

## Camp Bonneville Citizens Advisory Group

Meeting #1 – DRAFT Summary  
7-9 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, 2007  
Fire Station 88, 6701 NE 147th Ave.

### Group Members:

Deborah Abraham  
Dennis Benson  
George Brereton  
Don Chapman  
Rand Harris  
Dave Hurt  
Richard Kolb  
Bob Pitman  
Nathan Reynolds  
Pam Rigby  
Bud Van Cleve  
Don Wastler  
Jan Wojciechowski

### Staff Members:

Marc Boldt  
Jim Gladson  
Jerry Barnett  
Jeroen Kok  
Ben Forson  
Greg Johnson  
Mike Gage  
Dawn Hooper  
Bronson Potter  
Jeanne Lawson  
Kalin Schmoltdt  
Kevin Gray

### Public in Attendance:

George Plan  
Roger Huntley

### Purpose of Meeting

- Receive background on Camp Bonneville
- Discuss clean up efforts
- Establish committee protocols

### Welcome

Commissioner Marc Boldt welcomed the group. He introduced himself as the commissioner in charge of Camp Bonneville and acknowledged the planning efforts of previous commissioners. He said that the cleanup is based on a plan for the park and the commissioners are looking for input. He said that as the cleanup proceeds there may be site specific discussions, but for now the focus is on understanding what the community is saying.

Jeanne Lawson of Jeanne Lawson Associates introduced herself as the meeting facilitator and described the purpose of the meeting. She said the goal of the first meeting was to build a foundation of understanding about Camp Bonneville and the process to date, and establish group protocols.

Jeanne led a brief round of introductions and asked members for a brief explanation of their backgrounds and interest in the project.

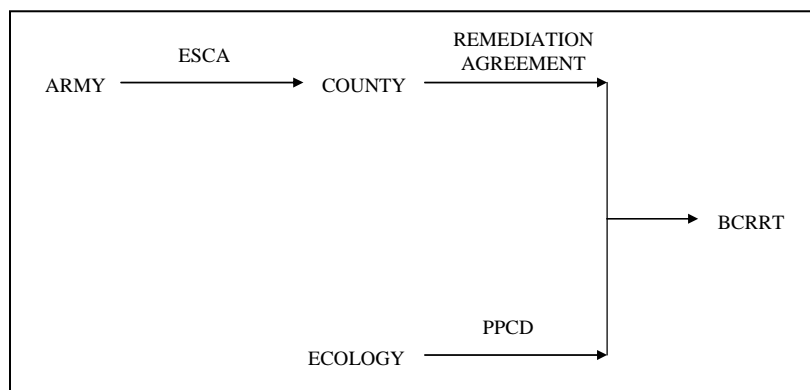
- *Don Wastler*, member of the former Restoration Advisory Board. Officer with a neighborhood association adjacent to Camp Bonneville.
- *Jan Wojciechowski*, served in the Army's 104<sup>th</sup> division that used Camp Bonneville in the 70s and 80s.
- *Don Chapman*, president of a local hiking club. He noted that the members are anxious to see what's going to happen with the site.
- *Pam Rigby* explained how her children have attended camp at Camp Bonneville.
- *Nathan Reynolds* represents the Cowlitz Indian tribe, has attended the Restoration Advisory Board meetings, is a camper, neighbor, and had attended Cub Scout camp at Camp Bonneville.
- *Richard Kolb*, fisheries.
- *Mike Gage*, BRCCT, involved in the cleanup process.
- *Ben Forson*, Project Manager with the Department of Ecology.

