

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
MICROSOFT TEAMS HYBRID MEETING NOTES
FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION BRUNSWICK, MAINE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

INTRODUCTION

Dave Barney opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. This meeting was a hybrid format, with virtual and in-person attendees. Jackie Boltz reviewed the Microsoft Teams tools for the meeting, including question and answer options, and Dave reviewed the meeting agenda, hybrid meeting information, and ground rules. Dave noted that the hybrid meeting format is being used to allow the broadest possible participation and that the meeting is being recorded only to prepare minutes. Slide 7 lists the ways in which the public notice for the meeting was more widely distributed than in the past. This change is in accordance with the recently updated Community Information Plan (CIP). Dave references the list of RAB members (Slide 8) and noted that Rachelle Knight will be transitioning into the role of Navy RAB Co-Chair. Suzanne Johnson noted that Scott Libby resigned as the Town of Topsham representative and introduced the new Topsham representative, Susan Schow. Susan has 30 years of experience as an environmental and public health professional with a background in risk assessment, environmental compliance, and epidemiology and has held multiple state and federal placements, including posts at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Suzanne asked about the impact of the possible government shutdown at the end of the month. Dave replied that the Navy's BRAC activities are still funded and that work will continue. Suzanne asked if EPA would be affected, and Dave answered that during the previous shutdown, EPA operated with a skeleton crew of about 5 to 10 percent of its workforce.

MAJOR SITE ACTIVITY UPDATES

RAB Membership – Dave Barney

Dave summarized the information on Slide 9 about RAB membership. Suzanne and Dave noted that, although the slide mentions that RAB members are expected to serve a 2-year term, anyone can participate and attend any number of meetings based on their availability.

LUC Administration and Redevelopment Activities – Caryn DeJesus

Caryn DeJesus, Resolution Consultants, discussed the 2023 Land Use Control (LUC) Open House that was held on the preceding night, September 19 (Slide 10), where Navy, and MEDEP representatives were available to answer questions from property owners about LUCs, the construction permission process, and other concerns. Certification forms for calendar year 2023 will be mailed in early January, and the Navy will ask the property owners to return the forms by the end of January 2024. The purpose of the forms is for owners to acknowledge adherence to the LUCs required for their properties. Suzanne asked what the response rate was for last year, and Caryn noted that it was approximately 73 percent. Caryn also noted that there was confusion last

year because, for properties with homeowner's associations forms, forms were mailed to individual property owners when they should have been mailed to the associations instead (as discussed during the May RAB meeting). This year's form will be mailed to the homeowner's associations. Suzanne asked how many forms were mailed last year and what the follow-up procedure is for owners who do not return forms. Caryn said that approximately 360 forms were sent last year, and approximately 200 will be sent this year (with the smaller number due to the forms sent to homeowner's associations covering multiple individual properties). The forms are sent via Certified Mail so they can be tracked, and if they cannot be delivered that way, other methods will be used as they were last year (regular mail, hand delivery). Iver McLeod, MEDEP, asked if the forms were worded in a way that wasn't punitive. Caryn replied that last year's version of the form was somewhat confusing and so it was revised this year to be clearer about acknowledging that the construction permission request form process was used to make sure that work was in compliance with the LUCs. David Page, Town of Brunswick representative, asked if the Navy is satisfied that the property owners have a clear understanding of the LUCs for their properties. Caryn replied that owners had a better understanding this year than last year, and more were aware of the Findings of Suitability to Transfer (FOSTs), which provide detailed information about the LUCs. Each certification form also lists the LUCs associated with that individual property.

Caryn summarized the construction permission request form process (Slides 11 and 12), which was also discussed at last night's Open House. For any planned construction that involves soil displacement or groundwater extraction, owners must complete the construction permission request form before the Town of Brunswick approves the construction permit. The one-page form is available from the Navy or can be downloaded from the Town of Brunswick Planning & Development website (www.brunswick.org/229/Planning-Development). Slide 12 lists the type of information required for the form and the review process for completed forms. Completed forms are initially submitted to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA) and then forwarded to the Navy. The Navy involves EPA and MEDEP in the review and approval process and notifies MRRA when the work is approved, and the Town can then issue the construction permit.

