



Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

SUBJECT: Former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
DATE: Meeting Number 54 – May 11, 2023
LOCATION: Ceiba, Puerto Rico

Note: This meeting summary is based on informal notes taken at the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript. Rather, it is intended to summarize the overall discussions. If comments or additional notes are provided within 30 days of distribution of these minutes, they will be considered and potentially added as an attachment to this summary.

Welcome and Introductions

Prior to the formal Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, the Navy presented a poster session (5:00p.m – 5:56 p.m.) that included Accomplishments To Date, and updated information for various Sites under the Environmental Restoration Program.

The RAB meeting began at 5:56 p.m. Thuane Fielding greeted the RAB members and attendees to the 54th Naval Activity Puerto Rico (NAPR) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, thanked the attendees and introduced Dave Cleland (Navy) as the new Remedial Project Manager and introduced Jamie Butler (Navy) as the new BRAC Environmental Coordinator and Navy RAB Co-Chair. She informed the attendees that she is now the Director East Coast BRAC and indicated that she will continue supporting the program with pending land transfers. She also introduced Maria Danois (Navy) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives, Jessica Mollin, Doug Pocze, and Karyn Treinen. She added that Juan Baba-Pebbles, Puerto Rico Department of Natural Environmental Resources (PRDNER) representative was unable to attend the meeting.

New and Ongoing Action Items

The following table summarizes the status of the action items, including new and ongoing tasks which will be discussed at the RAB meeting.

Action Item Description	Status (will be updated in the next meeting minutes)
Ramon Figueroa (Community Co-Chair) will investigate more ways to disseminate public meeting notification: (WYQE) (local radio station), other newspapers, etc.	NEW: input to be provided to Thuane F.
Advertise meeting in newspaper with focused coverage of the Ceiba, Fajardo and Naguabo areas. El Regional was suggested.	NEW/COMPLETED: The November 6 RAB meeting will be announced on the El Regional newspaper which covers focused areas near NAPR.
Contact Mayor’s PR team, Local Redevelopment Authority to inquire about adding meeting ad on their public websites (if available).	NEW: Jacobs community Involvement staff and Navy to coordinate in-person meeting with Mayor’s office.

RAB Remarks

Ramon Figueroa (RAB Community Co-Chair) congratulated Thuane on her promotion.

Project/Program Updates

Jamie Butler welcomed the attendees to the meeting, reminded the attendees that the Activities Completed and Upcoming Activities posters were available for review and that Navy and regulatory agencies representatives were available to answer questions. She also introduced the environmental contractor (Jacobs) representatives Renee Hunt (Environmental Activity Manager) and Rosa Esquivel (Facilitator).

Jamie began the presentation discussing completed activities at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 55 - the TCE Plume Near the Tow Way Fuel Farm and covered the site background of the former Building 2314, former site operations, current land use controls which prohibit unrestricted use of the property to prevent exposure to contaminants in the groundwater, and corrective action objectives. She indicated that the exact activities and materials historically stored at this site are unknown therefore it is suspected that the source of trichloroethene (TCE) could be a leaking floor drain line. She added that the property is owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is operating as the Ceiba Ferry Terminal.

She indicated that the corrective measures were implemented in accordance with Statement of Basis and were initiated in November 2012, including source area excavation, installation of a gravel infiltration gallery and conversion to a bioreactor to enhance the groundwater's ability to circulate, and injection wells for in situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) application. She also outlined the objectives of the most recent Emulsified Vegetable Oil (EVO) injections throughout the plume, which occurred in March 2023.

Jamie mentioned that a total of seven groundwater sampling events were completed to evaluate the treatment progress occurred by monitoring the events and indicated that the mid-plume concentrations remain above the Corrective Action Objectives (CAOs) and that additional measures were taken to meet the CAOs objectives. She also discussed the injection activities, and subsequent planned performance monitoring.

