

**September 9, 2003**  
**Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS)**  
**of the Kelly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**

Dr. Gene Lené, TRS Chairperson  
Mr. Sam Murreh, RAB Co-Chair, Community Member  
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Daniel Gonzales, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Nazarite Perez, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Paul Person, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Buddy Pletz, RAB Community Member  
Mr. Armando Quintanilla, RAB Community Alternate  
Ms. Angel Martinez, RAB Community Alternate  
Mr. Leroy Johnson, Community Member  
Ms. Yolanda Johnson, Community Member  
Mr. Robert Alvarado, Community Member  
Ms. Guadalupe Alvarado, Community Member  
Mr. Carmelo Casillas, Community Member  
Ms. Frances Casillas, Community Member  
Ms. Joleen Garcia, Community Member  
Ms. Lisa Sorg, *San Antonio Current*  
Mr. William Ryan, Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)  
Mr. Don Buelter, AFRPA  
Mr. John Glass, AFRPA  
Ms. Larisa Dawkins, AFRPA  
Ms. Linda Kaufman, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)  
Ms. Kyle Cunningham, SAMHD  
Ms. Abigail Power, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Mr. Ed Roberson, Environmental Flight Chief, Lackland Air Force Base  
Ms. Robyn Thompson, Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)  
Ms. Megan Mabee, Booz Allen  
Mr. Eddie Martinez, Booz Allen  
Ms. Brittany Watts, Booz Allen  
Dr. David Smith, Smith and Associates (Facilitator)

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Smith introduced himself as the facilitator and welcomed all the RAB members and meeting attendees. He conducted a review of the meeting agenda and pointed out that the agenda had changed: the fruit and nut study was removed and will be presented at a later meeting and the Leon Creek Fishing Advisory moved to beginning of meeting.

**Election of TRS Chair**

**Dr. David Smith**

Mr. Rodrigo Garcia and Mr. Buddy Pletz were nominated to be the new TRS Chair. Dr. Smith asked each nominee to say a few words. Mr. Garcia told the audience that he asks a lot of questions, wants a review of the TAPP process, upcoming projects, and oversight of contractors.

Mr. Pletz said his duty as Co-chair would be to steer the committee toward meeting its goals, and to represent the community.

The vote was tied with four votes for each nominee. Dr. Smith asked for a re-vote, which was also tied four to four. Mr. Martinez then researched the guidelines, and found that they were not specific to procedures of the TRS. Dr. Gene Lene, the current TRS Chair, made the decision to allow all RAB community members and their alternates, and government members and their alternates to vote. This extended the role of Co-chair to Mr Buddy Pletz.

## **Leon Creek Fishing Advisory Discussion**

### **Mr. Ed Roberson**

Mr. Roberson began by saying that since 1989, sampling has been conducted at Leon Creek. The Air Force has always looked at how groundwater affects the creek, all the while looking for degreasing solvents and plating metals. In 1992, monitoring of Leon Creek began. He said that PCBs are not attributed to Kelly, and that there is no pattern to what appears in creek. They collected 2,000 samples of groundwater and re-sampled for PCBs. They found that less than 20 samples had traces of PCBs. He stated that PCBs don't normally mix with water, they normally mix with soil in creek sediments. In 1976, PCBs were banned because they don't break down in fish with fatty tissue such as carp, or in high predator species such as gar. PCB is the second most commonly found chemical in fish the US, and 38 states have issued fish advisories against PCBs.

The primary use of PCBs was in transformers for electrical distribution. Some of these transformers are still around. From the Helotes to the Medina River, anything in that drainage area ends up in the Creek. Most sediments get washed away after rain. The heavy rain weekend of July 4, 2002 caused fish to swim upstream, and then get trapped in the five-foot dam. Upstream of Lackland AFB there is not much water. The sites had been monitored before and after realignment, and the landfills showed no traces of PCBs. They have also checked groundwater, but that is not a source. He said that the Air Force is not the source of the PCBs.

A community member asked if anyone ever monitored before 1992? Ms. Powers said the state of Texas has been monitoring since 1970s. Mr. Armando Quintanilla asked about the landfill area near golf course, and how many transformers were dumped there? Mr. Roberson said they have sampled groundwater and it does not contain PCBs. He also mentioned that they have sampled the golf course soil from 1989-1994. Mr. Quintanilla asked about using the Freedom of Information Act to obtain more information. Mr. Roberson told Mr. Quintanilla that he could find more information in the public library. Ms. Guadalupe Alvarado asked what was killing the fish. Mr. Roberson stated that the fish are not dying. He said it would take one fish meal every week for 30 years to cause harm to humans. Statistics report that there is a 2 in 10,000 chance of getting cancer after that level of consumption of fish with PCB's. Texas Department of Health (TDH) says one in 10,000 is the limit for human consumption.

