



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Alaska District

# FINAL Meeting Minutes

**Subject:** Qawalangin (regional) Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Amaknak, Chernofski Harbor Supply and Storage Site, Cape Wislow AWS Station, Fort Learnard, and Ugadaga Bay Station

**Date:** Wednesday, November 08, 2023

**Time** 6:00-8:00 PM

**Location:** City Council Chambers  
43 Raven Way, Unalaska, AK

**Attendees:** **RAB Members Present:**  
Alyssa K. McDonald, Community Co-Chair (virtual)  
Elise Contreras (virtual)  
Kale Bruner (by phone)  
Ben Leon-Guerrero (virtual)  
Rena B Flint, USACE Co-Chair (virtual)

**RAB Members Not Present:**  
James (Jim) T Paulin (excused)  
Okalena Patricia Lekanoff Gregory  
David M Gregory  
Michael Tutiakoff

**In person Attendees:**  
Douglas Quist (Stantec)  
Ellis Berry  
Natalie Cale (OC)  
Thomas Rufous (City of Unalaska)  
Theo Greenly (KUCB)  
Vince Tutiakoff (City/OC)  
Jason Westenskow (OCE)  
Laresa Syverson (OC)

**Virtual Attendees (26):**  
Beth Astley (USACE)  
Brent Lucyk  
Caryn Orvis (Ahtna)  
Cascade Galasso-Irish (ADEC)  
Denise Rankin (Ounalashka Corporation)  
Donna Van Flein (OCE)  
Forrest Kranda (USACE)  
Jennifer Anderson (Aleut Remediation)  
Jeremy Craner (USACE)  
Karen Pletnikoff (APIA)  
Kenneth Andraschko (EPA)  
Levi Collins (EA Engineering)  
Mandy Salimen (Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska)  
Melissa Scully (USACE)  
Natasha Albee (Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska)  
Nikita Somov  
Piama R. Oleyer  
Sara Hadden (Aleut Remediation)  
Richard Ragle (USACE)  
Wendy Hansen (USACE)



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1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Rena kicked off the meeting with opening remarks and started recording the meeting for note taking purposes.
  - b. Roll call conducted.
    - i. With five (5) there is a quorum.
  - c. Meeting Goals and Objectives
    - i. Rena reviewed the agenda.
2. Revise/Adopt August 2, 2023 Minutes
  - a. Rena asked for a motion to Revise/Adopt August 2, 2023 Minutes
  - b. Alyssa motioned to adopt minutes from August 2, 2023. Elise seconded the motion to adopt minutes from August 2, 2023.
  - c. Rena also stated that those meeting minutes were provided in the meeting materials as well as posted on the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers public website.

### **Decision: Adopt August 2, 2023 minutes as written.**

3. Local Updates/Community Introductions/Public Comment
  - a. Rena requested Thomas to facilitate any kind of introduction for those in the room.
  - b. Thomas also asked for anyone in the room to sign in. There were no introductions.
  - c. Rena asked for anyone on the phone or virtually to come off mute that wanted to.
    - i. Karen Pletnikoff with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) thanked the RAB for being so active and for covering sites past Unalaska Island and for getting so much accomplished. Karen also stated that APIA is interested in two things that came out of the environmental justice listening session with the Department of Energy and some other participants, including USACE. She thanked the USACE team for bringing leadership to listen. First, they note that it has been since 2004 since the region has made a formerly used defense sites (FUDS) priority list. They think it's a good time to consider revisiting that list, to see what progress has been made on those sites and talk about whether or not it is time to offer a new set of priority sites or to potentially even prioritize if that was what the body wanted. Separately, they are interested in following up in partnership with the Aleut corporation on greater environmental justice initiative for the region that has been so impacted by activities. The environmental justice throughout the region is something that they're interested in and doesn't have a direct funding source at this time, but it would certainly be something that we could work on through EPA gap programs and search for other funds.
    - ii. Mandy Salimen introduced herself as the Environmental Program Director the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska.
    - iii. Ken Andraschko introduced himself as the contaminated ANCSA sites coordinator for the EPA. Ken will add his contact info to the chat for anyone with question about the program (see below).
    - iv. Richard Ragle introduced himself as the FUDS program manager for Ugadaga Bay



