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Qawalangin (regional) Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
Islands of Unalaska, Amaknak, and Sedanka

Amaknak, Chernofski Harbor Supply and Storage Site, Cape Wislow
AWS Station, Fort Learnard, and Ugadaga Bay Station Formerly Used
Defense Sites (FUDS)

6:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

City Council Chambers
43 Raven Way, Unalaska, AK

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

1. 6:00 – 6:09 Welcome and Introductions

a. Opening Remarks

Rena gave welcome and opening remarks.

b. Roll Call/Quorum

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Denise Rankin, Community Co-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alyssa K McDonald Community Co-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James (Jim) T Paulin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elise Contreras (virtual)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Okalena Patricia Lekanoff Gregory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kale Bruner
<input type="checkbox"/>	David M Gregory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Tutiakoff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Leon-Guerrero (via phone)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rena B Flint, USACE Co-Chair

Rena confirmed that there is a quorum as newly defined in the last meeting.

c. Meeting Goals and Objectives

Rena went over the meeting goals, objectives, and agenda. Rena also stated that she wants everyone who has a comment to participate or speak up on any topic.

2. 6:09 – 6:09 Revise/Adopt March 1, 2023 Minutes

Alyssa made a motion to adopt March 1, 2023 Minutes, Jim seconded the motion.

Decision: Adopt March 1, 2023 Minutes



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3. 6:10 – 6:15 Local Updates/Community Introductions/Public Comment

a. In-person Community Attendees

Frank Kelty, local 50-year resident
Steve Tompkins, Unalaska Utility director
Jarred King, Environmental Scientist, Ounalashka Corporation Environmental
(OCE)
Mikal Pelka, Lead Environmental Scientist, OCE
Chris Price
Vince Tutiakoff
Natalia Lekanoff
Ellis Berry
Wendy Hansen, USACE
Cascade (Cas) Galasso-Irish, ADEC
Denise Rankin, Community Co-Chair
Alyssa McDonald, Community Co-Chair
Jim Paulin
Michael Tutiakoff
Rena Flint, USACE Co-Chair

b. Virtual Attendees

Forrest Kranda, USACE
Mike Macmillan, USACE
Jessica Hall, USACE
Jennifer Anderson, Aleut Remediation
Caryn Orvis, Ahtna Engineering
Matt Carlson
Natalie Cale, OC/OCE
Natasha Albee
Quinn Meehan, Aleut Remediation
Ivan
Karen Pletnikoff, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Ben Leon-Guerrero, Aleut Real Estate
Mel Scully, USACE
Elise Contreras, Qawalangin Tribe

Frank Kelty said he is interested in the work. He used to play soccer on the field by the dock. He didn't know that fuel was contaminating the site. Very important that the work is on-going. Finding contamination can slow up



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projects in the community. He said it's very important that the work is on-going to cleanup contamination.

Utility director Steve Tompkins said this is very interesting information by FUDS.

Denise said she wanted to introduce OC environmental team. She is excited they are here.

Mikal Pelka: Said he is excited to be working on the projects.

Jarred King said he is very excited about the upcoming projects and thank you for the introductions.

Jennifer Anderson said hello, and happy to listen into the RAB

Karen Pletnikoff said she is so happy and thinks it's great the RAB is providing greater oversight to the community.

Jessica Hall introduced herself and looked forward to speaking to everyone.

Mel said hello and introduced herself.

4. 6:15 – 6:17 Distribution of Operating Procedures/Bylaws

Rena wanted to formally announce that bylaws were distributed to the RAB in the packet.

5. 6:17 – 6:20 Innovative Readiness Training Update

Chris Price announced confirmed with Captain Robinson that the IRT will be coming to the island this year. Confirmed that IRT will be coming June 28-29 to meet with the City, OC, and the Tribe. OC to invite to the July 1 50th Anniversary. A full team of 12 people will be coming in October to follow up on the original Civil Affairs project in 2020, evaluating the work that has been done since then, and make recommendations on future projects.

