
**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE
INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE, LOMPOC CAMPUS
06 JUNE 2002**

Ms. Beatrice Kephart, Chief, Environmental Restoration, called the Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting to order at 1000 hours. She thanked Col Strathearn for his support of the CAB during his tenure as 30 SW Vice Wing Commander and wished him well on his new assignment.

Dr. Roger Welt announced that, in addition to winning the Air Force Environmental Award, Ms. Kephart has also won the Department of Defense Environmental Award. Ms. Kephart thanked the CAB for its contribution to the winning of this prestigious award.

Ms. Kephart introduced Lt Col D.W. Tucker (30 CES/CC), who has replaced Col Robert D. Kopp; Col Charles Campbell, Jr. (30 MDG/CC); and Lt Col Paul Wuebold (30 SPTG/CD). She also introduced three new IRP staff members: Mr. Andrew Edwards, Mr. Jeff Holston (URS), and Mr. Craig Nathe. A fourth new staff member, Dominador Morales, was unable to attend.

Ms. Kephart outlined the meeting's agenda:

- Installation Restoration Program Overview;
- Community Information Plan (CIP) Update;
- New CAB Applicants;
- Snowy Plover Update;
- Optimization Report;
- Member Comments; and
- CAB Tour Allan Hancock College, Lompoc.

Installation Restoration Program Overview

Ms. Kephart provided the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) overview noting that validation of the FY03 budget at \$8.5M has been completed.

Ms. Kephart reported that the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) peer review is now scheduled for completion during September 2002. Weekly meetings are being scheduled with DTSC to expedite resolution of the remaining Toxicity Reference Values for the ERAs. Mr. Craig Nathe will be handling this process. Col Strathearn voiced concern that the review process is significantly behind schedule and that dedicated funds are consequently at risk, particularly for FY04. He emphasized the importance of moving forward on this task and asked Dr. Ning-Wu Chang of DTSC for his assistance. Tetra Tech, Inc. will be assisting as well.

Ms. Kephart said she was pleased to announce that funds will be available starting in FY04 for Munitions Range Response. A total of 19 closed ranges have been identified in an online inventory.

Community Involvement Plan Update

Mr. Ron MacLelland provided the 2002 CIP update. Incorporation of comments from the CAB document review committee and regulators is in process. The newest CAB members and elected officials will be interviewed. The project is scheduled for completion in August 2002.

New CAB Member Applicants

Mr. MacLelland reported that two new CAB member applications have been received. Discussion and voting will take place at the next CAB meeting as one of the applicants, Mr. Benjamin Hernandez of the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce, was unable to attend today. The Sierra Club has asked Mr. Gerald Connor, who works in the 30 SW/XP office, to represent them following Mr. Rick Skillin's departure. Mr. Connor gave a brief outline of the local Sierra Club philosophy and invited members from the CAB to attend monthly Sierra Club meetings held in Lompoc.

Western Snowy Plover at VAFB: Current Status

Ms. Nancy Francine, 30 CES/CEVFN, reported that the snowy plover population is increasing on VAFB from a low of 76 in 1999, to 105 in 2000, 122 in 2001, and 220 as of 31 May 2002. She noted that more data have yet to be gathered in June for the current year, and the new data will change the figure for the year, possibly reducing it. This general trend of increase indicates that the change in management of the snowy plover has been beneficial, especially with the improved enforcement starting in 2001.

Nest predation rates have decreased on VAFB, further indicating that the change in snowy plover management has been beneficial. The primary snowy plover predators on VAFB are crows and coyotes. Ms. Francine stated that crows and coyotes are drawn to the food refuse that humans leave and that the absence of people has actually helped decrease the predation rate.

She also noted that, in order to protect the snowy plover, the Air Force does conservatively select a few of the natural predators for destruction. Ten crows, but no coyotes, were killed this year.

Ms. Francine reported the following documented violations counting towards the 2002 limits as of 5 June 2002. Minuteman Beach had 1 violation with a limit of 5; Wall Beach has no violations with a limit of 10; Surf Beach has 16 violations with a limit of 25.

Following the presentation, Mr. Ron Fink, representing local residents wanting the beaches open, noted that when access to a public recreational area is denied, there is an economic impact on the community ranging from ¼ million to 3 million dollars per year. Mr. Fink estimates the impact locally over a period of years may be \$50 million. According to the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to conduct an economic impact study, and he finds no such report. He will be contacting the City of Lompoc and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors asking them to meet with officials at VAFB to discuss ways of mitigating the economic impact of the beach closures. Mr. Fink emphasized that the group of people that he represents supports the VAFB Snowy Plover management plan, but wants to find ways to mitigate the economic impact:

- Construction of public walkways over dry sand to manage human traffic;
- The presence of volunteer docents to provide education to the public; and
- Signage.

Col Westfall will check on the status of the economic impact study.

Basewide Groundwater Monitoring Program Interpretation, Visualization, and Optimizing

Mr. McNamara, Tetra Tech, presented the visualization and optimization analyses of the Basewide Groundwater Monitoring Program (BGMP). The optimization approach followed Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) protocol. Tetra Tech presented a VAFB-specific optimization decision tree that is used to recommend wells or analyses for reduced sampling frequency, elimination, or addition. Three main analytical tools were used during the optimization:

- Visualization of plume and groundwater conditions;
- Temporal trend analysis of plume movement; and
- Geostatistical analysis of plume mass, size, and movement.

Optimization analyses were performed for Sites 1, 2, 3, 8 Cluster, 13 Cluster, 19, 20 Area 1, 20 Area 2 & 3, 25 Cluster, 27, 31, 32 Cluster, 33, and 60. The full set of analyses was performed on Sites 8 Cluster and 25 Cluster. Three-dimensional visualizations, including three-dimensional animations of the conceptual site model and TCE plume over time, were presented for Sites 8 Cluster and 25 Cluster. Time trend analyses were presented using trend triangles on site aerial photos, histograms of increasing/stable/decreasing trends versus rate of change, and the recommended well sampling frequency based on AFCEE MAROS guidance. These analyses led to recommended sampling frequencies for all Site 8 Cluster and 25 Cluster wells.

Member Questions/Comments

Mr. Ron Fink's comments regarding beach closures are included, in the preceding discussion of the western snowy plover.

Mr. Fink also commented that the use of clear explanations and the visual nature of the presentation on the BGMP made a highly technical presentation understandable to all.

The meeting was adjourned at 1200 hours. The next CAB meeting will be held at the Lompoc Center, Allan Hancock College, on 12 Sep 02.