

Attachments

Attachment 1: Agenda

Attachment 2: Presentation

Attachment 3: Meeting Evaluation Form

Welcome and Introductions

U.S. Senator Gary Peters made opening remarks thanking those in attendance and thanking RAB members for serving the community. He provided background information on the visit from Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy, John Henderson, and some of the community concerns his office is working to address.

Mr. Malcolm McClendon, facilitator, began the RAB meeting at 5:46 p.m with additional acknowledgements of VIPs/Dignitaries: Dep. Assist. SAF Mark Correll, Jake Bennett (Congressman Kildee's Flint office).

Stakeholder Updates

RAB members provided updates on some of the actions which have occurred since the last quarterly meeting.

Air Force

Mr. Matt Marrs, Air Force RAB co-chair and Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Division, highlighted several Air Force updates:

- The Mission Street pump-and-treat system will be retrofitted to feature a new, ion exchange resin treatment system. He said he would present more information later in the meeting.
- The central treatment plant has treated more than 62 million gallons of groundwater (GW) since it began operating in August 2018.
- The Air Force sampled 54 monitoring wells and 15 private drinking water (DW) wells and both the USAF and EGLE are conducting groundwater/surface water level monitoring for transducers studies; the organizations are sharing findings with each other.
- Working with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to provide funding for expedited document reviews.
- Completed biennial Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) training.
- Thanked EGLE for new collaborations efforts.

U.S. Forest Service

Mr. Clint Emerson, district ranger for the Huron-Manistee National Forests, said a preliminary assessment (PA) and site investigation (SI) has begun around Clark's Marsh. The Forest Service is partnering with EGLE and coordinating with the Air Force. They've also begun discussions natural resource damage assessment as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The goal is to look at the impacts on fish, deer and more.

AuSable Township

Mr. Jeff Moss, AuSable Township Trustee, talked about sampling efforts being conducted by EGLE. He said the township is asking the Air Force for a greater focus on AuSable; they've requested sampling to help further define boundaries of contamination.

EGLE

Ms. Beth Place noted that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is now EGLE. Ms. Place said dispute resolution discussions with the Air Force are ongoing. They are evaluating data collected from GW surface water pathways along the west side of Van Etten Lake; sampling has detected exceedances above 12 parts per trillion (ppt). Ms. Place said EGLE is currently compiling a Remedial Investigation (RI) report.

Community RAB

Community Co-Chair, Mr. Arnie Leriche, said community RAB members are focusing on improving working sessions and recruiting new members. He said he's attended a number of congressional sessions recently, including a house senate hearing.

Mr. Leriche stated that transparency remains a critical issue. Mr. Leriche requested that the Air Force and EGLE share draft reports and data with the RAB so they can influence decisions. He discussed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request he submitted to obtain information on recent AF monitoring data the Township of Oscoda had not received.

OWAA

Mr. Mike Munson said OWAA continues to explore aviation business opportunities.

Oscoda Township

Mr. Tim Cummings, Oscoda Township Trustee, highlighted some of the meetings that took place earlier in the day with Air Force and state officials. He thanked attendees and said he was pleased to see so much community involvement.

Community RAB

Cathy Wusterbarth shared information about her visit to D.C. for the State of the Union and meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and policy decision makers. At the state level, members of the community are connecting with the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART), and locally they are connecting with other community members. She said they are also working with the health department to get information out and connecting with the media to tell Oscoda's story. She said they are committed to making sure the problem is solved.

MDHHS

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Toxicologist, Mr. Abiy Mussa, addressed foam concerns on Van Etten Lake. He said there are no issues with recreation but advised people to avoid the foam.

DHD2

Ms. Denise Bryan, DHD2 health officer, discussed a health advisory for foam. Ms. Bryan requested more signs to be posted. The community will have input on where signs are posted. They are looking to post signs before Memorial Day Weekend.

A town hall is being planned with District Health Department District No. 2, for the week of May 22, 2019.

Technical Presentations

EGLE

Mr. Matt Baltusis, EGLE geologist, presented introductory information on Groundwater Surface Water Interface (GSI). He said EGLE placed wells in areas that wouldn't be influenced by surface water to determine if there's flow of GW into surface water.

Mr. Baltusis said they used horizontal flow direction and WF concentrations above the GSI criteria (12 ppt) to determine GSI at Van Etten Lake.

