



## MEETING MINUTES

### Full Board Meeting

March 10, 2010

Centennial Hills Library  
6711 N. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, NV

Members Present:

Hal Sullivan (Vice-Chair), Kathy Bienenstein,  
Bob Gatliff, Dave Hermann, John McGrail,  
Jackson Ramsey, Tim Murphy (NDEP Liaison)

Members Absent:

Bob Gamble (Nye County Liaison), Robert Johnson,  
Phil Klevorick (Clark County Liaison), Vernell McNeal,  
Genne Nelson (NPS Liaison), Ted Oom,  
Ted Schweitzer, Herb Spiegel, Scott Wade  
(DOE Liaison), James Weeks, Walt Wegst

U.S. Dept. of Energy:

Kelly Snyder (DDFO)

Technical Support Staff:

Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)

National Nuclear Security Administration:

Darwin Morgan

Public Present:

Chris Andres (NDEP), Rob Cromwell (Las Vegas),  
Patricia Fleming (Henderson), Paul Fransioli  
(Las Vegas), Mike Long (Las Vegas), Greg Minden  
(Las Vegas) Michael Moore (North Las Vegas),  
Bonnie Swadling (Pahrump)

Facilitator:

Denise Rupp, Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

In the Chair's absence, Hal Sullivan, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting. The agenda was reviewed. Kathy Bienenstein made a motion to approve the agenda, which Mr. McGrail seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Nevada Test Site: A Historical Look** (*Darwin Morgan, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)*)

- Establishment of the Nevada Proving Grounds (now Nevada Test Site) 1950
- Atmospheric testing 1951 – 1962
- Life in Mercury
- Nuclear Rocket Development
- Project Rover
- Project Pluto
- Bren Tower
- EPA Farm
- Underground Testing
- Plowshare Program
- Historical Landmarks
- United States Nuclear Test Summary

There was no public comment. Mr. Sullivan acknowledged the attendance of prospective CAB members, Patricia Fleming, Greg Minden, Mike Long, and Michael Moore.

## Committee Updates

### **Budget Committee** (*Bob Gatliff, Member*)

The Budget Committee met March 3, 2010. FY 2012 baseline updates were provided by the DOE Environmental Management (EM) staff. After discussion, a recommendation was prepared for review by the Full Board. This recommendation ranked sub-project priorities:

1. Underground Test Area (UGTA)
2. Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste
3. Soils
4. Industrial Sites

Without a quorum in attendance, there was no vote on this recommendation. It was requested members be prepared to vote at the May Full Board meeting.

### **Industrial Sites Committee** (*Kathy Bienenstein, Chair*)

The CAB received a January 4, 2010 response from Robert Boehlecke, DOE EM, regarding their recommendation for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 114, Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility. The letter expressed appreciation for the CAB's consideration and agreed preservation of the facility as a museum is not feasible. Efforts will be made to make historical artifacts from the building available to the Atomic Testing Museum. Planning will proceed for demolition to grade and clean closure by the end of FY 2013.

The Industrial Sites Committee will meet sometime this FY to address the disposition of the train cars at the NTS. This is their last task on the FY 2011 Work Plan.

### **Membership Committee** (*Kathy Bienenstein, Chair*)

The CAB received a December 21, 2009 response from Kelly Snyder, DDFO, regarding their recommendation of potential CAB applicants. The DOE Nevada Site Office forwarded the CAB's slate of candidates, plus two additional candidates, to DOE Headquarters for consideration in late December 2009. Approval for new members is anticipated in late May 2010.

A January 14, 2010 response from Ms. Snyder was received regarding the creation of student liaison positions for the CAB. The Committee met March 2, 2010 to provide additional input regarding the specifics of these proposed positions.

- Rural high schools will be targeted, beginning with Pahrump High School
- Liaisons will serve one-year terms to coincide with the school year
- Participation and attendance at Full Board meetings and at least one committee will be required
- The school will be responsible for the appointment of the liaisons
- Mentors will be assigned to assist students in the CAB process (Ms. Bienenstein, John McGrail, and Helen Neill volunteered to serve in this capacity)

Ms. Snyder and Ms. Bienenstein will meet with the Pahrump High School principal to discuss the student liaison positions in late March/early April. The student liaison position will be added to the Work Plan as a Membership Committee item.

### **Outreach Committee** (*Hal Sullivan, Chair*)

Mr. Sullivan reported the Outreach Committee will be suspended due to lack of participation. The committee will be revisited when the new members are on board and/or with the development of the new FY 2011 Work Plan.

Ms. Bienenstein reported a draft CAB Outreach display has been developed. Members were provided a small print-out of the display showing the overall design. Denise Rupp will forward a more readable computer file for the members to review. Ms. Snyder approved the Board's request that this display be placed at the UGTA Groundwater Open House to be held in Beatty on April 21. Ms. Bienenstein volunteered to staff the display.

### **Soils Committee** (*John McGrail, Chair*)

The Board received a response from Mr. Boehlecke, DOE EM, dated January 8, 2010 regarding their recommendation on CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Crater and Pin Stripe. The DOE will pursue closure in place and they are in the process of preparing a formal recommendation to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). As recommended by the CAB, DOE is evaluating how to address the two exposure scenarios (industrial use and occasional use).

