



Subject: Qawalangin (Regional) Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting - Amaknak, Fort Learnard, and Ugadaga Bay Station

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: **RAB Members Present:**
 Ben Leon-Guerrero
 James (Jim) T Paulin
 Thomas Roufos
 Michelle Lord
 Jose (Pancho) Lopez Junior (Jr.)
 Ellis Berry, Community Co-Chair
 Melinda Brunner, USACE Co-Chair

RAB Members Not Present:
 Elise Contreras, Community Co-Chair
 Kale Bruner

RAB Members Inducted:
 Felipe Lekanoff

Attendees:
 Aaron Acena (USACE)
 Andy Larson (Montrose)
 Dominic Masinelli (Delta Western)
 Donna VanFlein (OC)
 Jackie Adams (City of Unalaska)
 Jason Westenskow (OCE)
 Jeff Estes (EPA)
 Jeremy Craner (USACE)
 Karen Pletnikoff (APIA)
 Kathleen Iler-Galau (ADEC)
 Laresa Syverson (OC)
 Lizzy Buckingham (ADEC)
 Melinda Brunner (USACE)
 Melissa Scully (USACE)
 Natalie Cale (OC)
 Piama R. Oleyer
 Sarah Bernhardt (ADEC)
 Sarah Stepetin

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Melinda Brunner (USACE) kicked off the meeting with opening remarks and a review of the agenda. She held a safety moment to discuss pedestrian safety tips.
 - b. Roll call was conducted. With five (later six with the arrival of Pancho Lopez) community RAB Members present, plus the USACE Co-Chair, there was quorum.
2. Introduction of USACE FUDS Project Managers
 - a. The USACE Project Managers (PMs) introduced themselves and which FUDS they were managing because of recent staffing changes at the Alaska District.
3. Old RAB Business
 - a. Melinda went over the outstanding action item from the March 2025 RAB Meeting which was to induct Felipe Lekanoff into the RAB. Felipe was not present at the March meeting, so the action remains open to induct him into the RAB. Piama thanked Melinda for the quick response to the Kashega question from the March meeting.
 - b. The Draft August 27, 2024 RAB Meeting Minutes were sent out with the meeting materials and Melinda indicated that she had received no comments or requests for edits. Ellis motioned to adopt the August 27, 2024 RAB Meeting Minutes as presented in the Draft. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.



Decision: Adopt August 27, 2024 RAB Meeting Minutes.

4. New RAB Business

- a. Melinda asked for nominations for new RAB community chairs. There were no nominations.
- b. Thomas made a motion to re-elect Ellis as RAB community Co-chair for another year. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.
- c. Ellis made a motion to re-elect Elise as RAB community Co-chair for another year. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.

Decision: Ellis and Elise re-elected as RAB Co-Chairs for another year.

5. 2025 Field Season

- a. Jeremy Craner, the PM for Fort Learnard and Amaknak discussed fieldwork that was recently completed at both FUDS.
 - o USACE recently modified the awarded contract for Fort Learnard to conduct additional remedial investigation (RI) work to address data gaps discovered following the processing of data from 2024. That follow-on RI field work is planned for 2026. Biological and cultural site visits are planned for 25 August 2025 to aid in planning for the follow-on RI fieldwork. USACE has also conducted Systematic Project Planning (SPP) meetings and two public meetings thus far. The next meeting will likely be after completion of the follow-on RI fieldwork in 2026.
 - o Jeremy discussed the site history and summarized the fieldwork that was conducted at two Amaknak FUDS Projects, Summer Bay/Humpy Cove (F10AK0841-15) and Little South America (F10AK0841-20), in Summer 2025.
 - o At the Summer Bay/Humpy Cove FUDS project, USACE completed soil characterization at the Humpy Cove Power Plant UST (ADEC Hazard ID 3066). USACE installed 12 soil borings in vicinity of historical exceedances, installed and sampled three new monitoring wells, decommissioned existing (old) monitoring wells at this site and surrounding closed sites. Preliminary indications are that groundwater is not impacted.
 - o Piama asked if the any other agencies, specifically the University of Alaska or the Tribe, have access to the cores that were collected. Jeremy answered that that soil is typically returned back to where it was collected from after samples are collected from the core. She also asked if the fertilizer that was used would encourage deep root plants such as hemlock to grow prolifically. Jeremy answered that the fertilizer was applied back in 1998 to promote biodegradation and was not used in the most recent fieldwork.
 - o Ellis asked specifically how far below the reporting levels the results were and if the historic result was an anomalous read or if it had just been diluted. Jeremy answered that he would have to go look back at the data to be able to speak to a specific result, but generally if he states a result is below *all* ADEC cleanup levels, it is below the most conservative level. If it is below ADEC cleanup levels, then it is considered clean. To answer the second question, an extensive investigation was conducted to relocate that historic hot spot, but results indicate that the remedy that was implemented in the 1990s was successful, and the site has been remediated.
 - o Jeremy discussed Building 1154 (Mess Hall) (ADEC Hazard ID 25833) at the Amaknak Little South America FUDS project and the work that was completed there this last summer.
 - o Piama asked what kind of seed was used to reseed the site in 2000. She expressed concern with using beach rye grass that was not from Unalaska.



Action: Jeremy will confirm the type of grass seed that was used for the work at Little South America.

- Jeremy discussed Latrine 1 UST (ADEC Hazard ID 25836) at the Little South America FUDS project and the work that was completed there this last summer including debris removal, road improvements, soil removal, and site restoration.
- Larissa asked if the estimate for the Latrine 1 UST site was to remove 198 tons of soil. Jeremy answered that the contract had 200 tons for removal and disposal and that contracted amount was estimated for both FUDS projects (Humpy Cove and Little South America). No soil was removed from the Humpy Cove Power Plant UST and there is a high level of confidence that the total extent of contamination was reached and removed at the Latrine 1 UST.

