

November 9, 2022, FINAL Minutes. Amaknak Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Rena Flint, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project manager, provided opening remarks.
 - b. RAB Roll Call/Quorum
 - i. Present: Denise Rankin (virtual), Jay King, & James Paulin
 - ii. Absent: Patty Gregory, Kale Bruner, Dave Gregory, Elise Contreras, and Alyssa McDonald
 - iii. Rena commented that although the RAB does not have a quorum they will still be able to conduct RAB business meeting using the current agenda.
 - iv. The present RAB members in attendance agreed to conduct RAB business without a quorum.
 - c. Meeting Goals and Objectives
 - i. Rena reviewed the agenda to inform the attendees of what will be covered during the meeting.
2. Revise/Adopt May 4, 2022 Minutes and August 3, 2022 Minutes
 - a. On a motion made by Jay King and a second by Denise Rankin, the minutes from the May 4, 2022 and August 3, 2022 meetings were approved, without objection.
3. Local Updates/Community Introductions/Public Comments
 - a. Additional In-Person Attendees (non-RAB members):
 - i. Chris Price, CEO of Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska – He stated that he is thankful and appreciative of the work that is being done by this board to help clean up the lands on the island of Unalaska. He is also glad that Art from Chernofski, Alaska is in attendance.
 - ii. AB Rankin, private citizen
 - iii. Thomas Roufos, City of Unalaska Planning Department
 - b. Virtual Attendees:
 - i. Caryn Orvis (virtual) is with Ahtna Engineering Services.
 - ii. Cas Glasso (virtual) is with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) contaminated sites program. Cas regulates the sites in Dutch Harbor and on Amaknak Island.
 - iii. Matt Carlson (virtual) is with Stantec.
 - iv. Mickey Hartnett, Kansas State University, who works closely with the ANTHC office in Anchorage.
 - v. Ben Leon-Guerrero is the land manager for the Aleut Corporation.
 - vi. Craig Wilson (virtual) is with Stantec.
 - vii. Michael Tutiakoff (virtual) is with the Ounalashka Corporation.
 - viii. Brie Drummond (virtual) is a private citizen.
 - ix. Jeff Williams (virtual) is the deputy manager for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.
 - x. Larissa Syruson (virtual) is with the technical lands manager of the Ounalashka Corporation.

- xi. Rachel Lekanoff is the Environmental Remediation Coordinator for the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska.
 - xii. An unnamed caller from KUCB radio station in Unalaska attended virtually.
 - c. USACE attendees:
 - i. Rena Flint, FUDS Project Manager
 - ii. Forrest Kranda (virtual), FUDS archeologist
 - iii. Jathan Garrett (virtual), Civil Works Branch project member
 - iv. Melissa Scully (virtual), FUDS Technical Lead/Project Engineer
 - d. Consultant Attendees (provided meeting facilitation and support):
 - i. Alice Rademacher, HDR
 - ii. Amy Ostman, HDR (virtual)
 - iii. Jenny Merrill, HDR (virtual)
 - e. Local Updates/Public Comments
 - i. None
- 4. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Jeff Williams)
 - a. Jeff introduced himself as the Deputy Manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and thanked the RAB for the invitation to speak. He added that the Refuge headquarters is in Homer, Alaska. They also maintain a field station in Adak, Alaska. Jeff lived in Adak for 12 years then moved to Homer, AK in 2002.
 - b. He commented that there are many FUDS sites throughout the Aleutian Islands. The work being done at these sites is extremely important therefore Tim Plucinski, a full time Environmental Contaminants Biologist, was hired in the Anchorage office. Tim oversees and is the Refuge's liaison for all the contamination and mitigation work done by USACE. He also works with other organizations (i.e., the Navy) on other remediation activities (i.e., Adak Island work).
 - c. The Refuge looks out for healthy lands and wildlife as well as maintaining the traditional lands that they are entrusted with managing.
 - d. The Refuge also works hard with tribal relations. Kendra Bush, Education Specialist was thrilled to return to many culture camps hosted on the Aleutian Islands. Kendra is a longtime participant in Camp Qungaayux hosted on Unalaska and was happy to be back this year. This year she also attended the seabird camp on the Pribilof Islands and the Sand Point Culture Camp.
 - e. This summer, invitees from USACE and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined Refuge employees on the research vessel Tiġlaġ for 3 days to visit FUDS sites around Adak Island and Great Sitkin Island.
 - f. The research vessel Tiġlaġ travels from Homer, AK all throughout the Aleutian Islands every year deploying researchers into remote field camps for up to 3 months/year. They primarily collect information on seabirds. The most recent report card, which shows how seabirds along the Aleutian Chain are doing, came out last week. The health of the seabird population indirectly tells us how well the ecosystem is doing since they are great samplers of the marine environment. He stated that the birds did great this year. He will share this one-page document with Rena so it can be distributed to the meeting attendees and the community of Unalaska.

