

Camp Bonneville Citizens Advisory Group

Meeting #6 – **DRAFT** Summary
6-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, 2008
Fire Station 88, 6701 NE 147th Ave.

Group Members:

George Brereton
Don Chapman
Bob Dingethal
Rand F. Harris
David Hurt
Bob Pitman
Nathan Reynolds
Pam Rigby
Don Wastler
Jan Wojciechowski

Members Absent:

Dennis Benson

Staff Members:

Jerry Barnett
Ben Forson
Jim Gladson
Mike Gage
Greg Johnson
Jeroen Kok
Jeanne Lawson
Kalin Schmoltd

Others:

Lacy Gage
Jim Anderson
Gary Collins
Bill Pelkey
Chuck Mason

Welcome and Committee Business

Jeanne Lawson led a brief round of introductions for members and visitors.

Agenda review – The meeting will include an overview of recent discoveries, updates on overall status, the committee report, schedule, and next steps.

Meeting #5 summary – There were no comments.

Overall Status

Ben Forson provided an overview of the remediation efforts and noted that the process is currently on schedule. MEC investigation within the Central Valley Floor (CVF) is nearly complete, and analysis of data by the Anomaly Selection Board (ASB) continues. Nine new Additional Areas of Concern (AAOCs) have been identified, and those areas will be addressed in the development of the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). The draft CAP is anticipated to go to Ecology by August or September. The plan involves removal and disposal of lead from nine small arms ranges which was originally anticipated for June 2008. Action requires a Wetlands Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Excavation could begin this month.

Ben noted a discussion with BCRRT that had resulted in the decision to install dedicated pumps in the monitoring wells so as to minimize cross contamination potential. Currently, all wells at Landfill 4 and the sentry wells have dedicated pumps. Testing labs have also been replaced. The wells close to the landfill continue to show large swings in perchlorate contamination levels. The swings have not been found in the down gradient boundary wells, and the contamination plume does not appear to be moving.

Greg Johnson noted that plans for a helicopter magnetometer survey had been proposed but were found to be impractical. Instead, a decision was made to manually clear the wetland areas with efforts to minimize impacts. Greg said that a botanist had noted that the area could be cleared to 6"-12" and not cause lasting damage. In more vegetated areas, a decision was made to use EM61 geophysical survey equipment instead of the standard Shoensadt. Vegetation removal has been found to be more challenging than expected, so the surveyed areas have been followed up by visual clearance and extensive Q/C measures. This method has been successful, and Ecology is expected to approve of this clearance technique pending review.

David Hurt asked how the nine new AAOCs would affect the renegotiated contract. Mike Gage offered to discuss the AAOCs later in the presentation. He noted that Ecology has identified the areas, but it will be a task for BCRRT to negotiate with the Army regarding who will pay for the additional cleanup.

Rand Harris asked whether more 155mm rounds had been found. Greg said that while they have found some frag, no more full rounds have been discovered. He noted that they have not yet begun to clear the Central Impact Target Area (CITA) yet, and more is likely to be found there after the CAP is adopted.

Report on Cleanup

Mike summarized the status of the Remedial Action Units (RAUs). RAU 1 requires no further action. RAU 2A's CAP has been approved. Work on 2A is pending the approval of a wetlands permit by the Army Corps of Engineers. A request for a letter of No Further Action for RAU 2B has been submitted to Ecology. RAU 2C is under ongoing review. RAU 3 involves site-wide munitions clearance.

Mike noted the status of groundwater testing, emergency actions, and roads and trails clearing. Forty-four of the 46 miles of trails have been cleared to date. Mike summarized the interim actions, including MEC clearance and the new clearance process using an EM-61.

The team is currently preparing to remove lead impacted soil from the firing ranges. Approximately 1/3 of soil will be clean and 1/3 will be having contaminant levels between 50 and 250ppm and will be buried below ecological impacts. The remaining 4,000 cubic yards of soil will be taken to a landfill.

Clearance of the CVF is going well. Ninety percent of the CVF has completed anomaly avoidance. About 75% of brush has been cleared. Data is currently being gathered to present to Ecology regarding whether the clearance methods are appropriate.

While debris and MEC items continue to be found, the rate of discovery has been substantially lower than the higher levels at the start of the year.

Cleared brush has been consolidated for removal. A tub grinder is being used to grind up the wood debris.

Transects are being performed in the NW corner of the site. The area was considered a maneuver area and was not considered contaminated. The transects are intended to confirm that assumption.

Road maintenance continues to be necessary in order to restore roads damaged by weather and culverts damaged by equipment. Fences require constant maintenance and repairs due to fallen trees.

