



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: Monday, May 13, 2024

Time 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Unalaska Public Library
64 Eleanor St, Unalaska, AK

Attendees: RAB Members Present:

James (Jim) T Paulin
Elise Contreras (virtual)
Kale Bruner (by phone)
David Gregory
Okalena Patricia Lekanoff Gregory
Ellis Berry
Taylor Borgfeldt, USACE Co-Chair

RAB Members Not Present:

Michael Tutiakoff
Ben Leon-Guerrero

In person Attendees:

Donna Van Flein (OCE)
Natalie Cale (OC/OCE)
Thomas Rufous (City)
Bil Homka (City)
Andy Lusk (KUCB)
Sofia Stuart-Rasi (KUCB)
Summer Smith (OC)
Jason Westenskow (OCE)
Sasha Rankin (OC)
Laresa Syverson (OC)
Denise Rankin (OC)
Felipe Lekanoff (OCE)
Rena B Flint (USACE)
Jose (Poncho) Lopez (OCE)
Tiffany Angus (OCE)
Vincent Tutiakoff Sr. (OC/City/Tribe)
Brian Rankin Chris Price (Tribe)
Tanaya Horne (Tribe)

In person Attendees (continued):

Anna Robinson (APC)
Kimme Lloyd (APC)
Cameron Dean (City)
Lori Verbrugge (USACE)
Art Christianson
Chelsea Bramble (OC)
Virginia Hatfeld (MOTA)
Max Lightner
Ronni Wilcock (TBEC)
Jamilyn Sympowski (TBEC)
Sydney Johnson (TBEC)

Virtual Attendees:

Forrest Kranda (USACE)
Melissa Scully (USACE)
Jeremy Craner (USACE)
Melinda Brunner (USACE)
Sarah Bernhardt (ADEC)
Kathleen Iler-Galau (ADEC)
Marc Hansmeier (Ahtna)
Karen Pletnikoff (APIA)
Miriam McGilvray
Logan Simpson
Emily Gibson (UniSea)
David Holmes
Mike M
Natasha Albee



1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Denise Rankin kicked off the meeting with opening remarks and request for parties interested in serving on the board to reach out for an application.
 - i. Roll call was conducted. Present were Jim Paulin, Elise Contreras, Okalena Patricia Lekanoff Gregory, Kale Bruner, David Gregory, Ellis Berry, and Taylor Borgfeldt. There is quorum.
 - b. Meeting Goals and Objectives
 - i. Denise reviewed the agenda.
2. Local Updates/Community Introductions/Public Comment
 - a. Thomas Roufos (City of Unalaska) asked David Holmes (Santec) to give an update on Phase I for Strawberry Hill and Pyramid Valley Brownfields Projects. David explained what a Phase 1 entails for an environmental site assessment (ESA). Physical inspection of site, conduct interviews, review information that is available from previous investigation and look at any pictures that are available and historic documents. Primary goal to consolidate information from dozens of previous studies and reports completed over the last 40 years into a single document for future activities. Strawberry Hill Phase 1 ESA was completed in March on about a 95-acre area. 11 recognized environmental conditions (RECs) or evidence that there could be a concern associated with some future use. Primarily associated with historical World War II military activities and facilities and or fueling operations both on the site and the North adjoining site. Recommendation for Strawberry Hill was to conduct additional assessments, particularly where there is near term redevelopment potential. Western Pyramid Valley Phase 1 ESA was conducted on about a 90-acre area spanning all or portions of two parcels owned by Ounalashka Corporation near the west end of the valley which are considered the most prime for residential development. Three RECs were identified, two associated with former petroleum underground storage tanks associated with former World War II buildings 5264 and 5181 and a general one associated with the potential release of asbestos and lead based paint into the soil during the demolition of numerous other World War II buildings at the site. Recommendation for Pyramid Valley was to further assess these areas. They did not cover anything surprising or new. The goal was just to put all reports into a single document.
 - b. Art asked if the asbestos dump sites were included in Strawberry Hill. David answered, yes. The participant also asked if the debris along the river behind Crawley and Pyramid was looked at. Thomas answered that that area was not included and described the area that was included in the study.
3. Taylor Borgfeldt introduced herself and the next segment of the meeting. In an effort to bring everyone in and refresh memories we will be going an overview of all of the properties that are in the Qawalangin Region and to streamline this communication USACE is working on maps and ways to better engage the community. She explained that there were poster boards hanging up in the back of the room and in binders showing the color-coded properties. Taylor briefly introduced each property and the USACE project manager.
4. Chernofski FUDS Project Update
 - a. Melinda Brunner introduced herself to everyone as new FUDS Project Manager for Chernofski.
 - b. Melinda did a recap of what will be coming in the forthcoming two (2) years.
 - c. In the next year, Decision Documents for Petroleum Projects 7, 8 and 9 (tanks on the east and west side of Mutton Cove as well as former location of 55-gallon drums) will include remedies considered and decisions for addressing any contamination.
 - d. Field work including additional investigation is anticipated to begin in 2026.