Ms. Angel Martinez asked who found PCBs in the fish? Mr. Roberson said that PCBs have been found off and on since 1992. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that Lackland submit information to TDH. Ms. Martinez then asked why the information was just coming out now? Ms. Abbi Power stated that the fish advisory is not for all of Leon Creek, only for that one portion of creek. Mr. Roberson pointed out that area on a map. TDH had samples from three stations, the area near the Kelly golf course, another are closer to Highway 90, and the third area

near the south Kelly. Mr. Roberson stated that low interaction levels of heavy metals were found, but noted that every urban stream has them.

Mr. Buddy Pletz asked what other things cause fish problems. Mr. Roberson said sewage can be a source. Mr. Garcia asked how often sampling has been done since 1994. He also asked who would look for the source of PCB contamination? Mr. Roberson said they have sampled once a year, every year, since 1992. Mr. Garcia then said they should be monitored more than once a year. Mr. Roberson then stated that there is nothing that shows the source to be from Lackland, and they will not look for a source that is not on Lackland property. Mr. Garcia asked if they would be doing more sampling. Mr. Roberson said the results change with each sampling. There is no pattern to sediment, soil, and groundwater related to a specific site.

Mr. Sam Murrah inquired about rainfall and its effects on the creek. Mr. Roberson said that low rainfall causes the water to stagnate, and sediments to fall out of water. High rainfall causes everything to get mixed around. They will not sample within one month of rainfall in order to let sediments settle down. If there were indicators, Mr. Roberson said he would be investigating and establishing a new site.

A community member asked who gives the second opinion of work. He was informed that TCEQ, EPA, and TRS gave a second opinion. Abi Power suggested getting information from the health department. Mr. Quintanilla asked if there were no transformers in golf course. Mr. Roberson said there were no transformers or PCBs at the golf course. Everyone in COSA had transformers that used PCBs to generate electricity.

Mr. Person asked if the levels of PCBs were less than one part per million. Mr. Roberson stated that 2 parts per million is the level we encounter which is harmless. He said when rain fills sewer lines with water, sewage will kill fish faster than anything because it uses up oxygen in water. Mr. Gonzales asked when next results of testing would be determined. Mr. Roberson said he doesn't know what TDH's schedule is, but that in Jan. 2004 the results of the Aug. 2003 testing will be released. Mr. Gonzales asked what Mr. Roberson would recommend the group to do. Mr. Roberson said if they test now and don't find PCBs, they could test again next year and find them, and that there really is no good answer to his question. There is a possibility that next time we could see contaminated fish elsewhere. Mr. Roberson said that they must eliminate the source to eliminate contamination.

Ms. Powers asked if the industries will bring in power using their own transformers, lines, etc. She said no one told them on a certain date they had to get rid of transformers, and that there is a possibility that some industries in San Antonio still have active transformers. The property owner is responsible for cleaning up their own PCB contamination. PCBs are found in transformers, and also used as a good lubricating oil. Mr. Roberson said PCBs will be in the environment for some time like DDT, even though they have been banned. He also stated that there is a chance of another chemical like PCB able to happen in the future. This is the price to pay for living in an urban society.

A community member stated that we shouldn't accept it as a fact of life that our populations get sick. Eating one fish meal a week for 30 years is misleading. The population is already burdened with other health problems like weakened immune systems, and they are getting overburdened with additional risks. Mr. Roberson said that the Toxic Substances Control Act was passed to regulate environmental problems such as this. Mr. Murrah said we should just

start buying organic products. Mr. Roberson said people can buy organic, but there will be chemicals produced that will cause adverse health effects eventually from that too. Mr. Person said that the consumer society buys animals fed with animal byproducts. Mr. Roberson said people choose to have electricity, eat meat, and do things that are out of his control. They are spending \$30 million on investigations, and \$200 million over the next four years on investigations.

A motion was made to have TDH present information on the study. In order to clarify the motion, Dr. Smith asked if the Health Department should be invited. Mr. Quintanilla made a motion to invite TDH to present findings of the fish study in Leon Creek where health advisory was issued (and ATSDR to review study). Mr. Perez seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Mr. Ed Roberson invited the TRS members to the next Lackland Community Council on Restoration (CCR) meeting to be held at Valley High Elementary School. The discussion about the fish sampling study is on the agenda. Ms. Power added that the meeting will be held on Wednesday October 15, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Person asked if this referenced property was part of Kelly. Mr. William Ryan stated that the Property was realigned to Lackland.

