

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board  
Conference Call  
Minutes of the September 2021 Meeting**

<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Jennifer Baine	Community Member
Brian Barone	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Paul Bermingham	Community Member
Marguerite Clarkson	At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Joe Vitello	Agency Representative - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
John Wheeler	Community Member
<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Devamita Chattopadhyay	RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
Alma Gates	Community Advisor to the RAB
Jonathan Harms	Community Member
William Krebs	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Dan Nichols	At Large Representative - American University
<b>ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL</b>	
Julie Kaiser	USACE Baltimore
Sarah Donahue	Spring Valley Community Outreach Team
Whitney Gross	Spring Valley Community Outreach Team
Holly Hostetler	Spring Valley Community Outreach Team

<b>HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING</b>
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I. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation (emailed PDF)
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**AGENDA**

**Starting Time:** The September 2021 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) conference call began at 7:05 PM.

**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**

None

**2. General Announcements**

**a. Website Updates**

D. Noble reviewed the website updates, which included the June, July, and August Site-Wide Monthly Project Updates and the weekly 4825 Glenbrook Road updates and photos (project efforts completed at 4825 Glenbrook Road on August 31, no further weekly updates). The July RAB meeting minutes and presentation have been posted to the project site. The August Partner meeting was not held, but the project update presentation was posted in lieu of meeting minutes.

Comment from Allen Hengst, Audience Member - Dan, not only are they there, they are posted; but I have two corrections, quick corrections, to the July RAB minutes.

D. Noble invited A. Hengst to go over his corrections to enter into the record.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Ok, the first one is on page 8 where I am talking about the meeting in March. I say, 'March of 2010,' when you reported on the movement of Glenbrook Road soil to Lorton and then to Fort Totten. Of course, it was not March of 2010, it was the March 2020 meeting, a year ago. March of 2020 is when you gave a narrative of how the soil ended up from Glenbrook Road, ended up at Fort Totten; so that should say 'March 2020' instead of 'March 2010.'

D. Noble explained that he was having trouble hearing A. Hengst.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - In the minutes on page 8 from July, I say that you reported on the movement of soil from Glenbrook Road to Fort Totten in March of 2010, it should say March of 2020, not March of 2010. I guess I am not being heard.

Comment from Paul Bermingham, Community Member - I can hear you fine, Allen, although I am not sure if others can.

Whitney Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Team confirmed that the correction was noted and thanked A. Hengst.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Ok, second correction. When I say, right after

March of 2010 instead of March of 2020, I describe the area in Fort Totten which was closed as 200 square feet (sq. ft.). On page 9, I talk about an area 40ft wide by 150ft. Since we are doing this correction, let us make it conform with what I said in March of 2021 of this year, which was a quarter acre. A quarter acre would be 40ft by 270 ft. So, they fenced off and closed an area equal to one quarter of an acre from July of 2020 when they discovered the 75mm shell, until August of this year. When I visited in August, the fence was down, the trail was still under construction, but the fence was down and there were people walking their dogs there. So, did you get that? Whitney?

W. Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Team confirmed the second correction was noted.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Ok, and that agrees with what I wrote in my email to you. So, it is a quarter of an acre, 40ft by 270ft. That is all. Those mistakes on the acreage are page 8 and 9, Whitney knows where they are.

#### **b. Community Outreach Team Personnel Changes**

- This is the final RAB meeting for W. Gross as a member of the Spring Valley Community Outreach Team. W. Gross is moving on to a new opportunity. USACE Baltimore thanked W. Gross for everything she has done for the last few years and wished her well in her new endeavor.
- Holly Hostetler, ERT, Inc., will step in to fill the Spring Valley Outreach Team Lead role.
- Sarah Donahue, ERT, Inc., will join the Spring Valley Outreach Team full-time to assist H. Hostetler as needed.

### **B. Task Group Updates**

#### **RAB Membership**

##### **1. RAB Membership Search Committee Update**

RAB Membership Search Committee members Mary Bresnahan and Bill Krebs plan to conduct an initial interview with the new candidate next week. An update about the potential new member is expected from M. Bresnahan or B. Krebs at the November RAB meeting.

