

**Meeting Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport,
Rhode Island**

**September 20, 2023, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sonesta Select, Middletown, Rhode Island
And Virtual Webinar**

Call to Order and Approval of Previous Minutes

Helen Carnevale (Host, Resolution Consultants) called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the meeting of the NAVSTA Newport RAB, noting that this meeting was also being held with a webinar format. Helen discussed the instructions for participating in the virtual meeting and presented the meeting agenda, which is provided (Enclosure 1).

Panelists	Attendees
David Dorocz, NAVSTA Newport, Navy RAB Co-Chair	David Brown (via phone)
Deb Moore, NAVSTA Newport	Danuta Lamparski, Middletown
Jess Welkey, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic	Tom Grieb, Portsmouth
Eric Ross, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic	Nancy Howard, Portsmouth
Joe McCloud, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic	Andy Long, Newport This Week (via phone)
Henry Stueber, Community RAB Co-Chair	Lea Hitchen, Town Planner, Portsmouth (via phone)
Jane Dolan US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Ian Underwood, NAVSTA Public Works Commander
Tim Barbeau, EPA	Jennifer Haga, Portsmouth (via phone)
Laurie O'Connor (EPA) (via phone)	Cynthia Andreola, Portsmouth
Kim White (EPA)	Steve Johnson Chair Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and Portsmouth Economic Development Committee
Stephen Parker, Tetra Tech	Cornelia Mueller NAVSTA Newport
Naomi Ouellette, Resolution Consultants	
Tyler Winkler, Resolution Consultants	
Zac Chamberlin, RIDEM	
Kirsten Nunn, RIDEM (via phone)	
Paul Kulpa, RIDEM (via phone)	
Helen Carnevale, Host, Resolution Consultants (via phone)	
Lisa Shanahan, Co-Host, Resolution Consultants (via phone)	
Bruce Katz, NAVSTA PAO, (via phone)	

Dave Dorocz called for any comments on or revisions to the draft minutes

for the July 19, 2023 RAB Meeting. Minutes were accepted.

Part 1: Site Progress Milestones

Naomi Ouellette (Resolution Consultants) presented the Site Progress Milestones Update as a bulleted list by Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites (Enclosure 2). The usual Site Progress Milestones Table has been updated and was provided as a handout at the meeting (attached as Enclosure 3).

Naomi Ouellette reviewed each ERP site's stage in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. Please refer to Enclosure 2 for notable milestones that were highlighted.

Steve Parker provided a summary of the pending Explanation of Significant differences (ESD) for Site 9, Old Fire Fighting Training Area (OFFTA), as detailed in the slide deck (attached as Enclosure 3). The ESD is planned for finalization (signature) in September 2023.

Q&A:

Q: Tom Grieb – As part of the Site 9 ESD discussion, Tom asked what are the implications of removing groundwater monitoring from the program?

A: Steve Parker – The groundwater is classified as not suitable for consumption without prior treatment, so, with the changes incorporated as part of the ESD, there is no longer a need to monitor groundwater conditions. Sediment monitoring will continue.

Q: Tom Grieb – Is there anything that can be shared with the public about the status of the Tank Farm 1, Site 7 RI Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)?

A: Jess Welkey - The SAP is still undergoing revisions and what order/timeframe this will be accomplished is in progress in light of the newly funded demolition/infrastructure removal planned with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Q: Dave Dorocz – When will this demolition happen and are the designs complete?

A: Jess Welkey – This was initially scheduled for Q1 of FY 2024, but it has been delayed due to funding and continued clarification of the design.

Q: Henry Stueber – When was the decision for demolition decided?

A: Deb Moore – This was first discussed in 2016/2017.

Henry Stueber requests an update on this site given the demolition

planned. **Zac Chamberlin (RIDEM)** explains that the State is working closely with DLA, and working to ensure that the demolition is done properly. **Jane Dolan (EPA)** indicated that they could put together a Fact Sheet for the site.

