

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board
Conference Call
Minutes of the September 2020 Meeting**

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Brian Barone	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Mary Kathryn Covert Steel	Community Member
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Joe Vitello	Agency Representative - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
William Krebs	Community Member
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Tom Smith	Community Member
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Jennifer Baine	Community Member
Paul Bermingham	Community Member
Marguerite Clarkson	At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School
Mary Douglas	Community Member
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
Jonathan Harms	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Dan Nichols	At Large Representative - American University
Malcolm Pritzker	Community Member
John Wheeler	Community Member
ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL	
Kim Berg	USACE Baltimore

Whitney Gross	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Holly Hostetler	ERT, Inc.
Julie Kaiser	USACE Baltimore
ZaKerra Lance	ERT - Community Outreach Team
HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING	
I. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation (emailed PDF)	

AGENDA

Starting Time: The September 2020 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting began at 7:06 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.

Comment from Greg Beumel, Community Co-Chair - I just want to thank people for making it to tonight's meeting. Apparently, at least this group, is keeping safe. So, that is good. I guess we are lucky that we are at a point where USACE is doing a lot of clean-ups and we are not being required to get in there and give them a lot of our advice at this point. But I do want to hear, as we are going through, anything that we all want to say, especially as we get a little more detail as to what USACE is doing to make sure that we are happy with the way things are proceeding.

1. Introductions

None

2. General Announcements

This meeting is not being held on the typical second Tuesday of the month because the second Tuesday in September 2020 was the day after the Labor Day holiday. USACE Baltimore pushed the meeting one week to the third Tuesday in case RAB members were travelling for the Labor Day weekend. USACE Baltimore did not check American University (AU)'s schedule before scheduling the meeting. AU scheduled a 10-Year Campus Plan virtual meeting at the same time. Some RAB members planned to attend the AU meeting and were unable to attend the RAB meeting. USACE Baltimore apologized for the oversight and will consider AU's virtual meeting schedule if the meeting needs to be held off-schedule in future.

D. Noble reviewed the website updates which included the July and August Site-Wide Monthly Project Updates and the weekly 4825 Glenbrook Road updates and photos. The June and August Partner meetings were not held, but project update presentations were posted in lieu of meeting minutes.

USACE Baltimore will make an effort in FY2021 to conduct more virtual activities. The upcoming

November 10th RAB meeting will be held virtually through WebEx video conferencing services. This will allow the option for RAB members to see each other's faces and USACE Baltimore will be able to show presentations onscreen.

Some RAB members suggested the ZOOM platform and, initially, USACE Baltimore considered conducting meetings with ZOOM. However, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued guidance that the ZOOM platform is not sufficiently secure and official meetings are not to be conducted on ZOOM. The WebEx platform performed well during practice sessions with the Spring Valley team. Whitney Gross and ZaKerra Lance, Spring Valley Community Outreach Team, ERT, recently held a WebEx meeting with some Spring Valley realtors. All the Spring Valley team members had government computers with standardized software and experienced no issues with WebEx, but the other participants at the meeting with different devices and browsers experienced some confusion. W. Gross and Z. Lance will contact each of the RAB members to discuss using the WebEx platform and may set up individual or group practice sessions for WebEx before the November RAB meeting.

D. Noble asked the RAB about their thoughts on virtual meetings.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair – Well, your plan to use the WebEx seems good, give everyone a chance. As I was talking beforehand to people, you know, we are doing remote learning in DC so I am on mine every day, but I do find that, based on your equipment and which platform you are using, that can be a crapshoot as to how well it works.

Question from Mary Bresnahan, Community Member - I have to get a new computer because I have been hacked a few times. Is there someone there that can send out a suggestion, a recommendation, for a computer that will handle all that stuff?

D. Noble explained that USACE Baltimore will look into appropriate computers, but the government must always be careful to not recommend private companies. USACE Baltimore could request a list of computer or laptop requirements for successful WebEx meetings from USACE Baltimore IT. Sometimes the browser used for different applications can be important; USACE Baltimore will look into this as well.

Comment from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - That is exactly where I am going. First of all, I am in real estate, so we are all set up to do everything through Long and Foster. So, I know that will not work with everything, so that is why I need to know so I can do something separately.

D. Noble explained that the RAB members will need the equipment they want to use for meetings ready to go to make the practice sessions helpful.

Comment from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - That is great. I have to make a change; I would rather do it so that it would meet all your requirements also.

D. Noble explained that USACE Baltimore IT staff joined the WebEx practice session and gave helpful advice on WebEx access. USACE Baltimore will reach out to the IT staff to put together legally appropriate advice on system hardware and software for WebEx meetings.

Comment from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - Perfect, thank you very much.

