

**Waikane Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)  
Waiahole Elementary School  
March 6, 2013  
Meeting Minutes**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

Community Members

David Henkin, Community Co-Chair

Contact Information: Phone: 599-2436 ext 6614, E-mail: [davidlhenkin@yahoo.com](mailto:davidlhenkin@yahoo.com)

Byron Ho, RAB Member

Kyle Kajihira, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), RAB Member

Cynthia Hopkins, RAB Member

Gail Nakamoto as proxy for RAB member Hannah Salas

Lucy Salas, RAB Member

Paul Zweng, Waikane land owner

Don Cooke

Regulatory Agency Representatives

Steven Mow, Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH), RAB Member

Paul Chong, HDOH

Michael Fry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Robert Harter, City and County of Honolulu

MCB Hawaii and Navy Representatives

Captain Derek George, U.S. Marine Corps, MCB Hawaii Co-Chair

Randall Hu, Sr. Environmental Engineer, MCB Hawaii

Richard Hosokawa, NAVFAC Pacific

Other Attendees

Matt Tucker, USA Environmental

Bob Nore, USA Environmental

Kirk Markle, Environmental Science International (ESI), Inc.

Rachel Ross, ESI, Inc.

Agnes Fry

David Griffin

Shawn MacWilliam

**Welcome and Introductions**

7:20 pm: Captain George welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He called this meeting a milestone because the Decision Document has been completed and signed. Captain George said that this group has really moved in the right direction during the three years he has been here.

**Meeting Action Items**

David Henkin welcomed all and said that there was a competing meeting tonight, but hopefully more RAB members would arrive later. He said that there was not a quorum yet, so no action to approve the minutes from the prior meeting could be taken, but if anyone had comments on the

minutes, to please let him know. David Henkin said that the minutes included all the edits that he made. He said that he just noticed that on the first page the minutes listed Byron Ho twice. David Henkin then asked that Captain George explain the importance of the signing of the Decision Document.

Captain George told the group that the Decision Document was signed prior to the recent sequester decisions, so remedial action is not likely to be affected by the sequester. He wanted to make sure that everyone was informed that he is confident that the project will continue to move forward. Captain George said that the project is a priority. Having the Decision Document signed helps to keep there from being any delays. Remedial design plans will go on as scheduled.

Captain George then introduced Richard Hosokawa of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific. Richard Hosokawa said that because Lance Higa could not be here tonight, he would give the group a status update. He said that tonight we would talk about the remedial design, and then he introduced Matt Tucker and Bob Nore of USA Environmental.

### **Waikane Valley Remedial Design Phase Update**

7:28 pm: Matt Tucker of USA Environmental presented about the current stage of the project, known as the Remedial Design Phase (see power point presentation for slide by slide). The history of the RAB, site visits, investigations, and the selected remedy and remedial design (including maps) were presented.

Steven Mow asked if cattle-fencing shown in the presentation was in accordance with Department of Defense regulations or standards. Matt Tucker said chain-link fencing would be the primary option, and is in general, the first choice, however, cattle-fencing would be used in areas where chain-link fencing is not feasible.

During the presentation, Matt Tucker requested that everyone look at the large handouts that were provided to the RAB, which included five pages of maps from the power point presentation printed on 11 by 17-inch paper). He explained that the vegetation is thick where much of the fence around the Kamaka Shrine is planned, hiding the fence from sight. Matt Tucker explained that along the Waikane Spring Corridor, there are steep slopes and heavy vegetation, and the fence will be much higher than ground level at the stream bed, and they proposed that cattle-fencing be used along the steep area east of the Waikane Spring Corridor.

Matt Tucker said that if any munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) item were found during surface clearing of the southern area, a sub-surface clearing would be done in a 50 foot radius around the discovered MEC. He then presented the map showing the fencing and signs to be used for land use control. He explained that the fences go up onto the steepest terrain possible, and then beyond where the terrain is too steep for fencing, an additional three fence posts with signs will be placed to warn people not to enter the area. Matt Tucker said that the existing fencing will remain and be kept up during the remedial action to ensure public safety, and that signs will be placed roughly 200 feet apart along the fencing, much like existing signs/fencing.

Steven Mow asked who was going to put the signs up at the top, and Matt Tucker said that people would access the upper ridge via the ridge trail to install signs.

