

August 3, 2022, FINAL Minutes. Amaknak Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Andrew (Andy) Sorum, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project manager, provided opening remarks. Andy noted that Rena Flint, USACE co-chair for the Amaknak FUDS RAB, accepted a temporary assignment in Washington, DC, and could not attend today's meeting; therefore, Andy was attending the RAB meeting in Rena's place.
  - b. RAB Roll Call/Quorum
    - i. Present: Alyssa McDonald, Jim Paulin, Denise Rankin (virtual), Elise Contreras (virtual)
    - ii. Absent: Jay King, Patty Gregory, Kale Bruner, Dave Gregory, Rena Flint
    - iii. Andy commented that the RAB does not have a quorum to conduct RAB business; therefore, he recommended that this proceed as an informational meeting using the current agenda.
    - iv. Elise, Jim, and Alyssa agreed to conduct an informational meeting.
    - v. Andy responded that the RAB will postpone voting on any items until a future meeting where a quorum is present.
2. Revise/Adopt Minutes
  - a. Andy commented that the RAB will postpone moving to revise/adopt the minutes until a future meeting.
3. Community Introductions/Local Updates/Public Comments
  - a. Additional In-Person Attendees (non-RAB members):
    - i. Thomas Roufos, City of Unalaska
    - ii. AB Rankin, private citizen
    - iii. Chris Price, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska
    - iv. Michael Tutiakoff, Ounalashka Corporation (OC)
    - v. Bill Simms, City of Unalaska
    - vi. Bill Homka, City of Unalaska
    - vii. Natalie Cale, OC/ Ounalashka Corporation Environmental (OCE)
    - viii. Dave McAlister, Alaska Peninsula Corporation
    - ix. Craig Scola, OCE
    - x. Chris Hladich, City of Unalaska
  - b. Virtual Attendees:
    - i. Sara Hadden, Aleut Remediation
    - ii. Karen Pletnikoff, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)
    - iii. Ben Leon-Guerrero, Aleut Corporation
    - iv. Brent Lucyk, private citizen
    - v. Quinn Meehan, Aleut Remediation
    - vi. Rachel Lekanoff, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska
    - vii. Scott Elkind, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
  - c. USACE attendees:
    - i. Andy Sorum, FUDS Project Manager
    - ii. Melissa Scully, FUDS Technical Lead/Project Engineer
    - iii. Kendall Campbell, Tribal Liaison

- iv. Jamie Grant, FUDS Project Manager (virtual)
- d. Consultant Attendees (provided meeting facilitation and support):
  - i. Amy Ostman, HDR
  - ii. Josie Wilson, HDR (virtual)
- e. Local Updates/Public Comments
  - i. Elise Contreras commented that the debris removal in Unalaska Valley that was scheduled for this summer's field season is complete. The RAB hopes to have the next Cooperative Agreement (CA) signed with the Qawalangin Tribe and USACE to begin more debris removal in Unalaska Valley and Pyramid Valley and other tasks.
  - ii. Natalie Cale commented that Senator Murkowski will visit Unalaska and host a field hearing on August 23, 2022. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense (DoD), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), USACE, and Department of the Interior (DOI) will attend. Logistical details are still in process. The hearing will likely be held at the local chambers. Eight to 10 witnesses were requested. Natalie is coordinating with Chris Price and Senator Murkowski's staff to confirm the witnesses. The expected duration of the public hearing is 3 hours. More details to follow.  
 Andy Sorum commented that Rena Flint is involved in the preparations for the hearing and plans to attend. If anyone has questions about the hearing, please contact Andy or Rena.  
 Jim Paulin commented that there was a recent newspaper article about increased military presence in the Aleutians and Western Alaska, including Unalaska. Jim asked if the field hearing is related to the legislation that Senator Murkowski is currently proposing regarding military presence in the Aleutians and Western Alaska, including Unalaska.  
 Natalie Cale responded that Senator Murkowski's press release and the upcoming field hearing are unrelated. The field hearing is dedicated to discussion about contaminated land.  
 Jim responded that the article was unclear regarding whether the area would experience a military presence or deep-water ports (which might mean dredging), or whether there would be soldiers stationed here.  
 Natalie responded that USACE does not have an answer; however, Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski are planning an accompanied tour for the U.S. Coast Guard, but USACE is not sure about the U.S. Navy. Kendall commented that Jim's question would be a great question to ask Senator Murkowski.
  - iii. Chris Price commented that many community members are curious about the funding from EPA Brownfields that is supposed to go through the EPA to the communities for cleanup. The Qawalangin Tribe is working with the EPA to determine if the funds will be used for Native corporation lands in Alaska or in Unalaska. Representatives from the EPA will attend the field hearing and potentially provide a presentation about how funds flow from the EPA to the communities.

