

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Restoration Advisory Board**  
**Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area**  
**June 10, 2004**  
**Guilderland Public Library**  
**Guilderland, New York**

**Restoration Advisory Board Members and Project Staff Attendees:**

Ted Ausfeld, Alternate Acting Community Co-Chairman  
Heather Bishop, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Joan Burns  
Joan Kappel  
Dan Geraghty, New York State Department of Health  
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-Chair  
George Moreau, Parsons  
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chair  
Stephen Tomasik  
Deb Volkmer, Weston

**Other Attendees**

Nicole Barr, Altamont *Enterprise* newspaper  
Angelo Bracco  
Phyllis Della Camera, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Scott Dillman, Parsons  
Drew Graham, Shaw Environmental  
Ron Groves, Albany County Health Department  
Suresh R. Kikkeri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
1 attendee who did not sign in

**Introductions**

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge G. Goepfert welcomed everyone to the meeting and Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert also welcomed Stephen Tomasik as a new RAB member. G. Goepfert distributed to meeting attendees a handout that included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) meeting overview, Data Gap Work Plan summary, and work planned for fiscal year 2005. (Attachment 1 provides a condensed version of G. Goepfert's seven-page handout.)

C. Rielly asked if there were any representatives from the Town of Guilderland and the Northeastern Industrial Park. There were no persons in attendance representing those two entities. C. Reilly said it is a shame that no one from the town or industrial park is attending these important RAB meetings.

G. Goepfert said the Northeastern Industrial Park advised him on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, that only representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state agencies could participate in the tour the morning of Thursday, June 10, 2004. G. Goepfert said he had no control over that decision and he tried to inform C. Rielly of the exclusion of citizen RAB members from the tour; however, he was not able to talk to Mr. Rielly until earlier Thursday morning. G. Goepfert said all RAB members were welcome to participate in the tour of Mrs. Burns' property (Area of Concern #3) on Friday, June 11, 2004, at 8:30 a.m.

T. Ausfeld asked if the Corps does drilling and testing and found nothing and then someone else finds something, would the Corps clean it up.

G. Goepfert responded if the material was hazardous and can be linked to Department of Defense use, the Department would take care of the remediation.

C. Rielly clarified that the material needed to be hazardous to health.

G. Goepfert responded yes.

C. Rielly asked would the Army be responsible if the material is not hazardous but just dumped and abandoned.

G. Goepfert replied that if the material was not hazardous the Army would not remediate under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program.

T. Ausfeld asked would the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) clean it up.

H. Bishop responded DEC would look at the material but would probably not clean it up.

T. Ausfeld asked then who do we call. There is a possibility of something is in the sites.

C. Rielly added there could be a buried tank this is not hazardous but the Army would not remediate.

G. Goepfert provided of an example that he received a call from D. Geraghty who responded to a hazard. G. Goepfert was at the site within 24 hours. It was established that the Department of Defense used the property and the material was hazardous, and the Corps cleaned up the contamination and restored the property. G. Goepfert said citizens can call him for this program.

## **Address Data Gap Work Plan Comments from RAB and Others**

### ***Area of Concern #1 U.S. Army Southern Landfill***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the Area of Concern (AOC) #1, Southern Landfill, site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. It was noted that sampling of AOC #1 sediments, groundwater, and pond water are included in the Data Gap Work Plan.

T. Ausfeld asked why sample the bottom of the pond.

G. Moreau responded so the Corps knows the vertical extent of any contamination, and to help assess how deep a removal will go, if required.

C. Rielly asked if the Corps finds contamination at 12 inches then additional sampling will go deeper.

G. Moreau said the Corps will need to determine how deep to go based on the impact to the environment and public health and if any one uses the pond.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will also look at the pond's aquatic life.

G. Moreau said the Corps needs more data on soil and sediment.

C. Rielly asked if the Corps finds something, will they leave it.

G. Moreau said he did not know and that the Corps would need to know how deep it is.

D. Geraghty said DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources have very stringent criteria.

G. Goepfert said judgment for a cleanup is not based only on the samples collected.

T. Ausfeld said none of that water has an outlet.

G. Moreau said there is an outlet that connects with the wetlands and then to Black Creek.

C. Rielly said that he and T. Ausfeld feel if something is there, it needs to be removed.

G. Moreau said pertaining to the pond's aquatic life the Corps will assess the samples collected from sediment and the quality of macro-invertebrate life in the samples; a biologist will perform a visual assessment; and there will be no sampling of fish at this stage of the program.

***Area of Concern #2 Former Bivouac Area, now Mrs. Burns' property***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #2 Mrs. Burns' property site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. It was noted that sampling of AOC #2 groundwater, soil, surface water, and sediment are included in the Data Gap Work Plan.