6. Remediation Progress

- a. Melinda discussed some of the results of the 2023 Amaknak Restoration Summary Report in which USACE compiled description of past remediation efforts into one report. Melinda also discussed the 21 cleanup complete determination letters received from ADEC based on the report.
- b. Amaknak's Unalaska Valley Project 13 is comprised of 26 petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) only sites. Fourteen of those sites have been closed by ADEC, one site is non-qualifying in the ADEC Contaminated Sites (CS) Database and no further action (NFA) for FUDS, one site has an ADEC closure letter in progress, two sites may require further action or coordination for closure due to changes in cleanup levels, six sites had fieldwork in 2023, one site had right-of-entry (ROE) refusal in 2023, and one additional site is non-qualifying in ADEC CS Database and NFA.
- c. Ellis asked for clarification on the site that had ROE refusal and if the work that was proposed there was just a monitoring well install. Mel believed that was correct.
- d. Piama asked if there were ever going to be any areas added to this project. Melinda answered that it is unlikely that additional sites would be added to the Unalaska Valley project, but if new FUDS are discovered, there is a process for investigating that and likely the FUDS Program would make another project for new FUDS.
- e. Ben asked if any of those closed sites had institutional controls (ICs). Melinda answered that she thought they were all unlimited use/unrestricted exposure closures but asked ADEC to confirm. Kathleen with ADEC, confirmed she believed that was correct.
- f. Sarah with ADEC added that closure letters for each site are attached to each site on the ADEC CS Database (<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/CSP/Search>). ADEC project managers like Sarah and Kathleen are happy to answer questions about specific sites as follow up.
- g. Pyramid Valley Project 14 is comprised of four POL only sites. Three of those sites have been closed by ADEC, one site is still open on the ADEC CS Database, but it is NFA for FUDS, and the POL only FUDS project -14 has been closed.
- h. Summer Bay/Humpy Cove Project 15 is comprised of seven POL only sites. Four of those sites have been closed by ADEC, two sites are still open on the ADEC CS Database and may require further coordination, and one site had field work Summer 2025.

7. Upcoming Documents

- a. Melinda explained that the next upcoming document that the RAB can expect to review is the Draft Amaknak FUDS Summer Bay/Humpy Cove & Little South America Limited Removal Action Report. It is anticipated to be available for review in January 2026 and there will be a 30-day review period.

8. Next Meeting Date and Topics

- a. Melinda presented proposed dates for the next RAB meeting and discussed potential conflicts. She asked the RAB members if there was a preference for the date of the next meeting.



- b. Ellis asked if there will be more updates available in November. Melinda added that USACE has presented what we can on the 2025 field effort at this time. With intent to have the draft report available for review, February would be the next time there would be more to discuss regarding the reporting of that field effort.
- c. Donna asked if USACE would be briefing what the following field season would look like. Jeremy's presentation indicated Fort Learnard FUDS will have follow-on RI fieldwork planned for 2026. Melinda added that Unalaska Valley did not have any planned work in 2026. Aaron added that he does not have any field work planned at Amaknak FUDS Margaret Bay/Airport project or Ugadaga Bay Station FUDS in 2026.
- d. Donna asked when USACE finds out about the funding for 2026. Aaron answered that the Alaska District puts in a request to Headquarters and they consider that alongside the rest of the FUDS Program requests nationwide. Factors in what projects are funded include Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) input and the federal budget. Usually at the beginning of a fiscal year (October) the Alaska District will get a glimpse into what was approved. Donna requested a further update on that funding and what was approved in November.
- e. Melinda asked the RAB members again if there was a preference for the date of the next meeting. Ellis stated he thought Tuesday, November 18, was the best date with a funding discussion as the topic. No conflicts were stated.
- f. Ellis motioned to set the date for the next RAB meeting for Tuesday, November 18. Michelle seconded the motion. The vote was passed by consensus.

Decision: The next RAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

- g. Melinda asked the RAB for topics for the next meeting. Donna asked to revisit the existing RAB priority list. Piama asked to go over the process for adding new FUDS sites. The RAB priority list can be found in the minutes from May 13, 2024, and the link to the minutes was provided in the chat.
 - h. Melinda took a vote of the RAB for which topics they were interest in. Most RAB members chose FUDS Program funding as the topic they wanted to discuss most at the next meeting. The process for adding new FUDS was second and reviewing the RAB priority list was third.
 - i. Melinda asked for a motion to set the next meeting topic as FUDS funding. The vote was passed by consensus.
9. Action Item Review
- a. The link for the past meeting minutes will be included in these meeting minutes. This link is always included in the last slide of the slide deck presented at each RAB meeting.
 - b. Jeremy will confirm the type of grass seed that was used for the work at Little South America.

Decision: The next RAB meeting will discuss FUDS Program funding.

Decision: Felipe Lekanoff was inducted as a RAB member.

10. Open Discussion
 - a. Melinda opened the floor to open discussion.
 - b. There was no open discussion or questions.
11. Closing Remarks



- a. Melinda offered closing remarks thanking everyone for their time. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Decision Summary

Decision

- Adopt August 27, 2024 RAB Meeting Minutes.
- Ellis and Elise re-elected as RAB Co-Chairs for another year.
- The next RAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.
- The next RAB meeting will discuss FUDS Program funding.
- Felipe Lekanoff was inducted as a RAB member.

Action Item Tracker

Action	Owner	Status
Confirm the type of grass seed that was used for the work at Little South America	Jeremy Craner	Open
Include the link for the past meeting minutes in these meeting minutes. The meeting minutes are available at http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/ . This link is always included as the final slide in every RAB slide deck. This item is closed.	Mel Scully	Closed