Karen Pletnikoff commented that it is great that Senator Murkowski will visit Unalaska. Contaminated sites information in Unalaska would focus primarily on FUDS, including the work that this RAB oversees. Karen asked if any of the meeting attendees are aware of any specific projects to highlight for the delegation, or ongoing challenges that need specific action to address, or anything else that could facilitate making all the land in Unalaska that is useable, useable.

Kendall Campbell responded to Karen that USACE was just recently notified about this field meeting. USACE is currently preparing talking points and important subjects to highlight. USACE is coordinating with the RAB, community members, the Tribe, and the OC to highlight important areas and share a good story with the delegation. Kendall reminded attendees that the field meeting is an opportunity to provide comments and discuss topics. Attendees can also reach out to Kendall or Rena.

4. Camp Qungaayux

- a. Andy shared that USACE staff were at Camp Qungaayux ("Camp Q") all day today working with six different student groups ranging from 5th graders through 11th graders.
- b. USACE led discussions on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers and also reviewed some of the environmental restoration work that USACE conducts in Unalaska.
- c. USACE led activities on the beach, including examining a simulated contaminated site.
- d. Andy expressed his deepest appreciation for the Qawalangin Tribe and mentors for inviting USACE to attend.

5. Chernofski Harbor FUDS

- a. Andy stated that USACE had a successful 2022 field season at Chernofski Harbor.
- b. Andy noted that Alyssa has been critical in supporting USACE's work on the site. Alyssa had an opportunity to visit the site. Andy and Alyssa will collaborate on a presentation for the next meeting.
- c. Andy said that removal action field work began on April 27, 2022, and USACE completed the initial mobilization on June 20, 2022. USACE removed approximately 2,000 tons of contaminated soil and conducted additional investigation for future field seasons. USACE did not finish addressing all of the contaminated features this year, including some of the drum sites. USACE requested additional funds from headquarters, and the project team will remobilize to the field on August 8, 2022, for 2 weeks to remove up to an additional 500 tons of contaminated soil, complete a final round of sampling, and complete a demobilization of the camp and all waste.
- d. Andy highlighted the excellent performance by USACE's archaeological team, which is led by Kelly Eldridge. During the removal action, the project team was digging in sensitive areas and uncovered some burial sites. The project team was able to mitigate impacts and communicate with stakeholders to meet expectations for those discoveries. This was a big success for the project team and demonstrated the complexity of the site and its important historical significance. This also informs future planning and investigation as work continues on the site. Andy thanked the internal team,

archaeologists, contractors, and all the stakeholders who were highly responsive and communicative on expectations.