6. 6:20 – 6:35 Department of Environmental Conservation

Cas Galasso with ADEC introduced herself and gave a brief overview and presentation of the contaminated sites program including examples of contaminated sites and contaminants, charts of sites in Alaska by contaminant type, by status (active versus closed), and by type of Responsible Party. She presented the contaminated sites database, the exposure tracking module, and the Alaska regulatory cleanup process.

Rena wanted to highlight the bar chart because we are all talking about inventories. File numbers and Hazard IDs are how DEC tracks sites. Hazard IDs are not created equally. Some ADEC Hazard IDs are by source (see Amaknak FUDS), some are by wider area (see Chernofski FUDS). Amaknak FUDS projects generally correspond to



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ADEC file numbers.

7. 6:35 – 6:40 Qawalangin Tribe NALEMP Update

Elise Contreras gave an update on NALEMP. She said that the purpose of the program is to address impacts from previous DOD activities. The Tribe just submitted the FY24 CA and is getting ready for this field season with Mt Ballyhoo transformer characterization with Aleut Remediation, removing 90 cubic yards of debris, including asbestos, in Pyramid Valley with Ounalashka Corporation Environmental, removing 3200 lbs. of screw pickets and barb wire in Beaver Inlet. Next summer removing debris from Unalaska Valley and performing a geophysical study of Unalaska Lake.

Rena said she was excited to hear about work with the OCE team and Aleut.

8. 6:40 – 7:00 Cape Wislow AWS Station FUDS Site Visit June

Forrest Kranda gave an overview of the Cape Wislow AWS Station FUDS Site. He said it was a World War II radar site to warn of early approaching aircraft. This was an early warning site with two search lights. It was supplied by barge and is a remote site. Fuel came in 55-gallon drums. Sites are disproportionality dirty due to 55-gallon drums. Since 2017, we have been continually working on AWS sites prompting us to look back at this one. Archeological work was done in the past. Facility is split between two camps; a tram way connected them. The camp was on the beach and the AWS was on the hill. The land is split 50/50 between OC and Fish and Game. The path forward is to have a site visit 19-24 June, then work on a report and evaluation. The next step will be to perform the preliminary assessment report and inventory project report (INPR) at the end of next year.

Jim asked if the tramway was still present.

Forrest answered that it might be present, but likely heavily degraded. Probably it is in same condition as Cape Prominence. He asked if anyone had been there recently.

Denise asked if Mayor Tutiakoff knows condition of tram. He shook his head no.

Chris Price thanks Forrest for the update and commented that they will have people working the fish weir this summer early June to late July and asked that he coordinate with the local people in Unalaska and working with OC for permits. He added that this is a sensitive area for subsistence harvesting during this time. Please keep them updated as the project is progressing. They would like the staff to know when they will be going back and forth.

Forrest assured he would deconflict the helicopter travel with the operation of the weir.

Denise asked Forrest to clarify the National Historic Properties designation and what that means for the landowner.



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Forrest said they will be assessing World War II features within the property boundaries and explained that the National Register of Historic Places is a Federal list of important historic properties and its function.

Vince Tutiakoff Sr.- Mayor of Unalaska and chair of the Ounalashka Corporation commented that between 1974 and 1975 he lived at Reese Bay, during that time there was house there and the Cape Wislow AWS tramway was present but partially destroyed. The military had intentionally damaged the tram upon exiting the site, possibly by explosives. 7 or 8 fuel tanks of unknown size have been noted by visitors to McLees Lake/Reese Bay at the lake and river, they were reported to be leaking fuel into the lake in the 1970s/1980s. Salmon counts have reduced at McLees Lake, during the 1974-75 season around 90,000 reds were reported in that area. Today the salmon count is down to approximately 8,000. McLees Lake/Reese Bay is an important subsistence area to the people of Unalaska. Vern Robinson operated a saltery and gill net operation at McLees Lake in the 1960s. There may be ammunition. Logs have been noted floating in the lake, the surf is known to wash over the spit into the lake. If there is ammunition it is up in the grassy area up higher.