Q: Tom Grieb – Asks for soil and demolition to be considered together as these factors are intertwined.

A: Jess Welkey agrees that the intertwining of the CERCLA RI Program and the infrastructure demolition will be complex, and the teams will continue to strive to communicate and coordinate.

Dave Dorocz, Deb Moore and **Henry Stueber** then discuss that eventually the infrastructure at Site 10 (Tank Farm 2) and Site 11 (Tank Farm 3) will also be demolished but there is no timeline in place yet. The Navy and DLA are responsible to remove or clean up different contaminants. Henry requests, on behalf of the RAB, that the Navy continue to keep the public updated on the work and have transparency regarding the continued collaboration and joint communication.

Jane Dolan reiterates her concern about the hole in the fence making the area a risk for trespass. Dave and Deb will initiate a work request in Public Works to repair the holes in the fence.

Q: Cynthia Andreola – With regard to Site 13, Tank Farm 5, Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA), what does “Time Critical” refer to?

A: Eric Ross – When certain hazards or threats of release are identified, certain aspects of the CERCLA process can be bypassed (e.g. feasibility study) to ensure that the issue is addressed more timely. The CERCLA process will resume after the TCRA is complete. Naomi adds that the planned removal action will be discussed in more detail at a future RAB meeting as the technical presentation.

Q: Henry Stueber – Asked if there was any further update the agencies could provide on the status of Site 17, Gould Island.

A: Laurie O’Connor – Indicated that the agencies are reviewing and commenting on the latest reports.

Q: Dave Dorocz – Is there a new start date for MRP Site 1 sediment remedial action?

A: Naomi Ouellette – The schedule is being revised by the remedial action contractor. There has been a re-shuffling of the soil and sediment actions – now the sediment action will happen before soil so the schedule needs to be revised to reflect that.

Q: Tom Grieb – Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) only allows dredging during certain times of the year, will the sediment actions for MRP Site 1 and Gould Island happen in that window?

A: Dave Dorocz – Since the Navy is following the CERCLA process, they are not required to obtain permits or assents; however, the Navy does submit remedial design plans to RICRMC for their review and comment. Naomi Ouellette and Joe McCloud clarified that while the Navy is not required to obtain permits, they are still required to meet the substantive requirements of any regulations; therefore, CRMC will be notified of the action and any dredging window would need to be adhered to unless a waiver was obtained.

Part 2: Technical Presentation

Five Year Review, Stephen Parker, Tetra Tech See: Enclosure 4

Q&A:

During the discussion of the Five Year Review the group discussed the required public notices (both for select reports and the RAB meeting notifications). The last Community Involvement Plan (CIP) was updated in 2016 and Naomi indicated that the Navy is planning to update it again in Fiscal Year 2024. The CIP details how the public is notified and as time advances, it may need updates. The group reviewed in which newspapers and online forums currently receive notices. Following the meeting, Resolution confirmed that currently there are two ads in Newport Daily News and one ad in Newport This Week leading up to the every other month RAB meeting and an online ad on patch.com. Members of the RAB pointed out that some towns may be missing from the advertisements list. Resolution took the action to research other potential newspapers and online forums that would be appropriate to receive notices. Namely, Resolution will ensure the patch.com ad includes all four towns and will look into weekly publications for the other towns (potentially Portsmouth Times, Jamestown Press and What's Up Newport). Danuta Lamparski also recommended a weekly mailer from the Town of Middletown and took the action to forward the latest mailer to Naomi.

Q: Henry Stueber – How does the schedule compare to the last? Is there any community review or potential for the RAB to review the draft Five Year Review.

A: Steve Parker – As with any technical documents, we do not plan to bring this to the community until we have achieved agency consensus. **Henry Stueber** states that the RAB would like a chance for community involvement, but **Dave Dorocz** stated there are very complex technical

issues in the early stage that agencies need privacy to iron out. **Zac Chamberlin** follows up by adding that EPA and RIDEM may have lots of comments in early stage that they do not want community to see in its early stage.