- g. Jeff shared Tim Plucinski's email as well as his contact information in the chat if attendees have questions following tonight's meeting.
 - i. tim_plucinski@fws.gov
 - ii. jeff_williams@fws.gov & 907-299-5820
 - h. Denise Rankin commented that she was curious about how much testing is going on around Amchitka Island. There was a contract with Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) to do sampling each year; she asked if there is a current sampling contract in place. Jeff responded that the Amchitka work is done with a legacy management program from the Department of Energy. The direct and indirect contaminants sampling is done about every 5 years, and it is due to happen next year. APIA is still involved and is invited to participate. The Department of Energy has been out during the past 2 years to do remediation on drilling muds used to test the atomic weapons. They made sure the liners and covers for the areas were still in place and operational. Jeff added that the sampling is both direct and indirect. Direct sampling of radioactive elements and the indirect sampling is done on the birds, fish, and eggs to see if it is in the ecosystem.
 - i. Ben Leon-Guerrero asked if any of the Amchitka Island testing would include any testing of the impacts to the soils when major or minor earthquakes take place. Jeff responded that there is an active seismic monitoring station on Amchitka Island. The Alaska Volcano Observatory has an infrasound ray to monitor earthquakes out there. The link is more to the disturbance that a larger earthquake will make as opposed to minor earthquakes. A large earthquake about 5-6 years ago broke caps and liners of drilling oils that needed to be repaired.
 - j. Jeff added that as a land management agency, the Refuge advises ADEC and EPA on items such as the cleaning standards. The Navy has a strong interest to be done with the Amchitka Island project. For them to be done ADEC and EPA must sign off the Navy has met the agreed upon objectives for the clean up project. Jeff added that if any members of the public have concerns then they are welcome to reach out to him by email at jeff_williams@fws.gov or by phone at 907-299-5820.
 - k. Jeff thanked the RAB for their time and for inviting him to present.
5. USACE Civil Works (Jathan Garrett)
- a. Due to connectivity issues this agenda item was moved to follow the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge update.
 - b. Jathan screen shared slides with the meeting attendees to share information on the Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) Navigation Channel. The purpose of the Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) Navigation Channel project is to increase navigational safety and improve efficiencies into Dutch Harbor via Iliiuk Bay. There is a shallow bar (approx. -42 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)) with the surrounding bay depth of (approx. -100 MLLW). MLLW Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) is the average of the lower low water height of each tidal day. This bar is a barrier that creates insufficient draft to accommodate larger and deeper drafting vessels. It also creates precautionary safety measures that include:
 - i. light loading
 - ii. waiting for wave conditions to improve
 - iii. waiting for adequate tide stages

- iv. foregoing full fuel capacity
- v. discharging ballast water to reduce draft

The proposed objective is to improve access to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor by reducing draft limitations for deeper drafting vessels, reducing vessel delays at the bar, and increasing regional economic activities. During this project the bar will be dredged to a depth of -58 feet MLLW. The dredging will create 182,000 cubic yards of material (i.e., glacial moraine, boulders, cobblers, etc.)

The project first cost is about \$30.5 million. The cost will be updated in the next 2 months as the project moves forward with design. The cost will be shared with the city; \$22.8 million will be federal dollars and \$7.6 million will be nonfederal dollars.

