

**Galena Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
SUMMARY**

**November 16, 2011
Galena, Alaska**

1. Attendees:

Tim Bodony, Galena Resident, Community RAB Co-Chair
Ashley Burgett, Galena Resident
Cecelia Burgett, Galena Resident
Evelyn Burgett, Galena Resident
Gary Burgett, Galena Resident
Jennal Burgett, Galena Resident
Marylene Burgett, Galena Resident
Tom Corrigan, Galena City Manager
Joe Demoski, Galena resident
Dick Evans, Galena Resident
Rachel Fish, Booz Allen Hamilton
Colette Foster, Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Greg Gangnuss, Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)
Joyce Huntington, Galena resident
Christine Johnson, Galena Resident
Lewis Johnson, Galena Resident
Debbie Koontz, Galena Resident
Jon Korta, Galena Resident
Phil Koontz, RAB member
Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton
Sam Myers, Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Edgar Nollner, Galena Resident
Terry Pitka, Galena resident
March Runner, Loudon Tribal Council
Jeremy Scott, Galena Resident
Dennis Shepard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Albertha Sommer, Galena resident
Fred Vreeman, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
AL Weilbacher, Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE)
Win Westervelt, CH2MHill
Paddy Yaska, Galena resident
Joe Demoski, Galena resident

- 2. Introduction.** Mr. Greg Gangnuss of the Air Force Real Property Agency called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. **Remembering Mr. Norman “Buckets” Burgett.** Mr. Gangnuss spoke to the memory of Buckets, including his prominent role in the Galena RAB and his insurmountable knowledge of the Air Force restoration program. He recognized members of the Burgett family in attendance and observed a moment of silence.
4. **Overview of Field Investigation Activities.** Mr. AL Weilbacher, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator at former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL) introduced Mr. Win Westervelt of CH2M Hill. Mr. Westervelt provided an overview of the field investigation work as well as a summary of 2011 accomplishments. Win indicated that the Air Force will develop data reports during the winter and will provide findings during the spring RAB. Mr. Westervelt also discussed Loudon Tribal Council’s role in clearing 9 acres of trees for the future landfarm. He thanked the community for their support and making the CH2M Hill field team feel welcome this summer.

Mr. Tom Johnson asked if the contractors had done any groundwater sampling at the old landfill site to the west of the base. Mr. Weilbacher explained that the Air Force and its contractors are no longer responsible for testing or monitoring that site, because it is a closed site and is under the sole authority of the State of Alaska now. Mr. Sam Myers said that ADOT will plan to do future environmental monitoring in that area.

5. **Summary of 2011 Accomplishments.** Mr. Westervelt indicated that they sampled a combined 382 wells in the April/May and September/October seasons, and installed an additional 56 new wells. They also conducted soil sampling to determine “nature and extent” – what kind of contaminants exist and how far they reach. Win also discussed the status of the bioreactor. The bioreactor’s solar panels are used to power the groundwater pump to re-circulate water to mix with vegetable oil and wood chips using the naturally occurring bacteria to break down the solvents. Mr. Tom Johnson asked if the bioreactor has been effective and Mr. Westervelt indicated data would be available for the spring RAB meeting.
6. **Interim Removal Action Update.** Mr. Westervelt provided an update of the summer excavations and movement of soil to former Campion runway. The goal was not to remove all of the contamination, but rather to remove some of the most contaminated soil at Galena that was located in the upper 15 feet of soil. The roads were re-graded to return them to previous state; some final resurfacing and grading may be required next summer. Question from Tom Johnson asking if there is still free-flowing product. Only 1 well out of 216 shows signs of free product. Question from Tim Bodony asking whether landfarm was for current or future needs. Mr. Westervelt indicated that the landfarm will bridge more than one contract and that future plans have not yet been determined.