B. Task Group Updates

RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Consultant

The procurement action to secure Devamita Chattopadhyay, Ph.D. as the new Spring Valley RAB

TAPP consultant is in final steps. Dr. Chattopadhyay is expected to join the RAB for the November meeting.

The USACE Baltimore Contracting Office is aware that the funds for FY2020 will expire at the end of the fiscal year on September 30; D. Noble expects the contracting action to be completed in the next couple weeks.

II. USACE Program Updates

A. Site-Wide Remedial Action (RA)

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

The site teams have been able to continue work. The sites were shut down in March, but resumed work after discussions with onsite contractors and vendors. The Public Safety Building (PSB) shut down for approximately sixty days to implement proper permissions and paperwork for the Army Support Agency to participate. The PSB site resumed activities in mid-July.

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.

- The photo on slide #8 of the presentation shows that operators of the Man-Portable Vector (MPV) instrument must be tethered together within six feet of each other. The operators of the MPV wear masks at all times.
- Crews at the different project sites are encouraged to operate in their own bubble as much as possible. The teams working at the neighborhood private properties operate separately from the teams working at the PSB and the teams working at Glenbrook Road. All the teams commonly use the federal site behind Sibley Memorial Hospital but remain separate from each other as much as possible. This protocol aids the continuity of operations in the event a crew member tests positive for COVID-19. The other sites could continue operations even if the affected site is shut down.
- Work has continued so far with the knowledge that any of the sites could be shut down at any time to send workers home to quarantine should someone test positive for COVID-19.

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

- Currently working on eighty-seven (87) residential properties at different stages of the remedial action process.
- Eighty-seven (87) civil surveys and 87 arborist surveys have been completed.
- Eighty-six (86) properties have been visited by the geophysical team to provide technical recommendations on plant removal and landscape adjustments.
- Vegetation has been removed from seventy-one (71) private properties and all thirteen (13) Federal/City lots. More vegetation removal may be performed on the Federal/City lots in the spring as plants grow back.
- Geophysical surveys completed at seventy-one (71) private properties and 11 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Anomaly removal completed at sixty-nine (69) private properties and 4 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway. This is the final clean-up action required by the Site-Wide Decision Document (DD). The map on slide #9 of the presentation will be updated when the data is

validated.

- Anomaly removal is expected to be completed at 71 properties by the end of September.
- Issued forty-three (43) Assurance Letters.
- The teams will be conducting geophysical surveys at 6 additional properties in October and expect to have approximately eighty properties completed by the end of the year.
- Restoration activities will be conducted through the winter and into spring 2021.

3. Anomaly Removal

- The excavation team was mobilized in August for anomaly removal at a group of ten properties.
- After dynamic and cued surveys are complete and the excavation list is confirmed, the team can begin excavation and removal of metallic anomalies.
- The team carefully excavates each target, checks each location with a metal detector to ensure the metal anomaly was removed, and fills the clear hole with soil.
- Soil and sod removed during excavation is placed on tarps to reduce disturbance to the property.

4. Anomaly Excavation Finds

On September 8th, the team recovered an intact, closed-cavity three-inch Stokes mortar round. Following work procedures for the site, the team paused all activities at the site and contacted the Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team. The EOD team conducted an onsite x-ray and assessment of the item. Even though the site team could identify the item, DoD procedures require an active-duty soldier to identify intact items. The EOD team determined the item was not fused and was most likely a sand-filled round, therefore not hazardous. The item, determined to be munitions debris (MD), was removed to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia and destroyed on the range the same day.

The items shown in photos on slide #12 of the presentation are American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related MD items recovered since August 2020. Fragments of MD are more commonly found than intact munitions.

5. Tentative Schedule

- Fall 2020
 - Continue geophysical surveys.
 - Continue anomaly removal efforts.
- Winter 2020
 - Begin finalizing plant removal plans with subsequent groups and conduct plant removal at private properties in preparation for geophysical surveys.
 - Continue obtaining Rights-of-Entry from the next group of homeowners.
 - Begin subsequent round of geophysical surveys.

B. Former Public Safety Building (PSB)

Kim Berg, USACE Baltimore provided a brief update on the former Public Safety Building (PSB).

1. Recent Activities

- The team resumed work at the PSB in July, with excavation of test pits in each of the grid cells in the excavation to determine the final excavation boundaries for the PSB and to conduct confirmation soil sampling.