G. Moreau said during the remedial investigation the Corps put in test borings and discovered pill bottles. He added that the pill bottles themselves are not hazardous; however, the Corps will collect samples to determine if the contents of the bottles are hazardous.

T. Ausfeld stated that some materials were found at the wastewater treatment plant site (AOC #6), and were disposed of.

G. Moreau asked if it went to a hazardous landfill or a solid waste landfill.

T. Ausfeld responded it was an approved landfill.

G. Moreau said all landfills are approved.

T. Ausfeld said it should be taken away regardless of whether it is hazardous or not.

T. Ausfeld asked J. Burns what she would like to have done on her property.

J. Burns responded that there is broken glass and that kids play in that area.

G. Goepfert said it is in writing that Mrs. Burns has officially requested the property be cleaned up.

T. Ausfeld said any waste needs to be removed and disposed of – hazardous or not.

C. Rielly asked if there were any examples of the Corps removing nonhazardous materials.

G. Goepfert responded the material needs to be hazardous for a removal.

T. Ausfeld said we need to write some letters to address this matter.

G. Goepfert said the Data Gap Work Plan indicates sample areas that will build a good case one way or another.

J. Kappel asked if a backhoe and a few dump truckloads could handle the anticipated volume of material.

T. Ausfeld said it could be a very, very large amount of material.

J. Burns said she did not know what is there.

J. Kappel asked if waste was going to the wetlands.

G. Moreau said Mrs. Burns' property is upstream from Black Creek.

J. Kappel asked if any of the surface water flows north.

G. Moreau said not that he was aware of.

C. Rielly asked if iodine and salt pills are non-hazardous.

G. Goepfert responded correct.

C. Rielly asked if a substance became released from a bottle it would become hazardous. He added that Mrs. Burns' property also had some barrels removed. He asked if the Corps would use ground penetrating radar for other drum locating.

G. Moreau said that the Corps had a contractor do geophysical studies in the early and mid 1990s to look for evidence of buried materials. Those results were used to design the initial remedial investigation at AOC #2.

J. Burns asked about the hilly area where it was oily and nothing grew on it.

G. Moreau and T. Ausfeld said that was the bivouac area. T. Ausfeld asked what the Army did there.

G. Moreau said it was the post commander's landfill.

J. Burns said it was also used by the National Guard.

G. Moreau said that in the 1990s the Corps looked for buried materials and collected samples. He added that the soil was basically clean and the groundwater samples were very silty. He said the Corps will install permanent monitoring wells and collect more groundwater samples.

T. Ausfeld asked if metals were in the residential well.

G. Moreau said both Mrs. Burns' and Mr. Rivers' wells were tested and found to be relatively clean.

G. Moreau said the Corps tested the little pond and it was below criteria. He added that he worked with J. Burns to identify drum locations. He said there were metals in sediment and semi volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and metals in surface water.

#### ***Area of Concern #4 Construction and Demolition Landfill***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #4 C & D Landfill site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. G. Goepfert noted that the building at this location was a Signal Corps building.

G. Moreau said the government sold the property in 1969, and only sporadic aerial photos exist. He said the area was used as a landfill in the 1970s and that it has not been sampled. He understands that certain RAB members have reported that items from warehouses were dumped there and that the area needs a waste disposal characterization.

T. Ausfeld asked where the five 55-gallon drums that contained radioactive material are. He added that the Army had put a fence around them. He referenced a report prepared by CDM in 1984 that provides information about the industrial park and nuclear waste being stored at the facility.

G. Moreau explained that the material was low-level radioactive ore that was stored at the DLA/DNSC Voorheesville Depot under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission license. That material was removed many years ago.

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #5 Voorheesville Depot site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. G. Moreau said the radioactive

commodity is now being stored in the Scotia Depot. He added that columbium was found there and was being addressed under a different program.

C. Rielly said the landfill [at AOC #4] appeared just after the Army sold the area to the Northeastern Industrial Park. He asked if the Army could have created the landfill to get rid of stuff while selling the property to the Northeastern Industrial Park. He added that the Northeastern Industrial Park added more waste to the Army's landfill.

G. Goepfert said there appears to be a septic tank structure in this area and the Corps will collect soil and water samples around the structure. He added that the Corps will install a groundwater monitoring well that will address AOC #7.

C. Rielly said that is not on the piles.

G. Moreau said the Corps is focusing on what it knows to be their responsibility.

C. Rielly asked what happens if the Corps finds hazardous wastes that were not generated by the Department of Defense.

D. Geraghty said that is when the New York State Department of Health will come in to address the contamination. He added the department does not care who is responsible for the contamination, if it presents a public health threat, it will be addressed.

C. Rielly said he would like to see a core sample from top to bottom of the landfill to see what is there.

#### ***Area of Concern #7 Triangular Disposal Area***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #7 site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. G. Moreau said the Corps will install three groundwater monitoring wells and sample soil in the boring down to the water table.