Don Cooke said that they should not use a helicopter to install the signs, and that they should hike, because it's really time to cut back. He said that the public expects the government to be

cutting back, and he doesn't want to see wasteful helicopter use. He said that this should have been done 60 years ago, in his parents' generation, and that the project needs to move along, move forward.

Steven Mow requested further clarification, and asked if someone was going to carry the signs up to the top. Richard Hosokawa said that Jeff Fong hikes up there often and that there are safe trails to carry them up. He said that they were told that there are ridge trails along there.

Steven Mow said that no MEC has been reported on the ridge trail. Don Cooke said that there should be signs on that trail. Richard Hosokawa said that signs will be visible from the trail, and that there will be public education aimed at hiking clubs about the site.

Michael Fry said that the hiking trail is along the top, and that's a kilometer from the site, and asked if two signs would be sufficient to warn hikers about the MEC.

Paul Zweng said that it's not the Schofield Trail, and explained how to reach Kahana Valley, then turn to the west to reach the Schofield Trail. He said the ridge trail is different and not used as frequently.

Cynthia Hopkins said if there's a trail, there are people going there. She said that she has seen videos of people hiking on the ridge, so it's not possible to say that nobody's going up there. She likes the idea of public awareness education, because two signs on either end of the area isn't enough, hikers could miss the first sign and be in the danger zone.

Paul Zweng said that the trail is used by pig hunters and are not popular trails, like the Waikane/Schofield Trails. He said that the ridge trails are not in the guide books.

Cynthia Hopkins said that extreme hikers and pig hunters will still be hiking there.

Bob Harter said that extreme hikers are unlikely to be stopped by a sign.

Randall Hu asked Matt Tucker to describe what he saw along the eastern fence that led to a shift of the boundary that was presented during the slide show.

Matt Tucker said that it wasn't a major deviation, but along the eastern boundary of the property, the terrain was found to be extremely steep, almost like a knife edge, where the fence line was previously mapped. He said the former fence line looked good on a map, but was greater than a 30 degree slope and inaccessible, so the fence line/surface clearing area was changed slightly. He stated that it doesn't affect a usable area, because the fence hugs the bottom of the very steep slope in that area.

Matt Tucker showed where the waypoints were on the map where small signs (roughly 12 by 18-inches) denoting the openings in the fence to the Kamaka Shrine and Waikane Spring Corridor will be placed so that people could find the sites easily. David Henkin said that people may be concerned with the signs, because it's not intended as a tourist destination, and while he appreciates the concern with people finding the sites, he thinks that with the fencing and steep mountain slopes, no one is going to miss where the openings are. He also thinks the Kamaka family will have a very strong negative reaction to signage marking the sites. He said that the people who should be there will know how to find the cultural sites.

Captain George said that Federal agencies have to identify cultural sites, but do not want to flag them as a tourist destination. He said that they will have to look at this again, and maybe we will have to use more discretion.

Richard Hosokawa asked if the community would like those signs removed.

David Henkin said he would like to defer to the Kamaka family for input on that.

Kyle Kajihiro thinks that the Kamaka family is hesitant to draw attention to cultural sites, and there are probably other things up there we don't even know about. Kyle said he will check with the family and find out what they think and report back.

David Henkin said that we should finish the presentation, and come back to this discussion later.

Matt Tucker reiterated that the public education/awareness plan will be established through NAVFAC and MCBH to ensure that anyone who frequents the area (hikers, hunters) will be as educated as possible about the dangers of the site.

Richard Hosokawa said that Army Corps is also doing public outreach for the rest of the area, and that the agencies will work together to keep people educated about areas that are unsafe.

8:10 pm: Matt Tucker finished his presentation.

Richard Hosokawa thanked the group for the input on the signage along the ridge trail, and said that helicopters would not be used to install signs. He asked Kyle Kajihiro to report back regarding the signage marking the cultural sites.

Richard Hosokawa said that with the help of RAB involvement we reached the Decision Document stage, which was a goal of the RAB, and we couldn't have gotten to this remedy without the RAB. He said that this is a significant milestone, and from here on out, the focus is the remedial action. He said that the Navy is in the process of awarding the contract for the remedial action, and they hope to have a contractor on board by the end of March. He said that future meetings will likely be more spread out. He said that the first order of business is to repair the existing fence, which is in bad shape. Richard Hosokawa said that the next RAB meeting will present the Final Remedial Design, and that field work is scheduled for spring 2014 and will last approximately 6 months. He said that it's likely the next RAB meeting will be prior to that and will explain the process, then after the remedial action is completed, there will be a post-field work RAB meeting. He said that after the remedial action, then the project will move into the long-term monitoring phase, which includes annual inspections and 5-year reviews. He said that the objective of the project is to obtain unrestricted land use.