Drainage ditches are being cleared and brush cleared areas are being seeded with grass seed. The team is working with the Clark County Weed Management Team to control the spread of thistle and other weeds. Endangered and sensitive species are being carefully monitored.

Nine Additional Areas of Concern (AAOCs) have been identified:

AAOC #1 is on the lower DNR road where 105mm and 155mm frag has been uncovered while using the road as a transect. This has been considered a new target area and further transects will be necessary to determine the boundaries of the area.

AAOC #2 concerns a 2.36 rocket range in the southwest. The area has been fully cleared.

AAOC #3 was found to contain a number of subsurface anomalies, primarily stokes mortars, some smoke and gas grenades, and a 3.5" rocket head. This has been considered a new Stokes Mortar Target Area. A substantial number of subsurface anomalies remain. Mike noted a map that depicted the location of uncovered munitions debris.

AAOC #4 was reported to previously cleared, though kickout from the area has been discovered up to 1,200 feet away. Ecology is requiring that the area be cleared to at least 1,200 feet. Large items have been discovered in the area.

AAOC #5 is a previously unrecorded debris pit.

AAOC #6 is a new open burn and detonation area. Rocket motors and 5" rockets have been found along with slag and other subsurface anomalies. Information on the area was not provided to the team prior to the transfer of the property.

AAOC #7 was slated to become a camping area under the reuse plan, but was found to be thickly contaminated with stokes mortars and HE 37 mm rounds, and a new formerly undisclosed target impact area.

AAOC #8 is located to the east of the pop-up pond. MEC items and debris are being found and the area is believed to be a new target area.

AAOC #9 is to the east of the sewage ponds. The site contains a number of 2.36 rockets in an unanticipated target area.

Mike showed a number of photos highlighting Camp Bonneville flora and fauna. Don Wastler noted that the site has been sealed for around 100 years and he emphasized the importance of preserving the area as safe habitat and sanctuary for animals away from human activity. Don described additional wildlife activity and displaced animals in adjacent neighborhoods as the result of heightened human activity in the area. Don noted the dangers to wildlife as they begin to interact with humans. Jerry Barnett noted that a large part of the area would be set aside as a wildlife preserve.

Nathan Reynolds asked how the re-characterization of the AAOCs will affect the Reuse Plan. Mike said that thus far there have been no solid judgments about the next steps Jerry said that relocating some uses seems like a good idea in light of the new information. The Reuse Plan will denote areas that have been cleared to a certain depth and the conversation about the Reuse Plan will begin with that. Parks and PBS have begun to look at how the area could accommodate different uses based on environmental constraints. More discussions with BCRRT on the subject are forthcoming.

Nathan asked about the MKM PIKA presentation to the Army. Mike explained that the presentation was part of the monthly meeting. The Army reviewed the data and took it back to DC. BCCRT is awaiting an opportunity to meet with the Army in July when there may be the opportunity to resolve questions about responsibility for previously unidentified cleanup areas. Arguably, each of the AAOCs constitute unknown conditions out of the original scope and would likely be retained by the Army. Additional funding from the Army would come from Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC) funds. Rand Harris asked who had been involved in the meeting. Mike said that Mark Jones and Bill O'Donnell had represented the BRAC program.

Nathan asked about the use of full radius sweeps for the AAOCs. Mike said that with the exception of Landfill 4 and lower DNR road, all of the AAOCs are in the CVF. Mike said that it was his understanding that all AAOC's will be a part of the CAP and alternatives for the cleanup would be presented and critiqued as part of a multi-level review process.

Jeanne noted that the Army was not looking to take the site back. Greg noted that they had received assurances from the Army that the AAOCs would be addressed.

Bud Van Cleve asked about the cleanup schedule. Mike said that they were ahead of the original schedule, though the nine AAOCs could take the full four years or longer to address.

Update on Reuse Plan

Jeroen Kok introduced the process of addressing uses in the reuse plan and specifically noted the tent camping and amphitheater areas. The discovery of AAOC #7 raised the issue of relocating the tent area. Other potential camping areas were identified based on input from Greg Johnson and Jerry Barnett. Some areas to the west of Lacamas Creek and on the western boundary of the property were possibilities with no substantial MEC. A recent tour of the area revealed site constraints, including avoiding the park boundary, the potential cemetery area, steep slopes, wetlands, and buffer areas. The tour resulted in identifying three new potential sites. The two northern sites were close to the RV site area, while the site to the south was somewhat problematic because it was removed from existing roadways. Other sites may be sought if those three are not acceptable. Tent sites could also be relocated to the firing range area, which would be moved elsewhere. Other areas are being discussed as sites for a veterans' cemetery. Further wetland delineations are pending. Jerry noted that PBS had delineated a site for the amphitheater, though issues may arise with the current location.