T. Ausfeld asked if there were any PCBs in AOC #7.

G. Moreau responded the contamination is only semi volatile organic compounds and metals.

#### ***Area of Concern #8 Black Creek***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #8 site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. G. Moreau said the Corps will collect additional surface water samples up and downstream of the drainage ditch and the samples will be analyzed for semi volatile organic compounds and metals. He added that ten sediment samples locations have been planned and the Corps has already identified semi volatile organic compounds and metals. G. Moreau said samples will be collected 12 to 16 inches deep. He said it would be tough to make a correlation that contamination in Black Creek was solely from Department of Defense use. He said the Corps will collect deeper sediment samples and assess contributions and impacts from the Voorheesville Depot and the ditches.

T. Ausfeld asked if the Northeastern Industrial Park owns the stream.

H. Bishop replied that it is a Class C stream and that no one owns it.

T. Ausfeld said there is a fence across the creek.

C. Reilly asked if the Corps plans to sample the delta.

G. Goepfert replied not at this time.

C. Reilly said other contributors need to be found and brought forward.

T. Ausfeld held up a diagram of the Town of Guilderland and discussed his concern of drainage going into Black Creek. He said he would like to bring the video of a flyover to demonstrate his concern.

D. Geraghty said the Corps is correct in addressing the AOCs by starting with what it knows and building out from there. He acknowledged Mr. Ausfeld's concerns for the public water supply, but reemphasized that the water coming out of the tap is clean.

T. Ausfeld and C. Rielly said they were concerned about contamination from the site going into Black Creek and then the reservoir.

C. Rielly and T. Ausfeld agreed that if the Army and the industrial park contributed to the contamination and if the Corps will not test it then someone should.

D. Geraghty said it would be difficult to distinguish contamination from the Department of Defense from other contributors.

T. Ausfeld said every drainage system leads to Black Creek and a railroad car could turn over and spill hazardous substances.

D. Geraghty said the state is prepared for those emergencies.

J. Kappel said at the first RAB meeting there was a fund, a TAPP (Technical Assistance for Public Participation) grant, for the RAB to test the delta. She added that the residents have a greater interest in the area than the state because the residents live there.

G. Goepfert said TAPP is for groups who do not trust consultants' technical work and that he will look into the TAPP program for the RAB.

J. Kappel asked G. Goepfert if his hands were tied.

G. Goepfert responded yes, but if the results of this current sampling round shows that the sampling should go further, then the Corps may be able to test further downstream. When the remedial investigation is finished there will be more opportunities to compete for funds for the cleanup. He added if sampling shows contamination is moving downstream, and then the Corps will collect more samples.

J. Kappel asked if there was a way to show on a diagram where the contamination is located along Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said the Corps could show compounds and various levels of concentrations.

A. Bracco asked what the highest contamination for lead.

G. Goepfert responded 95 parts per million (ppm) was found at the furthest downstream sample, SD-25.

D. Geraghty said the standards are 400 ppm.

G. Moreau said there was 182 ppm in sample SD-15 and 180 ppm in sample SD-29.

T. Ausfeld asked if copper was that high?

G. Geraghty said there was no focus on copper because it was not that hazardous.

T. Ausfeld asked about other locations and G. Moreau provided the information.

G. Moreau said if the town wants to buy that area (AOC #5) he suggested the town begin a dialogue with the federal General Services Administration.

T. Ausfeld said it was discussed at town meetings but they need to talk to the people who live around that area.

D. Geraghty said there have been some runoff problems in the area.

T. Ausfeld said that issue is being addressed.

### ***Area of Concern #9 Building 60 Area***

G. Moreau and G. Goepfert presented a large drawing of the AOC #9 site diagram and pointed out various areas of interest. G. Moreau said there was concern with one groundwater monitoring well and the Corps would redevelop the well, purge it, and resample the groundwater. He added they would collect filtered and unfiltered samples.

A question was asked where the arsenic comes from.

G. Moreau indicated there was no known source, but arsenic has been found at other sites, such as at the Scotia Depot, an unrelated site.

D. Geraghty said there were some agricultural uses of arsenic too.

A. Bracco asked if the water in the problem well at AOC #9 was anaerobic or aerobic. He also asked how many wells will be purged.

G. Moreau replied eight wells and analysis would focus on semi-volatile organic compounds.

J. Kappel asked G. Goepfert if he was familiar with a 1980s report regarding removal of drums at an inactive hazardous waste disposal site.



