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

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Jennifer Baine	Community Member
Paul Bermingham	Community Member
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Brian Barone	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Mary Kathryn Covert Steel	Community Member
Joe Vitello	Agency Representative - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Tom Smith	Community Member
John Wheeler	Community Member
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Marguerite Clarkson	At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School
Mary Douglas	Community Member
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
Jonathan Harms	Community Member
William Krebs	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Dan Nichols	At Large Representative - American University
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
Carlos Lazo	USACE, Government Affairs Liaison
HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING	
I. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation (emailed PDF)	

AGENDA

Starting Time: The January 2021 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) conference call began at 7:00 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 - Thanks, everybody, for coming tonight. I am glad you made it. I am glad there are at least this many people who are COVID-free and still around. I am going to let Dan take over; you should have gotten an email today that we had a resignation the RAB, but I will let Dan give you all the details.

1. Introductions

None

2. General Announcements

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

B. Task Group Updates

1. RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Consultant

USACE and ERT held a site visit with TAPP advisor Devamita Chattopadhyay, Ph.D. on December 8th, 2020. The site visit included the Federal Property, Glenbrook Road project area, and American University's (AU's) former Public Safety Building debris removal site. USACE, ERT, and Dr. Chattopadhyay also observed geophysical survey and intrusive investigations fieldwork at some of the 92 properties.

2. RAB Membership

- Malcom Pritzker recently stepped down from the RAB, leaving a Community Member position open and the position of Membership Chair open on the RAB.

- Mary Douglas is moving to Delaware and sent her resignation from the RAB. Mary has been on the RAB for approximately eight years. USACE Baltimore appreciates M. Douglas' service and the time she gave; M. Douglas was a valuable member of the RAB. USACE Baltimore wishes M. Douglas well in the future and enjoyment of Delaware.

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

- Currently working on 89 residential properties at different stages of the remedial action process. The team is actively attempting to make contact with the three remaining property owners.
- 89 civil surveys and 89 arborist surveys have been completed.
- 89 properties have been visited by the geophysical team to provide technical recommendations on plant removal and landscape adjustments.
- Vegetation has been removed from 85 private properties and all 13 Federal/City lots.
- Geophysical surveys completed at 80 private properties and 13 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Anomaly removal completed at 75 private properties and 13 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Issued 43 Assurance Letters.
- Restoration activities will be conducted through the winter and into spring 2021.

3. Planned Remedial Action Area Map

The map on slide #8 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 green indicates that those properties are at some stage of the RA clean-up process.
- Properties shown in blue indicate properties where efforts are being made to engage the homeowners but have not yet reached a firm commitment. To date, four properties remain unclear whether access will be given. The difference between three properties to be contacted and four properties to be investigated will be addressed in a future slide.

Comment from Whitney Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Program - The reasoning is that the property is being sold, and it has been back and forth. We will work that out.

4. Hardscape Excavations During Intrusive Investigations

During the last round of intrusive investigations in early December, some anomalies were located under hardscape areas. Hardscapes including patios, sidewalks, and driveways are all surveyed

during geophysical surveys. If an anomaly is chosen to be intrusively investigated under hardscape, a section is removed, the excavation team removes the anomaly, and the hardscape is repaired.

5. Anomaly Excavation Finds

During the last round of intrusive investigations at seven private homes and approximately four Federal/City lots in December, the team did not find any munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) items or hazardous items but did find munitions debris (MD) items. One of the MD items was a fragment of a Livens projectile with an empty burster tube. The item was removed from the residential property and a head space analysis was performed. No chemical agents were detected in that analysis.

The photos on slide #11 of the presentation show other MD finds from recent intrusive investigations.

The map on slide #12 of the presentation shows the locations where MD and MEC items were found during the Remedial Action.

- The blue shaded areas indicate the four Areas of Concern.
- The yellow circles indicate locations where MD items were found.
- The three pink circles indicate locations where MEC items were found.