- *Bob Pitman* also served in the 104<sup>th</sup> division.
- *George Brereton*, farmer, also represents nature users and sportsmen.
- *Dave Hurt* said he had followed the events surrounding the Camp in the media, and hopes it can be used as a recreational facility.
- *Dennis Benson*, Clark County Executive Horse Council.
- *Debbie Abraham*, A neighbor to the north of the Camp.
- *Rand Harris*, attended the Restoration Advisory Board meetings, is a property owner, and loosely represents the Autumn NHA.
- *Bud VanCleve*, Hazel Dell NHA.
- *Jerry Barnett*, Project Manager.
- *Jeroen Kok*, senior planner with Vancouver Parks and Recreation. He noted that he has been involved since about one year after the reuse plan was conceived.
- *George Plan*, Director of Willamette National Cemetery. He said they were interested in using the land at Camp Bonneville for extending benefits to veterans.
- *Roger Huntley*, Willamette National Cemetery.
- *Jim Gladson*, Clark County Public Works, will serve as primary staff contact for the group and be providing support to the members and creating newsletters and mailings.
- *Dawn Hooper*, Senior planner with the Department of Ecology.
- *Greg Johnson*, Department of Ecology, unexploded ordnance advisor.
- *Thomas Yssel*, BCRRT, Site Superintendent.
- *Warren Fjeldos*, BCRRT Site Manager and Maintenance.
- *Bronson Potter*, involved in the negotiation of transfer and cleanup documents.

## Background

Jerry Barnett introduced himself and gave preliminary details about Camp Bonneville. He explained how the largely undeveloped area had been transferred to the county and subsequently to BCRRT and Mike Gage for cleanup. After the cleanup process, the area will be transferred back to the county.

Jerry showed the following diagram outlining the relationships and roles of Clark County, Bonneville Conservation Restoration and Renewal Team (BCRRT), Washington Department of Ecology, and the Army.



The diagram shows how the Army's contract with the County was defined through the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) that releases \$27 million for cleanup and insurance. The County's contract with BCRRT is defined by the Remediation Agreement. The Washington Department of Ecology has defined the work to be performed by BCRRT with the Proposed Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD).

Jeroen Kok introduced himself and described his background. He gave a brief historic overview of the previous site uses and noted that all of the information is available in the county's reuse plan. He described the use of the base by the military, primarily as a firing range and training facility. The base officially closed in 1995, and although some agencies had expressed interest in taking ownership the county was ultimately designated as the future recipient.

Jeroen described the Reuse Plan as a community vision for the reuse of Camp Bonneville. He noted that the plan resulted in designating the area as a regional park and large wildlife area with the intent to balance recreation, educational uses, and wildlife use. He described highlights of the Reuse Plan, including proposed park facilities, trails, retreat center, cultural center, educational opportunities, shooting ranges, and areas for wildlife management. He encouraged the group to contact him with any questions regarding the Reuse Plan.

Ben Forson explained that the Department of Ecology is charged with the oversight role and ensuring that the PPCD is complied with. He noted that this includes monitoring the regulatory process, scope, quality of work, deliverables, and schedule. Ben described the unique nature of the site, specifically with regard to contamination by munitions. He noted that many resources have been diverted to the work because of the eventual use of the site as a park. He noted that they are onsite weekly to ensure that the work is being carried out properly. He described the extent of project meetings that guide the project and keep it on track. He added that Ecology reviews and approves of all project documents and is in some ways doing much more than they are charged with.

## **Cleanup program**

Mike Gage gave some details about the Bonneville Conservation Restoration and Renewal Team, noting that it is a nonprofit conservation organization. He gave a presentation showing the Camp Bonneville area and describing the completed and anticipated work. He noted that a perimeter road has already been anomaly avoided and brushed cleared around the entire property and that a fence has been restored. He indicated that about 64% of the perimeter fence line had been MEC surfaced cleared.

He noted that at the Central Impact Target Area (CITA) fence, a 10' swath has been fully anomaly avoided, brush and MEC surface cleared and he described the process of removing any brush less than 6" in diameter. He noted that the firing points and firing ranges will be cleared and he described the process for seeking munitions: When something is found, establishing a step out grid and process and working outwards until no debris can be found. He noted that the overall site plan is still conceptual and could change in the course of the work.