Photographs of the injection activities that began in March 2023 were also presented. She discussed challenges encountered during the injection activities including traffic, and the use of a packer and daylighting, where injected material was coming up to the ground surface. Jamie discussed adjustment of the injectate percentage from 3% to 4% and use of alternate injection wells where the planned injection activities could not be fully performed in the originally planned injection wells. Jamie shared a figure showing the anticipated radius of influence for each injection wells based on the amount of injectate in each well.

Jamie discussed the path forward that includes two years of performance monitoring including collection of groundwater samples for chemicals of concern. She added that additional injections may be conducted in the future if data indicates that they are warranted to meeting the CAOs. She added that a completion report will be available that will include injection details, monitoring results and conclusions and recommendations in achieving closure objectives.

Doug mentioned that the Navy and regulatory team visited SWMU 55, the ferry terminal and other sites owned by or leased to the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).

Jamie also presented a summary of SWMU 70 which is the Disposal Area Northwest of SWMU 3 Landfill and provided information on site background, interim corrective measures and RFI sampling that was recently performed. She described the ~27-acre upland and ~25-acre wetland areas that comprise SWMU 70. Historical site conditions included disturbed ground, cleared areas, and stressed vegetation observed between 1976 and 1983. Debris consists of metal, concrete, and miscellaneous waste. She commented that the SWMU 70 RFI was completed in 2015, which recommended a surface debris removal. A total of 83 piles were identified for removal. She also discussed the current land use controls for the site that include non-residential land use only, restricted access and restricted groundwater use in known areas of contamination.

Jamie commented that during the surface debris removal activities within the wetland portion of the site, 26 piles were removed, for a total of 9,800 cubic yards of material. She added that the wetland work occurred in two phases, between December 2019 and July 2022, with delays occurring due to the COVID and a major hurricane. Jamie added that monitoring for mangrove regrowth will continue for a period of two years.

Jamie indicated that during the surface debris removal activities within the upland portion of the site, 58 piles were removed, for a total of 366 tons of material. The upland work occurred between March and July 2022.

Jamie also discussed the SWMU 70 Data Gap Investigation and indicated that the environmental sampling occurred between January – March 2023. Figures were presented to show the locations of the groundwater, soil, sediment, and surface water samples that were collected.

Jamie indicated that the Construction Completion Reports are being prepared and the Data Gap Investigation report will be prepared to summarize the results of the environmental sampling following receipt of validated data.

Questions and Answers/Comments

Rafael Montes (RAB member) commented that he had been unable to attend the last few meetings due to health issues. He commented that evaluations of public health and ecology mentioned worry him as a former employee of the base. He indicated that when risks are mentioned it reminds him of former asbestos studies conducted in the 1990s that included many buildings such as in the Bundy Area. He further added that a friend of his who was stationed at the Bundy building barracks is currently being treated for throat cancer and has asbestos in his system. He is questioning why he never received information of contamination as a former employee of the postal office one which was a building formally located near the Bundy Area that was demolished. He's questioning if in the future Roosevelt Roads will turn out to be as Camp Lejeune who has groundwater problem, or the Vieques cancer studies conducted and published many years later. He asked if the Navy has any information.

Mr. Montes added that a team of students from medical school conducted a study and determined that in Ceiba there is a large known hearing problem amongst the older population, asked if there could be relation from the contamination. He further added that funding for additional studies was requested but the government indicated that there were no funds available. He asked how this can be requested from the government in the future.

Mr. Montes asked the Navy for transparency about the results and associated risks of all on-going studies and not to lie or hide information from the public and/or allow the government to approve permits if there is a potential risk or contamination.

- Thuane thanked Rafael for his input. Thuane responded that team began issuing monthly flyers to keep the public updated on status. Additionally, she added that finalized documents of work completed, data results and regulatory concurrence are available in the Navy's NAPR Administrative Record. She further added that the monthly flyers include contact information for any community members who may have concerns about health effects from working at the former Roosevelt Roads. Thuane suggested that Mr. Montes contacts the representative listed on the flyers.
- Thuane discussed the declining attendance to the meetings and lack of RAB member and community participation. She indicated that before COVID the RAB meetings were being held quarterly and would like to see the attendance increase as these meetings are held to provide updates to the communities or answer questions. Thuane requested any ideas from RAB members on how to increase RAB member and community attendance.

