years is too long and unjust, and therefore natural attenuation cannot be an option. The solution has also to meet community needs, and tax dollars must not be wasted because of it. The community would also like to see that the treated groundwater be stored and that it does not get dumped into creeks and sewers. Some members of the community liked the idea of planting trees. Mr. Quintanilla gave a brief summary of the options and identified portions of those that should be incorporated into one. The solution that the community would like to see contains portions of the following options: Option B - plant 800 trees; Option C1 - withdraw and re-inject 20 million gallons of water out of the 41 million gallons of water that are being wasted per day; Option F - place underground barriers at the location of the highest Trichloroethylene TCE concentrations.

Mr. Larry Romo, former Kelly employee and resident of District 6, wanted to know if there was a timetable for his district. Six months ago the community members were given thorough briefings on all the plans for Districts 4 and 5, but nothing concerning District 6. He would also like to know in what direction the Air Force is going with it.

Mr. Rodrigo Garcia stated that the meeting held in person with the AFBCA answered his basic questions, but the financial distribution and the accountability of contractors still needs to be depicted. There has already been one discrepancy over the costs of RAB meetings, and contractors do not need to profit from the cleanup. He also stated that the Southside needs to have the option of having their property taxes reevaluated and asked how the school district would be compensated if the values were decreased. He stated that the Bexar Appraisal District needed to be involved, and that if they were not willing to become involved, then the people needed to elect new officials.

After the Community Comment period, Mr Smith directed the meeting to Dr. Lené for the consideration of a new RAB member, Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, Jr. Mr. Garcia's application was included in the RAB member packets. Dr. Lené informed Mr. Garcia that it is customary for applicants to say a few words as to why they would like to be on the RAB.

Mr. Garcia: "I have been very active in the environmental cleanup of the former Kelly Air Force Base. I have been doing a lot of work with GKDA. I am very concerned with the answers that the citizens are getting. We have to bridge the gap on health assessments and property tax issues. This is what is happening. We are going to have accountability. Publicize his phone number for the community to be able to call him if they have any questions that they need to have put in writing. The community wants something in writing, to show them what we [RAB] are going to do for them."

After Mr. Garcia finished speaking, Dr. Smith asked for a motion to elect Mr. Garcia to the RAB. Mr. Sam Sanchez made the motion and a vote was taken to elect Mr. Garcia onto the RAB. The RAB voted to elect Mr. Garcia.

III. Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS) Report

Dr. Lené stated that the TRS had not been very active. The contractors that are going to be used for the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) reports had been selected, and they were working on three new reports. The September TRS minutes were not available, but the maps that the RAB was working on were in the packets. These maps are to be available to the public. There is a sign-up sheet to obtain the maps in the back. Dr. Lené gave a brief description of the maps. He stated that the RAB tried very hard to make them understandable and accurate for the community. These maps will be mailed to the people that request it.

IV. Zone 4 Discussion

Dr. Lené sent out a letter requesting opinions from the RAB on the cleanup options prior to this RAB meeting. Through discussion, it became known that Zephyr Environmental was to present their recommendations on Thursday, October 18, at the beginning of the City Council meeting. Citizens were encouraged to attend the meeting and to get there early. Dr. Lene asked if the RAB wanted to present their recommendations/opinions to the City Council. Their recommendations would assist the Air Force in implementing a cleanup option. Once the cleanup is chosen, will there be a public hearing or comment period? Mr. Mark Weegar added that it was the RAB's purpose to provide advice and that the City Council meeting would be a good time to do this, but only strictly to advise. Dr. Lené motioned to bring this issue to a vote. Mr. Perez

motioned that the RAB should brief the City Council, and the RAB voted to present their opinions to the City Council.

V. Final Community Comment Time

Mr. Robert Silvas provided documentation that exists from TNRCC on the walk-through of Boeing here on Kelly. He made the report available for any member to review. He had also acquired five additional reports and made them available for viewing as well. He added that he had been downtown arguing property value taxes. He let them know that it was outrageous that the homeowners in the South side are paying higher taxes for someone's negligence. Additionally he asked, "Why not stop treating water until there is a solution on where to store or pump the water to?"

VI. Meeting Wrap-Up

Ms. Huerta announced the award of an environmental justice grant. She asked if anyone was interested in working with a team that was going to develop a pamphlet to get more people to participate in SAMHD screenings.

VII. Action Items

Dr. Lene will brief the City Council on the RAB's recommendations.

Ms. Huerta would like an update from the San Antonio River Authority at the next RAB.

Mr. Silvas would like to know if the dirt from the hangar on the West side of Kelly was given another inspection prior to second disposal taking place. The facility that was used for storage was once contaminated with radiation and has since been taken down.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.