- e. Art asked about additional investigations in 2026 and what they would determine. Melinda responds that additional investigation will be at Project 7 to get an idea of extent of contamination before removal or in situ remediation whatever is determined appropriate.
- f. Ellis Berry asked what the turnaround time would be if additional contamination was found, and how soon remedial activities could continue after the additional investigation. Melinda responded that it depends on nature of that contamination and what kind of contamination was found. It would take a while to making sure appropriate plans are in place. Melinda said that she could get back to Ellis with examples of what has happened at other similar sites on the Aleutians.

Action: Melinda will reach out to Ellis about turnaround time at other similar sites on the Aleutians if investigations find additional contamination.

- g. Denise asked Melinda to show us where the tanks and drums were on the map. Melinda identified the projects 7, 8, and 9 on the map.

5. Cape Wislow FUDS Project Update

- a. Forrest Kranda introduced himself as the USACE project manager for Cape Wislow FUDS.
- b. This project is at the beginning of the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) process. Site visit was done last year, and field sampling report is almost ready to submit to DEC. Landowners and stakeholders will receive it as well. Also working on an archaeological survey report to document the historic use of the site, what is left out there, and also evaluating it for the National Register of Historical Places. Began preliminary assessment this month.
- c. Sarah Bernhardt with DEC asked who the DEC project manager was of the site. Sarah let Forrest know that the project manager (DEC) was probably her.

Action: Forrest will reach out to Sarah Bernhardt to figure out who the DEC site manager is..

6. Fort Learnard FUDS Project Update

- a. Jeremy Craner introduced himself as the USACE Alaska District project manager for the Fort Learnard FUDS MMRP, a military munitions response project.
- b. Fort Learnard is a CERCLA project dealing with munitions magazines E2 and EJ. Jeremy said they are trying to figure out the nature and extent of the munitions that are out at Fort Learnard. Fieldwork started in May. The Remedial Investigation is planned for summer 2024. 176 acres total. Goal to characterize the nature and extent of munitions and explosives of concerns (MEC) and assess potential explosives and munitions constituents (MC). Jeremy said they just held a systematic project planning meeting number 4 on April 9, 2024, that was well attended. They are looking at doing a public meeting in later in June after the main work plan is finalized. Working on finalizing the main workplan, the UFP-QAPP. Almost final and has been approved by ADEC. May 1st-6th the roadway was improved to make getting back and forth from the beach to the site safely. EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (EA), the prime contractor, is gearing up for foot transect surveys, for the 15th-20th of May. They will be back in July to use drone transect work with more geophysical equipment. Systematic project planning meeting number 5 will be planned for after that. There are a lot of moving pieces, and it is a big team effort.
- c. Jim asked if this is the first time they have used drones on this project. Jeremy said USACE uses drones all the time on their projects throughout the United States. It is fairly new technology that is constantly evolving. LiDAR will be used to supplement the foot transects.
- d. Dave Gregory asked if there were any plans to complete water surveys? Jeremy said it is not in the plans for this project. They have been directed by Headquarters to focus on the lands projects right



now. The Navy has already started some of the water work and we don't want to duplicate efforts. David worries about the waters with fishing and crabbing. Flounders have been caught with huge sores all over them. His concern is how things in the water in that spot may be impacting the water life. Jeremy said if anything (munitions) is ever found on the beach or in the water to please report it to the police.

