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MINUTES FROM 5 NOVEMBER 2013 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 29  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION NAVAL ACTIVITY PUERTO RICO  
11/5/2013  
NAVFAC SOUTHEAST



**Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
Former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads  
Ceiba, Puerto Rico**

**Meeting #29 – November 5, 2013**

*Note: This meeting summary is based on informal notes taken at the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript. Portions of some discussions may not have been captured. If comments or additional notes are provided within 30 days of distribution of these minutes, they will be added as an attachment to this summary.*

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Susana Struve (CH2M HILL) welcomed everyone and invited the RAB members to introduce themselves. Attachment 1 provides the attendance list. Susana Struve asked the attendees to provide their names and emails if they are interested in receiving electronic copies of the minutes and monthly flyers published by the Navy.

Thuane Fielding (Navy) also welcomed attendees and introduced Doug Pocze, EPA Region II-New York.

Doug Pocze (EPA) introduced himself and said he is happy to be able to attend this RAB meeting. He said he is returning to Puerto Rico after many years, and that he hopes he will be visiting the island more frequently. He said that Susana Struve can provide his telephone and contact numbers to the participants in case they have questions for EPA.

Thuane explained that Malú Blázquez (Local Reuse Authority - LRA) was unable to attend the RAB meeting and communicated that the LRA will be organizing public meetings to address issues associated with the proposals for the redevelopment of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. Currently, the LRA is receiving development proposals until December 28, 2013.

## **II. New and Ongoing Action Items**

The following summarizes the new and ongoing action items that will be carried forward to the next RAB meeting planned for February 5, 2014.

Action Item Description	Status as of 12/6/2013
Luis Velazquez (RAB member) will bring a copy of the Decibel Level Report from 1983 developed by the Navy including noise studies from F16 and F-18 aircraft.	<b>ONGOING.</b> The action item will be covered in the next meeting when Luis brings a copy of the report.
The Navy will continue posting informational flyers to the Navy's web page and distributing them via e-mail on a monthly basis.	<b>ONGOING.</b> The last flyer was distributed via e-mail on 11/25/2013. The flyers will be posted the third week of every month.
NEW. The Navy will provide access to the Base Asbestos Reports to the public. Navy will check if the reports are now available from the new public website. If not the Navy will provide all the reports to Ramon Figueroa (RAB Co-chair).	<b>COMPLETED.</b> The reports are available using the following link (type the keyword asbestos): <a href="http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/env_restoration/administrative_records.html?p_instln_id=PUERTO_RICO_NA">http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/env_restoration/administrative_records.html?p_instln_id=PUERTO_RICO_NA</a>
NEW. The Navy will provide Naida Dávila (RAB member) information regarding anomaly avoidance site visit linked to the upcoming NAVFAC archeological investigation on SMWU 77.	<b>COMPLETED.</b> Information was provided from Stacin Martin (Navy) to Naida on an e-mail dated 11/19/2013.
NEW. Navy will provide Naida a copy of the Navy's memorandum of agreement with SHPO.	<b>COMPLETED.</b> Information was provided as an attachment from Stacin Martin (Navy) to Naida in an e-mail dated 11/19/2013.
NEW: Ramon Figueroa (RAB Co-chair) will help EQB (Wilmarie Rivera) establish contact with the LRA regarding a new date to finish the site inspection of the Waste Water Treatment Plants and answer outstanding regulatory questions.	<b>IN PROGRESS.</b>

### III. Current and Planned Field Activities – Stacin Martin (Navy)

Stacin discussed the status of the ongoing field activities that are being conducted on different areas of the Base.

#### Completed Field Work

- The topographic survey for Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 3 has been completed and the Navy continues the design for the landfill cap.
- The Navy continues with the quarterly groundwater sampling and operating the remedial system for SWMU 7 and 8.
- The Navy is working on pre-excavation delineation sampling of soil in support of the interim corrective measures investigation (ICM), and the groundwater characterization as part of the corrective measures study for SWMU 14.
- The soil removal actions continue at SWMUs 27, 28, 29 as part of the ICM removal action confirmation sampling.
- The quarterly groundwater sampling continues in SWMUs 54 and 44.

- The pre-excavation delineation sampling in support of ICM removal action has been completed for SWMU 69.
- Conducted a site walk to evaluate feasibility of anomaly avoidance during upcoming archeological investigation.
- 56 signs were installed at SWMUs throughout the Base identifying the environmental restoration sites.