##### **2. Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Advisor**

Dr. Devamita Chattopadhyay recently completed a year as the technical advisor to the RAB. USACE Baltimore exercised the option to maintain Dr. Chattopadhyay as the technical advisor on the RAB through the end of the 2022 fiscal year.

### **II. USACE Program Updates**

#### **A. Site-Wide Remedial Action (RA)**

D. Noble briefly reviewed the Site-Wide Remedial Design (RD)/Remedial Action (RA).

##### **1. COVID-19 Response**

The project team continues to implement safety measures in response to COVID-19 including daily health monitoring of all workers, wearing masks, decontaminating tools, frequent hand washing, and social distancing.

##### **2. Recent Activities**

Remedial activities are pending for the last 7 out of 92 properties. Advanced Geophysical Classification (AGC) survey efforts are underway at 4 properties as final administrative preparation steps wrap up with the last group of homeowners. The data from the geophysical surveys will be analyzed in the coming weeks to determine excavation targets.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Dan, I have a question. In the chart or map you are showing now with the blue areas, I hate to mention the address, but in the Partnering minutes it says that 3720 has not been surveyed. Has that changed since August?

D. Noble explained that no new property has been surveyed since August. The property that A. Hengst mentioned is on Fordham Road, the single property shaded in blue in the lower right corner of the map on Slide #10 of the presentation. The property is one of the 4 properties where surveys are underway. There are no issues at that property.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Historically, there were issues, but I thought you had already surveyed that property?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - About four years ago.

D. Noble confirmed this. Approximately 44-45 of the 92 properties were previously surveyed during the remedial investigation. The survey team is now using new man-portable vector (MPV) technology and conducting more intrusive investigations. Previously, only open, available areas were investigated. For the current remedial activities or cleanup, the team is working with property owners to remove as much vegetation as possible to obtain as much coverage as possible on each property. This means that the team is returning to some properties that have been previously surveyed, including the Fordham Road property.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I have one final question about it. One final question. This property, if I am not mistaken, was identified on the area of interest or points of interest map as a possible burial pit, is that correct?

D. Noble confirmed this. The Fordham Road property is one of a group of properties that USACE is interested in near the Sedgwick trench. There were ~4 to 6 properties in that area that appeared to have burial features shown in aerial photography. However, aerial photography analysis alone does not necessarily mean burials took place.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Well, it looks like this will be the last one though, once you clear this one that whole issue is gone.

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that whole area will have been covered by the USACE investigation/remedial action by that point.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Great.

### **3. Planned Remedial Action Area Map**

The map on Slide #10 of the presentation shows the 92 residential properties and 13 Federal/City lots:

- Properties with no color and are highlighted with blue borders indicate residential properties and city lots that have been completed.
- Properties shown in blue indicate properties that require future remedial action.

**4. The final survey effort continues at the 92 residential properties and 13 Federal/City lots**

- Currently working on 5 residential properties at different stages of the remedial action process.
- 90 civil surveys and 90 arborist surveys have been completed.
- 90 properties have been visited by the geophysicist team, who provide technical recommendations on plant removal.
- Vegetation has been removed from 88 private properties and 13 City/Fed lots.
- Geophysical surveys completed at 85 private properties and 13 City/Fed lots off Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Anomaly removal completed at 85 private properties and 13 City/Fed lots off Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Issued 85 Assurance Letters.

**5. Advanced Geophysical Classification (AGC) Prove-Out Grid**

As geophysical survey work nears completion in the neighborhood, geophysical surveys will also be conducted at the Federal Property to ensure the removal of any project-related items.

The survey team performs daily quality checks in the AGC Prove-Out Grid, shown as the area highlighted in purple on Slide #11 of the presentation. This area has been used since 1993 to ensure geophysical instruments are operating with the required sensitivity needed to detect unknown items at the neighborhood properties. Metallic items are buried in ground in the Prove-Out Grid to daily test the instruments. Since there have been many Prove-Out Grids established in the same area over the years, surveys will be conducted to ensure no items are left behind as the site prepares for shutdown of operations over the next year. USACE Baltimore will notify the RAB of any excavations at the Federal Property and any items found.