- The test pits were excavated to eight feet below slab grade, with soil samples collected at one-foot intervals for head space, metals, and other analyses.
- The test pits were backfilled, and the team continued final excavations at each of the grid cells.
- The team continues to encounter lab-grade glassware debris and followed the debris into the northern hillside edge of the former PSB footprint.
- Through further investigation, the debris appears to extend outside of the northwestern footprint and near the existing sump. The team has prepared work plans and is evaluating the investigation and removal of the debris trail into the hillside.
- A site visit meeting is scheduled tomorrow for team engineers to discuss options. USACE Baltimore will notify the RAB of the decision on the path forward.
- The uncovered material in the test pit sidewall was screened for munition debris and AUES items. The batch glass and metal debris cleared headspace analysis and was shipped for confirmation analysis.

The items shown in photos on slide #17 of the presentation are glassware and MD found during the test-pitting of the excavation.

2. Excavation Depths

Based on the test pit excavations, the team determined final excavation depths for each of the grid cells, as represented on slide #18 of the presentation:

- Green indicates grid soil to be excavated to four feet below ground surface.
- Purple indicates grid soil to be excavated to five feet below ground surface.
- Yellow indicates grid soil to be excavated to six feet below ground surface.
- Gray indicates grid soil to be excavated to eight feet below ground surface.
- The team excavates each grid cell to required depth but will continue excavating until the soil is clear of glassware or AUES debris, which may be deeper than the required depth.
- The debris that extends into the northern hillside is identified on the map as a gray bar above the northwestern corner.
- This week, the team removed the sump, identified in the northeastern corner. The concrete sump structure was broken down into smaller pieces loaded into a roll-off container and transported to the staging area at the Federal Compound pending off-site disposal.

The extension of the debris from the northwest corner of the footprint of the PSB was not expected. Based on the previous investigations conducted at the PSB, specifically in the 2009 to 2010 timeframe, USACE Baltimore believed that all the debris was removed from around the PSB. The debris field was only two to three feet below the bottom of the PSB basement slab, but as soon as the debris crossed out from underneath the building and went into the hillside, the topography was so steep that the ground surface elevated very quickly. The debris that was two to three feet down underneath the building immediately became seven to nine feet down directly in front of the building because the soil was piled up against the front of the building after the building was constructed. USACE Baltimore believes that seven to nine foot depth is why the debris was likely missed in 2010. Now the debris has been observed in the shallower area within the footprint and going into the hillside. USACE Baltimore does not believe the debris will extend very far into the hillside because the hillside was present during WWI as well. Because of the way the site is set up, excavations could not extend further away from the building; excavations stopped because of the concern that the hillside above the excavation would begin to slough if excavations continued. The meeting tomorrow will address options for safely extending the excavation more than 6 feet

past the north wall of the foundation to expose the end of the debris.

3. American University Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) Soil Removal

The Site-Wide DD included areas around the AU south campus that contained elevated levels of metals in the soil. The remaining efforts for these areas are two locations behind the Hamilton Building. SAU-RA1 contained elevated Cobalt and Vanadium, and SAU-RA2 contained elevated Cobalt.

In September, some of the crew from the PSB will split off to conduct soil excavation at the two locations. Confirmation samples have been collected to determine the depth and boundaries of the contaminated soil.

Completion of these areas represents the final HTW soil removal in Spring Valley, a significant milestone for the Site-Wide Spring Valley remediation effort.

C. Glenbrook Road

Julie Kaiser, USACE Baltimore provided a brief update on 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road. J. Kaiser is replacing Brenda Barber as project manager on Glenbrook Road and supporting D. Noble with the Site-Wide efforts.

1. 4825 Glenbrook Road

All remedial actions at Glenbrook Road have been completed and the team is now focusing on restoration activities.

The teams continued earth-work throughout July and August; moving clean soil onto the site and conducting compaction. Restoration activities were slowed by rain events but are proceeding well.

The goal for restoration activities is to conduct a low impact operation, with consideration of the impacts the operation might have on the neighborhood. Parsons has taken precautions to prevent excess soil on the road and trucks waiting:

- No trucks are staged and waiting on the road to deposit backfill soil at the site. There is only one truck at the area.
- A geotextile liner is used as a ‘runway’ to keep dirt off the truck tires.

The team is currently working on the south side of the property. The project is at 30% complete for backfill and compaction. Additional restoration activities include reinstalling functional utility networks. The team will be working on the utilities on the north side of the property this week.

Clean backfill is installed in lifts. The lifts are covered with plastic at the end of the day to prevent excess moisture content.

As significant progress is made with backfill and compaction, equipment is removed from the site. The photos on slide #26 of the presentation show the removal of a stair, excavator, and Shelter-in-Place siren and solar panel with utility pole.

The schedule for the trucks to arrive with clean backfill will continue through the fall and into the end of the year; Monday through Thursday, between 8 AM and 4 PM.

2. 4835 Glenbrook Road

The map on slide #27 shows the locations of soil gas sampling holes that were previously installed in the basement floor of 4835 Glenbrook Road. In July, the Partners agreed to collect another

round of passive soil gas samples. The last round of soil gas sampling was conducted in October 2019 and did not show any detections of agent breakdown products (ABPs), but the previous soil gas sampling in 2018 showed detections of ABPs.

