

**Waikane Valley Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

Community Members

David Henkin, Community Co-Chair (Phone: 599-2436 ext 6614, E-mail: davidlhenkin@yahoo.com)

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

Violet Roberts, RAB Member

Emil Wolfgramm, RAB Member

'Ataongo Wolfgramm, alternate for RAB Member Momi Wolfgramm

Byron Ho, RAB Member

Ray Kamaka, farmer

Stan Kamaka, farmer

Wade Okuda

Kahu Kauhane

Regulatory Agency Members

Steven Mow, Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH)

MCB Hawaii and Navy Representatives

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

Coral Rasmussen, Cultural Resources Manager, MCB Hawaii

Tiffany Patrick, MCB Hawaii

Lance Higa, Remedial Project Manager, NAVFAC Pacific

Randall Hu, Sr. Environmental Engineer, MCB Hawaii

Richard Hosokawa, NAVFAC Pacific

Other Members

Bob Nore, USA Environmental

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

Rachel Ross, ESI, Inc.

**1. Introductions**

7:10 pm. David Henkin announced that there were not enough RAB members present for a quorum and the RAB will approve the minutes once a quorum is achieved. David Henkin announced that there are copies of the draft documents available.

Captain Derek George introduced himself, welcomed everyone, and turned the meeting over to Lance Higa.

**2. Project Overview and Timeline**

7:15 pm. Lance Higa introduced himself and went through the Project Overview and Timeline presentation (See Presentation), followed by questions. He explained that the project is currently at the Feasibility Study phase, which identifies potential remedial action alternatives and evaluates/ranks those using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criteria. A Proposed Plan summarizing the proposed cleanup and long-term land management actions for Waikane Valley Impact Area (WVIA) will be developed using the Feasibility Study results and input from the public and regulatory agencies. There will be a public meeting to present the Proposed Plan and additional public input received will be addressed in the Decision Document. Once the selected remedy is finalized in the Decision Document, we will proceed into the remedial design stage, then to a full-scale remediation work plan for the cleanup process. He stated that the project is at a critical point with the Feasibility Study where they need public input before developing the Proposed Plan.

Emil Wolfgramm asked how to comment on the Feasibility Study. David Henkin, Lance Higa, and Randall Hu responded that you could read information at the information repositories or online at the MCB Hawaii website and submit comments via email to David Henkin, Randall Hu, or Lance Higa. The comment period goes through October 21. There will also be a formal 30-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan, which will include a public meeting, but the public can comment at any time during the comment period.

David Henkin asked why the target area acreage was changed from 40 to 47 acres from what was presented in the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report. Bob Nore responded that the boundaries were changed slightly because it was the best way to enclose the bulk of the Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC). David Henkin asked about Figure 8-1 in the Final RI and pointed out that there is one MEC outside of the original 40-acres, is that an outlier. Bob said it's an outlier and does not affect the priority score or the RI outcome.

Kahu Kauhane asked what kinds of bombs were used and what kind of cleanup is proposed. Lance Higa responded that information on munitions and cleanup will be provided in the Feasibility Study (FS) presentation that is coming up next. He further responded that there were live and practice rounds used. David Henkin provided Kahu Kauhane with a hard copy of the RI document.

### **3. RI/FS Overview and Findings**

7:40 pm. Bob Nore introduced himself and began the presentation of the Feasibility Study (see Presentation for slide by slide) with questions following. The Remedial Investigation process started in February 2010 with the results reported in July 2011. They are now working on finalizing the Feasibility Study Report so that a Proposed Plan for cleanup can be developed. Public comments are needed to finalize the Feasibility Study.

Byron Ho asked if different MEC tools or methods would be used in the final cleanup or if they would be the same tools used during the Remedial Investigation. Bob Nore responded that the same tools will be used, but to get to the steeper slopes, workers may be on safety lines, etc., which is a more difficult task.

David Henkin asked if the areas containing the Waikane Spring and Kamaka family shrine were already surface cleared in the Remedial Investigation. Bob Nore responded yes, but that cleanup was limited to slopes of less than 30 degrees in the RI. The proposed alternative plans to clear areas steeper than 30 degrees whenever possible and re-clear the previously cleared areas. The remedial action has more demanding quality assurance and quality control requirements that were not required for the RI effort.