**6. Tentative Schedule**

- Summer 2021
  - The team is actively communicating with 5 of the 7 remaining property owners and continues to try to communicate with the last 2 property owners to obtain the ROEs.
  - Finalize plant removal plans with the last group of homeowners and conduct plant removal at private properties in preparation for geophysical surveys.
  - Began subsequent round of geophysical surveys.
- Fall 2021
  - Complete round of anomaly removal efforts.
  - Begin subsequent Final Restoration Site walks with final group of homeowners.

**B. Former Public Safety Building (PSB)**

D. Noble provided a brief update on the former Public Safety Building (PSB).

**1. Recent Activities**

- On March 23, all backfilling, compaction, and test-pitting activities were completed in the area directly below the foundation at the PSB excavation site. All work to remove American University Experiment Station (AUES) debris contamination originally directed by the Site Wide Decision Document (DD) was completed.
- The team demobilized from the PSB excavation site on April 16, after completion of the additional investigation in the areas outside the PSB slab into the hillside and the test-pitting operations to the west of the slab. A truck entrance as well as the security and work fencing

were left in place. The PSB site remains secure, and a small team will continue to monitor and repair the erosion and sediment controls until work resumes.

- Based on the investigation of the area outside the footprint of the PSB slab, additional contamination is evident and further investigation is needed to determine its extent into the hillside. USACE will determine the scope of work and issue a contract modification to identify and excavate the extent of AUES debris. An administrative contract action is being developed to complete the work. Availability of materials and labor is limited and is driving up costs.
- The investigation and removal of the additional AUES contamination is not expected to begin until late fall of 2021. Restoration of the site would take place after completion of the north/east slope investigation and slope soil excavation and backfilling; restoration would include rebuilding the PSB slope and removing the access road.
- An investigation report of the PSB work conducted thus far has been completed, finalized, and distributed to EPA, DOEE, and Devamita Chattopadhyay, RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Consultant.
- Future landscape restoration work will be coordinated with American University – based on the approved landscape restoration plan.

Question from Marguerite Clarkson, At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School  
- Hey Dan, it is Marguerite. Sorry to interrupt you. Regarding that area, will the excavation impact any of the parking lot or driveway area up nearby Fletcher Gate?

D. Noble explained that the work at the PSB will not interrupt any roadways or parking areas, but to ensure this and for other reasons, the workplan have to include building retaining walls similar to the retaining walls built against the 4801 side of Glenbrook Road. Soldier piles and lagging walls will have to be established to support the hillside while the teams work and to prevent impact in those areas. This contributes to the higher cost of the extended project compared to a typical excavation. Additionally, the area will be excavated in very small, focused sections, exposing a large soil side wall, requiring the hillside to be properly supported to prevent collapse during excavation.

Comment from M. Clarkson, At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School - Ok, thank you.

## **2. Next Steps**

- Continue to maintain erosion control of the site.
- Continue to maintain communication with American University about this site on a weekly basis.

## **C. Glenbrook Road**

Julie Kaiser, USACE Baltimore provided a brief update on 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road.

### **1. Recent Activities**

- The photo on Slide #16 of the presentation shows the condition of 4825 Glenbrook Road from last week. The area where the grass looks messy with no curb is where the driveway was previously located.
- The photos on Slide #17 are historical photos of the property at 4825 Glenbrook Road. A great deal of work has been accomplished at the property since remediation began in the fall of 2012.
- All landscape restoration of the groundcover and the remaining permanent fencing installation

has been completed at the Glenbrook Road project area. Additionally, all remaining fencing has been installed at Glenbrook Road.

- The final hydroseeding effort was completed in early August to ensure the grass groundcover is well established throughout the site as the Glenbrook Road project team demobilized and the lot was officially returned to American University (AU) on July 31.
- Weston Solutions, Inc. completely demobilized and was last on the property August 25. All erosion fencing and watering equipment was removed, leaving only a water spigot for AU's use, if desired. All maintenance will now be handled by AU.
- The final documentation summarizing the remedial efforts completed at Glenbrook Road is currently under review and finalization. The finalized document will be available to the public both on the USACE website and at the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library.