David Hurt asked about the spacing for tents and yurts. Jeroen explained that a tent requires only cleared dirt, while a yurt is a larger fabric based cabin, 12'-14' in diameter. Camping areas also require space for roads, tables, fire rings, and restrooms. The site plans are quite preliminary at this stage.

Don Wastler noted that people in the surrounding neighborhoods have different concerns and conflicts with the plan. Don asked whether it would be possible for Jerry to attend a neighborhood association meeting and gather input about the changes. Jerry explained that public input would be sought after the cleanup effort has determined the constraints and potential for the site. Until that time, the CAG will help to provide public outreach. Jeanne noted that the cleanup is based on the existing Reuse Plan. After the CAP is complete, refinements to the Reuse Plan will be addressed. The plan won't be started from scratch. The tent camping area must be dealt with now because the location is dependent on a clean area. Jerry confirmed that the CAP will yield a good indication of usable areas.

Jerry introduced Chuck Mason from the VFW as a proponent of a veterans' cemetery. Local political figures, representatives from the National Cemetery Association, and the American Legion had recently met to discuss firming up the effort to locate a cemetery at Camp Bonneville. Bob Dingethal noted that Rep. Deb Wallace had brought the group together in order to discuss what needs to be done in order to create a cemetery in the area. Bob said that Marc Boldt had brought up the issue of whether it was allowable under the BRAC rules to use the site as a cemetery. Another issue is whether the cemetery will be safe, an appropriate size, and cost effective to build and operate. The congressional contingent felt that the use as a cemetery was a good application, and they indicated that they would be willing to support the idea if it is feasible. The National Cemetery Administration will also need to support the choice and they are reviewing a number of possible options at this time. Bob noted that Bob Ford from the American Legion had suggested giving Camp Bonneville a historical theme to match Ft. Vancouver. The meeting was positive though not conclusive. Marc Boldt will look into the conveyance rules. Chuck noted a location for the cemetery along the northwest section of the site. The area was recommended by Ecology and favored by the National Cemetery Administration. Jerry said that more details need to be worked out regarding the use of the area and more information is needed before a specific schedule can be developed for moving forward on a cemetery plan. Bob encouraged the group to contact him with questions and concerns.

Public outreach and committee report

Jim Gladson noted the previous discussion about producing an annual report from the committee. He noted that the group had favored an option whereby the staff would compile a report for the committee to review. Staff would then present the report to the board of commissioners. Jim noted the outline of basic report areas that could comprise a 6-8 page report and requested offline feedback if the group had any comments. The report will ground the commissioners in the previous activities of the group, how the group has advised staff, and what is yet to come with regard to future committee activities. The report will also provide the opportunity for the board to give feedback.

Don Wastler said that he felt that the process since the transfer has been going well. He complimented Mike, the team, and Ecology. Jeanne suggested including comments in the report on the transparency of the process thus far. The committee agreed.

Bud Van Cleve suggested including some of the maps and photographs that Mike had presented. Jerry said that the board would receive such progress updates at some point in the future.

Jim said that his goal was to have a draft out by the end of July if not sooner. He encouraged the group to provide personal statements if needed and offered to include them in the report. Comments were requested within the week if possible.

Jim noted that the newsletter copy had been produced and would be sent out to 6,000 people on the mailing list within two weeks. Some information has been updated, though most of the information is already familiar to the committee.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Next Steps

Jeanne noted that the next meeting would be held on September 10, which would allow a follow-up meeting between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mike noted that the CAP may not be complete by the middle of September, so Ecology may not have fully incorporated input. He cautioned that the CAP information be treated as tentative. Jerry said that they would present as much information and direction from the document as relevant. Ben noted that the CAP basically summarizes the investigation findings and describes the cleanup to be conducted for each AAOC. Greg noted that a public meeting would also be held for the CAP and encouraged CAG members to attend and comment.

Several members of the committee said that they would appreciate the opportunity to hear about the CAP in advance of the final release. Mike said that an outline was feasible and a thorough discussion was likely. Ben noted that the report would not be finalized until after the public comment period ends. Greg said that the public comment period would be in November and December with comments summarized in January and a final document expected in March. Jim noted that the September meeting will help to ground the committee in the document and the December meeting will also provide an opportunity for the group to ask questions.

David Hurt noted the good attendance for the recent Rails to Trails open houses and suggested looking at how they promoted their events. Jim noted that both he and Kalin Schmoltdt had been involved in those planning processes.

- Next meeting: September 10, 2008

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