

## Camp Bonneville Citizens Advisory Group

Meeting #2 – Summary

6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Fire Station 88, 6701 NE 147th Ave.

### Group Members:

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

### Staff Members:

Jerry Barnett  
Ben Forsen  
Mike Gage  
Jim Gladson  
Jeroen Kok  
Jeanne Lawson  
Greg Schaffer  
Kalin Schmoltdt  
Mark Knight

### Purpose of Meeting

- Receive background on cleanup milestones and documents for Camp Bonneville
- Discuss current cleanup efforts
- Establish committee protocols

### Welcome & Committee Business

**Agenda Review** – Facilitator Jeanne Lawson (Jeanne Lawson Assoc.) noted that the meeting would involve no major actions and is primarily intended to bring the group up-to-speed on recent events. She said that Jerry Barnett (Clark Co.) and Ben Forson (Dept. of Ecology) will remind the group of some key milestones.

**2/21/07 Meeting Summary** - Jeanne confirmed that group members had received the meeting summary. There were no changes.

**Revised Protocols** - There were no further comments on the revised protocols.

### Cleanup Milestones

**Overview** - Jerry passed out a handout that reiterated the relationships between the different parties involved in the remediation process, their responsibilities, and the relevant project documentation. He reminded the group of the elements of the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA), the Remediation Agreement, and the Prospective Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD). Jerry noted that hard dates for deliverables are not necessarily reflected in the PPCD. He reminded the group that the \$27.5 million for cleanup comes from the Army and goes to the County.

Ben described the PPCD as the “roadmap” to the cleanup. He explained that it serves as a contract between BCRRT, the County, and the State, and spells out in general terms what the cleanup includes and what deliverables BCRRT is supposed to submit to Ecology. He reminded the group that Ecology’s role is to provide oversight until they are satisfied that the stipulations within the PPCD have been met. At that point, the property will revert back to the county who will be responsible for maintaining the restricted areas.

Ben noted two documents are anticipated to come out over the next three months for public comment:

The Clean up Action Plan (CAP) for RAU2A is the plan for lead removal from the small arms regions. Ben described how the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) involved looking at the possible cleanup alternatives and evaluating them based on the permanence of solution and cost. He noted that in this case the most stringent cleanup alternative was selected and will involve removing all contaminated soil that could be harmful to plants, animals, and humans. He noted that some of the soil will be treated and some will be taken to the landfill. He noted that the CAP for RAU2A is scheduled to be finished in about two months.

The CAP for RAU3 is the cleanup action plan for the removal of munitions for the entire site. Ben noted that current actions have only involved clearing the perimeter of the site and the CITA and the roads and trails. He indicated that the RAU3 CAP document is scheduled for completion in about three months.

Don Wastler asked whether tests were being performed for E. coli or other agents beyond munitions related contamination. Ben said that they were not testing for contaminants that don't have anything to do with the past military operations on the site. He said they were testing for explosive chemicals as well as volatile organic compounds. He noted that they have been testing for metals since 2001 and had yet to find any components above the cleanup level.

Ben noted that the RAU2A and RAU3 documents would be available at the library repository, on the Ecology website, and on the county's Camp Bonneville website. Jim Gladson (Clark County) said that he would notify the CAG when the documents are available. Mike Gage (BCRRT) noted that due to the size of the documents, if the full documents aren't available online, they will definitely be available in the library. Ben noted that the diagrams tend to take up the most space. Bob Pitman asked whether it would be realistic to expect the public to synthesize the materials because of their volume. Ben said the text portion should be manageable. Don added that although the documents seem thick, much of the information is boilerplate that can be skimmed quickly.

Action Items: Bud Van Cleve requested a reference list of relevant acronyms to assist the process. Jeanne offered to put a list together. Jerry Barnett offered to distribute copies of the documents to the group on CD.

Jeanne reiterated that the group will be notified when the documents are released and reminded the CAG that they can always call Jim if they have questions. Mike offered to go over the documents with the group at the next meeting. Ben noted that there would probably be a public meeting and presentation for the Cleanup Action Plan that would help describe what the document is about. He said that it might be helpful to give a similar presentation to this group. The CAG agreed that it would be useful.

## **Cleanup Status / Q & A**

Mike Gage reminded the group of the BCRRT team and noted the monthly progress reports they are required to issue. He noted that insurers also impose significant requirements.

Mike described several newly completed security measures, including new signs and a new security arm over the roadway. He emphasized the importance of safety, noting that a cougar had been seen onsite and that people have been warned. He said that while the safety concerns do not typically affect neighbors, they would be asking some adjacent neighbors to leave their homes for a few hours while they perform the final stages of MEC surface clearance. He noted that safety zones would affect neighbors within 200 feet of the fence to the west and 450 feet of the fence to the east. He said that the distances were based upon the type of munitions likely to be found.

