



Former Wurtsmith AFB Restoration Advisory Board 10 September 2021 Co-Chairs Meeting Final Summary

Introduction

The co-chairs of the Former Wurtsmith AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on Friday, 10 September 2021 from 1000-1130 EDT. Attendees included:

- Dr. Catharine Varley, Air Force co-chair
- Mr. Mark Henry, community co-chair
- Mr. Tim Sueltenfuss, facilitator

Discussion

Discuss 1 September 2021 RAB Meeting

The co-chairs discussed the recent RAB meeting, which occurred in-person and virtually on 1 September 2021. They remarked that having a poster session before and after the RAB meeting was beneficial. The co-chairs agreed to continue conducting hybrid (in-person and virtual) RAB meetings in the future due to COVID-19 pandemic considerations. Dr. Varley offered to research whether the virtual meeting could be conducted via Zoom®.

Review Action Items (AIs)

The co-chairs reviewed current AIs. They did not adjust AI 66, which states, "Do the effluent concentrations that are coming out of the plant now meet the new proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels for the additional Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contaminants?" AI 66 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 72, which states "Provide exact locations of future well drilling on Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Authority (OWAA) property." Dr. Varley stated she would address this topic in a 30 September 2021 meeting with the OWAA board of directors. AI 72 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 73, which states "Air Force share the physical and exposure site Conceptual Site Models (CSMs) that will be used to develop the Remedial Investigation (RI) fieldwork." AI 73 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 75, which states "Develop a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act-based project list with line items describing the requirements and current actions of all restoration and investigation sites on and off base." Dr. Varley reported that she sent RAB members a current project tracking sheet on 9 September 2021. She offered to continue to update and share this tracking sheet.

The co-chairs discussed AI 81, which states "Assign/determine alternates for primary members to serve as backups. Alternates can sit in for other primary members as needed but alternates and primaries are paired together to support consistency as much as possible." [See "Discuss RAB Operating Procedures" below.] AI 81 remains open.



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The co-chairs did not adjust AI 83, which states "Notify RAB of actual amount budgeted for environmental restoration of the Former Wurtsmith AFB. Specify actual budget amounts for PFAS investigation/remediation." Dr. Varley stated she receives information about funding once contracts are awarded. She offered to share such information with the RAB when she can do so. The co-chairs agreed that publicly releasable funding information should be shared with the RAB as contracts are awarded. AI 83 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 84, which states "Provide CSM from the PFAS RI to the RAB as soon as possible. Include maps." Dr. Varley stated Aerostar, an Air Force contractor, is preparing a map to address this. She stated she would share this map with RAB members when it is available. AI 84 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 86, which states "Advise the RAB if the Air Force has groundwater discharge permits or a Substantive Requirements Document for discharge from LF030/LF031." Beth Place, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) owns this AI. Mr. Henry offered to contact Ms. Place to determine the status of AI 86. AI 86 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 87, which states "Advise RAB of the status of removal or cleanup of fire suppression systems in hangars at the Former Wurtsmith AFB." Mr. Henry asked the Air Force to check on the status of the fire suppression system that may still exist in the building at the SS-71 site per his comments to the Ratliff park Interim Remedial Action Proposed Plan. AI 87 remains open.

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 88, which states "Advise the RAB on the status and schedule of the Five-Year Review. Explain how remedial activities at FT02 may impact protectiveness statements." Dr. Varley offered to provide an update on this topic when possible. AI 88 remains open.

The co-chairs discussed AI 90, which states "Air Force coordinate to place portions of the RI Work Plan on the Administrative Record (AR) so members of the public can view them." Dr. Varley noted she provides regular email updates to the RAB members when she submits documents to be uploaded to the AR. She offered to continue doing so. The co-chairs changed the status of AI 90 from "Open" to "Ongoing."

The co-chairs did not adjust AI 91, which states "Michigan EGLE to advise the RAB members when Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT) meeting minutes will be publicly available." Beth Place of Michigan EGLE owns this AI. Mr. Henry offered to contact Ms. Place to determine the status of AI 91. AI 91 remains open.

Mr. Sueltenfuss reported that Mr. Henry asked during the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting how many wells on-base have *not* been sampled for PFAS. Mr. Henry stated this does not need to be



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tracked as an AI, but he suggested that the Air Force may wish to research this since this question could arise after the PRAS RI is complete. Dr. Varley offered to research this matter.

Mr. Sueltenfuss reported that Bill Gaines and Arnie Leriche suggested during the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting that a CSM updated be provided each quarter. The co-chairs noted AIs 73 and 84 address this. Dr. Varley stated she intends to provide information relevant to the CSM via posters placed at poster sessions before and after future RAB meetings. She noted posters will also be posted to the Wurtsmith RAB website

(<https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Wurtsmith/RAB.aspx>).