- e. Denise would like to look at if water sampling can be done. Lori may be able to discuss impacts later. Dave said that they dumped a lot of stuff out there.

7. Amaknak FUDS and Ugadaga Bay FUDS Project Update

- a. Taylor Borgfeldt introduced herself as the USACE project manager for Ugadaga Bay and Amaknak FUDS.
- b. Brief update on Ugadaga Bay, early in the CERCLA process. Working on writing up a scope of work and pulling together all the data that already exists.
- c. Amaknak Project 3 Pre-WWII Tank Farm, the second periodic review has been finalized. The third periodic review is in the pre-draft phase right now. Hope to have the Draft to stakeholders at end of May, hoping for the 27th of May. Please reach out to Taylor if you would like to be a stakeholder on this project.
- d. Amaknak Project 9, historical analysis is in progress. Going through photos and looking at areas that have munition risk. Recently got a report from the Army Geospatial Center (AGC).
- e. Amaknak Project 13 Unalaska Valley, field work was completed last summer. The plan is to continue later this summer with removing and closing the groundwater sampling wells that were put in last summer. The Removal Report is in progress.
- f. Amaknak Project 15 and 20, Summer Bay/Humpy Cove and Little South America. Work Plan was finalized, and a site visit was completed in April. Field work is planned to be conducted June through October. It is a long field season which involves soil excavation, installing temporary monitoring wells, soil, and groundwater sampling, and monitoring well decommissioning.
- g. Taylor showed which Amaknak projects are currently being worked on through an active contract and the projects that still need to be addressed, although all these projects have had work done in the past. Taylor said they would like to see some input from the community on which project they feel should be a priority and asked that everyone take the survey that should pop up online. All the remaining projects for Amaknak are petroleum.
- h. Ellis was concerned that digging could disturb the contamination and release it into the ground water at the Humpy Cove cleanup. Taylor said that would be a perfect segway into the Risk Conversation. Taylor will take down Ellis' question and get back to him with a more thorough response.

Action: Taylor will reach out to Ellis about excavating soil and his concern about it interacting with groundwater at Humpy Cove.

- i. Karen asked if the Amaknak project survey would remain open until the end of the meeting. Donna said she would make sure to put it back up during the break.

8. Risk Conversation

- a. Lori introduced herself as Risk Assessor for USACE. She has always worked as a contaminants biologist, looking at chemicals in the environment, how they work in the environment, and if they get into people and animals.
- b. She is here because there were questions in the last meeting about contaminants affecting



subsistence and berries. Lori stated that each site is different, so risk has to be discussed with the specifics of that site. Rather than go site by site, she will discuss exposure pathways generally.

- c. Lori said anyone with questions or concerns could come talk to her more tomorrow at the Open House from 12-2pm.
- d. For chemicals to have any impact on us they have to get into our body. Four main ways for chemicals to get in your body. Two most common ways are you inhale it or ingest it by eating or drinking it. Some chemicals can soak into your skin and get into your blood, it's not very common that this happens. You can inject it as well, for example you could step on a nail, and it could be rusty so then that rust is now in your foot.
- e. Lori said that it matters how much get into you. The dose makes the poison. The bigger the dose the more effect you may see.
- f. Some chemicals, like PCBs, can come in the air from far away. As it gets colder, they come out in the rain, then get in the ocean, which then magnifies up the food chain. PCBs can reach high levels in the fat of top predators.
- g. Chemicals like to be with other chemicals like them. When you make water for your pasta and then you add oil to the water, the oil sets on top, the oil doesn't like to be in water. This is illustrative of chemical partitioning – different contaminants like to be in different mediums (or substances). If you add a fat-loving chemical like PCBs into the water, it will partition into the oil and avoid the water.
- h. A lot of chemicals are not taken up by plants. Some chemicals are water loving and may get taken up by roots. Some metals may also be taken up by roots. Fuel is not readily taken up by plants.
- i. If the surface soil is contaminated and it gets picks up in the wind, it could blow onto the berries, but if the chemical is deep down in the soil, it is not available for transport by the wind.
- j. Ask yourself, what chemical is there and where is it? If it is in soil, is it on surface soil, or is it down 8 feet deep? If it's ground water, where is that ground water? Is it deep ground water? Is there a well or is it just ground water that no one is using? Does the groundwater ever come to the surface for groundwater surface water interacting?
- k. Ellis asked if mushrooms uptake of DRO? Lori said if the contamination is right on the surface, it may get on the mushrooms surface. Some mushrooms may take up some metals. For organic chemicals, like petroleum, mushrooms are more likely to break those chemicals down than to uptake them into the mushroom.

