

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board
Conference Call
Minutes of the October 2023 Meeting**

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Marguerite Clarkson	At Large Representative – Horace Mann Elementary School
Kelsey Tharp	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Alma Gates	Community Advisor to the RAB
William Krebs	Community Member
Joe Vitello	Agency Representative – EPA Region III
John Wheeler	Community Member
Fitz Smith	At Large Representative – American University
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Paul Bermingham	Community Member
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Helen Lyons	At Large Representative – Long & Foster Realty
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Jonathan Harms	Community Member
ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL	
Cynthia Mitchell	USACE, Public Affairs Officer
Kim Berg	USACE, Project Engineer
HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING	
I. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation (PDF)	

AGENDA

Starting Time: The October 2023 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) began at 7:05 PM, and was held in the Don Meyers Building on the American University campus.

I. Administrative Items

A. Co-Chair Updates

Dan Noble, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Spring Valley Project Manager, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. Introductions

As this was most likely the last regularly scheduled meeting for the Spring Valley RAB, Dan Noble introduced some USACE employees who had worked on the project in the past and who attended the meeting to acknowledge the significance of this milestone. Present were Gary Schilling, former Project Manager; Ed Hughes, former Project Manager; and Whitney Gross, former Community Outreach Team leader.

2. General Announcements

D. Noble reviewed the website updates and noted that this was the last meeting for calendar year 2023, and most likely the final meeting of the Spring Valley RAB.

B. Task Group Updates

D. Noble noted that there are no Task Group updates.

II. USACE Program Updates

A. Current Contractor Support

D. Noble noted that contractor, Weston Solutions had mobilized to the former Public Safety Building site after Labor Day to begin the final remedial action effort.

A new security guard contractor was hired, as the current contract expired at the end of August. The new contractor, took over on September 1, is Chenega Naswik International, or CNI, and they have been hired on a three year contract.

Ames 1, Federal Property facility maintenance contractor, had their contract renewed (via award of an option year) for FY 2024.

B. Annual Project Funding Update

D. Noble, USACE Baltimore provided an update of project funding to date.

1. Funding Update

- D. Noble reviewed actual expenditures for FY 2023 (\$8.071M), planned budget for FY 2024 (\$3.488M), and total cumulative project funding through the end of FY 2023 (\$349.979M).

He noted that for FY 2023, and planned for FY 2024, most project funding will be spent on the Military Munitions side of the project, with the former Public Safety Building site receiving the bulk of the funds. Amounts were spent, and are also set aside, for Groundwater and RAB portions of the project.

- A question was asked by a RAB member on the Potentially Responsible Party issue, and the possibility of a settlement between the parties and what the details might be. USACE responded that as the matter has not been finalized yet there is not much the Army can share at this time. A commitment was given to provide an update on the issue when possible on the project website and to alert the RAB members to the update.

C. Site Wide Remedial Action, former Public Safety Building update

D. Noble, USACE Baltimore provided an update on the start of remedial activities at this site; efforts that began after the Labor Day holiday.

1. Recent Activities

- USACE went over the layout of the site, the reasons for the further work, and the general strategy to be used to conduct the work. Mention was made of traffic control plans and the hiring of a traffic control subcontractor to make sure the many trucks that will have to come and go from the site can do so safely.
- USACE showed photographs of equipment brought to the site, the construction entrance at the Fletcher Gate, and sediment and erosion controls being installed.
- The schedule for the work was presented and discussed; field work should begin in earnest next week (week of 17 Oct), with completion of cleanup expected by early summer of 2024. Closure report should follow after that.

2. Next Steps

- Finalize the Draft Final Report on the completion of the site-wide 92 private properties effort and the soil removal efforts on AU South Campus and the Spalding/Captain Rankin Area. Approval on the adequacy of the Draft Final has been received from the City (DOEE) and EPA Region III.
- USACE will continue to provide updates on progress at the Public Safety Building site via the project website.

D. Groundwater

Due to the absence of T. Beckwith (USACE project manager for Spring Valley Groundwater), a brief update was provided on next steps in the CERCLA documentation process to achieve a No Further Action Decision Document on the groundwater issue. It is hoped that fairly early in calendar year 2024 a draft Proposed Plan can be presented for public comment. As well, a public meeting will be scheduled to go over the groundwater Proposed Plan. A general schedule is proposed that would have a final Decision Document signed by the end of calendar year 2024.

E. Brief Update on Fort Totten

Since the April meeting, an incident occurred at Fort Totten Park in northeast DC, where two WWI munitions were found by a National Park Service employee and were dealt with by responses from both the Metropolitan Police Department and the active Army EOD teams. This topic is being discussed at the Spring Valley RAB due to the suspect connection of these items to Spring Valley and the temporary storage over the spring and summer of the items at the Spring Valley Federal Property Interim Holding Facility (IHF). One item, a 75 mm projectile, was determined to be empty and classified as Munitions Debris. That item remains at the Federal Property until it can be disposed of as scrap metal. The other item was a Livens projectile that had an 85% liquid fill in it, as well as being determined that it was explosively configured. Analysis of the Livens was unable to determine the exact nature of the contents, and so the Livens was taken to the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland so it could undergo more intensive testing. So far, the Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has released an initial report stating that the Livens contains a "chlorine containing chemical." More on the exact identification of the contents is expected soon; the USACE will place an update on the project website when CMA releases more information.

There was discussion and questions from RAB members on how the items were found, and what actions led to the discovery of the items. The USACE responded that the items were turned up when a private company that has an access road through the park was conducting road maintenance and pushing dirt back from the road.

There was also discussion over the locations of where these items were found versus the location of the earlier discovery, in 2020, of a single 75 mm projectile further to the west in the Park. The 2023 locations and the 2020 location are quite a distance apart.

III. Community Items

Final Meeting – Greg Beumel, Community Co-Chair of the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board, thanked all the members for their participation over the years. He then adjourned the meeting.

IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development

As it is likely this is the final RAB meeting, no date was set for a future meeting. Updates to the RAB will be via the project website in the future.

A. Upcoming Meeting Topics

N/A

B. Next RAB Meeting:

N/A

C. Open Discussion

V. Public Comments

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.