Ramon commented that in his opinion the lack of community attendance is due in part to the slow progress made in the last 19 years to date at Roosevelt Roads Base and said that the community is frustrated. He added that LRA promotes projects and then nothing happens, and this causes community dissatisfaction. He indicated that many sites in the United States with similar issues as NAPR have been restored and perhaps question if the Navy has implemented plans that don't work for this site.

- Thuane responded that other sites in the United States have been in an undeveloped stage since 1995 and still waiting. She added that the Navy and regulatory agencies are working diligently to get the work completed.

In reference to the RAB attendance, Ramon suggested making an announcement on the radio. He commented that the room is almost empty and it's very frustrating to see. He further indicated that it's been frustrating for the local community dealing with the repercussions of the base closure.

Ramon added that at least three or four of the former RAB members have passed away. Ramon indicated that he'll do something different for the next meeting to boost attendance.

- Thuane commented that the poster session was implemented to help increase public attendance.

Ramon asked/suggested for the meetings to be published on a newspaper.

- Rosa Esquivel indicated that the meetings are announced on Primera Hora and mentioned that other options such as a radio announcement, contact the Mayor's office and asked to be added to their calendar of activities (if any) or official pages (i.e, Mayor or Facebook pages). She added that the representatives from El Centro Cultural offered to help by publishing the meetings on their Facebook page and posting a copy of the notice on their board.

Jessica Mollin asked if any flyers were posted within Roosevelt Roads base.

- Jamie responded that the meeting is advertised on the monthly flyer and sent out via email, on the website, and Primera Hora. She added that the local newspaper closed but the Navy is currently looking into other options.
- Ramon commented that he would be sending the Navy a list of local newspapers that could be an outlet.
- Maria Danois suggested the Ceiba Community Facebook page.

Doug Pocze suggested about advertising at local Chamber of Commerce that would reach to local businesses, and Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA). In his opinion interested future land buyers might attend the meetings.

- Thuane indicated that she would ask Nilda (LRA) if they have any meetings scheduled were they could advertise the RAB meeting and what other methods could be recommended.

Closing

Thuane and Jamie mentioned that the Navy is looking to hold the next meeting in November 2023.

Doug Pocze, Ramon Figueroa, and Jamie thanked Thuane for all her contribution to the cleanup project over the years and wished her the best on her new endeavors.

Jamie Butler (Navy) thanked the participants for attending the RAB meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:40 PM.

Attachment 1
Meeting Attendees: May 11, 2023

RAB Members	
RAB Community Members Present	RAB Community Members Absent
Ramón D. Figueroa, Community Co-Chair Rafael Montes RAB Member	Samuel Caraballo, Michael Dalton, Jorge Fernández Porto, Lirio Márquez D’Acunti, Ramón M. Ríos, Ismael Velázquez, Naida Dávila, José Julio Díaz, and Agustín Velázquez, Luis Velázquez
RAB Agency Representatives	
Thuane Fielding, Navy Co-Chair	Navy – Base Closure Manager
Jamie Butler	Navy – BRAC Environmental Coordinator
David Cleland	Navy – NAPR Remedial Project Manager
Maria Danois	Navy – Local Site Manager
Doug Pocze	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Jessica Mollin	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Karyn Treinen	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Other Agency Representatives	
Support Staff	
Renee Hunt	CH2M/Jacobs (Navy Contractor – NAPR Activity Manager)
Rosa Esquivel	CH2M/Jacobs (Navy Contractor – Facilitator)
Raquel Gonzales	Lighthouse (Subcontractor – Interpreter)
Luis Martinez	Lighthouse (Subcontractor – Technician)