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- v. Cas, DEC project manager for sites in Unalaska, introduced herself and gave props to the City and Ounalashka Corporation for all of the hard work to get cleanup funding to cleanup sites.
  - vi. Natasha Albee introduced herself as a new Qawalangin Tribe employee.
4. City of Unalaska Brownfields Advisory Board Update
- a. Thomas Roufos gave the announcement that they have approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) as of today. He also briefed that they recently had a productive meeting with Qawalangin Tribe about Unalaska Lake, and they are hoping to collaborate to survey the lake.
  - b. Doug Quist, chemist and environmental scientist over at Stantec, gave an update including details on programmatic QAPP approval, area-wide Regulated Building Survey Program, eligibility determinations (EDs) within the Brownfields Program were completed for Strawberry Hill and for Pyramid Valley, and finalizing web based inventory of all of the digitized features.
  - c. Alyssa asked how many quonset huts in town are being utilized? Doug stated that it's not just limited to Quonset huts. Quonset huts and cabanas are included in the inventory that is being developed. Alyssa also asked if the city will be in contact with the owners? Some are inhabited and she wondered if they will be tested for issues that may be present. Thomas answered that the City Planning Department will be doing the outreach for that. The testing will be voluntary to the owners, and renters would have to ask property owners for permission. Alyssa asked if the property owners will have some sort of help in mitigating that damage? Thomas answered that the goal is to use the survey research to apply for other funding and timeframe will depend on funding.
  - d. Theo also asked about the Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar) and what the next steps are after that, specifically timeline wise. Thomas answered hopefully, sometime next summer to be flying the drone and doing the bathymetry. The goal is to work with the Tribe's program to utilize their money for mobilization and possibly combine projects and programs with similar scopes.
  - e. Rena also said that the Amaknak FUDS has a Lidar need in the future for the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) remedial investigation, so perhaps we could try to sync the programs. Thomas asked Rena to follow up with what area FUDS is planning to looking at. Rena indicated Amaknak Island would be the initial focus.
  - f. Doug added that there was some talk about potentially including an infrared survey. They've had great success using infrared and Lidar in combination in the past for identifying sites, temperature gradients, seeps, preferential pathways for contamination, and identifying potential locations for sampling and or remediation.
- Action item: Rena will follow up with Thomas about the area Amaknak FUDS has planned for Lidar.**
5. Alaska Public Media Video about the Unalaska Valley Cleanup
- a. Theo Greenly (KUCB and channel 8 TV) has been doing stories on FUDS program in general and Amaknak FUDS the last few years. Alaska Public Media, specifically the show Alaska Insight, reached out to collaborate on a story about primarily the Ski Bowl site (Amaknak FUDS Unalaska Valley UST 3260). It is going to be about four and a half minutes long segment which goes into a panel discussion. Rena may be a panel guest for the



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discussion. The release of the story has been pushed back to an upcoming Friday, possibly 17 November.

- b. Rena added that at the Unalaska Valley Ski Bowl site the excavation was completed, super sacks of contaminated soil were transported to the disposal facility and the fieldwork is complete.
- c. Ben asked if Theo could track the release date of the Alaska Public Media segment and send an update. Theo answered that it will air locally and will be posted on the KUCB website. He will also send a link out the RAB email list when it is available.
- d. Theo also asked what the status was on the rest of the Unalaska Valley sites. Rena stated that they will make a final recommendation in the report for decommissioning of a handful of monitoring wells, and if approved, they will come back out and do monitoring well decommissioning sometime in 2024.