Mike emphasized that BCRRT submits numerous documents to Ecology and the Army. He explained that they seek extensive guidance and advice before going into the field. He noted the training for BCRRT employees, particularly with regard to personal safety and sensitivity to cultural resources.

Mike explained the three steps involved in MEC surface clearance. Step 1 involves looking for metal (anomaly avoidance), marking it, and working around it, step 2 involves brush clearance, and step 3 involves visual and instrument aided surface clearance. He noted that they employ a number of methods for clearing brush by hand and by machine onsite.

Mike noted that most munitions in the interior of the property have been found during the anomaly avoidance phase. He noted that they have found no munitions or sign of munitions along the fence line during the anomaly avoidance and brush clearance phases, nor around 90% of the completed site perimeter where the MEC Surface Clearance has been performed. They have not performed surface clearance adjacent to about 30 nearby homes in the established safety zones. He also indicated that they were establishing a 20 foot minimum for brush clearance on both sides of most roads and trails except where the road was right against a fence, in which case they cleared 30 feet on the interior of the road. They are 100% finished with the anomaly avoidance stage on roads and trails

Mike noted that they had encountered some surprises. He noted that they had found munitions debris beyond the expected 500 foot cleaning area in Landfill 4 and have assumed an expanded the range to 1,200 feet pending a decision by Ecology.

Mike showed some examples of land mine and other munitions debris and noted that most of the munitions had been for training. Some training rounds can be dangerous because they may contain rocket propellant, even though they did not contain explosives. He explained how the propellant would be destroyed in a flash furnace and then the munitions would be recycled.

Mike noted a 2.36 rocket range where they had encountered a surprising level of remaining munitions. To date, all of these have been practice rounds. He noted that they expect to find up to hundreds more and are revising their current work plan and Explosive Safety Submission to allow clearing this range sooner in the established timetable. He noted that they anticipate some surprises, and he complimented the people doing the searching.

Mike explained the MEC detonation procedure and showed an example video where munitions were detonated with a carefully placed perforating charge after being covered with sandbags. Debbie Abraham asked whether it was likely that she had been hearing detonation sounds. Mike said it was possible, but said it could also be the FBI firing range.

Mike said they had found a live 155mm Howitzer round within the target area, exactly where it should have been. However, BCRRT was somewhat surprised because there was no known documentation showing that 155mm rounds had been fired there. They were expecting nothing larger than 105mm rounds. He noted that the detonation of the 155mm round required significantly more packed sandbags because of the 15.5 lbs of explosive in the round.

Mike highlighted the areas (safety zones) where they were asking people to leave their homes for about four hours during the MEC surface clearance process. He noted that they had gathered extensive information about the houses nearby to determine the houses in the safety zones, and said they hoped to not bother residents more than once.

Regarding the buildings, such as barracks, within the camp, Mike noted that the Army was prohibited from paying for maintenance by law. He noted that they have undertaken a building survey and will hopefully be able to present Clark County with an in-depth building inventory that includes maintenance needs and expectations. He noted that maintenance also involves mowing and minimizing fire danger. David Hurt asked whether Clark County facilities could help with maintenance. Mike said that they can let BCRRT perform maintenance based on the needs established in the building inventory. Don Wastler asked if it would be possible to use community service organizations to assist in the maintenance efforts. Mike said that their options were limited because the site is not open to the public.

Pam Rigby asked whether some buildings will be demolished. Mike said it was a county decision. Pam asked whether the buildings had been reviewed for historic value. Mike said they had been reviewed and

received a negative evaluation. He noted that the BCRRT staff is trained to watch out for Native American artifacts.

Nathan Reynolds asked for clarification on the difference between logging and brush clearing. Mike said that nothing has been logged yet, although they have a proposal from a forester who recommends thinning in three or four areas. He noted that 75-80% of the site has been historically logged and that the existing regrowth hasn't been good for wildlife or anyone. He explained that brush clearance only covers plants that are less than 4" diameter at chest height. He noted that such materials are shredded and applied to the roads. He emphasized the importance of clearing the brush to reduce fire hazards as well as how labor intensive it is to remove the brush by hand. Jerry noted that the timber management plan is intended for fire management and not as a commercial enterprise. He said that any profits from timber removal would go back into funding the park. Mike noted that they will never log the central impact target area.

Nathan asked whether they were likely to find debris lodged in trees that would affect milling. Mike said that they hadn't found any yet, but he was sure it exists. He noted that debris shouldn't stop logging, as many milling operations use metal detectors to scan the wood.