- c. The current project status is that they are preparing plans and specifications. Also, the 65% design was submitted on November 8, 2022. It's anticipated that construction funds will be made available as early as this year (2022). If the funds are not made available, then the project will hold at 94% design until funds are made available.
 - d. Jathan added that after assessments were run in March 2022 it was determined that there is a low probability for encountering Munitions and Explosives of Concern. Also, the geotechnical work was wrapped up and a report is anticipated to be available at the end of November. As a precautionary measure the drill rigs were sent out with cameras attached to the bottom of the drill rigs and nothing was found.
 - e. USACE is also in the process of working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to finalize the blasting plan as part of their Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act coordination.
 - f. He is working with Kendall Campbell, USACE, on tribal letters that will be sent out. Jathan noted that he will be in Unalaska on December 8 and 9, 2022 and would like to meet with anyone who has questions or comments on this project. He will reach out to the RAB before he arrives to set up meeting times if they are desired.
 - g. Chris Price asked what the project is trying to achieve in terms of the depths of the dredging. Jathan responded that the depth they want to achieve is -58 feet MLLW.
 - h. Rena asked what happens with the dredged material, where does it get deposited. Jathan replied that the dredged material is disposed adjacent, just west, of the dredging prism. Studies were done to get the needed approval to dump it next to the site. The close proximity of the approved dumping location will save ample time and money.
6. Amaknak FUDS
- a. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Plans – upcoming deliverables/documents for review, meetings, fieldwork, challenges, contracts

Rena noted that the first 4 items on the list were the ones the project worked on the most in the last year. In FY 2023, which started in October 2022, items 5-8 will be focused on, and the last 3 projects on the list will begin in approximately FY 2025 although planning work will begin sooner than FY 2025.

 - i. RAB Community Relations
 - 1. Rena noted that a new facilitation contract will be awarded this year so moving forward HDR will not be involved with meeting facilitation/planning. With the new contract Rena would like to make it very local and to include outreach that hasn't been done before. She

asked that attendees let her know if they have any ideas to impellent moving forward to reach more people in the community.

ii. Pre-WWII Tank Farm LTM

1. Rena let the meeting attendees know that this project is in the long-term management phase. The USACE continues work on finalizing the periodic review form 2019. RAB comments were received the document and it will be finalized this FY.
2. USACE will work with Ounalashka Corporation on environmental conevance for the site. There is remaining contamination beneath building 511 and that information will need to be added to the record. A sampling contract was awarded to Ahtna Environmental. A work pan for their upcoming wok will be ready in February 2023 for stakeholder/landowner/regulator review. Also, in May of 2023 groundwater sampling and field work will take place with a summary report made available in September 2023.

iii. Range Complex No. 1 MMRP RI/FS

1. Rena reminded attendees that the safety training was recently held. The safety video is being finalized now and Rena will make it available to the community. A historical photo analysis is also being worked on and will be available in January 2023. The purpose of the analysis is to gather information on where the miliary used or stored munitions to get a better picture of the project area outlined in red on the slide #1 (Attachment A) so higher risk areas are identified.
2. During 2023 USACE will be working on the Systematic Planning Process. Rena will also work closely with the RAB to compile community input on where people have found explosive hazards. Also, in 2023 the Project Inventory Report will be worked on. This report defines the project area. USACE wants to collaborate with agency and project partners (i.e., Navy) to avoid overlapping efforts. In 2023 the risk report will be revalued and when the revised risk score is determined it will be sent out for public comment. Finally, the remedial investigation contract is planned for June 2024.
3. Chris asked if additional details are known of where the Navy is working and what they are doing. Rena replied that she doesn't not know specifically where they are working but they are completing bathymetric work on underwater cables in the Bering Sea. She is working to collaborate with them to limit USACE's in-water investigation.

iv. Unalaska Valley

1. Rena let attendees know that there are still a few remaining right of entries (ROE) to wrap up during this project's planning process. Once the ROE are complete then two more contracts will be able to be awarded. In June 2022 an environment contract was awarded to Ounalashka Corporation to do some sampling and removal action on

some underground tank storage sites in the valley. Ounalashka Corporation will deliver a workplan for stakeholder/landowner/regulator review in December 2022. Fieldwork is scheduled to take place from May – July 2023 with a summary report available in January 2024.