### **34th Street PRB Update**

#### **John Glass**

Mr. Glass explained that the draft final Corrective Measure Study (CMS) for Zone 5, Plume B, isolates the off-base source of Kelly contamination. As part of the CMS, samples were collected of the soil and groundwater and that data was used earlier this year to determine the location of the PRB. The PRB will be 540 feet long, and vary in depth depending on the Navarro Clay. Shaw Environmental as awarded the contract for Results-Based Product Delivery. The contractor will receive a fixed amount of money and incentives if the end result meets the government requirements.

The Air Force is currently installing wells upgradient and downgradient of the future wall. Trenching will begin in mid-November, and could take up to seven weeks for construction. Additional monitoring could extend through January. Impact on community will involve closing the streets, noise (won't break city limit), dust reduced by use of guar gum, material in trench hauled off to landfill (no odor), because the level of contamination is low, there is little risk from the volatilization of contaminants. Metro Health will conduct air monitoring at site.

Mr. Pletz asked where the waste will be disposed. The two approved disposal sites are Covell and DFI. Mr. Pletz asked if guar gum breaks down to allow water to flow through barrier. The answer was yes. How many times has the Air Force used this incentive based program before. It has been used four times at Kelly. How is it working? One Huge success. Mr. Quintanilla asked what the name of street is that is closing? He also asked if the Air Force has a permit from the city to close the street. The name of the street is 34<sup>th</sup> street and the answer is yes. How many monitoring wells? There are 17 wells in and around the wall. Total cost of contract? 1.4 million if successful, 900,000 if not.

Ms. Angel Martinez asked what happens if chemicals exceed levels for air monitoring. Ms. Kyle Cunningham replied that the community would be notified immediately. Mr. Garcia asked how

often the monitoring stations are read? There is no determination yet as to what type of air monitoring, but real time monitoring is not feasible in this case said Cunningham.

A community member asked how successful the Quintanilla road project was. Mr. Ryan said it has been successful; the concentrations of contamination declining. Mr. Carmello Casillas inquired about the monitoring well in his front yard. He stated that it had not been tested in a while. Mr. Ryan said not all wells are monitoring wells and monitoring wells are not routinely measured.

### **Revisiting of Election of TRS Chair Dr. David Smith**

Mr. Martinez researched the RAB Charter and found that it applied to the RAB only. Therefore, Dr. Lene, the current TRS chair decided that all TRS members are allowed to vote, including government members and alternates. Dr. Lene said that the TRS Chair represents the whole TRS, not just the community members. The revote gave 5 to Mr. Garcia and 6 to Mr. Pletz.

### **Administrative BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) Update William Ryan**

Zone 2/3 CMS is in first stages, and was briefed to state and EPA today. Closure of 10 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) is pending. 6 are categorized as risk reduction standard (RRS) 1 for closure, the other 4 units can be categorized as either RRS 1 or RRS 2. Firing range investigations are ongoing, one in Zone 2 and one on east Kelly. The Zone 2 range has exploratory trenches.

### **Spill Summary Report Eddie Martinez**

There were no spills since June TRS meeting.

### **Documents to TRS/RAB Eddie Martinez**

The reports listed below were delivered to the library at the Environmental Health and Wellness Center

- Revised RCRA Closure Report for the Liquid Incinerator Area Site OT-1
- ITIR Site E-3 Bioventing System in Situ Respiration Test for the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr (3-03)
- Project Completion Report Removal of EPCF Former KAFB
- RCRA Facility Investigation Report for Zone 4
- Semiannual Compliance Plan Report for July 2003 (Jan-Jun 2003) for RCRA regulated units and LC

### **Action Items from previous meeting Eddie Martinez**

Both action items from the previous meeting will be addressed at Executive Committee meeting scheduled for September 10, 2003.

### **TRS Action Items**

Invite TDH to present findings of fish study in Leon Creek where health advisory issued (and ATSDR to review study).

### **Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Mr. Perez asked that his name be added to the minutes. Dr. Lene motioned to accept the minutes and Mr. Murrah seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Additional Comments**

Mr. Martinez reminded the audience that the RAB retreat workshop would be held on October 9, 2003 to discuss past accomplishments and future projects. Mr. Martinez noted that a video would be made available at the Oct. RAB to show the construction of the Building 360 PRB. Since the next TRS would normally fall on Nov. 11, which is Veteran's Day, Mr. Martinez asked for suggestions for a different date. Mr. Person made motion to move meeting to Wed. Nov. 12, which Mr. Gonzales seconded and the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.