- e. Andy mentioned that upon completion of USACE's final field work this month, USACE will produce a report with sampling data during the winter season, likely finalized in February 2023. That report will be used as the basis for future funding requests and any future plans. USACE will report results to the RAB and other stakeholders.
  - f. Alyssa commented that the main goal is to understand how USACE removes contaminated soil and how USACE can determine the concentrations of contaminants. She also noted that there is a great deal of history at the site and that construction has occurred on top of Russian Orthodox cemeteries. Alyssa will work with Andy to create a presentation to share the whole process.
6. Amaknak FUDS Range Complex No. 1
- a. Andy shared that USACE hosted two "3Rs" Trainings in Unalaska on unexploded ordnance on June 29, 2022. The U.S. Army sponsors the 3Rs Program, which stands for "Recognize, Retreat, and Report." Andy recommended that all community members complete the training and reiterated that unexploded ordnances are not valuable trophies or souvenirs; they are potentially hazardous, even after 80 years. The training was provided by a munitions expert. If any community members are interested in hosting a virtual or in-person training session, please contact Andy.
  - b. Andy said that the Army Geospatial Center (AGC) Historical Photo Analysis is funded and ongoing. Andy anticipates that the results will be available in 2023. The AGC is a USACE entity based on the East Coast and does a fantastic job researching and analyzing the available museums and archives for text and imagery records. This information helps the USACE Alaska District team make informed decisions regarding features and areas of risk or interest.
  - c. Andy noted that Rena spoke about the Remedial Investigation Funds Request at previous RAB meetings. USACE made the funds request to headquarters for fiscal year 2023, which starts October 1 for the federal government. USACE is currently finalizing the budget request. Andy expects that there will be funding for the beginning of the remedial investigation of the Amaknak FUDS Range Complex No. 1, the munitions response project. It is good news that USACE is getting funded to start that work. It is complicated work, but it is critically important work in the community.
- Jim asked for information regarding the format of the AGC's photo analysis.
- Andy responded that the product will be very specific to the project area. Andy is unsure what scope of work Rena previously requested, but he speculated that the report will consist of photos, text documents, training records, shipping documents for munitions, and any first-person military history accounts. The AGC will then conduct a stereoscopic analysis of the imagery using digital and analog techniques to identify trenches, munitions bunkers, movements, caches, and places where munitions were carried and stored. Andy said that the result is a detailed PDF picture book, and the USACE Alaska District also receives a geospatial database that can be used to create maps and conduct project planning. This increases the level of detail in USACE's initial planning.
- Alyssa asked if the AGC product will be shared with the public.

Andy responded that USACE is cautious about sharing the locations of munitions storage for high explosives in a format that is widely accessible. USACE might be able to share extracts of portions of the imagery. Rena will engage with the RAB and other stakeholders to determine what is appropriate to share. USACE would love to share the AGC product with the community because it contains important history for a community that was critical in its support during the war, and USACE wants to honor that with any products that are produced.

7. Amaknak FUDS Pre-World War II (WWII) Tank Farm

- a. Andy stated that the second periodic review for this site is ongoing. USACE received comments on the first review and is currently reconciling those comments and continuing to work through the process while also requesting funding for the next round of periodic review. The periodic review process is a public process that will engage landowners and stakeholders and incorporate them into the next review of protectiveness for the remedy that was implemented at that site.
- b. Andy stated that the Environmental Covenants are in progress.
- c. Jamie Grant has been the USACE project manager in charge of the Long-Term Management Contract Update.

Jamie shared that USACE plans for the contractors to inspect all monitoring wells to ensure that they are in good condition and make recommendations for replacements. The team will gauge all of the groundwater and inspect for free product, and will then collect groundwater samples. The team will also inspect around the building, ensuring that the crawl space covers are still performing as intended. The team will inspect along the shoreline in Dutch Harbor for visible discharge. The team will make necessary repairs to the wells. The team will also help develop a draft periodic review for the next 5-year review period, which was just recently awarded successfully. In the next few weeks, the project delivery team and the contractor will meet for the first kickoff meeting, and then Rena will be back in October to take over.

8. Amaknak FUDS Unalaska Valley Updates

- a. Jamie stated that the primary objective of this project is to document that the former Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites in Unalaska Valley meet regulatory cleanup levels. This will be achieved through focused resampling of soil. Anywhere hot spots are located will be excavated and/or removed to the best of the contractor's ability. Then they will develop institutional controls and work with homeowners. Each of the five sites is expected to have a mix of investigation and remedial actions. USACE successfully awarded the contract this week and expects to meet with the contractor in the next 30 days to kick off the project.