- **SS005:** Excavated more diesel-contaminated soil than originally anticipated. 4400 cubic yards of material was removed. Installed monitoring wells for future consideration. Excavation was completed by 20 August deadline prior to start of school.
- **AST1569:** Encountered more contaminated soil than originally anticipated. Excavated to more than 8 ft. before running up against communication line and stopping.
- **SS014:** Encountered more contaminated soil than originally anticipated. Excavated to more than 12 ft, and removed 4700 cubic yards of material. Encountered fuel pipelines with asbestos wrap, packaged appropriately, and shipped to Anchorage Municipal Landfill for proper disposal.
- **SS016:** No excavation performed due to time constraints and lack of backfill material.
- **SS017:** Encountered more contaminated soil than originally anticipated. Excavated to depth of 12 ft. but limited by amount of backfill material. 8400 cubic yards of material was removed – 3300 more than anticipated. Tom Johnson asked if residual contamination left behind would likely smear among the new backfill material that replaced the contaminated material. Mr. Westervelt said that some recontamination would likely take place, but contamination levels in the 2011 dig areas would be much lower than before.

7. Plans for Winter 2011-2012. Mr. Weilbacher discussed plans to complete investigation reports and deliver to ADEC by 30 March 2012. Air Force is currently developing workplans to address Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) sites, including plans to look for discarded munitions near Million Gallon Hill. Mr. Weilbacher also discussed plans for low-water groundwater sampling in April/May and high-water groundwater sampling in July/August to better understand transport of contaminants in the aquifer.

8. Performance Based Contract (PBC) Overview: Ms. Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton, discussed the PBC contract process as it pertains to Galena. PBC contracts allow the Air Force to identify an end goal (e.g., site closure) and let the contractor determine the best way to achieve. Giving the contractor the flexibility to get the job done without having to wait for each contract or having to modify contracts to account for changes will allow the contractor to clean up contaminated land better/cheaper/quicker. Air Force anticipates releasing the final Request for Proposal (RFP) in spring/summer 2012. The goal is to award the PBC contract in November 2012. The PBC contract will be a seven year contract. Interested residents, who have not already done so, should contact Mr. Weilbacher if they are interested in providing services to contractors. Questions from community regarding how contractors will be held accountable or replaced for sub-par performance. Mr. Weilbacher explained that the Air Force can always terminate a contract if it is necessary.

- 9. Public Involvement Update.** Mr. Gangnuss promoted the second edition of the Galena Newsletter, and discussed future opportunities to work with the Loudon Tribal Council and school journalism class to promote the Air Force's environmental restoration program. Mr. Gangnuss also indicated that he and his contract support, Rachel Fish, were in attendance to interview members of the Galena community for a community relations plan. The plan will highlight the Air Force's response to community concerns and recommendations for how to better communicate.
- 10. Remarks from ADEC.** Mr. Fred Vreeman of ADEC reemphasized that his role is to enforce laws to ensure the Air Force is held responsible for cleaning up contamination. He indicated that the incoming PBC contractor will have good information to develop a strong plan going forward. Mr. Vreeman encouraged open dialogue among community members.
- 11. Remarks from ADOT.** Mr. Sam Myers indicated that ADOT will continue to work with the Air Force and ADEC to ensure travel remains unimpaired in areas under construction during remediation activities.
- 12. Remarks from City of Galena.** Mr. Tom Corrigan, Galena City Manager, commended the Air Force and its contractor for ongoing communication with the City. He also indicated that the City is working with the Air Force to ensure property is returned to its original, if not better, state.
- 13. Remarks from Loudon Tribal Council.** Ms. March Runner indicated that she has seen advances where it had otherwise been stagnant. There has been fairly constant communications between stakeholders and contractors. Ms. Runner wants to ensure communication is strong with all, especially bidding contractors out of state.
- 14. Future RAB Agenda Topics.** List of topics to cover in a future RAB meeting:
- Update on the progress of the bioreactor (Loudon Tribal Council)
 - Progress on landfill (ADOT)
 - Data from 2011 field work (Mr. Bodony)
- 15. Attendee Comments.** Air Force received praise from Buckets' daughter for the nice article written in the newsletter about her father. Mr. Koontz asked where to find information about the cleanup program online. Mr. Gangnuss indicated that the AFRPA website is listed on the back page of the community newsletter. Mr. Vreeman referred to the ADEC database and ADEC Galena webpages that are in the process of being updated. He also mentioned that the Air Force Administrative Record website contained reports through 2009. Mr. Weilbacher also referred to the Information Repository that will be located on CDs at the Galena library.

16. Adjournment. Mr. Bodony called for adjournment at 8:40 p.m.