Forrest said, he may be right, you often find 30/06 and 50 cal. ammo at these sites.

Michael Tutiakoff commented the Rommel Stakes (Screw Pickets) have been noted in the Wislow area and there is the potential for UXO. McLees Lake/Reese Bay is a high traffic area for subsistence and fishing.

9. 7:00 – 7:35 Ugadaga Bay FUDS Site Overview and Update

Jessica Hall gave an update on Ugadaga Bay FUDS and said her focus is on reducing risk from contaminants. Site background included 793 acres, used from 1942-1945 for harbor defense, site consisted of 17 buildings with 4 main areas. This (slide) is showing two locations of former site visits and documented leftover contamination. On the right side is the fire control station and on the left side is fire control auxiliary station. Landowners are Aleut, OC, Fish and Wildlife, and native allotments. There are 5 native allottees.

The first site visit was in 1986. Standing buildings were observed. There are 500 gallons of fuel left at the site. Soil samples have exceeded DEC cleanup levels.

She added that we are hoping to gain funding next year for the project, starting to talk to landowners for rights-of-entry (ROE), and future work will include a remedial investigation to see what needs to be done to remediate the site.

Karen P. asked if the recent photo review included searching the National Archives.

Jessica answered that she can look into that, she didn't know.

Karen said it helped a lot at Sanak. The National Archive search said these are your



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sites. Corps contractor couldn't find sites and the photos can identify building uses.

Cas added that she is curious about site access.

Jessica answered that it's remote, but people access it through a 6-mile hiking trail.

Elis added that it's a popular hiking trail, and the beach on that allotment is a good fishing spot.

Vince added some background and the lake area is a native allotment owned by Bill Sahera, he passed away in the early 70's. His grandson now owns a property there. The property is used as a transient site. It's a storm shelter area if weather was bad. He used to stop at the cabins in 1985/1986. Clean up was going on but they didn't clean the fuel or powerhouses. There could still be PCBs at the site. A few cabins have been built and burned down.

Karen P. asked if any risk assessment plans for any subsistence lands. The default should be to run risk assessments knowing that local people will be eating fish and berries in the area. She asked that we consider being more conservative and reach out to APIA or the Tribe for specific details.

Jessica said she will keep it in the notes to reach out during the risk assessment.

Michael T. asked if there is a map or GIS data points for people/contractors to use to identify where the hazards are. May be efficient for future contractor bids.

Rena answered there is not a centralized GIS for contractors to view/ enter data, but we do make available GIS in the request for proposal in the form of government furnished information (GFI).

10. 7:20 – 7:30 Amaknak FUDS Update

Rena gave an Amaknak FUDS Update. She stated that this afternoon Ahtna contractors were collecting elevation surveys and doing well maintenance at the Pre-World War II Tank Farm. They collected a few samples and will continue tomorrow. She showed a schedule for field work May-June 2023.

The Unalaska Valley Kickoff meeting will be in the library led by OCE to introduce staff 22 May. Following monitoring well assessments, they will start excavation work on OC land, then City land. As site restoration continues, a drill rig will be installing soil borings and collecting soil sampling as well as monitoring well installation.

Denise asked if OC Environmental conducting this clean up.

Rena answered, yes.

11. Break 7:30-7:40



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12. 7:40 – 8:00 Chernofski FUDS Update

Alyssa McDonald gave a presentation from her perspective about the Chernofski FUDS site. She said USACE hired Brice to perform the cleanup. She took a skiff to shore and had the opportunity to see what they were doing and how they were doing it. She said there was great internet at the site. Artifacts were well catalogued. There were 3 archeologists on site to monitor, catalogue, and label artifacts that were found. It was all well documented. Tools and jewelry were found. Huge amounts of soil were moved. She was impressed with level of care in regard to the site, the remains, and removal and sampling of the site. There was photoionization testing. The fuel storage was built on the Orthodox Church cemetery. In the future, we should think about what we do?

How do we know it's clean? Sampling, ultraviolet optical screening tool (UVOST), soil removal, state approval, and clean backfill.