Break from 19:05-19:19.

9. Revise/Adopt Minutes

- a. Denise asked for a motion to Revise/Adopt the minutes from November 8, 2023, and February 21, 2024.
- b. Ellis Berry motioned to adopt the November 8, 2023, and February 21, 2024, minutes. David Gregory seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.

Decision: Adopt November 8, 2023, and February 21, 2024, minutes as written.

10. Review of RAB Mar 1, 2023, Qawalangin (regional) FUDS RAB Operating Procedures and responsibilities.

- a. Taylor reviewed 2. Responsibilities of the RAB. Vote 1 was to keep 2.b in the Operating Procedures as *Quarterly* meetings or revise.
 - i. Taylor asked for a motion to vote to revise.



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- ii. David brought up that the procedures say “informal”. Rena clarified that the word informal was used because sometimes they did not have a quorum. Denise explained that the RAB originally worded it like that because sometimes they didn’t have a quorum, so it was more of an informal meeting.
- iii. Taylor asked if the RAB members wanted to vote for quarterly meetings.
- iv. Ellis Berry voted for quarterly and suggested that maybe a public email could be sent out to let people know about the progress could replace increased meetings.
- v. Jim voted for quarterly as well.
- vi. Elise Contreras voted for quarterly meetings and liked the idea of having a monthly newsletter sent out via email to keep everyone updated.
- vii. Kale voted for quarterly meetings as well.
- viii. Dave Gregory voted for quarterly as well.

Decision: Keep RAB Meetings quarterly as specified in RAB Operating Procedures.

- b. Vote 2 was to revise 2.b in the Operating Procedures to specify the day of the week hold the meetings on.
 - i. Taylor proposed to keep it as open ended.
 - ii. Based on each meeting, the board can vote based on holidays and activities that are happening at the time.
 - iii. There was not a vote to revise 2.b to specify the day of the week hold the meetings on.

Decision: Do not specify the day of the week hold the meetings on in RAB Operating Procedures.

- c. Taylor reviewed 7.a responsibilities of the USACE Chair, 7.b responsibilities of the Community Chairs, and (4.b) responsibilities of the RAB tri-chair. Vote 3 was to revise number of community chairs.
 - i. Rena clarified that there were multiple people that wanted to be a chair so that is why they revised to tri-chair. Denise specified that it is nice for when people are out of town.
 - ii. There was not a vote to revise the number of community chairs.

Decision: Do not revise the number of community chairs in RAB Operating Procedures.

- d. Taylor called for nominations to fill the two open community chair positions.
 - i. Ellis Berry volunteered to fill one of the positions of community chair.
 - ii. Karen nominated Elise Contreras due to her expertise and focus on FUDS. Elise asked if the chair needs to live in Unalaska. Melissa specified that the Operating Procedures do not prohibit a remote chair.
 - iii. Denise Rankin asked for a motion to make Ellis Berry and Elise Contreras Tri-Chair members.
 - iv. David Gregory made a motion to welcome Ellis Berry and Elise Contreras to the Tri Chair. Jim seconded motion. Motion passed by consensus.

Decision: Ellis Berry and Elise Contreras are community RAB Chairs.

- e. Taylor reviewed 7.c of the Operating Procedures discussing Responsibilities of RAB community members.
- f. Taylor reviewed 5.c of the Operating Procedures discussing replacing absent members. Vote 4 was



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to replace absent members.