Mike noted that there would be transects to confirm the army's assertion that the non-munitions areas are indeed free of munitions. He said that there will also be some fuels management in collaboration with the county and that metallic materials discovered in that process will be reported officially to the County and Ecology.

Mike showed a map demonstrating brush clearance along the perimeter road. He noted that there will be a minimum of 40' clearance—and in many instances 50'—along the fence line to make sure there is nothing there.

Mike described the various companies involved in the Camp Bonneville Team and various roles played by each. He briefly described the numerous documents filed by the BCRT/BCRRT, the issues they address, and the activities coming up before June 2007.

Mike described the site security elements currently in place. He noted that there are three people living on site at two locations in addition to security, 24/7. He discussed the safety training undertaken by all persons on the site and the standards by which they keep their people safe. He noted that there have been no site related accidents to date and explained new safety measures such as a new communications system.

Mike noted their community outreach efforts: contacting neighbors within a mile, working with CCTV, and holding press conferences.

Mike described the brush clearing equipment and techniques. He noted that after anomaly avoidance and brush clearance, comes MEC clearance and active removal of objects. He noted the example of a 2.36 (bazooka) rocket and added that it was found located in the 2.36 range, right where it should be.

Mike described the challenges related to building the perimeter fence, including damage by elk and stumps along the property line.

Mike noted that there is groundwater monitoring throughout the site and said that they are upgrading the septic systems and reseeding impacted areas. He noted that they hadn't fully anticipated the erosion associated with the rainfall and the increased traffic on the unimproved roads. He described how they had to bring in materials to reinforce the roads and how road maintenance is expensive and constant.

Mike noted that many of the existing facilities on the site are old and require new flooring and other equipment.

Mike also mentioned some of the wildlife present on the property, including elk herds, deer, and coyote.

Don Wastler noted that he had been looking at Ecology's website on Demolition Area 3 and asked whether they had found any perchlorate or explosive compounds and whether the construction of the pipeline had anything to do with the crater. Ben said that they had not found any perchlorate or explosive chemicals and that an explosion may not have caused the crater. He said it could have something to do with the pipeline, but he wasn't exactly sure how it came to be.

Bud VanCleve asked whether the FBI firing range was still operating or if it was relocating. Mike said it is still operating but will be relocating to Oregon within approximately one year.

Rand Harris asked whether clearing the fence line involved step backs. Mike said that they haven't found any anomalies, but if anything were found along the fence line and if the step outs would otherwise take the team outside the fence line, that while the team working on Bonneville wouldn't go outside the fenceline, the information would be reported to Ecology, the army, the county, and the neighbors and would become public information. Marc Boldt confirmed that he would be informed through Jerry.

Bud asked whether the perimeter road would accommodate fire vehicles. Mike said that while the road could accommodate vehicles in some places, there are many areas where it would be more difficult or impossible. He noted that their job is to clear the area and not to make universally passable roads. He did note that there are often other access points to locations inaccessible by the perimeter road.

Bud asked whether there was a fire protection plan in place. Mike said that they were covered by the Vancouver Fire Department for structures and that the Washington Department of Natural Resources is responsible for wildfires, and that a plan was in the process with WDNR.

George Brereton asked about the timeline for completion. Mike said the timeline is driven by the requirements of the PPCD, and estimated roughly three to four years for the cleanup.

Rand asked for clarification on "anomaly avoidance." Mike explained that brush clearing down to 6" above the surface allows a better surface sweep. Greg Johnson noted that most of the ordnance at Camp Bonneville would be located within 6" of the surface.

Mike noted that Nathan Reynolds had asked about areas of cultural significance. He noted that they hadn't found anything yet and that the site personnel know what to look for. Nathan asked about regulatory oversight for the installation of septic systems. Mike said that there is no specific oversight beyond reporting to the county and he reemphasized that their personnel have been told what to look for. He added that the two septic systems have been installed in very active areas.