Henry Stueber would still like to see it in the draft final stage before finalization. In the final stage, there is a review on whether the final conclusions do actually benefit the humans involved. Nancy agrees that they would like to have feedback on this document.

(Although not specifically discussed in the meeting, upon further reflection, CERCLA is prescriptive regarding which types of documents receive the opportunity for public input and at what stage. Only certain documents are provided to the public for formal comments and only at the final stage.)

Q: Danuta Lamparki – Will the review be divided by the four communities so that the particular interests of each community can be easily parsed out?

A: Steve Parker – To an extent, each site is reviewed independently so that each portion of interest could be reviewed, but not by specific community. It must be submitted as an individual report.

Laurie O'Connor wanted to note that she and **Tim Barbeau** are the EPA Points of Contact for the Five Year Review, but **Jane Dolan** and **Kim White** will still be heavily involved. **Joe McCloud** adds that it is the same for the Navy RPMs (**Eric Ross** and **Jess Welkey**), but **Joe McCloud** will be the point of contact. **Paul Kulpa** will be the lead for RIDEM, but **Zac Chamberlin** and **Kirsten Nunn** will be involved.

Steve Johnson also stated that the email distribution list from Dave Dorocz is out of date and includes individuals who are no longer involved or work for the specific Towns. Dave acknowledges this issue, and will try to work toward updating this contact list; however, it might be better to cast a wider net rather than miss individuals.

Part 3 Regulatory Updates

EPA Update:

Kim White and **Jane Dolan** have no major updates. **Laurie O'Connor** appreciates the Navy being proactive about this FYR, as they are charged with ensuring these remedies benefit Human Health and the Environment.

RIDEM Update:

Zac Chamberlin states that RIDEM is moving along on issues with no major updates to announce. **Kirsten Nunn** also has nothing else to add. **Paul Kulpa**, on the phone, had technical difficulties and could not speak during the

meeting.

RAB Community Co-Chair Update:

Henry Stueber – Rogers High School excavated an area and found contamination in the soil. There is contention about who is responsible, but there may have been evidence that the military was there. Henry has found that there was an old battery there.

Q: Jane Dolan – What were the contaminants?

A: Henry Stueber – Arsenic at high levels, but not sure what else.

Q: Henry Stueber – What is the status of the Former Naval Hospital transfer?

A: Bruce Katz – There is no real estate action pending regarding any Navy owned land for Newport, including Gould Island or the former Navy Hospital. Henry thanks Bruce for this update, and relays that he has encouraged other interested parties to directly speak with the Navy. **Bruce Katz** reiterated that there is no real estate documentation to transfer the former Navy Hospital. **Bruce Katz** reminded everyone that the needs of the Navy are constantly evolving, and as an example, the Naval War College may be looking to expand, so there is no guarantee a land transfer proposal will occur.

Laurie O'Connor adds that she has seen a document describing the environmental conditions of the Naval Hospital property. She has identified significant data gaps in the report and provided her comments to the BRAC Office. There are contamination issues to be aware of despite the City of Newport's interest, and **Laurie O'Connor** does not feel that the property is in any state to transfer at this point.

Navy Co-Chair Update:

David Dorocz had no updates, but thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked if there are any other comments before the meeting was adjourned. There were none

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting is November 15, 2023. David Dorocz mentioned the following potential topics for upcoming technical presentations:

- Site 13: Tank Farm 5 Soil Stockpile TCRA
- Site 8: Naval Undersea Systems Center (NUSC) dredging update
- Site 1: McAllister Shoreline Discharge Investigation with USGS (planned for January 2024)

The RAB virtual meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

D.D. Dorocz
By direction

Enclosures:

- (1) Meeting Agenda
- (2) Site Progress Milestones Update
- (3) Site Progress Milestones Chart
- (4) Technical Presentation: Five Year Review
- (5) RAB Membership & Contact Information
- (6) RAB Group - Info Tips and Tricks Sep 2023