Only those items found during the current Remedial Action effort are shown on the map. Other MD and MEC items were found during the Remedial Investigation. All items found during the Remedial Investigation and the Remedial Action will be included in the final Closure Report.

6. Tentative Schedule

- Winter 2021
  - Continue geophysical surveys.
  - Continue anomaly removal efforts. The next group of seven properties will begin intrusive investigations during the week of February 8.
  - Continue obtaining Rights-of-Entry from the next group of homeowners.
- Spring 2021
  - Finalize plant removal plans with the last groups of homeowners and conduct plant removal at private properties in preparation for geophysical surveys.
  - Begin subsequent round of geophysical surveys.
  - Complete subsequent round of anomaly removal efforts.

B. Former Public Safety Building (PSB)

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

The team continued excavation efforts to the final boundary depths in each grid cell of the PSB excavation area. The team continues to encounter small amounts of lab-grade glassware as the excavated material is transferred to the sorting table, processed, and transferred off-site for analysis and disposal.

A terra cotta drainage pipe was encountered during excavation efforts and was connected to a High-Density Polyurethane (HDPE) pipe previously installed by Parsons. A section of the terra cotta pipe was removed and the excavation down to the final 8-foot depth completed in grid cell F3. The replacement of the terra cotta pipe with HDPE pipe is planned for the remaining section

in grid cell E3.

The photos on slide #16 of the presentation show the recovered laboratory glassware debris excavated at the former PSB site.

The map on slide #17 of the presentation shows an overall view of the former PSB footprint:

- Final excavation depths have been reached in 8 of the 10 grid cells.
- The team is still excavating in Grid Cell F-4, indicated by bright green shading, and Grid Cell F-5 (shown to the left of Grid Cell F-4), indicated by gray shading.
- Grid cells that have reached final excavation depths have been backfilled with clean material.
- The area outlined in green indicates grid cells that have been backfilled up to 3 ft below the former PSB elevation slab.
- Areas outlined red indicate grid cells that have been backfilled.
- The terra cotta drainpipe is indicated by the solid line running vertically through the former PSB site. The blue portion of the solid line indicates the southern end of the pipe that has been replaced with HDPE pipe, and the black portion of the solid line indicates the northern end of the pipe that will be replaced with HDPE pipe.

The map on slide #18 of the presentation shows the overall site layout of the former PSB.

A Contract Modification is in process to award the investigation work for the American University Experiment Station (AUES) debris observed extending into the northern hillside.

Question from Tom Smith, Community Member - The dark soil that is observed, is that new or is that something you shared with us previously?

K. Berg confirmed that the dark soil was described in the slides for the last RAB meeting. The dark soil was material observed during excavations in the adjacent grid cell. The team also observed debris extending into the hillside, beyond the former PSB footprint boundary. A Contract Modification must be issued to conduct investigation work to determine how far the debris extends in that area.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member - Do you have a timeline for when the work at this site is likely to be completed?

K. Berg explained that the team expects to complete excavations in the grid cells by spring/summer 2021. The investigation into the hillside is expected to be completed in mid-summer 2021.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member - Is there an agreement between AU and USACE over what constitutes restoration of the site?

D. Noble explained that there is a restoration agreement between AU and USACE, but the agreement focused on the footprint of the former PSB, since it was believed that the debris was confined to the footprint boundary. The current PSB Decision Document and the agreement with AU states that the debris would be removed from underneath the former PSB. Now that the same type of debris is observed extending into the hillside, the first step is to determine how far the debris extends. There is a concern that if the debris extends too far into the hillside, excavations to remove the debris would come too close to a major utility corridor. Workplans would need to be developed to remove the debris without disturbing AU's utility corridor. Additionally, current erosion controls would need to be beefed up to prevent the hillside from collapsing.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member - With some students scheduled to come back to

the campus in the next few months, is that likely to change the way you are dealing with this site, or safety issues related to the site or anything?

