

Meeting Minutes
Kelly AFB Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

11 June 2002

San Antonio Metropolitan Environmental Health and Wellness Center

Attendees

Dr. Gene Lené, Community Co-Chair
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan, Community RAB Member
Mr. Robert Silvas, Community RAB Member
Mr. Paul Person, Community RAB Member
Mr. Scott Lampright, Bexar County Fire Marshall – Environmental Management
Mr. Curt Pearson, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)
Ms. Linda Kaufman, SAMHD
Ms. Kyle Cunningham, SAMHD
Ms. Deborah Martinez, SAMHD
Ms. Blanca Hernandez, SAMHD
Mr. Doug Karas, Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA)
Mr. William Ryan, AFBCA
Mr. Don Buelter, AFBCA
Ms. Leslie Brown, AFBCA
Ms. Abigail Powers, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)
Mr. Mark Weegar, TNRCC
Mr. Jerry Needham, San Antonio Express News
Mr. Eddie Martinez, Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)
Mr. Tim Sueltenfuss, Booz Allen
Mr. Scott Courtney, Booz Allen
Mr. Hugh Farr, Booz Allen
Dr. David Smith, Smith and Associates (Facilitator)

The meeting began at 6:39 p.m.

Administrative

Dr. Smith introduced himself and outlined the agenda items for the evening's meeting. He asked the TRS to review the minutes with care given the fact that they were recently completed.

Mr. Karas began describing the news release that the AFBCA distributed the previous week. Some amendments were made to the Corrective Measures Study (CMS). The release stated that the CMS would be amended to provide the most current modeling data and correct an error on two charts in the CMS. He said the modeling actually showed that installing off-base cleanup systems would reduce the size of the groundwater plume by 70 percent in five years and by more than 99 percent in ten years. Mr. Karas stated that he had sent an amended news release to the members of the press who had received the initial news release. Ms. Galvan asked if the error reflected pumping and treating remedial systems. Mr. Karas characterized the error as a "typo" and said it was important for the AFBCA to get the revised modeling information out to the community. Mr. Karas continued his presentation with a brief discussion of the permeable

reactive barrier (PRB). Mr. Silvas asked if the PRB would be safe for children. Mr. Weegar replied that children would not be affected because the area will be sealed off as a construction site. Ms. Galvan stated that her concern was that the children not be affected adversely by breathing contaminated air from the barrier wall. Mr. Weegar replied that there should be no concern that for anyone would be harmed by breathing the air. Ms. Galvan, however, stated that she felt there was room for concern. She suggested the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department perform a study prior to construction of the PRB. Mr. Paul Person then asserted that Mr. Sam Sanchez was no longer participating with the RAB. Mr. Pearson replied that Mr. Sanchez had in fact not resigned from the RAB, but that he was in Atlanta on official health department business. Mr. Silvas asked if Mr. Pearson was suggesting that Mr. Sanchez was not returning to the RAB. Mr. Pearson replied that he had not indicated that Mr. Sanchez would not return, rather that he could not speculate when Mr. Sanchez's business would be concluded. Mr. Weegar said that the PRB would be installed according to the preferential flow path. Ms. Galvan then asked if Mr. Weegar thought the PRB was an aggressive technology. Mr. Weegar stated his opinion that the PRB was an aggressive technology. Ms. Galvan later asked if any danger to the community existed due to the newness of PRB technology. She also asked if the PRB might be too aggressive a remedy for treating the contamination. Mr. Weegar said no. Ms. Galvan then asked if children would be safe in the area. Ms. Powers said that children would be safe. Ms. Powers added that a PRB could be thought of as similar to cheesecloth, but that in this case, it reacts with the groundwater contamination. Mr. Silvas asked if the PRB would be left in the ground or would be removed. Ms. Weegar said he saw no reason to remove the reactive wall. Ms. Silvas asked how everyone could be sure given that the technology is so new. Mr. Weegar replied that while PRBs are a new technology, they pose no danger because they are underground and no contaminants are released into the community. Ms. Galvan asked if the community would have air sampling to assure that there are no contaminants in the area. Mr. Weegar agreed and suggested that air sampling take place. Mr. Ryan said that long term air monitoring is being conducted in conjunction with the state. He added that during the construction of the PRB, there should be no reason for concern that vapors will come up through the ground because air-monitoring devices are installed during construction activities. Mr. Ryan cited Building 301 as an example. He said that while the health plan for the PRB had not yet been written, a large portion of that plan would be the protection of human health. Mr. Scott Lampright asked if there had been any air monitoring performed around the area. Mr. Ryan said air monitoring had been performed around the Quintana Road neighborhood. Ms. Galvan asked about the phytoremediation plan to plant Poplar trees. Mr. Weegar said that by the time the popular trees lay down their roots, any contamination they would encounter would have already diminished significantly. He added that given the extent of the cleanup thus far, planting Poplar trees would be superfluous.