## **Roles & Responsibilities and CAG Charge**

Jerry summarized the Citizens' Group charges and noted that discussion about the actual cleanup activity would be mainly informational since it was already defined by the Dept. of Ecology. The group will be made aware of opportunities to comment on cleanup documents as they are provided for public review. He said that over time they will get a better idea of what is on site and how the work will affect the reuse plan.

Since it is important that county residents be aware of activities at the camp, the county looks to the advisory group for advice on how to share information with the communities involved. The task for members is to bring concerns back to the group. Jerry noted that an analysis will be submitted annually to the board and he invited the group to attend any work sessions with the county commissioners regarding Camp Bonneville.

Jeanne rearticulated that Mike represents the organization in charge of the cleanup and that the advisory group will serve as a sounding board and window into the cleanup process. She noted that there will be more call for group recommendations later in the process.

## **Committee Protocols**

Jeanne called attention to the draft protocols and explained how they had been culled from other group processes. She emphasized that they were the group's protocols to modify. She noted that the protocols in the draft were fairly common, but still up to the group. Jeanne walked through each element and encouraged the group to comment.

Jeanne emphasized that while some group members may be shy about raising concerns, it's important to do so early in the process. Jeanne also noted that bringing up past issues should be done in a constructive manner.

Don Wastler asked for clarification on the protocol about sending emails beginning with "CB." Jim Gladson explained that it was a useful tool for identifying project related messages and allowing them to pass through spam fillers.

Debbie Abraham asked whether it would be better for group members to inform their replacements or let staff do it. Jeanne said that informing replacements is part of encouraging individual commitment. Don noted that when he found himself behind and uninformed on the Restoration Advisory Committee, he went to the library to do background research. He noted that the information repository is available and that the Reuse Plan and EA are useful documents.

After some discussion, Jeanne noted that members representing organizations would educate their own replacements, while individuals would be reappointed and informed by the staff. Marc Boldt noted that as it is up to the Board of Commissioners to appoint members, he would work with the departing members on replacements if it becomes necessary.

Bud noted that there will come a time when it may be necessary to change the name from "Camp Bonneville" to "Bonneville Park" or another name for the sake of image or publicity. Jeanne said that such a discussion could be a future activity for the group and isn't really protocol issue. She then suggested adding a protocol referring to keeping a "bin" of issues that should be addressed at some point in the process. Jeanne suggested: "As issues arise to be dealt with in the future, they will be added to and maintained in the bin." Jeanne added "Name Change" to the bin. Don proposed negotiations with Willamette National Cemetery as another bin item.

Jeanne noted that Jim Gladson was the county staff contact and suggested replacing references to "staff" in the protocols with "Jim."

Jeanne said that the base recommendation is not to allow proxy representatives. She noted that making it easy for members to miss meetings leads to decreased attendance. The group did not object and Jeanne noted that she takes silence as consent.

Pam Rigby asked whether ten minutes were enough time for public comment. Jeanne said it was the group's decision and noted that while the meetings were open to the public, the group is not a hearings board and it is not the group's primary purpose to hear public comments. She said that ten minutes is usually more than adequate, though the group can be flexible if there is a stronger need. She noted that some groups just want written comments, while others designate specific times. Nathan asked whether there would be one or multiple opportunities for public comment during the meetings.

Jeanne said that comments could be sought at the conclusion of each discussion item. She said she normally checks in with visitors and makes a recommendation to the group. Nathan emphasized that he didn't want the public waiting unnecessarily. Debbie said she felt that limiting the time to ten minutes could be restrictive to the public. Jeanne noted that they have an agenda to work with and that more time spent listening to the public means less information per meeting. Bud noted that non-members can request time and that he's had experiences with people who are not on the committee and not involved in the process. David noted that public comments don't necessarily need to be answered. Richard Kolb said it makes sense to have comments at the end of meetings, as items of interest to the public might be covered and discussed. George said he liked the ten minute limit unless modified. He noted that he has seen the group time monopolized by the public in the past.