- i. David Gregory mentioned that it's not like we have people knocking down the door to be a member. Taylor clarified that it may be an issue reaching quorum if RAB members are not showing up.
- ii. Denise asked if it said how many members we have on the RAB. Mel cited 4.a of the RAB Operating Procedures which stated, "*A RAB will consist of 5-10 members.*" Currently there are 8 RAB members including the USACE Co-Chair.
- iii. A quorum is defined as 4 community members plus the USACE chair.
- iv. If there is not a quorum, informational meetings can still be held.
- v. David made a motion to change the wording from 'will terminate' to 'may terminate' in 5.c of the Operating Procedures. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.

Decision: Replace "will terminate" to "may terminate" in 5.c of the Operating Procedures. Absent members were not replaced.

- g. Taylor reviewed 4.c of the Operating Procedures discussing the local youth seat and Taylor asked for nominations.
 - i. David Gregory suggested advertisement to help find someone.
 - ii. Discussion on age range of youth seat for a high school.
 - iii. Rena suggested advertising for the seat.
 - iv. Denise said that the RAB might want to take into consideration that a youth might not want to be on the board for three (3) years, so they might want to revise that to one (1) year. Further discussion recommended the student government would be a good group to contact.
 - v. David suggested students needing to add to their resumes would be interested. Student government was a suggestion.

Action: Co-chairs to discuss advertisement of seat.

Action: Co-chairs to discuss revising the youth seat term from one (1) year instead of three (3) years.

11. Next RAB Meeting. Hybrid, August (Monday, Wednesday)
 - a. Next RAB Meeting. Hybrid, August on a Monday or Wednesday
 - b. Taylor spoke about wanting to coordinate with the Camp Q Dates, which is July 29-August 3, 2024.
 - c. Thomas recommended July 29th or July 31st.
 - d. Taylor decided that July 29th would be too busy with the Camp Q kickoff day. July 31st was also decided that would be too busy as well.
 - e. Mel suggested that the meeting previously was held the same day USACE did their presentation at the Camp
 - f. Laresa asked if anyone know what time Camp Q ended every day. Patti Gregory advised that the kids are back at the school by 4:30 every day.
 - g. Ellis Berry said the later date would be better for him because he may be out.
 - h. Ellis Berry made a motion to have the next meeting on August 5th. David Gregory seconded the motion. Motion passed consensus.

Decision: Next RAB Meeting being held August 5, 2024.



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12. Next Steps/Action Item Review

- a. Donna reviewed the Action Items.

13. Other Announcements/Unplanned Items/Open Discussion

- a. Taylor states that USACE will have an open house at the library on May 14, 2024, at 12:00 pm
- b. Sarah Bernhardt confirmed she is the ADEC PM for Fort Learnard and introduced her colleague, Kathleen Iler-Galau.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:08

Decision Summary

Decision	Motion made by	Motion seconded by
Adopt, November 8, 2023, and February 21, 2024, minutes as written.	Ellis Berry	David Gregory
Keep RAB Meetings quarterly as specified in the Operating Procedures.	Ellis Berry	Jim Paulin
Do not specify the day of the week hold the meetings on in RAB Operating Procedures.	None	None
Do not revise the number of community chairs in RAB Operating Procedures.	None	None
Ellis Berry and Elise Contreras are community RAB Chairs.	David Gregory	Jim Paulin
Replace "will terminate" to "may terminate" in 5.c of the Operating Procedures. Absent members were not replaced.	David Gregory	Jim Paulin
Next RAB Meeting being held August 5, 2024.	Ellis Berry	David Gregory

Action Item Tracker

Action	Owner	Status
Melinda will reach out to Ellis about turnaround time at other similar sites on the Aleutians if investigations find additional contamination.	Melinda Brunner	Open
Forrest will reach out to Sarah Bernhardt to figure out who the DEC site manager is.	Forrest Kranda	Closed
Taylor will reach out to Ellis about excavating soil and his concern about it interacting with groundwater at Humpy Cove.	Taylor Borgfeldt	Open
Co-chairs to discuss advertisement of seat.	All RAB chairs	Open
Co-chairs to discuss revising the youth seat term from one (1) year instead of three (3) years.	All RAB chairs	Open
Melinda to send Art the Chernofski map with contaminated sites	Melinda Brunner	Closed
Dave to send Karen (APIA) the presentation and any reports on Strawberry Hill	David Holmes (Santec)	Open