LUC Administration and Redevelopment Activities – Caryn DeJesus

Caryn discussed the LUC inspections conducted annually at the eight Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites to confirm compliance with the LUCs required by the Records of Decision (RODs) and to determine whether any corrective actions are necessary to maintain compliance. This year's inspections will be conducted in October, and the draft 2023 LUC Inspection Report is expected to be released in January 2024.

Carol White, BASCE's Technical Advisor, asked if construction activities on private property required preparation of environmental management plans or site safety plans. Dave responded that the site safety plan requirements are Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) related and are the responsibility of the construction contractor (the employer), not the Navy. The need for environmental management plans depends on the nature of the project. When soil and groundwater management plans are required for projects, the Navy asks EPA and MEDEP to

review the plans to ensure compliance with LUCs. Suzanne asked what kind of documentation Marty McMahon, the Navy's on-site Caretaker, uses as a guide when he observes construction activities across the former base. Marty answered that he uses the interactive GIS map on MEDEP's website to check which LUCs are applicable. He noted that the map also links to the FOSTs associated with the properties.

Picnic Pond Remedial Action – Derek Pinkham

Derek Pinkham, Navy RPM, provided an update on Picnic Pond remedial activities. Pond A dredging was completed in 2022, with a total of 4,774 tons of sediment treated and shipped off site. Post-excavation sample results indicated that remedial goals were met in Pond A, and restoration of Pond A has been completed. Dredging was stopped in late 2022 due to weather concerns, and the dredging contractor remobilized on April 2023 and began dredging in Pond B on May 9, 2023. Pond B dredging was completed in June, with a total of 4,861 tons of sediment treated and shipped off site for disposal. Based on post-excavation sample results, the Navy is evaluating necessary future actions. Picnic Pond dredging was completed with 1,292 cubic yards of sediment excavated from the pond. This dredged material was processed and is currently awaiting off-site disposal. Post-excavation results for Picnic Pond are pending. The contractor is still on site to complete any additional dredging required based on the results.

Carol asked about analytical parameters, and Derek replied that post-excavation sediment samples are analyzed for the contaminants of concern (COCs), lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are not COCs for the ponds and are only analyzed for disposal purposes. Carol asked how many Pond B post-confirmation samples had remedial goal exceedances and if they were all in one area or in different areas. Derek replied that one sample had a lead exceedance and that five or six had PAH concentrations only slightly exceeding the remedial goal. The exceedances were in one oblong area near the middle of the pond. Carol asked about turbidity monitoring and whether there had been any turbidity exceedances. Derek stated that constant turbidity monitoring was conducted and that there were a few exceedances. When exceedances happened, work was stopped, and the turbidity curtains were adjusted or new curtains were added. Carol then asked if the decanted water from the dredged materials went into the groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) system. Derek replied that all water from decontamination and dewatering activities was treated at the GWETS after solids were removed via settling.

Martha Spiers asked what the post-remediation PFAS level was for Pond A, and Derek responded that PFAS are not COCs for the ponds and will be addressed separately.

PFAS Remedial Investigation Biota Sampling– Dustin Moore

Dustin Moore, Tetra Tech, summarized the shellfish and fin fish sampling to be conducted as part of the PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI) to evaluate human consumption risks as part of the human health risk assessment. A site visit and scoping sessions with experts were conducted over the past year to assess proposed locations to meet project objectives and to identify any access issues. Minor changes to the sampling approach, detailed in the Tissue Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) Addendum, were made based on the results of these efforts.

Shellfish species to be collected include blue mussels (20 organisms per sample and target length of 5 to 6 centimeters), soft-shell clams (10 organisms per sample and 2-inch minimum target length), and American oysters (20 organisms per sample and 2.5-inch minimum target length). Based on the scoping sessions, it was decided that ribbed mussels will not be collected as a back-up species because it is not an edible species. Shellfish sampling will be conducted in downstream and reference areas and at low tide to ensure access to the areas. The downstream locations in Harpswell Cover will include three locations in the north, two in the middle, and two in the south, with one to three samples collected per location. Reference areas include Wharton Point and Woodward Cove, with two locations in each and one to two samples per location.