Jeanne said that if people come with issues for consideration that aren't on the agenda then she usually lets them present first, likewise, if the public sits through the meeting it can provoke thoughts for presentation at the end. Don said he felt the rules were well put, and he was concerned that some people would dominate while others wouldn't be able to contribute. Pam pointed out that there seemed to be provisions for the extending the time if need be. Mike asked whether individuals need three minutes. Jeanne noted that most people don't take that long and three is just a common number. Greg noted that there were times when RAB meetings would go until 11:30 at night and a three minute limit should be adequate to provide a summary of concerns. The group agreed to leave the protocol as is.

Jeanne reiterated that members should be sharing and gathering information. She noted that it's important not just for members with constituencies, but also for those with neighbors. She added that speaking with the news media is a separate issue and noted that it was generally not a good idea to allow any group member to speak on behalf of the group without prior agreement from the group. The group left the protocol as is.

Jeanne noted that while the process for passing on recommendations won't be an issue for a while, it is important to establish the protocols early. She noted that if the group is split on a decision, it can't be taken as a statistically valid cross section of public opinion. Jeanne also explained that "consensus" does not mean complete agreement, but rather implies a decision that is the best for the group as a whole. She asked for a threshold regarding that which warrants a recommendation of the group. George said he was ok with the 2/3rds majority, but asked that the minority opinion be passed on. Jeanne emphasized that the decision makers will always be made aware of the dissenting opinion. Bud said he wanted to see a protocol articulating that each member receives only one vote. The committee agreed on a 2/3rds majority.

Jeanne noted that it can be problematic to revisit old decisions and noted the utility of freezing decisions. The group approved. George asked whether a decision by a simple majority of the group could revisit decisions if new information comes to light. The group agreed that was valid. Jan asked about whether "majority" referred to the number of attendees or the membership as a whole. Rand suggested seeking a majority of those at the meeting and allowing absent members to express opinions later. Jeanne noted that it wouldn't be feasible to meet later on without observing public meeting law. She noted that absent members will still have the capability to writing letters and express opinions that will be observed by the commission. Don pointed out that if the group agrees to work together to serve the purposes of the

committee, then it is understood that people will be kept informed. He noted that there is plenty of time for comments in the three month interim between meetings.

Jeanne noted that protocols can be revisited if necessary. She summarized the changes to the protocols and offered to revisit the quorum issue at the next meeting. Jeanne said she would send out the amended protocols

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **Next Steps**

Jerry explained that this meeting has been about bringing the group up to speed and will become more interactive in the future. He said there will be more information on the reuse plan and emphasized that they are looking for feedback on the outreach efforts. He said they were also looking for comments on the public participation plan from BCRRT. Don suggested using neighborhood outreach and providing information to Doug Ballou and Holly Gaya. Greg asked if there was a CAG website. Jerry said that activities will be publicized on the Camp Bonneville site.

Jeanne asked whether the group wished to share their personal contact information. Don expressed concern about making email addresses available. Jeanne suggested having all communications go through Jim Gladson to keep them secure. Jeanne passed out the contact information to the group and several corrections were made.

Jerry said that they were trying to arrange a tour of Camp Bonneville for the CAG members and said that they can't have meetings there because the public isn't allowed. He proposed a quarterly meeting schedule for the third Wednesday of the month. So next meetings will be May 16 and August 15. Because the fourth meeting falls just before Thanksgiving, the group agreed to meet one week earlier on November 14. Jerry noted that if a large number of members can't make the meetings, they can reconsider the dates.

Marc Boldt thanked the group for coming. He noted that there are two parts of the process: a cleanup of the park followed by the creation of the park. He emphasized that the park design is a whole different process. Jeroen said that as they move through the cleanup the CAG will be more involved in the reuse discussion and decisions. He explained that once the county finalizes what the reuse plan will look like, it will enter into a permitting process for itself, and will include environmental review documents and more information about what's being developed on the site. He added that there will be public review and comment periods associated with that process.

Jeanne encouraged the group to read materials in advance and review the events of previous meetings.

## **Close**