D. Noble explained that the teams conduct active perimeter monitoring every day at the site. Site truck traffic has not created a disturbance since there are no students on campus. If students return to the campus, there are protocols and procedures in place to allow work to continue.

C. Glenbrook Road

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

The team is preparing both 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road for return to AU.

The photo on slide # 19 of the presentation shows soil grading being conducted on 4825 Glenbrook Road and the soldier piles along the property boundary line. The gravel pile in the foreground of the photo is additional gravel for the trucks delivering the backfill material.

In mid-November, the team built a concrete pad and re-established the exterior air conditioning (AC) units servicing 4835 Glenbrook Road.

1. Additional Backfill

The original source for backfill material was depleted. The backfill source sampled in late October was found to contain concentrations of elevated metals, and therefore was not acceptable.

On November 11, USACE contractor Parsons located and sampled a new source in northern Virginia. This sample was acceptable and the backfill source was approved by USACE and Partners Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III and Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) on November 30.

Once the soil was approved, transport of the new backfill from the northern Virginia site to either the Federal Property for staging or to 4825 Glenbrook Road site for placement was a daily focus in December and included working on Saturdays when weather allowed. Although there were some winter weather delays in December, the team utilized the expanded soil staging area at the Federal Property, transporting over 400 truckloads in December, obtaining all the backfill needed for site completion.

At the time of the last RAB meeting, the team had completed approximately 30% of the planned backfill and compaction effort. As of this week, the backfill and soil compaction operations are 43% complete.

Comment from Allen Hengst, Audience Member - Julie, I have got a question for you, but I do not think you can answer it. I put it in a chat box. I think Dan will be able to answer.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Question for Dan: As you may recall, soil excavated during the construction of the house at 4825 Glenbrook Road in the Nineties was initially taken to the Lorton Landfill in Virginia where it was rejected due to the odor. It was then trucked over to Fort Totten in northeast DC where it was also ultimately rejected by the Park Service as well. In answer to a question about this event from Mary Douglas at the March 10th, 2020 RAB meeting, Dan Noble stated: "Both USACE Baltimore and DOEE investigated the removed debris [from 4825 Glenbrook Road] without success in determining the final location. It is known that the debris was sent to the Ft. Totten area when the nearby Ft. Totten metro station was being built. Soil was needed at the new Metro station to level out an

equipment yard for the Metro contractor. Some soil was sent to that area and the contractor began to spread the contaminated soil out. The area is Park Service land, lent to the Metro Authority for the construction project. The Park Service employee overseeing the land ordered that the contaminated soil be taken away. Eventually, the contaminated soil was taken away and the final destination of the soil is unknown." On July 25th, it was a reported in an UXO newsletter (link below) that a 75 mm "WWI-era" artillery shell was exposed by heavy rains at Fort Totten Park … http://uxoinfo.com/blogcfc/client/index.cfm/2020/7/25/Artillery-Shell-Exposed-By-Heavy-Rains-In-Park Can someone on the Spring Valley FUDS team please ascertain whether that recovered shell originated at AUES?

Question from D. Noble, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Spring Valley Project Manager - Is that a question, Allen, you just want us to read and get back to you on the answer?

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I put the rest of the question in, it is about an artillery shell from World War (WW)I that was found at Ft. Totten this summer. I put a link in to the article from the UXO Info Newsletter from July.

D. Noble explained that USACE was recently in communication with the National Park Service (NPS) on that issue. NPS is preparing to survey the area for any additional munitions. USACE is serving as a technical consultant for NPS on the project. NPS has hired a contractor and may have begun survey activities this week. The project plan is to complete the survey before allowing all of Ft. Totten Park to re-open. The survey will include an investigation for additional munitions and sampling the soil for contamination.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - My question is, was the shell that was found this summer from AUES? Have you looked at the shell?