**Action item: Theo will email a link to the story to the RAB/email list when it is available.**

- 6. Rena motioned to take a five-minute break from 1843 to 1848.
- 7. Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Look Ahead Chernofski Harbor Supply and Storage Site FUDS
  - a. Wendy Hansen (technical lead and acting project manager) gave a presentation that included:
    - i. Vicinity map showing location of Chernofski Harbor, particularly relative to Dutch Harbor.
    - ii. A brief recap of the 2022 field work and presentation that occurred during the May 2023 RAB meeting. This included a map of various locations visited during the field effort, a big picture overview that five batteries, three tanks, thirteen drum remnants, 3,200 tons of contaminated soil (largely petroleum), and 1,200 feet of fuel pipeline were removed across the Chernofski Harbor projects in 2022. In addition, a large investigative effort took place that included inspecting WWII building footprints for the presence of batteries and collecting soil samples, installation of approximately 260 screening probes, 200 soil borings and thirty-seven groundwater monitoring wells, and the collection of sediment and porewater samples at tank sites. It was also announced that the after-action report for these activities and a newly drafted Community Relations Plan will soon be sent to the Unalaska library where the documents will be available for public viewing.
    - iii. An update on Containerized Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (CON/HTRW) projects (i.e., drums; tanks; batteries): a) Investigation and removal of paint cans and batteries across Chernofski Harbor is complete. b) A Decision Document is now required and planned to address petroleum contamination that remains. The project team will request funding once we have worked through that process and approval is obtained. Field work might occur as early as fiscal year 2025 or 2026.
    - iv. Future planning includes a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to address non-petroleum contamination at Chernofski Harbor.
    - v. An Archaeological Update (high level):
      - a) USACE lead archaeologist Kelly Eldridge is tracking progress for the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) deliverables.
      - b) Old Chernofski Village Report was finalized in March of 2022. Stakeholders were



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provided hardcopies in March of 2023. The distribution list included the Alaska State Library and Museum of the Aleutians where the public should be able to access the document.

- c) A draft of the Chernofski Harbor World War II District Historical Report was sent to stakeholders via DoD SAFE 12 October 2023. USACE has requested comments by 24 November 2023 and anticipates finalizing the document by 31 December 2023. If parties to the MOA do not have the document and would like a copy, please let Wendy Hansen or Kelly Eldridge know so a new link for download can be provided.
  - d) A draft report for UNL-160 is in progress.
  - e) Artifacts Update: Artifacts excavated in 2019 are at the Museum of Aleutians. Those removed in 2022 are at USACE in Anchorage for analysis and will be accessioned to the Museum of Aleutians.
8. FY24 Look Ahead Fort Learnard FUDS
- a. Jeremy Craner gave a quick update on the MMRP project at Fort Learnard FUDS.
  - b. USACE will continue to provide documents for review as they work through the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup process.
  - c. Next Systematic Project Planning (SPP) and community meetings are planned for May 2024.
9. FY24/25/26 Look Ahead Ugadaga Bay Station FUDS
- a. Richard Ragle introduced himself and gave a brief overview of Ugadaga Bay including background and where the project is in the CERCLA process.
  - b. Natalie Cale (OC) asked why there was so much lag time between Preliminary Assessment/ Site Inspection (PA/SI) and RI.
  - c. Richard answered that there are limited resources and energy was focused on sites within populated areas of the island.
  - d. Rena added that there was also a right-of-entry issue due to a landowner lease in 2019 and limited ability to narrow the project scope at that time that added to the delay.
10. FY24 Look Ahead Cape Wislow AWS Station FUDS
- a. Forrest Kranda gave a brief look ahead at what is planned for 2024 including a site background, pending results, and reporting.
11. FY24 Look Ahead Amaknak FUDS
- a. Rena Flint gave an overview on each of the eleven (11) projects in Amaknak FUDS.
12. RAB Membership Changes/ Recruitment
- a. Denise Rankin has resigned from the RAB as of October 1, 2023.
  - b. Thomas Rufous has volunteered to join the RAB and will be submitting an application. He suggested that some of the regular meeting attendees apply to be on the RAB. It may also be a good idea to reach out to RAB members that have not been participating and see if they would have someone in mind to take over their responsibilities.
  - c. Alyssa has been working on potential recruitment and can make a PSA announcement on



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KUCB.

- d. Denise thought it would be a good idea to have a community youth on the board.
- e. Karen Pletnikoff asked if Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska had been represented on the RAB. It was confirmed that there is a current Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska RAB member, Elise.