Kyle Kajihiro asked if the MCBH health and safety division has been providing input on the remedial action plan all along, and what the feedback has been.

Richard Hosokawa said that feedback has been positive, and there have been constant reviews to keep them in the loop so that everything moves forward smoothly.

Kyle Kajihiro asked if there was anything that they had flagged.

Richard Hosokawa said that nothing has been flagged, and said that he has been in on all the decisions.

Captain George said that the main issue was with the accessible areas. He said that there was a lot of talk in the beginning about how people would be able to do anything in these areas, and that was a driving factor. He said that they were looking for a realistic, affordable, and feasible way to allow access to cultural sites. He said that those discussions happened early on in the process.

Kyle Kajihira said that he appreciates that the Navy and MCBH have been able to have an adaptive process. He said that the same group of people are currently dealing with the Army Corps on the other side, and they are still saying, "Your options are this, this, or this." He said that the people are asking for a more adaptive approach.

Richard Hosokawa said that it's a challenge to clear the target area to make it accessible, that they don't have the technology. He said that the southern area was not a target area, which is why it can be cleared to make it accessible, and that's something to consider.

Steven Mow asked if unrestricted use is obtained, will site access be pretty open, including to vehicles. He said that he is concerned that the dumping problem they currently have down south could move up.

Paul Zweng said that the Ohulehule Forest Conservancy is considering putting a gate at the southeast corner of the Marine property on Waikane Valley Road, at the first post, off of City and County property, and on Ohulehule Forest Conservancy property. He said that the purpose of the gate was so that the Marines, water people, and Ohulehule Forest Conservancy members have access.

Steven Mow said he didn't want to waste this good effort to clean the valley by having the place covered with trash.

Don Cooke said to add the Kamaka family and other people who gather in this area and have gathered in the area for generations to the list of people with access behind the gate. He said older ladies took him up there in the past, but he can't go there now, and that he has a right to go there.

Paul Zweng said that the gate will not keep people from walking through there, and that it's not taking access away, it's just preventing dumping.

Richard Hosokawa said that even after the cleanup is complete, the Navy and MCBH will be involved and they see that the dumping is a potential problem.

Don Cooke said that dumping is not just local kids; it's plenty of people with current base stickers who access that southern area.

David Henkin said that the group needed to keep the discussion focused on the remediation, rather than getting into issues of who is driving where.

Byron Ho said one of the issues in the valley is trespassing, so there is a neighborhood watch, and maybe soon they can talk about what can be done to resolve the dumping and trespassing issue. He said that the community is concerned about the dumping.

David Henkin asked if there were questions/concerns about the proposed clean up.

Byron asked if after everything is done, would the new fence be maintained like the current fence, and said that the current fence and signs have not worked.

Matt Tucker said that there will be annual reviews and inspections of controls to make sure that vegetation hasn't encroached on the fence, that no trees have fallen on the fence, and to ensure that maintenance occurs. He said that's part of the long-term monitoring portion of the remedial action plan.

Cynthia Hopkins said that the fence is deteriorating, and asked if that was because of humans cutting it, or if it was natural deterioration.

Matt Tucker said that some of the fence is gone, and the first thing they'll do is reestablish that, and that they have seen that it's been intentionally cut in places. He said that education will help with that. He said that part of the long-term monitoring will be to make sure the fence is maintained and the vegetation doesn't hurt the fence, and that the frequency of maintenance will be adjusted based on what is found during the monitoring.

Captain George said that it is a combination of things: the current conditions, access through the fence in multiple locations, and that MCBH could not keep up with repairing the fence every time it was cut down. He said it makes fiscal sense to do the cleanup and then have a conservation law enforcement officer do periodic checks. He said that that is only one person, and there's a manpower issue, but he thinks that continuous activity in the area will deter people from trying to get in.

