



## Former Wurtsmith AFB Restoration Advisory Board 6 December 2021 Co-Chairs Meeting Final Summary

### **Introduction**

The co-chairs of the Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base (AFB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on Monday, 6 December 2021 from 1100-1215 Eastern Standard Time. Attendees included:

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

### **Discussion**

#### 17 November 2021 RAB Meeting

The co-chairs discussed the RAB meeting, which occurred on Wednesday, 17 November 2021. Mr. Henry stated the meeting went well, but he was disappointed there were not more public attendees and that the Young Men's Christian Association was not represented.

Dr. Varley stated she was pleased with the discussion that occurred at the toxicology technical discussion, the poster session before the RAB, and the RAB meeting. She noted it was helpful to have a virtual participation option. Mr. Henry agreed that the meetings provided good opportunities to engage in discussion.

#### Operating Procedures

The co-chairs reported that they signed new operating procedures during the 17 November 2021 RAB meeting. This followed the RAB members' approval of the proposed operating procedures. Dr. Varley stated she is working to place the new operating procedures on the Former Wurtsmith AFB website.

#### Membership

Dr. Varley stated the Air Force is reviewing letters to appoint Scott Lingo, Greg Schulz, and Rex Vaughn as community RAB members. This appointment is possible due to provisions of the newly adopted operating procedures. Once the appointments have been finalized, there will be 11 community RAB members and eight government RAB members.

The co-chairs discussed possible tribal representation on the RAB. Dr. Varley noted she has not received a response from her previous correspondence with Mr. Troy Techlin, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. She stated she would attempt to contact Mr. Techlin again.

#### Action Items (AIs)

The co-chairs reviewed the current AI Tracker. They closed the following AIs:

- AI 66
  - [As indicated in the "Comments/Resolution" field, "The Central Treatment System, Mission Drive Pump and Treat System, and the FT002 treatment systems meet the discharge requirements as outlined in their respective Substantive Requirements



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Documents (SRDs). The SRDs are not groundwater cleanup criteria therefore, the Maximum Contaminant Levels are not applicable to the discharge.”]

- AI 81
  - [This was addressed by the operating procedures, which were adopted on 17 November 2021.]
- AI 83
  - [This was incorporated into the newly established AI 95.]
- AI 91
  - [This was incorporated into the newly established AI 93.]

The co-chairs adjusted the following AIs:

- AI 72: Status changed to “Ongoing” from “Open.”
- AI 84: Status remains “Open.” Comments/Resolution field adjusted as follows: “During the 20 January 2021 RAB meeting, Paula Bond stated the Conceptual Site Model will be included in the Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans (UFP-QAPP) for the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remedial Investigation. During a 6 December 2021 co-chairs meeting, Dr. Varley indicated she expects a final QAPP prior to spring 2022.”

Mr. Henry noted AI 91 states the following:

- AI: “Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to advise the RAB members when Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT) meeting minutes will be publicly available.”
- Owner: “Michigan EGLE (Beth Place)”

He asked if the Air Force could release BCT meeting minutes while they are in draft version to ensure they are available to the public sooner than has been the case in the past. He stated the Air Force could later place finalized BCT minutes on the Administrative Record.

Dr. Varley replied that the Air Force cannot release draft documents. She described efforts that the Air Force and Michigan EGLE are making to ensure the BCT meetings are more productive and result in meaningful decisions to advance remedial efforts.

The co-chairs established AI 93, which states the following:

- AI: “Advise RAB members when Michigan EGLE will provide comments to the Air Force concerning recent BCT meeting minutes. Thereafter, advise the RAB members when BCT meeting minutes will be publicly available.”
- Requesters: “David Winn, Arnie Leriche”
- Owner: “Michigan EGLE (Beth Place)”
- Comments/Resolution: “This AI addresses AI 91, which was closed during the 6 December 2021 co-chairs’ meeting.”
- Status: “Open”



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The co-chairs established AI 94, which states the following:

- AI: "Determine whether BCT meetings can be transcribed. Consider the best process by which to release BCT meeting minutes and related information in a timely fashion."
- Requester: "Arnie Leriche"
- Owner: "AFCEC"
- Status: "Open"

Dr. Varley stated the Air Force is considering whether BCT meetings can be transcribed. Mr. Henry noted he would ask Michigan EGLE representatives if they might be able to fund BCT meeting transcription.

The co-chairs established AI 95, which states the following:

- AI: "Provide updated Wurtsmith fact sheet to RAB members. Include information about budget. Notify RAB of actual amount budgeted for environmental restoration of the Former Wurtsmith AFB. Specify actual budget amounts for PFAS investigation/remediation."
- Requesters: "Arnie Leriche, Cathy Wusterbarth"
- Owner: "AFCEC"
- Comment/Resolution: "This AI addresses AI 83, which was closed during the 6 December 2021 co-chairs' meeting."
- Status: "Open"

#### Future Meetings

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

- Wednesday, 16 February 2022
- Wednesday, 18 May 2022
- Wednesday, 17 August 2022
- Wednesday, 16 November 2022
- Wednesday, 15 February 2023

#### **Conclusion**

Mr. Sueltenfuss noted he would provide a draft summary of this meeting to the co-chairs on 6 December 2021. The meeting concluded.