2. Denise asked how the two remaining ROE will be awarded and if that will result in an amendment to the current cleaning contract or will it need to be put out again. Rena responded that it will be an amendment to the current contract. OCE already bid on the sites, so USACE has prices negotiated. It couldn't be awarded since USACE currently doesn't have ROE.

A 5-minute break was taken from 7:04pm - 7:09pm

v. Summer Bay – Humpy Cove

vi. Little South America

1. Rena noted the Summer Bay-Humpy Cove and Little South America are the second and third ranked projects for the RAB to focus on as Unalaska Valley was the top ranked project. The same process used for Unalaska Valley will be used for Summer Bay-Humpy Cove and Little South America. Removal actions and sampling will begin with ROE, coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and an Environmental Assessment. USACE anticipates being able to initiate a contract in June 2023. The contract could be for both areas combined or separate.

vii. Pyramid Valley-Port Levashef

viii. Museum of the Aleutians

1. The same process used for Unalaska Valley will be used for Pyramid Valley-Port Levashef and Museum of the Aleutians projects. Removal actions and sampling will begin with ROE, coordination with SHPO, and an Environmental Assessment. USACE anticipates being able to initiate a contract in June 2024. USACE will coordinate with other organizations (i.e., the City of Unalaska) to make sure resources are used wisely and work is not being duplicated.

ix. Margaret Bay-Airport, Mount Ballyhoo

1. Rena noted that the Margaret Bay-Airport, Mount Ballyhoo, and Ballyhoo Spit projects are all scheduled for FY 2025. If attendees feel that one of these projects should be moved up, then please let Rena know. It will be fairly easy to move one to an earlier FY.
2. Margaret Bay-Airport, Mount Ballyhoo project will follow the same process used for Unalaska Valley. Currently USACE is working on a summary report to categorize the contaminated sites in these two areas. After the summary report is complete USACE will work on ROE, coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and an

Environmental Assessment. USACE anticipates being able to initiate a contract in June 2025.

x. Ballyhoo Spit

1. Rena commented that this project is in the remedial investigation phase of the cleanup process. USACE needs to summarize what was done in the past and what has been worked on by others. Once the summary is complete USACE will work on ROE, coordination with SHPO, and an Environmental Assessment. USACE anticipates being able to initiate a contract in June 2025.
2. Chris asked if the project timelines be sped up if funding wasn't an issue. For example, work could be completed simultaneously. Rena responded that USACE needs to allocate resources as well as funding. Even if the money was there then we mostly likely wouldn't have the staff to work on multiple projects at the same time. Rena added that she does see where efficiencies could be made by coordinating SHPO coordination work on multiple projects at the same time. Forrest Kranda agreed that it would be nice to have the SHPO work completed at once.
3. In response to a question from Cas, Rena commented that the Captain's Dock Chemical Agent Disposal is not on her list of projects although it is called out on the map shown.

7. Committee Reports

a. Meeting Promotion (Alyssa McDonald, Jay King)

i. KUCB Coordination

1. Jay commented they made a point to post about the RAB meeting in key locations around town and they will continue to do this moving forward. Rena noted that the next meeting held in the January -March timeframe she will need to lean heavily on the RAB to implement meeting outreach since she will not have meeting facilitation assistance in place yet.

ii. Compiling community information for UXO Database

1. Rena commented that she spoke on this database topic earlier in the meeting. Jay noted that he is looking into other historical records to gather information for the database as well. Rena added that USACE as connected with DOD contacts to get additional reports. Melissa Scully is working with the Army Geospatial Center to get them plotted on a map.

iii. Chernofski FUDS Field Update at next meeting (Alyssa)