The Soils Committee is awaiting information from DOE EM Soils sub-project regarding CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriole/Palanquin Unit Craters for review and recommendation regarding closure scenarios. This FY 2010 Work Plan item is currently scheduled for July 2010 completion.

#### **Transportation/Waste Committee** (*Hal Sullivan, Member*)

The Board received a February 3, 2010 letter from Frank DiSanza, DOE EM, regarding the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Mixed Low-Level Waste Cell Application recommendation. The application has been granted conditional approval by NDEP. As detailed in the March 4, 2010 EM News Flash, the design phase began February 17, 2010. The CAB will be informed regarding final approval and construction.

Tim Murphy, NDEP liaison, reported on the new technologies to be utilized in the construction of the new cell. The committee has requested a site visit when the cell is under construction.

#### **UGTA Committee** (*Bob Gatliff, Chair*)

The committee met February 9 and received an UGTA overview from Bill Wilborn, DOE EM. The update included the FY 2010 drilling operations, the upcoming Frenchman Flat Peer Review, and the revised UGTA strategy. The Board has been asked to review the revised UGTA strategy and provide a recommendation on ways to enhance it. This review will continue in committee at their April 20, 2010 meeting.

#### **Work Plan Review** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

- Items 1, 3, 7, 14 and 19 have been completed with recommendations submitted
- Items 6 and 9 have been removed as the DOE EM request for recommendation has been revised to FY 2012
- Items 2, 5 and 11 completion dates have been changed to September 2010 at the request of the DOE EM
- Items 12, 15 and 16 have been removed pending reactivation of the Outreach Committee
- Item 4 remains open pending Full Board vote on the recommendation
- Item 17 has been removed at the request of the DOE EM as funding has been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Item 18 has been removed at the request of the DOE EM as the land transfer has been completed

#### **EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Update** (*Hal Sullivan, Vice Chair*)

A summary of the January 21, 2010 Chairs Conference call including:

- EM ARRA has allocated more than 99% of funds and reported 14,400 jobs created or preserved in 12 states (saved job includes those positions reassigned and previously slated for lay off following project completion or restructuring as well as contractors positions)
- The EM SSAB voted to proceed with the recommendation regarding renewal options in all DOE contracts with the exclusion of the CAB
- DOE advised all Chairs that the NTS/MLLW disposal facility will close in December 2010
- Walt Wegst reported on the CAB's membership recruitment, EMAD recommendation, and the potential student liaison positions
- The next Chairs Conference call will be March 18, 2010 and Mr. Sullivan will participate

Mr. Wegst and Mr. Sullivan will represent the CAB at the EM SSAB Chairs Conference scheduled for April 21-24, 2010 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The Board discussed topics for submission at the Oak Ridge Chairs Conference:

### **Top Three Issues**

1. Closure/Opening of Mixed Low-Level Waste Cells
  - Current cell closing November 2010
  - New cell planned for early 2011
  - Smooth transition important to the EM complex
  - State of the art engineering for the new cell
2. Revised UGTA Strategy
  - Concern for public protection with regard to contaminated groundwater remains a high priority for the CAB
  - Currently reviewing and preparing a recommendation on the UGTA sub-project revised strategy
  - The revised strategy includes an iterative process allowing for more accurate modeling of the NTS' diverse hydrogeology
3. Membership Appointment Process/Timing
  - CAB recruitment efforts affected by length of appointment process
  - Membership packet submitted to Headquarters December 30, 2009
  - Approval expected May 2010
  - CAB concern regarding potential members being discouraged by length of process

### **Accomplishment**

- The CAB has transitioned from a committee-based work plan to a full board work plan resulting in a more informed board and full board ownership
- As a result, in the first six months of FY 2010, the CAB has submitted as many recommendations as in all of FY 2009 and has accelerated their Work Plan completion schedule

### **Ongoing Activity**

Outreach Efforts toward Increased CAB Awareness

Based on results of a University of Nevada Las Vegas questionnaire indicating members of the rural communities surrounding the Nevada Test Site view the CAB as a positive source of information, the CAB is working toward increasing public awareness

- Membership recruitment resulting in a slate of 18 candidates (11 new and 7 renewals)
- Development of CAB display
- Development of Student Liaison position
- More comprehensive new member orientation

### **DOE Update** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

- Copies of the previously distributed EM Monthly Reports for January, February and March 2010 were provided
- The FY 2011 Presidential Budget Rollout was reviewed
  - The Soils sub-project did not receive any FY 2011 budget allocation and funding sources are being explored by DOE EM
  - The discrepancy in the Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste sub-project baseline and actual budget will be offset by disposal fees and ARRA funds
  - The remaining sub-projects' budget funding corresponds closely with the baseline
- DOE now requires 72-hour congressional notification for committee meetings as well as full board meetings; committee meetings will require one-week notice to ensure compliance
- A Groundwater Open House is scheduled April 21, 2010 in Beatty with Ms. Bienenstein and Dr. Neill in attendance; notice will be sent to the Full Board

### **Other CAB Business** (*Hal Sullivan, Vice Chair*)

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. May 12, 2010 at the Atomic Testing Museum, 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV. Mr. Morgan will give a presentation on the current non-Environmental Management activities at the NTS.

**State of Nevada Notifications** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

Public Notification of Corrective Actions for January, February and March 2010 were provided.

Mr. McGrail moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bienenstein seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.