Ms. Galvan said that she had been researching RABs, and that she understood that other RABs had been given Risk Communication Training and she questioned why this RAB had not been given the same opportunity. Mr. Person said the RAB had already been provided this training five years prior. Mr. Ryan offered to include the request as a TRS action item.

Community Involvement Plan Presentation

Mr. Sueltenfuss spoke briefly about the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and characterized it and its function to the members of the TRS. He stated that the CIP was an evolving document comprised of comments from focus group sessions and interviews. Mr. Sueltenfuss added that the CIP was a public document that was scheduled for completion by the end of the year and that

it would serve as a roadmap for communicating the information regarding the environmental cleanup at Kelly.

AFBCA Response to Dr. Katherine Squibb's Review of ATSDR Report

Mr. Courtney gave a presentation, which described the AFBCA response to Dr. Squibbs report. Ms. Galvan asked if the AFBCA would be doing any further air monitoring. Mr. Courtney said the AFBCA was planning to conduct indoor air monitoring during the summer. Mr. Silvas asked if the modeling addressed single level housing. Mr. Courtney said the model assumes that houses are built on concrete blocks. He added that many of the homes were built using pier and beam. The space between a home built on a pier and beam style allows more air to circulate between the ground and the home above it, according to Mr. Courtney. Ms. Galvan asked if that was an assumption. She asked how that was known without first having studied the issue. Mr. Courtney said that studies exist on the relationship between home construction style and air circulation.

Mr. Silvas asked if there was any report or information regarding the fuel spill at Boeing on Kelly. Dr. Lené asked if Mr. Silvas was referring to the 1,500-gallon fire foam spill. Mr. Silvas replied that he meant a fuel spill. Mr. Silvas asked if the TNRCC was going to make the Boeing fuel spill report available to the TRS. Mr. Ryan said that the report was available in the information repository at the EHWC.

Ms. Galvan expressed concern that the Environmental Health and Wellness Center (EHWC) was not being publicized sufficiently among the community. She suggested a graduation reunion or a town hall meeting be held to inform the communities around the center. Ms. Kaufman stated that community members needed to come into the center and have assessments performed so that accurate determinations could be made. She added that if people do not come in, no disease cluster could be established. Ms. Galvan said she felt the center was not advertising itself well enough in the community. She suggested the center contact area churches. Ms. Kaufman said she and her staff had contacted 200 local community churches. Ms. Hernandez added that she had personally contacted numerous community members and followed up with fliers. Ms. Galvan said that many of the affected community members no longer lived in the neighborhood and that she would personally follow up on the issue of health assessments. Ms. Galvan also asked about the status of the health department's homegrown produce study. Mr. Pearson said that a briefing on the report would be available on the first of July. Dr. Lené said that at the August 13th TRS meeting there would be a TAPP report on the Zone 4 and 5 CMSs. Ms. Galvan also stated she thought that it was important that the tax value of homes be considered. She added that the board of realtors needed to be aware of the issue. Mr. Eddie Martinez said that these public meetings were being planned on Zone 4 and Zone 5 and that Bexar Appraisal District would be present to answer questions.

Action Items:

Risk Communication Training for RAB Community Members

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.