1. Since Alyssa was unable to attend the meeting Rena passed along that Alyssa will give the Chernofski Field Update during the next RAB meeting.
2. Rena will have Andy Sorum, the USACE project manager for the Chernofski project, follow up with Jim Paulin on his questions.

b. Sustaining RAB Membership (Patty Gregory)

i. No update

- c. Morale, Welfare, and Fun (Elise Contreras, Jim Paulin, Kale Bruner, Denise Rankin, Patty Gregory)
 - i. RAB Newsletter
 - ii. Movie Event
 - 1. Rena hopes to include these ideas in the next awarded public outreach contract.
 - d. Records Management (Denise Rankin, Kale Bruner, David Gregory)
 - i. Website
 - 1. Rena noted that the minutes from previous meetings are on the website and moving forward USACE will try to keep the Amaknak RAB website continually updated.
8. Review Next Meeting Dates, Identify Next Steps
- a. Next RAB Meeting: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual), February/March (Wednesday)
 - i. February 15th, 22nd, or March 1st
 - ii. Keep in mind Washington's Birthday February 20, Spring Break March
 - 1. Rena noted that the next meeting will be a hybrid meeting.
 - 2. On a motion by Jay King and a second by Jim Paulin, the next RAB Meeting to be held on February 22, 2023 was approved, without objection.
 - b. Next Step/Action Item Review
 - i. Alice noted that the noted action items are:
 - 1. Make the meeting slides available on the project website to be accessible to Unalaska Community members.
 - 2. Pass along any U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge question to Jeff Williams by email at jeff_williams@fws.gov or by phone at 907-299-5820.
 - 3. RAB and community members to pass along outreach ideas to Rena to have more people know what the RAB is and how they can be involved.
 - 4. Rena will make the Safety video available to the Unalaska community via website, CDs, etc.
 - 5. Alyssa and Andy will provide a Chernofski Field Update during the next RAB meeting.
 - 6. RAB members to coordinate outreach methods for the February 22, 2022 RAB meeting.
 - 7. Jathan to follow up with the RAB on the Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) Navigation Channel questions/comments.
 - 8. Jay to work with Rena on coordinating the development of a FUDS handout (trifold or brochure) to place around the community to increase awareness of the RAB.
 - 9. Rena to connect with Ben Leon-Guerrero and Michael Tutiakoff after the meeting on a possible expansion of the RAB and becoming RAB members. She will also send them the RAB membership packet.
9. Other Announcements/Unplanned Items/Open Discussion
- a. Recap of Old Business / New Business
 - i. Rena summarized a question/comment for Jathan. The RAB would like to know that since the dredged material will already be put on a barge to be moved, could it be used for another project or for another purpose instead

of being dumped near the project site. Why does it need to be dumped adjacent to the sump site and once its dumped does it roll back into the area it was removed from?

- ii. AB commented that to increase RAB awareness in the community RAB members should do a 5–10 minute FUDS summary/story on Channel 8 as well as increase the number of meeting advertisements run on Channel 8. She added that a handout (trifold or brochure) to place around the community to increase awareness. Jay will work with Rena on coordinating this effort.
- iii. Rena commented that the meeting locations could be rotated to increase attendance. Thomas added that the library could be an option when the renovation is complete during the summer of 2023.
- iv. Michael Tutiakoff agreed with AB and didn't know much about the RAB before the meetings. He added that the RAB could reach out to the school to increase RAB awareness in the community.
- v. Thomas commented that since the next meeting will be in February a presentation could be given at the school to let the kids know about the FUDS program.
- vi. Ben Leon-Guerrero asked if expanding the board would help at all. He listens to what happening the region and understands there are many topics that the RAB needs to be made aware of. Due to audio issues Rena will connect with Ben after the meeting.

10. Closing Remarks, Contact Information and Closing Remarks, Adjourn

- a. Rena Flint, USACE Project Manager
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 - ii. Rena.B.Flint@usace.army.mil
- b. USACE- ALASKA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
 - i. (907) 753-2520
 - ii. Public.affairs3@usace.army.mil

On a motion by Jay King and a second by Jim Paulin, the November 9, 2022 RAB Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm, without objection.