D. Noble explained that USACE inspected and obtained x-rays of the shell. The shell was found to be a 75mm with a hex plug. This type of munition was often found in Spring Valley. There is no absolute way to determine if the shell came from Spring Valley, but it is a possibility, since the shell is a WWI munition. Spring Valley is on the list of places that the shell may have originated from.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - This is my last question about this. If it turns out to be a Spring Valley AUES munition, that is outside the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) boundary. Will you be responsible for the clean-up, for the cost, for the (Ed. garbled] expense?

D. Noble explained that, at this time, NPS is taking the lead on the project and is responsible for the cost. Ft. Totten is also a separate FUDS site, so if a larger problem at the site is detected, USACE and NPS will be in communication to determine the lead on the work, how that work should proceed, and the responsibility for the cost. So, the answer is, 'perhaps.'

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Thank you.

2. Final Disposal of Debris

- The team shipped off a load of shredded scrap metal and MD to the smelter on November 18 for recycling. The drums of scrap metal and MD had been stored at the Federal Property since 2012.
- In addition to the shredded MD, there are 12 intact MD items recovered at Glenbrook Road in the past. The items were x-rayed and the USACE Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team supplied documents to USACE stating that the items do not contain explosives.

- The team discussed options on how to potentially treat and transport the remaining munition related waste stored at the Federal Property, including the twelve intact MD items.
- Even though the intact MD items have been documented as empty, a determination of the contents of the items is impossible by visual inspection. Before transport to the smelter for disposal, the small amount of MD must be cut open.
- The team will use a remotely operated saw to cut the twelve MD items in half.
- The operation to cut the items in half is scheduled to take place inside an Engineering Control Structure (ECS) with the near real-time air monitoring miniature chemical agent monitoring system (MINICAMS) at the Federal Property during the last week of January. The MINICAMS will be cycled again after the cutting operation is complete to obtain an "all-clear" reading.
- The operation will take place in the Interim Holding Facility (IHF) compound so no map or diagram can be shared as the exact location of the IHF is not publicized.
- Once the MINICAMS signal the all-clear, the ordnance technicians will perform a visual inspection of the internal parts of the MD items and give final certification that the items are not hazardous.
- The remaining MD will then be transported to the smelter in the same manner as the drums of shredded scrap metal and MD that were sent on November 18.

The photo on slide #26 of the presentation shows an x-ray of a 75mm item with a hex plug at the top of the item. The burster tube underneath the hex plug and the internal cavity are shown to be empty.

Out of the twelve intact MD items, two of the items contain small amounts of liquid:

- A 75mm that contains 6% liquid fill inside. When the item was recovered, a portable isotopic neutron spectroscopy system (PINS) instrument was used to assess the liquid inside the item. The liquid was determined to be water.
- The 75mm shown in the x-ray on slide #26 of the presentation contains 1% liquid fill. The 1% liquid fill is not enough liquid to perform a PINS assessment, therefore the item must be cut in half remotely to treat the item appropriately and neutralize any hazardous liquid that may be inside. The burster tube hex plug at the top of the item is loose, so the team believes the liquid inside is likely water.

3. Upcoming Efforts

- Continue backfilling efforts.
- Bring site to grade for AU water and sewer installation, including:
  - Re-install AU water line.
  - Re-install AU sanitary sewer line.
- Restore the fences along the 4801 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road properties.
- Restore site to final grade in 6-inch lifts with compaction in accordance with the Work Plan.
- Submit Draft Final Site-Specific Final Report.

4. Tentative Schedule

- Winter/Spring 2021:
  - Continue the planned final site restoration tasks for the Glenbrook Road project area. This includes restoring utilities along the shared property lines and restoring landscaping in the easement areas.

  - Carry out munitions debris cutting operation.
  - Complete the planned elevation levels of soil backfill and compaction at the site.
- Summer 2021 - anticipated project completion.

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).