## **2. Tentative Schedule**

- Summer 2021 - Finalize the written Site Specific Final Report by the end of October.
- Fall 2021 - Virtual Project Completion Event TBD. The event will be recorded and the link to the recording will be available on the website.

## **D. Groundwater Feasibility Study / Dispute Resolution**

D. Noble provided a review of the Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) and a brief update on the Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

The Partners and USACE agreed in principle to a No Further Action Decision Document (DD). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) administrative steps for the DD include a public meeting and a public comment period.

USACE is close to finalizing contracting actions with AECOM (the same contractor that performed the previous groundwater work) to obtain the technical support in preparing the Groundwater documentation. USACE will update the Partners and community when the contract is in place and documentation preparation is underway.

- AECOM is expected to be hired this week or next week. A contract is expected to be in place by November.
- Part of the contract action will be to close out and abandon the groundwater monitoring wells to prevent infiltration contamination to the aquifer from the surface.

## **III. Community Items**

### **IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development**

The November RAB meeting will tentatively be held virtually on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 through WebEx video conferencing services. As long as Baltimore and Washington DC remain high COVID transmission areas, the RAB meetings will be held virtually.

#### **A. Upcoming Meeting Topics**

- RAB Membership
- Groundwater FS Study/Dispute Resolution
- Site-Wide RD/RA
- 4825 Glenbrook Road/4835 Glenbrook Road
- Future RAB Planning and Final Document Writing Discussion

#### **B. Next RAB Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

### C. Open Discussion

#### V. Public Comments

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Dan, I have something. I put part of it in the chatbox already, but if you can hear me?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Okay, I think that, this afternoon I sent a copy of the letter that went to the National Park Service to you, to Brian, to Joe, to Lawrence, to the rest of the RAB members. I wanted to explain why in the last sentence I referred to a secret dumping of Glenbrook Road toxic waste in the last sentence. When I visited the site in Fort Totten in March, I spoke with the Metro bus driver who services the bus stop on the Galloway Street NE side of the closed footpath and asked him about the fenced-off area next to his first bus stop. Of course, he was aware of the closure but had no idea why the National Park Service had closed it. When I visited in August and spoke with several passersby, some of whom were already walking dogs on the unfinished footpath, none of those neighbors were aware of why the trail had been closed in July 2020 or what had been uncovered there, the 75mm WWI shell from Spring Valley. This is why, in my letter to the Park Service, I referred to the dumping of Glenbrook Road soil at Fort Totten as a secret dumping. It was not secret to us, we have talked about it a lot throughout the years, but for the residents of the area and the people that work there, it is still a secret. The National Park Service is not the Army Corps, and they are not transparent, and I am concerned about the neighborhood there. I used to live in that area, and I think Alma talked about having an art project there. Those people have no idea what was done in the 90s, and when you think about what had happened, that the rich neighborhood of Spring Valley dumped its waste in collusion with the Park Service in Fort Totten, I think it is a disgrace and I think it is time for some transparency at a minimum. That is about it, unless anybody has any other comments about that or questions.

D. Noble thanked A. Hengst for sharing the letter and explained that USACE will stand by to work with the federal landowner, the National Park Service (NPS), on this issue if NPS reaches out. However, the property is owned by NPS, and it is NPS' part to step forward and take the lead on their property. D. Noble believes NPS is taking the lead on the issue but understands A. Hengst's concerns.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - You will notice that I also copied Eleanor Holmes Norton, who has taken a particular interest in this project, and I also copied Mary Cheh, the City Council Member from Ward 3.

D. Noble thanked A. Hengst.

Comment from John Wheeler, Community Member - With Julie's presentation, it is nice to see something wrapping up, and that was a huge part of what we have been doing. When I joined the RAB a long time ago, I never expected we would still be going, but at least I think I can see the end of things and that is a good feeling.

D. Noble confirmed this and thanked J. Wheeler for his comments.

Comment from M. Clarkson, At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School - I would like to thank Whitney for her time with us and coordinating us.



Comment from W. Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Team - Thank you so much, it is an absolute pleasure.

D. Noble thanked M. Clarkson for her comments.

**VI. Adjourn**

The conference call was adjourned at 8:05 PM.