9. Questions

- a. Denise Rankin asked for details regarding the Russian Orthodox graveyard that was discovered this summer at the Chernofski Harbor site, particularly whether the human remains were kept in place and reburied.
  - i. Andy responded that the Russian Orthodox cemetery was determined to be a categorically excluded property, so FUDS is not doing anything within the boundary of the Russian Orthodox cemetery at Chernofski. That decision is new as of this year. USACE did discuss this with many of the stakeholders, including the Russian Orthodox Church, to ensure that they were aware, and all parties agreed that that was the right move to make. Therefore no work is being

conducted at that site. The project team is working all around it but will be very careful not to disturb that space.

- b. Denise asked how often the contracts open for the groundwater monitoring at Rocky Point.
  - i. Andy responded that he is not familiar with the contract for Rocky Point. It is generally not an annual process, and it depends on how often testing is needed. Andy took the action for Rena to follow up with an exact answer.
- c. Ben asked if the AGC photographic analysis request form is open for corporations or tribes to request information on some of the properties they own. He also asked about the process of obtaining any information from the photo analysis about specific locations that are stakeholder-owned.
  - i. Andy responded that the AGC is a small 10-person team, and their primary mission is warfighter support. Andy would be surprised if the AGC does work for anyone outside of U.S. Army activities. Andy took the action to find out and follow up personally with Ben.
  - ii. Andy responded that he and Rena would love to talk with landowners about what pieces of information USACE can share. There are mechanisms for that like a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request. In the spirit of partnership, Andy and Rena want to engage with the landowners personally. USACE has a relationship with most of the landowners, certainly with OC, and USACE wants to maintain those relationships. Andy recommended starting on an email basis, and if Ben needs something else, USACE can recommend other courses of action.

#### 10. Committee Reports

- a. Meeting Promotion (Alyssa McDonald, Jay King)
  - i. Alyssa recorded a public service announcement at KUCB that has been running on the radio.
  - ii. Alyssa is happy to promote Senator Murkowski's field visit.
  - iii. Jay King was absent and unable to provide an update.
- b. Sustaining RAB Membership (Patty Gregory)
  - i. Patty was absent and unable to provide an update.
- c. Morale, Welfare, and Fun (Elise Contreras, Jim Paulin, Kale Bruner, Denise Rankin, Patty Gregory)
  - i. No updates to report.
- d. Records Management (Denise Rankin, Kale Bruner, David Gregory)
  - i. Denise appreciates USACE's PDF format and will coordinate where the RAB can store the information for public access.
    - 1. Andy thanked Denise and responded that it is helpful feedback because USACE wants to make sure information is accessible and in the desired format for the public.

#### 11. Review Next Meeting Dates, Identify Next Steps

- a. Next RAB Meeting: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual), November (Wednesday)
  - i. Andy recommended that the RAB should not determine the date during this meeting. Instead Andy proposed that the RAB vote for the next meeting date via email. Andy commented that Rena recommended November 2, 9, or 16 or December 7.
    - 1. The RAB briefly discussed dates. Andy plans to propose November 9 via email to the RAB members, and the RAB will vote via email.

2. Andy took the action to check if the City Chambers is available on November 9.

- b. Josie reviewed the Action Items, including:
  - i. USACE to follow up with Denise on contracts for water quality monitoring.
  - ii. RAB to approve and conduct any outstanding voting items at the next meeting.
  - iii. Andy to conduct RAB member voting on next meeting date via email.
  - iv. USACE to confirm if the City Chambers is available on the potential dates for the next RAB meeting.
  - v. Meeting attendees to contact Andy or the RAB team if they have any questions.
  - vi. USACE to follow up with Ben on AGC website request form.