Fin fish samples for the PFAS RI will be collected from four streams on base (Mere Brook, Merriconeag Stream, Site 8 Stream, and Northeast Stream), an off-base reference stream, and Picnic Pond. Fin fish collection in streams will be via electroshock, setting traps, and regular hook-and-line fishing. Stream species include brook trout and blacknose dace or stickleback, and American eel is the back-up species if adult brook trout are not available. For brook trout, proposed sampling includes three to five adult organisms (greater than 6 inches) per sample and five juvenile organisms (less than 6 inches) per sample. For blacknose dace or stickleback, five organisms of 2 to 3 inches will be collected per sample. Sampling in Mere Brook will include one upstream (reference) location, one midstream location (between the airfield and Merriconeag Stream), and one downstream location (after the confluence with Merriconeag Stream), with two samples collected per location. Two samples will be collected from one location in Merriconeag Stream between Picnic Pond and Mere Brook. Two samples will be collected from one location each in the Site 8 and Northeast Streams, which discharge to the Androscoggin River and may be too small for trout but may have dace. As decided during recent scoping sessions, two samples will be collected at the upgradient MEDEP Station 634 fin fish reference location located upstream of the Brunswick-Topsham hydroelectric dam on the Androscoggin River and unaffected by the former base (the originally proposed reference location and the former base are located downstream of the dam).

Picnic Pond species include largemouth bass, pumpkinseed or redbreast sunfish, and golden shiner, and collection will be via hook-and-line fishing on the shoreline or via boat. For largemouth bass, five adult (12- to 16-inch) organisms will be collected per sample; for pumpkinseed or redbreast sunfish, three to five adult (6- to 10-inch) organisms will be collected per sample; and for golden shiner, five adult (approximately 4-inch) organisms will be collected per sample.

Slide 23 is a map showing shellfish and fin fish locations for the PFAS RI, and Slides 24 through 26 show photographs taken at low tide during the July 2023 reconnaissance of some of the sample locations superimposed on maps of the associated areas. Slide 24 shows PFAS RI Harpswell Cove North sampling locations and also the locations of samples previously collected by MEDEP (sampled ID beginning with “REP”). Slide 26 shows the MEDEP Station 634 reference location located off of River Road north-northwest of the base and upstream of the dam. Iver, who suggested this location, added that he was concerned about the originally proposed reference location across the Androscoggin from the Jordan Avenue Wellfield because the MEDEP Surface

Water Ambient Toxics (SWAT) Monitoring Program samples collected in that area had high PFAS concentrations.

Jeff Bush, President of the Merrymeeting Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, asked if there was any consideration of improving culverts on Mere Brook. Iver responded that the Water Bureau of MEDEP is working with residents of Brunswick to replace some of the culverts upstream of the base, but he does not know what their plans are in downstream areas. Dave Barney added that there is a Mere Brook steering committee working on evaluating and identifying areas for improvement to upgrade the quality of Mere Brook. It is a multi-year project, and additional information is available on the Town of Brunswick's website. Ashley Charleston, Town of Brunswick Environmental Planner, is spearheading the effort. Iver looked up the Mere Brook Watershed Management Plan from the town website, which splits the stream into many sections, one of which is called "runway culvert." This section is 3,900 feet long, and the restoration plan is to restore natural stream processes, but that is not planned until after the end of runway operations, so as long as it is an operating runway, the culvert is probably going to be under the runway.