Rand Harris asked whether there was any historical information as to the proportion of rounds on the 2.36 range that are likely to be live. Mike noted that they treat all munitions as live even though most will be practice rounds. Ben noted that he had received a paper regarding the ratio of live to training munitions and it was around 175 to 4 or 5. Mike noted the importance of thoroughly investigating each site and he noted that of the 47 items they have detonated and all but one were training rounds. He said that he expects to find more 105mm and 155mm rounds in the central impact target area. Ben noted that because of the 20 mile range for 155mm rounds, it was somewhat unexpected. Mike noted that the few surprises they have encountered have been anticipated, in that they were found where they were supposed to be. Nathan Reynolds noted that given previous conversations about how unlikely it would be to find a 155mm round, it should have been a surprise. Mike reiterated that while it was unexpected, it was found in the target area where shells routinely would have been fired.

Don Wastler noted that BCRRT seems to have come very far and is doing an excellent job. He said that the findings and reports have been useful.

Dennis Benson asked whether Mike had given further consideration to a tour. Mike said he had been thinking about it but was not yet ready. He said that while a tour was unlikely by the next meeting, it shouldn't be longer than six months. He said he would want the tour to include some sites off the main road which are not ready yet.

Pam Rigby noted that she wasn't clear on the distinction between the roads and trails. Mike noted that they're basically indistinguishable as they're all cleared in the same way. He said that some have been graveled and some haven't. Rand Harris asked how many of the roads and trails will eventually be opened to the public. Mike said it was up to the county. Jerry said they would wait to see what's been done before making a decision. Mike said that he would be surprised if some of the roads are opened up along the northern fence lines, as there are other better places that would make very appealing trails.

Rand Harris brought up the possibility of the fences and warning signs serving as an attractive nuisance. He noted that telling people where things are is akin to inviting them to go there. He questioned whether signs that say "danger" might serve as an invitation and questioned what could be done to keep people from wandering off trails. Mike said it was an issue for the county, but noted that the roads and trails will be much more inviting than forcing a way through thick brush beside the trails. He said that he would suggest doing additional trail work that would provide people a safe way to access places of interest. Jerry agreed that it will be the county's job to educate people. Mike added that there are dozens of parks in Washington where munitions have been fired, and that he felt that Camp Bonneville would be safer than those parks because of the clean up in which they were currently engaged.

Don Wastler noted that when the camp was opened to hunting, he knew of people who would go and bring back rockets. Mike noted that they were cautious of publicizing the location of munitions. He said that BCRRT wanted to remove anything that could serve as an attractive nuisance.

Mike discussed some of the munitions they expected to find onsite and the different ranges for each. Bob Pitman noted that it would be more difficult to find high-angle artillery and mortars than machine guns which have a flat trajectory because the former could be embedded in the ground.

Jeanne asked whether the group was interested in more information on anything in particular. David Hurt said he was interested in archeological and historical information. Don Wastler noted that the Jacob Munsel family had homesteaded the area. George Brereton reiterated the request for a list of acronyms. Jeanne said she would work with Mike to develop the information about Army and Ecology terms.

Nathan Reynolds recalled that Mike had expected to find hundreds more of the 2.36 rockets and asked what revising the plan with the Army would involve. Mike said that Army and Ecology work plans would need to be modified based on the new findings and expanded ranges. He noted that they want to share the information, but will not distribute information about the location of munitions to anyone but Ecology and the County so as to keep the information out of the wrong hands.

Mike noted for the record that the MKM Munitions team is doing great work.

## **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Next Steps**

Jeanne noted that they would plan to have Mike summarize the RAU2A document at the next meeting and that a CD of the documents will be made available. She said that the Reuse Plan would be addressed later on in the process.

Mike noted that they had estimated a four year budget for the project, and noted that the primary cleanup effort should be done one year before the paperwork is finished. He noted that even the surprises don't cause them to do things differently. Rand Harris noted the possibility that surprises could extend the time needed. Ben noted that surprises could go either way. Rand asked whether it would be necessary to use the same detonation process for all of the 2.36 rounds. Mike said it would be necessary under the current process, though using an x-ray machine would allow them to determine whether the munitions are dangerous. Mike said that he would prefer to minimize the detonations which cost about \$1,500 apiece. He noted that an x-ray machine costs about \$5,000 to purchase but would soon pay for itself. Mark noted that they weren't allowed more than one detonation at a time. Mike emphasized that 100-150 or more detonations without x-ray is manageable..

Jim Gladson reminded the group that they are charged with communication and outreach to the broader community. He said staff would be seeking feedback on communication channels for accessing the public at the next meeting. Jeanne encouraged the group to stay in touch with Jim as necessary. Jim reminded the group that he would be sending out information on the reports.

Next meeting: August 15.

## **Close**