Air Force Presentation: Mission Street Pump and Treat System

Mr. Marris identified the location for the new GW treatment system. He said the Air Force will be using an ion exchange resin system to treat approximately 200 gpm of GW discharged from the Mission Street plant system.

Mr. Marris noted the decision to use resin and a separate system than the central treatment system (CTS) was influenced by RAB and community input, as well as the AF doing a cost benefit analysis and duration of resin treatment. The Air Force will begin construction to retrofit the existing Mission Street Pump building in the summer. He said they expect to begin operating the system before the end of 2019.

Mr. Moss asked about any studies on resin. Mr. Marris said resin has been used at Former Pease AFB, New Hampshire, confirming Wurtsmith would not be a resin testing ground.

Mr. Robert Tasiar, community RAB member, asked if the treatment would be treating a new area. Mr. Marris said it's the same area because it's using the existing pumps and well network.

Matt asked if the next RAB meeting could commence earlier, therefore at 5:00 p.m. and the informal poster session would begin at 4 p.m.

Break

A meeting break commenced at 6:23 p.m.

Air Force Presentation: MMRP/UXO

Mr. Marris summarized MMRP and UXO, and the basic 3Rs principles of:

- Recognizing when someone may have encountered a munition,
- Retreating from the risk by carefully leaving the area, and
- Reporting the danger by calling 911.

Air Force Presentation: Hydrogeology

Mr. John Gillespie, PhD, JD, hydrogeology subject matter expert with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), shared his background as an Airman at Wurtsmith AFB in the 1970s. Mr. Gillespie joined the US Geological Survey after his time in service, eventually returning to Wurtsmith in the 1980s to conduct hydrogeological surveys. Mr. Gillespie presented key takeaways regarding GW flow:

- GW flows from Former Wurtsmith AFB east to Van Etten Lake
- GW on the east side of Van Etten Lake flows west towards Van Etten Lake
- GW along the southern boundary of AFB flows to the alluvial deposits of ancestral Au Sable River and eventually enters the modern Au Sable River.
- Seasonal water level controls on Van Etten Lake expose seeps that are caused by finer grain layers within the deltaic deposits
- Alluvial deposits in the ancestral Au Sable River would need better definition to understand GW flow through those deposits

Tim Cummings remarked that the presentation was extremely informative.

Ms. Wusterbarth asked if disturbing ground deposits from drilling could have potentially led to foam issues. Mr. Gillespie indicated it would not.

Mr. Leriche asked about the flow of contaminants in and around the immediate area NE of Van Etten Dam. Mr. Gillespie said he and Air Force have not received significant groundwater cross-section study conducted by EGLE at this location. EGLE representatives agreed to provide Mr. Gillespie with data they have from that area.

RAB Business

Mr. Leriche stated there are RAB vacancies to be filled. Applications can be obtained on the Wurtsmith BRAC webpage: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Wurtsmith.aspx>. Mr. Leriche asked to be copied on all submissions. He suggested a schedule for the RAB and Air Force team to work on our membership over the month prior to the next RAB meeting.

[Proposed Action Item] Mr. Moss asked to add Action Item Review as a major presentation item for the next RAB meeting to ensure enough time is reserved to catch up on actions items.

Public Comment

Mr. Paul Rekowski, Oscoda Resident and property owner, said three to four years ago the health department sampled drinking water wells and only one well exceeded standard, yet they warned residents not to drink their water. He said MDHHS warned people not to ingest foam, but now they've modified stance to say no dermal contact. He inquired on the change of their stance and asked what changed. Mr. Rekowski expressed concern that those actions and planned signage will impact tourism. Mr. Rekowski asked if signage was requested by members of the community.

Ms. Bryan said she requested signage based on discussions with the state health department and the health advisory. She said she'd like to have a focus group give feedback on signs before they are finalized.

Mr. Mussa referenced site-specific conditions used to determine potential risks. Regarding the foam, he said the science has changed.

Mr. David Winn submitted a written question: Is any data available as to what the efficiency of the new GAC system is operating at?

Air Force response (June 28, 2019): The central treatment system is successfully treating groundwater (GW) to Substantive Requirements Document (SRD) requirements. Since Air Force began operating the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment system August 30, 2018, it has treated more than 62 million gallons of GW, removing 0.7 lbs of PFOS and PFOA (combined.) The system's operational "up time" since it began operation is 88.3%.

Conclusion

The RAB meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.