Randall Hu said during the remedial action, the contractor will monitor the existing fence to ensure the area is secure. When the new fence is installed beyond the stream, there should be less cutting of the new fence due to the steep terrain and distance from the road.

Richard Hosokawa said that the road improvements and cutting back vegetation will help with maintaining the fence.

Paul Zweng said that there was clearing done that was not authorized by Ohulehule Forest Conservancy or MCBH. He said that Sam's Construction was hired to fix the road by Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, then unbeknownst to the conservancy, they cut down the trees, and they have no plan to repair the fence. He said that trees fell on the fence. He said that nobody contacted MCBH about the fence.

Captain George said that it's not worth continuing the conversation, and he'd like to hear comments on the presentation, the Decision Document, and the proposed remedial action plan.

David Henkin asked what the timeline on public comment on this document was.

Richard Hosokawa said that under CERCLA, the post-Decision Document phases do not have official commenting periods, but they would still take them into consideration.

David Henkin said that there was some deviation from the Decision Document that was presented to the RAB, like the change of the boundary. He said that the contours had been

constant throughout the process, since the Remedial Investigation phase, and the remedial action plan deviates from the Decision Document.

Richard Hosokawa said anything we encounter may also deviate from the plan, and during the remedial action, we may come across other slight deviations.

David Henkin asked if the area to be cleared is “to be determined.”

Matt Tucker said maintenance of the selected remedy and deviations are based on constructability of the actual barrier, and that it will only move slightly, if necessary. He said they’ve moved the fence in the corridors a little as well to move them out of sight so they are less visible. Some actual tweaks will occur, but the main tenants of the selected remedy will not change.

David Henkin said the objectives won’t change, but the outcome could be very different, it’s semantics. He then asked to talk about the Kamaka Shrine corridor. He said that there was a fair amount of investigation that went into this area. He pointed out the line (black) and said the line running across the bottom of the corridor used to be “southern area” and that the area is not very steep and asked why was the area on the Kahuku side of the stream is no longer considered part of the “southern area” and not getting unrestricted use.

Matt Tucker said that they looked real hard at that, but the ridge line has a finger that comes down and the stream comes along the wall, and the idea was to run the fence right along the finger that comes down. (Talking about the area just south/southeast of the Kamaka Shrine where it cuts in). Matt Tucker reiterated that it was greater than 30 degrees in slope, and not usable right there. He showed the ridgeline on the map using the pointer, and said that there are areas north of the stream that will be opened up, but that there is a feature there that prevents clearing right there, at the spot just south/southeast of the Kamaka Shrine Corridor.

David Henkin said that he disagreed with Matt Tucker.

Richard Hosokawa said that anything not red on the map is a steep area, and you can see the ridgeline on the map.

David Henkin said that if you look strictly within the southern area, only the light green is less than 30 degrees. He said that the darker green is the steeper area, and there are a lot of those in the southern area, and they’re being cleared. He said he will take people’s word for it that the eastern area is too steep, but he has been in this area Kahuku-side of the stream, and it’s accessible.

Matt Tucker said there is a natural barrier wall there that rises 10 feet and the fence will go on top of that.

David Henkin said that Matt Tucker was saying that this area is steeper than 30 degrees, but a lot of the area in the southern area is. He said that the Decision Document said that this area would be cleared, and during the site visit, no one said there would be a change. He said they had the choice to enlarge the southern area over the finger or make it smaller, and the Navy chose smaller, and he thinks that is a material change from the Decision Document and it shouldn’t be made unilaterally.

Bob Nore said that the southern clearance area is still 34 acres.

Richard Hosokawa said that it's a good point and they need to take a look at it.

Captain George asked if the area was defined as southern by target areas, or by steepness.

Bob Nore said it was defined by presence of MEC, and whether it's feasible to build a fence there or not was also considered.

David Henkin said that this is not an area where there is a natural physical barrier.

Matt Tucker said it's a fraction of an acre, and it's right next to a target area, and they know that MEC was found over there. He said if it's vertical, they can't find the MEC in the target area, and they may not see some of it. He said the area was on the borderline, and that they could go out there and survey and see if they could increase the acreage of the southern area. He said that they will do as much as they can, and they drew a line where they had to in order to maximize the southern area.

David Henkin said clearing that area would result in a shorter fence.

Matt Tucker said they're not sure that they could draw the line there and say confidently that it would be safe there after it was cleared because of its proximity to the target area. He said it's a blurry situation, and if they move the fence they need to do more surface and subsurface clearance.