12. Other Announcements/Unplanned Items/Open Discussion

- a. Kendall Campbell shared that in early July, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee traveled to Alaska with the intent of spending 3 full days meeting with Alaska Native corporations and Alaska Native tribes to learn more about contaminated land issues. The committee included people from EPA, DOI, DoD, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). EPA led the meeting, and it included a site visit to Nome. The overall conclusion of the meeting was that the agencies involved agreed to take more of an all-government approach to learning about, dealing with, and being active in responding to concerns and actions that are required to address Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) contaminated land. That committee is still actively working; there is a sub-committee in Alaska that is helping the folks in DC with their initiative. The sub-committee includes Kendall Campbell and Ken Andraschko, USACE Alaska FUDS program manager, as well as local EPA and DOI representatives. If there are concerns that RAB members want to bring to that committee, please contact Kendall, Rena, or Andy. The intent is to have a more robust, one-government approach. This is related to what Chris said about the Brownfield Sites and funding. The goal is to create a place where people or corporations with concerns can ask a question and receive a comprehensive response from multiple agencies.

Karen thanked Kendall for the additional information about the Arctic Executive Committee's visit to Alaska. Karen commented that APIA is the regional Native nonprofit, not an ANCSA corporation, but the impacts to ANCSA lands actually affect APIA as a health corporation. Unalaska is APIA's largest community and an important fishing hub. It would be a step in the right direction to have a hospital out there, but it is Karen's understanding that there is not enough suitable land, due primarily to contamination. Karen commented she is not trying to speak for Ounalashka or other landowners, but this seems like the ideal time to highlight to Senator Murkowski the need for a project to reclaim enough lands for such an important activity. Karen understands the impacts of the geopolitical situation but thinks the region needs to be especially concerned about the lingering impacts of militarization in our area. The region does not have U.S. Coast Guard stationed assets. It could be a really important story to show the relationship between these contaminated sites and the region's ability to host important environmental and fisheries protection assets through getting more U.S. Coast Guard representation in the area.

- b. Alyssa commented that Camp Q is important to the youth because there is not a lot for kids to do in the area. Alyssa thanked the tribes and elders and USACE for their time.

Alyssa's daughter Kayla joined the Sikuliaq, which is a research vessel for the State of Alaska. Woods Hole and University of Alaska Fairbanks are working on a new project called the Bering Sea Storm Project. They are coring in the Beaver Inlet to find the impact of storm surges on fisheries, land, and humans in history. The project Facebook page is called Bering Sea Storm Project.

- c. Denise commented that the region had a hospital before WWII; it was bombed and never replaced. It would be wonderful for the community to have a hospital in the region again.

Karen responded to Denise that Karen understands it is the ongoing issue of contaminated sites that prevents the region from finding enough land to build a hospital.

Denise responded to Karen that there is still a lot of contamination where there is developable land.

- d. Scott Elkind apologized for showing up late, he mistook the time. USACE will provide to him minutes and invite him to the next meeting for a Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) update.

### 13. Closing Remarks, Contact Information, Adjourn

- a. Andy noted that there will not be a formal motion for adjournment.
- b. Andy thanked everyone for attending and for continued commitment to the RAB and the work the group is doing in the Unalaska area.
- c. Andy commented that the RAB will meet again, most likely in November. USACE will notify everyone of the next meeting date through all available means of communication.
- d. Andy shared the USACE project team contact information:
  - i. Andy Sorum, USACE Project Manager, (907) 753-2575, [Andrew.C.Sorum@usace.army.mil](mailto:Andrew.C.Sorum@usace.army.mil)
  - ii. Rena Flint, USACE Project Manager, (907) 753-2680, [Rena.B.Flint@usace.army.mil](mailto:Rena.B.Flint@usace.army.mil)
  - iii. USACE- Alaska District Public Affairs Office, (907) 753-2520, [Public.affairs3@usace.army.mil](mailto:Public.affairs3@usace.army.mil)
- e. The meeting ended at 8:11pm.