Carol White asked about significant changes to the biota sampling plan. Aaron Bernhardt of Tetra Tech responded that there were no significant changes but that there were a few revisions that clarified a few sampling procedures and corrected inconsistencies, in addition to the change to the MEDEP Station 634 reference location, as noted above. Carol also asked what the plan was if there is difficulty finding adequate sample material. Aaron responded that the sampling team will make a significant effort to locate organisms, and the lack of sample material will be documented. It is not anticipated that this will be an issue for clams, but it may be for mussels and oysters. During the recent site visit, the MEDEP representative (Joe Glowa) stated that there will probably not be oysters and mussels in the northern part of Harpswell Cove (not many rocky areas where they are likely to be). Carol asked if an effort was made during the site visit to confirm the presence of blue mussels, and Aaron responded that they did not leave the boat during the recon to look for organisms. Aaron added that Joe Glowa, who collected previous MEDEP samples in the Harpswell Cove, was on the boat and pointed out locations where they did find mussels.

Dave Barney asked about increasing the area where you look for organisms and whether the information might be diluted if you collect organisms over a larger area. Aaron replied that for clams, they plan to collect over a 15-meter area. For mussels, they may need to look over a larger area to get enough sample, and they may need to look in separate (discontinuous) areas within the same zone. This will all be documented.

Suzanne Johnson asked who was consulted from the town. She is concerned about non-locals not finding adequate sample locations if people from the area were not involved in the process. Aaron replied that Paul Plummer from Harpswell and Dan Sylvain from Brunswick attended the site visit, although they are not expected to be present when the samples are collected. Iver stated that Joe Glowa from MEDEP's Water Quality Bureau is very knowledgeable and was part of MEDEP's SWAT sampling in the area. Aaron added that Matt Nixon, who will be on Tetra Tech's sampling team, has done previous sampling for the Town of Brunswick and has worked with Dan Devereaux, the Town of Brunswick Coastal Resources Manager.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Long-Term Monitoring – Jeff Orient, Tetra Tech, summarized recent long-term monitoring (LTM) and GWETS activities. The draft 2022 Annual LTM Report is in Navy review. This comprehensive report includes all CERCLA LTM sites, a change from previous years when individual reports were submitted for each site. This change was made as a result of recent LTM optimization activities and in accordance with the updated LTM SAP. The fall 2023 sampling event is planned for late October to early November. Suzanne Johnson asked if the LTM report will include 1,4-dioxane data, and Jeff replied that it will be included for sites where it is analyzed as a COC.

Monthly GWETS PFAS sampling is ongoing, in addition to sampling conducted to evaluate the operation of the treatment system. The annual summary report for PFAS sampling from July 2022 to June 2023 is in preparation and is scheduled to be submitted this fall.

FOSTs – Jeff summarized recent FOST activity supporting property transfer. The FOST for Parcels AIR-15 and AIR-17 was completed in May. FOSTs for the Public Works Parcels and the Quarry are being prepared.

Jordan Avenue Wellfield – Jeff discussed recent activities related to the Jordan Avenue wellfield. The Navy and Brunswick Topsham Water District (BTWD) are finalizing a cooperative agreement for treatment plant upgrades to address PFAS, and the Non-Time-Critical Removal Action Memorandum documenting the removal action for PFAS treatment is in preparation. Dave Barney added that Phase I of the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) has been fully executed, and BTWD is now moving forward with the design, with reimbursement from the Navy.

New Extraction Wells – As discussed in more detail during the previous RAB meeting, performance testing for the new Eastern Plume extraction wells was conducted in April 2023, and the associated performance testing report is in Navy review. The wells include two new extraction wells, EW-10 in the Eastern Plume and EW-11 in the Eastern Flightline Area, and reactivation of existing Eastern Plume extraction well EW-05A. Operation of EW-05A was discontinued when only VOCs were of concern in the Eastern Plume and VOC concentrations at this location had decreased significantly, but it was rehabilitated because there is substantial PFAS in the area. Initial activities to connect these wells to the GWETS are underway.

Hangar 4 AFFF – Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) in Hangar 4 will be removed or replaced in 2024. Dave Barney noted that this is a dynamic situation. A FOST for Hangar 4 was mentioned at a previous RAB meeting, but that FOST was shelved because of the AFFF issue. Now the Navy plans to restart preparation of the FOST and submit it for regulator review while the AFFF issue is addressed (it generally takes 6 to 12 months to complete a FOST).