David Henkin said that he feels the areas immediately adjacent to the stream are worth the extra effort. He said the only other area is along the access to the Waikane Stream, and he said that site is basically vertical. He said that area may not need a fence, because anyone who might climb that vertical area is also going to climb a seven foot fence. He said the fence is an educational deterrent, but it's not Fort Knox. He thinks a sign there would be adequate in that area, saving the Navy/MCBH money and avoiding aesthetically unpleasant signage.

Matt Tucker said they reconned that area when they went out there, looking for a way to line a cattle fence up there instead.

Richard Hosokawa said that they were very challenged trying to decide between natural barriers and fences and they have to do their best effort to put up signs and fencing. He said that they have been out there multiple times, and the Navy is doing its best effort.

David Henkin asked if where there is chain link fence near cultural sites, they could use green-coated fencing to blend in better. He said that it would probably last longer.

Matt Tucker said they could look into it as an alternative to plain chain-link.

David Henkin said an October 2 email requested fencing be as minimally visually disruptive as possible. He asked that be particularly so in the cultural areas.

David Henkin asked to clarify that there was no official public comment period, but if anyone sees something in the document, could they send an email.

Richard Hosokawa said yes.

Captain George said yes, please comment, and that's why they are keeping the RAB going after the formal public comment period. He asked that the community please send him, Randall Hu, and Richard Hosokawa comments. He said that the process is now full-steam ahead, so please expedite any comments. He said that our deviation from the Decision Document is noted, and there will be small judgment calls that will be made, and the Navy and MCBH will be transparent and bring them to the forefront. He said that the community's input is appreciated.

Captain George asked if there were any other questions.

David Henkin said that he wants to circle back and approve the April 2012 meeting minutes, if there was a quorum now. (It was then determined that there was not a quorum.) He asked that the Navy and MCBH coordinate for the next meeting to make sure more RAB members can attend and that there is a quorum. He said the next meeting is likely to be July or August. He suggests doing it after summer vacation is over, and he recommends mid-late August, if no one disagreed.

No one disagreed.

Captain George said that should work for the Navy and MCBH's purposes. He said that they will try to send out a reminder to help schedule together.

David Henkin said he didn't want to allow the deviations to cloud the fact that the Navy and MCBH have worked hard to make the southern area accessible, and to make the access corridors more appropriate. He said that Kyle Kajihiro will coordinate with the Kamaka family to get feedback about signs at cultural sites.

Captain George thanked everyone for coming, and said that many members weren't present, but he hopes they will reach out directly. He said the Marine Corps has been working hard to get to this point, and it's been a joint effort with this RAB, and they've tried to document that. He said that there are photos from the Site Visit that the Marine Corps would like to post on the website, and he needs everyone's permission to post their photos. He asked attendees to sign a waiver after the meeting if they were alright with their photos from the site visit being posted online.

He said that there were a few copies of the Decision Document, if anyone would like to take a look.

Kyle Kajihiro asked if there would be a party when they break ground. Captain George said yes, if he is still here, he will host the party.

9:05 pm: meeting ended.

Issues to address in RAB meeting minutes with response by Navy/Marine Corps:

Note: The Remedial Design is not a required CERCLA public comment document. We shall receive RAB comments and continue to best incorporate as we complete the remedial action in accordance with the Decision Document. RAB comments will be addressed in RAB meeting minutes unless it warrants Decision Document significant deviation or amendment.

1. David Henkin requested green rubberized coated fence around the Kamaka Valley Shrine and Waikane Spring so the fencing would better blend in. Navy evaluated and provides the following response:
  - a. Use of rubberized green fence on other projects revealed that it does not improve fence life and is more attractive to theft. The rubberized coating eventually deteriorates and creates secondary maintenance problems.
  - b. Navy and Marine Corps has addressed community comments and concerns by increasing setback of fence corridor so the wider open access area and vegetation growth will make the fence less visible.
2. David Henkin requested a fence line change to further setback the corridor boundary from Waikane Stream in the area makai from Kamaka shrine. USA Environmental, NAVFAC, and MCB Hawaii conducted a site visit after the RAB meeting, to evaluate the input from the RAB, and the fence line was moved. A revised drawing was provided to David Henkin on June 6.