Kahu Kauhane asked if munitions, chemicals etc. found on site were all on the surface. Bob Nore responded that 90 percent of munitions were on the surface and no MEC was found more than one inch below the surface, though munitions debris was found down to two feet in depth.

Kahu Kauhane asked if the remaining 10% were at the steeper slopes, and if a person could reach the steeper slopes, would there be a 90% chance that no munitions would be encountered there.

Bob Nore said there could not be a percentage placed on it, but said it is assumed in the Feasibility Study that, if the workers cannot get there using safety lines, then the public is not going to get there either.

Ray Kamaka asked about the 30-acres in the brown area of the map, where bombing occurred. He asked Captain George how many times the Marines came up there to clean it from 1974 to now. Captain George answered at least twice that he knew of.

Ray Kamaka asked for the elevation they would need to use ropes to access to clean and agreed with statements about the difficulty of accessing the steep slopes. Bob Nore responded that it depends on the area.

Ray Kamaka made several statements about the site: 15 of his boys helped scope that area and know where all the ammo is and you can see the red mark on the mountain and see the ammo and bombs if you kick the dirt. You need to climb like a mountain goat to do anything on the steep slopes and they cannot farm there. When the land came back to the Kamakas it was not clean, they looked for bombs on the surface but there are still unexploded bombs in the ground. They went over every inch to help the military find the bombs and hand grenades under the surface and it was outside the area too. There were impacts to 1, 2 and 3 areas. There are cattle that went up that high and there are trails.

Ray Kamaka also stated that the military was not commissioned to go that high when they came, most of the military guys were sitting down. And that they were good on the lower points. He got many good pictures of the military working with his boys. They still did not get it done; they only did 3 months and they asked them to come back. This time they took spray paint to mark trees so that the military could pick up the ordnance. There is overgrowth that you cannot ever clean up. It is always the same problem, it is too dangerous and yet you can find ordnance on the other side and the military did not do anything to clean up that area except for the 187 acres. What is good for one, why not good for the other? Even today, there is still a lot of ordnance. There are pig hunters and dogs that go up in this area, they pick up the ordnance and leave them lying along the side of the trails, and the Kamakas have to put them in orange crates and call the military to pick them up.

Ray Kamaka further stated that the only thing they wanted to do was farm. He and his brother brought in machines and cut to 2 foot ledges to 5 to 10 feet to build terraces, so they could plant taro. Across the street they used the rubbish for shrimp and other plants. They found some of the ammunition at the bottom of the hill so it's rolling down the hill. The younger generation cannot access the area, it's too dangerous. He knows everything out there and the ridges make a bowl. There are taro patches with water up high on the slope.

Ray Kamaka asked how long it would take to cleanup as it has been going on since 1974 and now it's not using the military, but subcontractors. What can subcontractors do that the Marines cannot do? We had all soldiers up there. Including the people that were prisoners there helping. You need to be in shape to climb the area and most did not know how to climb the mountain. There is a lot of ordnance in the red spot and you can see the craters in the northern target areas. You can see shells and other things sticking out. Target area for the rockets was shot up high not down low and the areas down below they have picked them all up. They said it was safe to go back. He picked up 30 plus bombs while farming. They did not think it was dangerous because they were told it was clean. He believes that concentrating on the upper elevations there is useless and a waste of the taxpayers' money. There is a spring at about 150 feet elevation and there is nothing above that. They helped the military. It was that dangerous. They had to fight to get a fence put up. Found pig hunters in the fenced in area and they were supposed to have a military guard with them in order to be there as it is so dangerous, but there was no guard. The fence needs to be up higher so they can farm below.

Bob Nore offered to sit down with Ray Kamaka and look at the map after the meeting.

Kyle Kajihiro asked if the military has a framework they are using to analyze the community input since the community places high value on other criteria (i.e. sacredness, critical farming, etc.). Kyle asked if there are three zones on the map, can they add a layer. He suggested that places that really matter (i.e., are sacred or useful as farming areas) should get higher priority and the steeper areas should be lower priority. There are areas that should be made safer for people to go to so those areas might get subsurface cleaning or some other priority. Captain George responded that was a good point and that is what they need from them. We cannot add that guideline, so we need you to give it to us. This Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is science based on EPA established guidelines, etc. It may not be added as a criteria column but you can see the criteria and if you have feedback on the rankings that should be passed on to them.