- In agreement with EPA Region III and DOEE, USACE plans to conduct one more round of groundwater sampling in the spring at Kreeger Hall where perchlorate concentrations were above 15 ppb. Sampling will only be performed for perchlorate to confirm if concentrations are steady or decreasing at that location.
- Further details and sampling dates will be confirmed closer to the spring, likely February or March.
- As a reminder, arsenic (As) results were below the 10 ppb MCL for two consecutive sampling events and no further action is required for As.

E. Future of the RAB

All field work is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2021. This means all remedial action work in Spring Valley will be successfully wrapped up by the end of this year if everything goes according to plan.

With this important milestone approaching, this signals USACE's reduced presence in Spring Valley, perhaps only a presence at the Federal Property.

During 2021, RAB members should begin to think about the future of the RAB. The Groundwater Decision Document will be the last major decision the RAB may want to discuss.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - I would like, if you guys do could this, give us some examples of what has happened to other RABs as they start coming to the end of projects. What did they consider to be important milestones to reach and how did they react to them? I think we should look for guidance that way, and what did the community feel they need to do, and how long they had to stay in. Also, at the next meeting, let us schedule some time. I think the RAB members will probably want to express their opinions, but I want to give them a chance to think what they want to say. We will put that on the agenda for the next meeting. If anyone has any thoughts right now of things I missed, raise your hands or however we do that here. Speak up and let us make sure we consider all of that to get it on the agenda for the next meeting.

D. Noble confirmed that the RAB members can email their thoughts to USACE after the meeting.

Comment from T. Smith, Community Member - I have one thought and I have not talked to anybody about this. I know that some of this has to do with whether we replace anybody on the RAB, and I am not sure that is really necessary if we are looking to come to an end towards the end of the year, just in terms of the amount of time that it would take to get somebody up to speed with the RAB activities and like. But, you know, we lost a really valuable RAB member when Alma had to leave the RAB. I know she is on the phone tonight and I have not talked with her about this, but I am wondering if there is a way that we could have her serve as an informal community advisor for the RAB, so that is built in institutionally as we look at how we wrap up the RAB towards this year. I just kind of want to throw that out. I think that Alma has had long experience in working with this RAB, with the issues in the RAB. It is unfortunate for us that she

does not live within the RAB boundaries, but I think that she would have a lot to contribute to us as we sort of assess how we deal with the end of this project. So, I just want to throw that out, if there is a way that could be done. If it takes a motion or something, I am happy to do that, but I would at least like to throw that out for some thought.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - I think that is a good idea. I think I will let USACE look into it and I will talk to them between now and the next meeting and we will definitely address this issue as to what we can do, assuming Alma is interested. I see her on the meeting, but I have not heard from her, so we will also check with Alma.

Comment from Alma Gates, Audience Member - Yes, I would be interested. Thank you, Greg.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - Ok, great. Thanks, Alma.

D. Noble confirmed that he would review the RAB charter with G. Beumel. He agreed with T. Smith, that it may not be worth trying to bring in an unfamiliar RAB member and try to get them up to speed in time. Alma that is very up to speed and very up to date; Alma has kept in touch with the RAB over the years.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - Ok, good. So, we will talk about it in the next couple weeks. I will pull up my Charter again.

III. Community Items

IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development

The next RAB meeting will be March 9 and will be conducted using the same virtual format.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - Thank you, everyone, for attending. Hopefully 2 months from now, I guess people should start getting some shots. We should hopefully have some people that have been vaccinated by then. We are probably not quite ready to come back in person, but we should be moving in the right direction. We will talk about coming in two months, we will start getting some info on what we are going to do, and probably have another remote meeting. If there is anything that anyone wants on the agenda that we have not talked about, please let D. Noble know and we will get that on the agenda for the next meeting. If not, I will thank you all for coming and say good evening.

A. Upcoming Meeting Topics

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

B. Next RAB Meeting:

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

C. Open Discussion

V. Public Comments

VI. Adjourn

The conference call was adjourned at 8:00 PM.