Mr. Sueltenfuss reported that Mr. Leriche suggested during the 1 September 2021 RAB that the Air Force address the status of all reports and BCT meeting minutes as a standing agenda item at RAB meetings. Dr. Varley stated she has emailed RAB members a current project tracking sheet, which addresses this suggestion. The co-chairs agreed that the current project tracking sheet should continue to be provided via email to RAB members. Mr. Henry suggested that these emails could invite RAB members to contact the co-chairs with any questions they may have.

Mr. Sueltenfuss noted Cathy Wusterbarth asked during the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting for the Air Force to respond to a report issued by the "Need Our Water" community advocacy group. The co-chairs established AI 92 as indicated by the following text:

- AI: "Respond to the NOW report entitled, 'PFAS Contamination at the Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base: The True Story.'"
- Requester: "Cathy Wusterbarth"
- Owner: "AFCEC"

Discuss RAB Operating Procedures

The co-chairs discussed the status of possible revisions to the RAB Operating Procedures. They agreed on the following next steps:

- Dr. Varley will provide an updated version of possible revisions to the RAB Operating Procedures.
- The co-chairs will consider forming a subcommittee to consider possible revisions to the RAB Operating Procedures.
- The co-chairs will consider who should participate on this subcommittee. Possible participants could be both RAB co-chairs, other community RAB members, and representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Michigan EGLE.

Review RAB Membership

Tim Sueltenfuss reported that Mark Henry was confirmed during the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting as beginning another term as community co-chair of the RAB. His term will expire on 1 September 2022.



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Tim Sueltenfuss reported that William Gaines, Mark Henry, Arnie Leriche, Joseph Maxwell, Ryan Mertz, Daniel Stock, David Winn, and Cathy Wusterbarth were confirmed during the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting as beginning another two-year term as primary community RAB members. Their current term ends on 11 September 2021. They will then begin another two-year term, which will conclude on 11 September 2023.

Tim Sueltenfuss indicated that Jerry Schmidt elected not to continue to serve as a primary community RAB member. His term will expire on 11 September 2021 and that primary community RAB member position will be vacant.

Due to uncertainty about whether the RAB Operating Procedures would be altered (including possible removal of the alternate community RAB member position), the co-chairs had decided prior to the 1 September 2021 RAB meeting that alternate community RAB member positions would not be re-authorized for another two-year term. Tim Sueltenfuss reported to the co-chairs that, prior to the 1 September 2021 RAB, he had solicited all community RAB members' interest in continuing their roles. Scott Lingo and Greg Shulz expressed interest in continuing to serve as alternate community RAB members. Rex Vaughn indicated that he did not wish to continue to serve as an alternate community RAB member, but Mr. Vaughn did indicate interest in serving as a primary community RAB member.

During the 10 September 2021 co-chairs' meeting, Mr. Henry and Dr. Varley asked Mr. Sueltenfuss to draft a letter to Mr. Lingo, Mr. Shulz, and Mr. Vaughn to advise them of the following:

- The co-chairs are considering possible revisions to the RAB Operating Procedures.
- These revisions could remove the alternate community RAB member position, which does not exist at other RABs.
- The revisions could result in all community RAB member positions being primary positions.
- The co-chairs remain interested in continuing to engage with Mr. Lingo, Mr. Shulz, and Mr. Vaughn as this process unfolds.
- The co-chairs hope to revise the RAB Operating Procedures, determine whether community RAB member positions will be altered or added, and fill any vacant community RAB member positions by the next RAB meeting.

The co-chairs asked Mr. Sueltenfuss to copy all RAB members on this draft letter and they instructed him to provide the draft for their review.

Confirm Future Meeting Dates

The co-chairs confirmed that RAB meetings will typically be held on the second month of each quarter on the third Wednesday of that month. As such, the upcoming RAB meetings will occur as follows:

- Wednesday, 17 November 2021 (pending confirmation of meeting venue)



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- Wednesday, 16 February 2022
- Wednesday, 18 May 2022
- Wednesday, 17 August 2022
- Wednesday, 16 November 2022

The co-chairs asked Mr. Sueltenfuss to inform the RAB members of these dates.

Additional Discussion

Mark Henry reported that Leisa Sutton, AuSable Township Superintendent, has resigned. Mr. Sueltenfuss asked the co-chairs to advise him of Ms. Sutton's replacement so that he can update the RAB member list.

Conclusion

Mr. Sueltenfuss noted he would provide a summary of this meeting, the resulting version of the AI tracker, and the RAB member list to the co-chairs on 10 September 2021. The meeting concluded.