Kyle Kajihiro suggested that, rather than consider only surface clearing for the Southern Area, which is important for farming. The Marines should evaluate an option that includes triggers such as finding MEC that would require subsurface clearance in addition to the planned surface clearance. He emphasized that, if the military does not do a good cleanup, there is cost to the community, not just about monetary amounts, but the loss of access to farming and cultural sites.

Kahu Kauhane noted that clearing the southern area was a top priority since it was the area formerly occupied by the Kamaka family. He said MEC were too far up the hillside to locate and the southern area is what the people would consider most important. The cleanup should concentrate on areas that are culturally significant and usable for farming now and were formerly used for those purposes. Captain George responded that this is why we seek RAB input, but we need to look at the entire 187-acres, which is what the Feasibility Study did. That is the military's responsibility.

Ray Kamaka stated that he has heard this from four other Generals and Captains. The Kamakas were the ones that suffered. The military's failure to clean up the family land has kept money from their pockets, and kept them from farming. Kamaka was not allowed to come to meetings, he was not allowed in, this area is important to our culture. We were divided and put on one side, and given just 187 acres, and told not to look at the rest. We have pictures showing taro patches. We are having problems. There was rice too from the Japanese that worked in the tunnels.

Wade Okuda asked if written comments are due by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Bob Nore answered that they were, and to please give them to Lance Higa. He added that the email address is on the fact sheet, or they can also be given to Mr. Henkin.

Emil Wolfgramm said to include support for Native Hawaiian cultural practices, adding that the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study process is excellent from the plumbing side, but we now need to talk about the water side that is the whole value of the land. He told the sunrise story: The sun goes over the mountain in a straight line between the equinox and the solstice that goes over Waikane and sets in the west. He said that there are spirits, water, and culture that are all part of the value of the place. He also stressed that the Feasibility Study should not consider grazing as a form of farming because that is a very cowboy mentality. Using cattle as a bulldozer to clear land is lazy farming. Cattle are destructive as they compact the soil. He addressed recreational use and suggested no off road vehicular usage, no dirt bikes, no ATVs should be allowed because they tear up the property. Bob Nore stated that the Feasibility Study considers light agricultural, recreational and cultural use.

Emil Wolfgramm stated he is searching the valley for the Alapiopio of Maui and that water is a gold mine in Waikane.

Kyle Kajihiro asked if the military can focus on slopes that have a landslide potential because munitions might get buried and pose hazards. Bob Nore answered that there are many rockets sticking out of the soil at the higher elevations, but they cannot find a place to anchor to put a person on a rope to get there to remove the rockets. The anchors will not stay or a landslide could occur, which makes it unsafe. Where it is possible, he suggest that they investigate areas with landslide potential.

Randall Hu stated that Kyle Kajihiro meant in the southern area, where there are some areas likely to slide, not the steep northern areas.

Kyle Kajihiro added that the military needed to intensify the search in areas where more MEC collection can occur.

Kahu Kauhane added that it is called Leina - a place of leaping into the next world after death.

David Henkin inquired about the difference in cost estimate for surface versus subsurface clearance, particularly the estimates for the southern area where the Remedial Investigation indicated that there was likely no MEC, but the estimate for surface clearance is \$2.7 million and subsurface clearance is \$5 million. He asked if the expectation is that there will not be any subsurface munitions in that area and, if so, why it costs another \$2.8 million if there's nothing there. Bob Nore answered that we have to investigate every anomaly; anytime you get a metal contact, you have to investigate to prove whether it is a munitions item or not, and you are dealing with many trash sites along the southern side.

David Henkin stated that agricultural use was taro, planting, etc. not grazing and that clearing subsurface only 2 feet down would not be deep enough to allow previous types of farming. You need to go deeper than 2 feet.

Ray Kamaka stated that he wants to clean up the area and put it back to taro (cultivation). He stated that we have rock walls that surround this area, and we should be cleaning up this area and putting it back to taro. According to Mr. Kamaka, they also farm other produce.

David Henkin asked what depth is necessary for taro. Ray Kamaka responded that they cut 2 to 5 foot terraces in lower areas so they can plant taro.

Captain George asked what depth would be adequate for taro. Captain George further stated that they need to know what is needed for depth so that they can make sure that the depth they are planning for subsurface will be adequate.

Bob Nore answered that the maximum depth munitions debris was found at was at 2 feet.