QUESTIONS/WRAP UP

Catherine Ferdinand of Bowdoin College asked about the timing of the Quarry FOST, and Dave Barney replied with an estimate of approximately 6 to 12 months because that FOST has to be

reviewed by the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA) because of previous munitions activities at the site.

David Page thanked the Navy for the constructive outcome of the Hangar 4 AFFF issue and asked whether replacing the material would also include installation of new infrastructure. Dave Barney said that the question cannot be answered until the new material is identified (the amount of retrofitting will depend on the properties of the new material).

David Page asked whether resins more appropriate for PFAS treatment should be used in the GWETS now that the new extraction wells will be addressing PFAS-contaminated groundwater. Dave Barney replied that this was one of the primary topics discussed this morning with the treatment plant operator. The Navy is looking at optimization of the treatment process, transitioning from chlorinated VOCs to PFAS as the main contaminants, but they are just at the beginning of the process. Dave added that installation of EW-11, the new extraction well in the Eastern Flightline area, is not part of a CERCLA remedy but is a removal action to reduce PFAS contamination in that area. Carol White asked if it will eventually be part of the CERCLA remedy, and Dave replied that it would be but that they need to go through the CERCLA process for PFAS to establish objectives and requirements.

Suzanne Johnson asked about the status of RI comments, the HHRA, and other documents anticipated to be submitted for review in the next quarter for planning purposes. Jeff noted that the risk assessment work plan has been submitted, and the only comments received so far are from BACSE. Iver said that MEDEP comments are anticipated soon. Suzanne said that BACSE may have additional comments. Dave listed the FOSTs that will be submitted for review soon, including the Quarry, Public Works, and Building 250/Hangar 4. Jeff added the annual GWETS sampling report for 2022 to 2023 and the Jordan Avenue Wellfield Action Memo, which is the decision document for the removal action. The extraction well performance testing report will be out soon, and the annual LUC inspection report is expected to be submitted at the end of January. Carol White asked for a best guess for when the draft RI Report will be submitted. Jeff replied that with the supplemental work and biota sampling, the report is now expected for late spring/early summer 2024.

David Page asked if MEDEP was going to collect split samples again, especially in the northern surface water sampling stations. Finn Whiting replied that MEDEP's focus is usually on the residential well sampling for collection of split samples, but they do have funding. Dave asked that it be kept open as a possibility because it was useful. Finn added that split samples and duplicate samples are not the same. The RI effort has an extensive quality assurance program including duplicate samples to ensure the quality of the data, and split samples are more specifically to evaluate the laboratory. Caryn DeJesus added that part of the justification for previous split sampling was that the Navy analyzed for a smaller list of PFAS, but now the Navy is analyzing for a longer list.

Suzanne Johnson noted that some monitoring wells were damaged during construction of pickle ball courts by the town. Iver noted that these wells are only used for water level measurements and so were not critical sampling points. Iver asked if the wells would be abandoned in accordance with state requirements. Dave Barney replied that the Navy's instructions were to

abandon the wells because they had been compromised and to install similar wells at those locations. Suzanne asked what this says about the construction management process. Iver replied that he, Dave, and Mike Daly drove to the site specifically to discuss construction issues with the contractor. Dave noted that although it is unfortunate when it happens, it is not uncommon. The Navy has required at other sites a surety bond for well repair at the beginning of the project to provide funds upfront to address this if it happens. Suzanne asked if the town was responsible for the cost, and Dave replied that that is between the town and its contractor, and it was the contractor who did not meet its obligation to protect the wells. Iver noted that all FOSTs state that there are wells that owners must provide access to and must protect.

Dave Barney asked Rachelle Knight to introduce herself. Rachelle said she was assigned to Brunswick about 4 weeks ago and has been with the Navy for 8 years, a lot of that time working in compliance. She mentioned her significant experience with construction and working with numerous experienced state and federal regulators on construction projects up and down the east coast.

The next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2024. The specific date for the meeting and the meeting format will be agreed upon at a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

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Julie (online participant, no last name provided)