Wendy Hansen presented a follow-on Chernofski FUDS Field Report. She discussed how there was a big field effort in Chernofski last year. Chernofski is about 51 miles from Unalaska or 8-9 hours by boat. The primary focus was Mutton Cove. Mutton Cove was a large project. Some batteries, tanks, drums, and 3200 tons of contaminated soil were removed. Removed an additional 500 tons of soil when more contamination was found to total the 3200 tons. Also did a lot of investigation, in areas where contamination was suspected. 76 areas were inspected. 260 UVOST probes, drilled 200 soil borings, and installed 37 monitoring wells. More funding was requested for FY25. A contract would be awarded in FY24. Contamination remains at some tank and drum sites. No removal at AST East has been done yet. More investigation is planned.

Jim asked for clarification and more detail on the Church and impacts on the Church.

Wendy asked for clarification on if he was referring to the cemetery.

Jim answered yes.

Wendy said there was an AST on the cemetery site. There is contamination at the site and soil up to the boundary of the cemetery has been removed but we put a buffer around the cemetery about 10 feet outside of the cemetery due to the sensitivity.

Alyssa asked how long until receipt of the well data.

Wendy answered that there was not a lot of contamination in the wells. There were low levels of petroleum in some wells.

Denise asked what the holes were filled in with and one concern is what type of seed was used to reseed. We want to make sure no invasive species are introduced.

Denise noted a preference for rye seed citing a thistle and clover issue in Unalaska.



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Wendy answered, some areas were pre-drilled and tested to identify local fill to be used for backfill. Holes were backfilled but not seeded.

Karen P. wanted to add a comment about terminology. “Midden” is a technical term in archaeology. A midden is a refuse pile associated with long term occupation of a site, they usually consist of discarded bone, shell, tools, and other items. The Chernofski Village Site is associated with a midden but the site itself is not a midden, it’s a village site and the middens are one component of the site.

Ben Leon-Guerrero asked for confirmation that consultation with the landowner has occurred and the current disposition of the artifacts.

Wendy said that USACE has consulted with the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX), Russian Dioecies of Alaska, and the Holmes Family, all are surface estate owners, archaeological resources are considered as surface resources and therefore owned by the surface estate owner. USACE has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with all surface estate owners, artifacts are being processed and catalogued and will be sent to the Museum of the Aleutians in Unalaska once complete.

13. 8:15 – 8:15 Review Next Meeting Dates/Identify Next Steps

a. Next RAB Meeting: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

~~Alyssa made motion to have next meeting Aug 16. Motion seconded for August 16. (Strike from record.)~~

Michael made the point that Camp Qungaayux is through 5 Aug and motioned for Aug 2 RAB. Alyssa seconded that motion to have meeting 2 Aug.

Decision: Next RAB meeting will be August 2, 2023

b. Action Item Review

From Mike/ Rena, Wendy had a few follow-up items, also Jessica.

- Forrest to coordinate Cape Wislow travel with Q Tribe and also deconflict the helicopter travel with the operation of the weir.
- Jessica to review if Ugadaga Bay Historical Photo Analysis included searching the National Archives.
- Karen requested that we transition from the word “midden” to informative terminology.
- Karen requested that Ugadaga Bay risk assessment include subsistence users.
- Ben commented on TDX staff turnover and requested Wendy/Andy to ensure coordination with TDX on Chernofski.



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14. 8:15 – 8:20 Other Announcements/Unplanned Items/Open Discussion

a. Recap of Old Business/New Business

Denise thanked USACE for the thorough, productive agenda.

Michael T. would like everyone to look at Intrinsic Environmental (and phytoremediation).

Ellis on phytoremediation, brings up the point of invasive trees and the issue with invasive trees and small shrubs.

Denise noted Alders are invasive.

Jarred King added that they would be non-breeding trees. More of a pilot study. They would be noninvasive trees.

15. 8:20 – 8:22 Contact Information and Closing Remarks, Adjourn

Alyssa motioned to adjourn; Denise seconded the motion

Decision: Meeting Adjourned at 8:22