### 13. Review Next Meeting Dates/Identify Next Steps

- a. Rena discussed that the next RAB Meeting would be Hybrid (In-person and Virtual) in February and on a Wednesday. Options could be February 7, 14, 21. She also reminded the RAB of potential conflicts: 4th week of every month City Council, OC Board, and Q Tribe Council meetings, Feb 5-9 is Alaska Forum on the Environment, and Feb 19 is Washington's Birthday.
- b. Rena asked for a motion to select a date for the next meeting. Alyssa made a motion for February 21, 2024. Elise seconded the motion. Alyssa added that she and Rena should get together to talk about how the PSA should be worded.

**Decision: The next meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2024**

**Action: Alyssa and Rena will get together to create a PSA for recruitment.**

### c. Next Steps/Action Item Review

- i. Mel reviewed action items.

### 14. Other Announcements/Unplanned Items/Open Discussion

- a. Recap of Old Business/New Business
  - i. Ellis Berry added that Sofia does 'Island Interviews' on KUCB if the board wanted to reach out to schedule something with her (may help with recruitment and outreach). He may volunteer to join the RAB. Rena will send membership information.
  - ii. Karen Pletnikoff added that if anyone was interested in the regional planning effort/ individual priorities list, they would be happy to hear from them. She will add contact information to the chat (see below).
- b. Rena asked for a motion to adjourn. Alyssa made a motion to adjourn. Elise seconded the motion.

**Decision: The meeting was adjourned at 1948.**

**Action: Rena will send RAB membership information to Ellis Berry.**



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DECISION SUMMARY		
Decision	Motion made by	Seconded motion
Adopt August 2, 2023 minutes as written.	Alyssa	Elise
The next RAB meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2024	Alyssa	Elise
The meeting was adjourned at 1948.	Alyssa	Elise
ACTION ITEM SUMMARY		
Action	Owner	Status
Rena will follow up with Thomas about the area Amaknak FUDS has planned for Lidar.	Rena	Open
Theo will email a link to the story to the RAB/email list when it is available.	Theo Greenly	Open
Alyssa and Rena will get together to create a PSA for recruitment.	Rena/Alyssa	Open
Rena will send RAB membership information to Ellis Berry.	Rena	Closed





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### Virtual Participant List

M	↻	Melissa Scully USACE		✕
		Me		
	↻	Rena Flint		✕
		Host		
	📞	7859****71		
AM	↻	Alyssa McDonald		✕
BL	↻	Ben Leon-Guerrero	🗨	✕
BA	↻	Beth Astley		✕
BL	↻	Brent Lucyk		✕
CO	↻	Caryn Orvis		✕
CA	↻	Cas Galasso ADEC		✕
DR	📄	Denise Rankin		✕
DF	📄	Donna Van Flein		✕
EC	↻	Elise Contreras		✕
	↻	Forrest Kranda		✕
JA	↻	Jennifer Anderson		✕
JC	↻	Jeremy Craner		✕
KP	📄	Karen Pletnikoff	📍	
KA	↻	Kenneth Andraschko		✕

LC	↻	Levi Collins		✕
M	↻	Mandy		✕
NA	📄	Natasha Albee		✕
NS	📄	Nikita Somov		✕
PO	📄	Piama R. Oleyer		✕
RP	↻	Richard Ragle FUDS Ugadaga PM		✕
SH	↻	Sara Hadden		✕
UH	↻	Unalaska City Hall		
WH	↻	Wendy Hansen		✕





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Virtual Chat Record

▼ Chat

from Karen Pletnikoff to everyone: 6:15 PM

Welcome, Richard!

from Kenneth Andraschko to everyone: 6:16 PM

Kenneth Andraschko, PE  
ANCSA Program Coordinator  
Alaska Operations Office  
EPA Region 10  
andraschko.kenneth@epa.gov  
(907) 271-5079  
epa.gov | epa.gov/region10

from Alyssa McDonald to everyone: 7:34 PM

Can you unmute

from Karen Pletnikoff to everyone: 7:39 PM

I was also trying to talk.

from Karen Pletnikoff to everyone: 7:49 PM

Karen Pletnikoff karenp@apiai.org 907-222-4286 looking for  
interest and direction for regional FUDS priorities list

To: Everyone