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Attachment 1

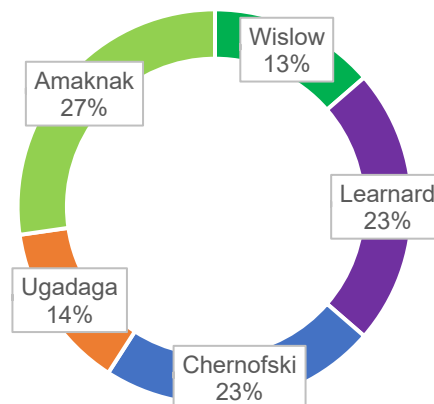
Poll Summary



Poll 1: Amaknak FUDS Project Priority Ranking

Project Number	Amaknak FUDS Project	In person Community Ranking	Virtual Community Ranking
19	Ballyhoo Spit	2nd	1st
16	Margaret Bay/Airport	1st	2nd
14	Pyramid Valley/Port Levashef	3rd	3rd
18	Mt Ballyhoo	4th	3rd
17	Museum of the Aleutians	5th	5th

Poll 2: Which FUDS Property would you like to hear more about?



Poll 3: What topics are you interested in for the next RAB Meeting?

	In-person	Virtual	Total Votes
Project briefings	4	4	8
Walk-throughs of project reports out for comment or recently finalized	1	3	4
In-depth 3Rs training or guest speaker for 3Rs	6	2	8
In-depth technical presentation on a particular property/project	3	2	5
In-depth archaeology presentation on a particular property/project	2	3	5
Overview of the FUDS environmental process	5	1	6



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Attachment 2

Virtual Chat Record



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Attachment 2
Virtual Chat Record

Forrest Kranda (USACE) May 13, 6:04 PM

Sound is good

Jeremy Craner, USACE Alaska District May 13, 6:04 PM

Yes

Sarah Bernhardt, ADEC May 13, 6:09 PM

As a guest we can toggle between the two different screens being shared.

Sarah Bernhardt, ADEC May 13, 6:09 PM

It's under "View Options"

Then Shared Screens

Donna Van Flein May 13, 6:10 PM

Thank you

Karen Pletnikoff May 13, 6:13 PM

Can David Holmes email APIA this presentation and any reports on Strawberry Hill? Thanks! Karen Pletnikoff
karenp@apiai.org

Melissa Scully, USACE May 13, 6:37 PM

Lidar, stands for **Light Detection and Ranging**

Jeremy Craner, USACE Alaska District May 13, 6:45 PM

The Navy has started offshore Si's in the Dutch Harbor area. I mistakenly said Coast Guard :)

Jeremy Craner, USACE Alaska District May 13, 6:47 PM

And thanks Mel!

Melissa Scully, USACE May 13, 6:57 PM

In 2000, soil and groundwater were sampled at specific Humpy Cove locations, including the site of the Power Plant UST. The highest remaining concentration of diesel range organics (ORO) in soil, 11,000 mg/kg, was collected from the center of the northwest wall of the Power Plant UST excavation at a depth of 14 feet below ground surface, just above the groundwater level. No contaminants were detected in the site's groundwater that exceeded screening criteria. The objective of the 2023 fieldwork is to remove residual ORO soil contamination to the extent practicable, including soil below the groundwater level all while ensuring protection of nearby wetlands and groundwater.

Karen Pletnikoff May 13, 7:19 PM

APIA wanted to vote: Margaret Bay/Airport as priority.

Sarah Bernhardt, ADEC May 13, 8:05 PM

This is Sarah Bernhardt, with ADEC. I am the Project manager for Fort Learnard, Ugadaga, and temporarily Cape Wislow. Additionally, I'd like to introduce Kathleen Iler-Galau, our new ADEC project manager for Amaknak FUDS sites and Chernofski Harbor FUDS sites.

May 13, 8:11 PM - meeting ended: 2h 53m