Ray Kamaka stated that they go 4-5 feet depth maximum for farming. He added that when he went to jail, people came and took his equipment. He wants reimbursement for his farm and equipment and stated that the Navy did not do that. Instead, they worked with the family while he was away and the family did not have authority to make decisions regarding the property.

David Henkin responded that the meeting needed to move on because previous ownership has been discussed.

David Henkin asked whether, if no MEC is found in the southern area, could the land be returned to private ownership. He stated that he did not see that language in the Feasibility Study. If it was included he wanted to know the page, and if it was not included he wanted it put in the study.

David Henkin stated that the Marines are not evaluating cleanup options in a vacuum; there is a history here. The military borrowed the land and promised to clean it once they were finished and return it to the Kamaka family. The military did not do what it promised and instead condemned the land. The military's promise to clear the land should be incorporated into the analysis. The costs of cleanup are the military's problem, not this family's. To honor its promises, the military should clean up the land to the maximum extent feasible, regardless of cost. He further stated that he will add all this to his written comments.

David Henkin asked if the treatment proposed for the northern area would allow the Waikane spring and Kamaka family shrine to be accessible to the family. Bob Nore responded yes.

David Henkin asked about the two cultural sites that the Feasibility Study identifies as located in the Northern Non-Target Area. Coral Rasmussen responded that they are 20<sup>th</sup> Century charcoal kilns.

Wade Okuda asked about the scoring and suggested changing the ranking for the comparative cost of land use controls in the southern area to a value of three. Bob Nore responded with a statement that Mr. Okuda should send the suggestion as a comment and to explain the reasoning for changing the ranking.

David Henkin stated that we do not have a quorum, we have six members but need seven, so the minutes and voting on renewing RAB membership will have to wait until next meeting. He asked if anyone had concerns about the draft minutes. Kyle Kajihiro stated that he appreciated the detail of the minutes.

#### **4. Future RAB Meeting**

David Henkin stated that the main thing the RAB needs to do is agree about the next meeting. He stated that Randall Hu had asked about December 14 for the next RAB meeting to discuss the Proposed Plan, but that it was difficult to get community members to focus on matters other than the holidays and family matters between Thanksgiving and New Years; thus, the Proposed Plan would not get the attention from the public that this actually deserves. Unless there is a strong reason to have the next RAB meeting in December, he would like to hold off and have it after the New Year to get the most public involvement.

Kahu Kauhane seconds the motion.

Captain George stated that the military needs to try to keep the process moving to get the necessary funding, but they would look at changing the date as long as there was not a major impact to the project.

Richard Hosokawa stated that funding is planned for 2012; getting to the public participation stage is important in order to not lose funding.

Captain George stated that they would try to work something out, and asked Lance Higa and Richard Hosokawa what drop-dead date is needed to meet the MCBH/NAVY schedule.

David Henkin stated that holding comment periods and public meetings in December limits public input. He stated he did not think that was the intention of the proposed meeting date, but he feels the meeting would be poorly attended and suggested shortening the comment period on the Feasibility Study to avoid the holidays.

In response to discussion about a possible November RAB meeting date, Steve Mow emphasized that the public needs to focus now on commenting on the Feasibility Study. This is the document that drives the Proposed Plan, and it needs a detailed review, so moving the RAB meeting earlier in November would not be best for the community. He stated that the Proposed Plan is a flyer 4-5 pages long that will not take as much time to review and the Decision Document is just administrative. He suggested that they take the time to get their main comments in now and push the next RAB meeting to Jan 2012.

David Henkin agreed and re-scheduled the next RAB meeting to January.

Steve Mow stated that it would be best to have the RAB/Proposed Plan Public Meeting in the middle of the comment period, between December 14 and February 14, mid-January.

Captain George supported the idea provided it will keep the process and funding moving because keeping the process moving is in everyone's best interests.

David Henkin said that holding the next meeting in January sounds good.

Richard Hosokawa suggested holding the next RAB meeting on January 11.

David Henkin stated that he cannot do the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in January because that is when the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board meets.

Captain George suggested holding the next RAB meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Lance Higa said that he can get it done by then.

## **5. Meeting Conclusion**

Captain George stated that there were some great comments tonight, that the Decision Document will be based on the Feasibility Study and public comments, and that the RAB meeting can move to January to allow more time for comments which is important. January 18, 2012 was set for the next meeting date.

Richard Hosokawa stated that comments in writing really help.

David Henkin stated that he is happy to help to get written comments out.

9:30 pm. Meeting adjourned.