G. Goepfert said he was familiar with a report that drums were removed from AOC #1 and AOC #2 by the Corps.

### **Discussion of Future Work Effort**

G. Goepfert reviewed the field work schedule as presented in the handout (see Attachment 1, page 6, *Data Gap Work Plan Analysis Report*). He said the Corps' goal is once the Corps start sampling, the Corps will have the samples analyzed. He said he expects the analysis results will be validated by the end of September 2004 and presented at a RAB meeting in mid-October. He added that the Corps will present the information honestly and openly as soon as the sample analysis is validated.

T. Ausfeld asked if there will be a report.

G. Goepfert said the information will be an add-on to the current remedial investigation report.

G. Goepfert returned to the handout and discussed work planned for the fiscal year 2005 (see Attachment 1, page 7, *FY-05 Work Planned*). He said if the Corps finds contamination in AOC #2 it will be placed in the process to address in FY 05. He added that the current program is an ambitious amount of work.

C. Rielly asked if the Corps will sample below the dam one-half mile out.

G. Goepfert replied no, the Corps will not collect samples in that area at this time.

C. Rielly asked what the Corps would do if the samples showed contamination.

G. Goepfert said future actions will be based on the sampling results.

C. Rielly said it is a waste of money to sample below the dam and not sample the delta.

G. Goepfert said his hands are tied and the Corps could not go to the delta. He added that the Corps can go only so far at this point in time. He said the Corps has a responsibility to the project and is not disappearing from this site.

D. Geraghty asked what was the concern regarding the delta.

C. Rielly responded if contamination in the delta can be linked to the Department of Defense, then the department will have to address it. He added that there is talk in the community to raise the dam and dredging the reservoir. He said that there is concern about people drinking contaminated water.

T. Ausfeld said there is an issue about what is in the sediment. He added that during the operations at the depot the Army should have informed the Town of Guilderland of what was being used at the facility. He said that the town did not receive any such information and the townspeople were learning on their own.

D. Geraghty said the Corps was being responsive to the RAB's concerns by sampling Black Creek in areas that have already been sampled.

C. Rielly, T. Ausfeld, and J. Burns voiced their disappointment about the investigation and that it was going on for a long time.

G. Goepfert said he understood their frustration and that the Corps' New York District FUDS Program is only funded \$3 million to \$4 million each year. He added that it may take more than 100 years to complete clean up at New York District FUDS properties, at the current funding levels. He said the Corps is nearing the end of the investigation at FSADVA and then can move on to cleanup. We have generated momentum at FSADVA which leads to consideration of continued funding.

C. Rielly said this is a crisis-motivated society.

T. Ausfeld said (society) always addresses after the fact and nothing is pro-active.

D. Geraghty said G. Goepfert is doing an excellent job obtaining funding for the project.

G. Goepfert said he has good support from the Corps' Baltimore District, Parsons, and Drew Graham of Shaw Environmental. He said the Corps has assembled a good team. He also added he specifically noted the thoughtful comments from the RAB on the Data Gap Work Plan in the recent press release.

D. Geraghty said he has a new telephone number: (518) 408-5423.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

## Attachment 1

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Meeting Overview, Data Gap Work Plan Summary, and Work Planned for Fiscal Year 2005

Page 1	<p><b>Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area</b></p> <p>Restoration Advisory Board Meeting June 10, 2004 Guilderland, New York</p>
Page 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions / New Members</li> <li>• Address Data Gap Work Plan Comments from RAB and Others</li> <li>• Discussion of Future Work Effort</li> <li>• Adjournment</li> </ul>
Page 3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Data Gap Work Plan Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of Concern (AOC) #1: sediments, groundwater at water table; qualitative assessment of pond</li> <li>• AOC #2: groundwater, soil, surface water, sediment</li> <li>• AOC #4: soils</li> <li>• AOC #7: groundwater, soils</li> <li>• AOC #8: sediment, surface water</li> <li>• AOC #9: groundwater</li> </ul>
Page 4	<p><b>Data Gap Work Plan</b></p> <p>Discussion</p>
Page 5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Data Gap Work Plan Field Work Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week of June 14: Install monitoring wells at AOC #2, then to AOC #s 7 &amp; 9; soil sampling at AOC #2 and 7; qualitative assessment of AOC #1 pond</li> <li>• Week of June 21: Surface water / sediment sampling at AOC #s 1, 2 and 8; AOC #4 visual I.D. /soil sampling</li> <li>• Week of July 12 and following: complete groundwater and remaining surface water/sediment sampling</li> </ul>
Page 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Data Gap Work Plan Analysis Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All samples will be expeditiously forwarded to analytical laboratories</li> <li>• Expect results to be received and validated by end of September 2004</li> <li>• RAB meeting on or about mid-October 2004 to discuss results with RAB/Public</li> </ul>
Page 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FY-05 Work Planned*</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete AOC #2 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan</li> <li>• Complete Remedial Investigation, Final Report</li> <li>• Draft Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan for AOC #1</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">*Subject to availability of funds</p>