The sampling dosimeters will be installed tomorrow to begin collection of passive soil gas samples over a period of approximately two weeks.

Awaiting the final results for the soil gas sampling may push the final site closure of 4835 Glenbrook Road at least approximately two months.

The Partners will need to discuss the results of the final soil gas sampling to determine a path forward if any compounds are detected and whether such results should be incorporated into the historic Risk Assessment (RA).

3. Tentative Schedule

- Fall 2020
 - Continue the planned final site restoration tasks for the Glenbrook project area. This includes restoring utilities along the shared property lines and restoring landscaping in the easement areas.
 - Complete the planned elevation levels of soil backfill and compaction at the site.
- Winter 2021 - Anticipated project completion.

Question from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - You mean everything will be done on Glenbrook Road?

J. Kaiser and D. Noble explained that all physical work will be completed, but the soil gas sampling results will still be pending and an addendum to the risk assessment may be written to discuss the soil gas results. There are no lingering issues at 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4801 Glenbrook Road and physical work at those two properties are expected to be fully completed by January. If no ABPs are detected in the third round of samples, then all work at 4835 Glenbrook Road may be considered completed by January. If the results come back with a positive detection, more work will likely be required at 4835 Glenbrook Road post-January. The type of work and the form the work would take is difficult to predict without the results of the third round of sampling. At the end of all work, a final site report will be written to close out the remedial activity at 4825 Glenbrook Road that will summarize the entire remedial action at 4825 Glenbrook Road. The report is expected in late winter from the contractor.

Comment from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - Wonderful.

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 map on slide #34 of the presentation shows the area of original concern for groundwater. The circled area represents Exposure Unit 2 (EU2), where exceedances continued to be observed in the groundwater. Monitoring wells PZ-4D and MW-44 had elevated levels of perchlorate and multi-port well MP-2 had elevated arsenic (As) in the past.

The Partners agreed to collect another round of groundwater samples to confirm the results of the groundwater sampling conducted in September 2019. The groundwater sampling event took place on June 23rd through 26th and was conducted by the Army Corps and the U.S. Geological Survey

(USGS).

EPA issued a public notice that EPA was conducting rule-making and discussing the establishment of an official Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for perchlorate. The MCLs are the drinking water regulations for the U.S. If an MCL for perchlorate was established, that MCL would become the standard that USACE Baltimore would utilize, rather than the established health advisory for perchlorate USACE Baltimore has used in the past.

After a public comment period, EPA declined to establish an MCL for perchlorate and withdrew the rule-making. EPA did not provide clear guidance of whether the health advisory should be used. Joe Vitello, EPA is investigating the guidance on the standard to use for perchlorate. In the meantime, USACE Baltimore will continue to compare the perchlorate results to the health advisory standard of 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L).

The table on slide #36 of the presentation shows the perchlorate results collected at EU2 over the years. The last column in the table for June 2020 shows the perchlorate levels highlighted in yellow; 26.2 ug/L for PZ-4D and 16.0 ug/L for MW-44. Those levels are compared to the health advisory level of 15 ug/L. Very similar perchlorate levels are observed in the two wells over the years. Compared to the results from September 2019, the perchlorate results held steady at the same level.

The table on slide #37 of the presentation shows the Arsenic (As) sampling results at MP-2 in June 2020. The well at M-2 is located on the west side Glenbrook Road, across the street from 4825 Glenbrook Road. The results for As in September 2019 were very good, all below the long-established MCL of 10 ug/L for As. In June 2020, the results were all below the MCL again. There have now been two rounds of clean groundwater at MP-2, the last well with concerns for As contamination. This may show that all the As-contaminated soil removal performed across the street at 4825 Glenbrook Road has had a positive benefit to the groundwater quality.

USACE Baltimore proposed to EPA and DOEE that all actions for As in groundwater is complete. At this time, USACE Baltimore has no plans to re-sample MP-2.

USACE Baltimore will provide an update to the RAB in November on the EPA Guidance for perchlorate and the Partners' determination on As remediation.

III. Community Items

IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development

Comment from M. Bresnahan, Community Member - I just want to thank you for educating me further. I thought it was very good; I really did enjoy listening to all of it. Thank you.

A. Upcoming Meeting Topics

- RAB TAPP Consultant
- Groundwater FS Study/Policy Issues between USACE, EPA, and DOEE
- Groundwater Sampling Results
- Site-Wide RD/RA
- 4825 Glenbrook Road/4835 Glenbrook Road

B. Next RAB Meeting:

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

C. Open Discussion

V. Public Comments

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.