#### **Planned Field Activities – Significant Projects**

- SWMU 3 landfill cap. The work plan has been submitted to the regulatory agencies.
- SWMU 9 tank demolition. The permitting process has been completed and the work plan is being developed. This work includes demolition of four 250,000-gallon tanks, two 50,000-gallon tanks, two 6,000 gallon tanks, and one 2,500-gallon tank. The tanks will be transported to an offsite facility approved to receive the waste. The removal activities will start next year.
- SWMU 42 sediment removal. The Navy has awarded a contract for the removal of settling pond sediments as it was recommended in Phase I of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. These activities are scheduled for mid next year.

#### **IV. Questions and comments from the Public**

- Naida Dávila (RAB member). Naida would like more information about the archeological studies at SWMU 77. Naida also asked if SWMU 77 area includes “Medio Mundo” and is part of the natural area that is currently being protected.

Stacin responded that the Medio Mundo is within the mangrove area but is not part of the conservation parcel. Stacin explained that that SWMU 77 has been designated an archeology site; the Navy is currently working on avoiding anomalies providing support to the Navy archeologist.

- José Gabán (member of the public) stated that it appears the Navy is contradicting the information found in the Environmental Assessment (EA) of 2007. According to paragraph 4-12 of the EA, if a site has not been designated a conservation area, under Puerto Rico laws, and it should still be protected.

Thuane said that the Navy has not transferred the SWMU 77 because it is still under remediation; after all corrective actions have been completed, this area will be transferred to the Department of Interior which will manage/protect the area following their mandate, local and Puerto Rico laws.

- Mr. Gabán indicated that there are certain areas of wetlands that have been impacted during the clean-up, and now the Government of Puerto Rico (LRA) is planning to construct a golf course. The Navy identified this area as salt flats, but in reality they are wetlands, and DNER (Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) should protect them as such.

Stacin indicated that during a visit to this area, no wetlands were observed. Doug Pocze from EPA added that following a public inquiry, EPA reviewed all the permits regarding this area and clarified that ecologist’s do not considered this area a wetland. Some of the wetland-like-vegetation may be associated with a seasonal inflow of water in the channel.

- Member of the public. Requested information on the status of the access to the beaches.

Thuane indicated the Navy, LRA and DNER are working to find a way to authorize access to this area without affecting SWMU 3.

Mr. Gabán pointed out that the community of Ceiba understands that the access issue is not related to the Navy and lies with the LRA. The people of Ceiba have the right to have access to those beaches.

- Mr. Gabán mentioned examples of other locations with BRAC closures (City of Orlando and Alameda in California) where the former military lands were transferred to the local municipalities. Under this precedent, and with Special Legislation from Puerto Rico, the former Navy Base parcels should be transferred to the town of Ceiba.

## **V. Closure**

Susana indicated that the next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT 1 - Meeting Attendees – November 5, 2013**

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<b>RAB Community Members Present</b>	<b>RAB Community Members Absent</b>
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<b>Ramón D. Figueroa, Community Co-Chair</b>	
Rafael Montes	Samuel Caraballo
Naida Dávila	Michael Dalton
Ramón M. Ríos	José Julio Díaz
Agustín Velázquez	Jorge Fernández Porto
	William Lourido
	Lirio Márquez D'Acunti
	Debra McWhirter

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<b>Community Members Visiting</b>	
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José Cabán	Manuel José Martínez
Gilberto Camacho	Carlos Nazario
Marilyn del Manzano	Silverio Rosario
Luis Figueroa	Mark Tallmadge
José Maldonado	Roberto Velázquez

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<b>RAB Agency Representatives</b>	
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<b>Thuane Fielding, Navy Co-Chair</b>	Navy – Deputy Base Closure Manager
Doug Pocze	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Stacin Martin	Navy – Remedial Project Manager
Wilmarie Rivera	Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Federal Facilities Coordinator
Gloria M. Toro Agrait (absent)	EQB – Hazardous Waste Permit Division
Santiago Oliver (representative)	Puerto Rico Conservation Trust

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<b>Other Agency Representatives</b>	
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Malú Blázquez (absent)	Executive Director – Local Reuse Authority (LRA)
Brett Doerr	CH2M HILL
Freddy de Jesús (absent)	LRA
Carmen Guerrero (absent)	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER)
Katarina Rutkowski	EQB Consultant
Vicente Quevedo	DNER

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<b>Support Staff</b>	
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Susana Struve	CH2M HILL, Inc. (Navy contractor – facilitator)
Pedro Ruiz	Navy
Carmen Mangual	CH2M HILL, Inc. (Navy contractor)

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