

# **Former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board**

### **November 2024**

The initial business meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) of the Former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (SFAAP) was held on 14 November 2024 at 6:00pm at the Desoto City Hall Senior Center located in Desoto, Kansas.

### **Army Co-Chairman Present**

Mr. Scott Smith (Army BRAC)

### **RAB Members Present**

See attached RAB Sign-In Sheet

### **RAB Members Absent**

Dr. John Neuberger (Sierra Club)

### **Public Present**

Ms. Nancy Moneymaker

Mr. Syed Hasan

### **Army Present**

Ms. Kathy Baker (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Mr. Ian Thomas (Army -BRAC)

Mr. David Hufford (US Army Environmental Command)

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Scott Smith (Army Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Mr. Smith proceeded to request the RAB members introduce themselves. At the end of the RAB member introductions the public member, Ms. Nancy Moneymaker and Mr. Syed Hasan, introduced themselves. Mr. Smith then introduced Mr. Ian Thomas the BRAC Program Manager, Mr. David Hufford the US

Army Environmental Command Environmental Site Manager and Ms. Kathy Baker the US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager.

Following introductions Mr. Smith read through the proposed agenda for the meeting. Mr. Smith explained the purpose of the business meeting was to write and adopt a RAB Mission Statement, Operating Principles and to elect a RAB Community Co-Chair. There being no objections to the agenda the meeting proceeded as detailed in the November 14, 2024, RAB agenda.

The first item of business for the RAB was to review a draft/example RAB Mission Statement. RAB members were provided this example Mission Statement two weeks before the meeting to review, edit and prepare to discuss edits as desired.

Paul Oberle: Will there be any deliverables required of the RAB?

Scott Smith: No. The Army will provide updates during the RAB meetings. The RAB can have discussion on the information provided.

The RAB had no comments, additions, or revisions to the draft/example RAB Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was adopted as presented by all RAB members present. The Mission Statement is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Smith then moved the RAB meeting to the next item on the agenda, Establishing the RAB Operating Principles. It was agreed by members of the RAB that edits to the Operating Principles made during the business meeting will be sent out with the meeting minutes and the Operating Principles will be voted on for approval at the next RAB meeting. A red-line strikeout version of the Operating Principles is attached to these meeting minutes documenting all requested changes made by the RAB.

Tim Holverson: Add to the agenda a statement to remind all RAB members to determine at the beginning or before the RAB meeting if they have a conflict of interest with any agenda item being proposed.

Following discussion and editing of the Operating Principles; Mr. Smith moved to the next item of business, electing a Community Co-Chair. Mr. Smith read the duties of the Community Co-Chair from the RAB Rule Handbook, then asked for those interested in becoming the Community Co-Chair to raise their hand. Mr. Mike Pierce and Ms. Jennifer Hensley both showed interest in becoming the Community Co-Chair.

Mr. Smith then gave each a turn to advocate for themselves. Mr. Mike Pierce presented a long history of active board membership to the RAB members. He is a former firefighter and school paraprofessional. He served on local governmental boards becoming the chair of many of them. Ms. Jennifer Hensley was given the opportunity to advocate for herself to the RAB. Ms.

Hensley withdrew her name from the running upon hearing the extensive experience of Mr. Pierce. Mr. Pierce was unanimously voted Community Co-Chair by all RAB members present.

Upon election of the Community Co-Chair (Mr. Mike Pierce) Mr. Smith led the RAB in selection of the next RAB Meeting Date and Location. The RAB discussed which days of the week were best and did not conflict with other City and local meetings. Thursdays seemed to work best for all RAB members. Ms. Dawn Buehler requested that the meeting be set to be recurring so all could plan to attend. The RAB concluded that the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Thursday of the last month of the quarter would be set for the SFAAP RAB. The next meeting was set for February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:00pm. The Desoto City Hall Senior Center was chosen as the best location for the community to meet.

The next agenda topic was setting the agenda for the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, RAB Meeting. Proposed agenda items included: Finalize previous meeting minutes, Old Business (adopting RAB operating principles), Environmental Update, New Business, RAB Questions, Public Questions.

Chris Connell: Will the RAB have an opportunity for an installation tour?

Scott Smith: Yes, that could be arranged potentially if requested by the RAB.

Vicki Selzer: Is the information from the old RAB available to review to determine a starting point for the new RAB?

Scott Smith: During the environmental update we can provide history of the RAB, history of the clean-up, why the RAB ended, and the last efforts of the RAB. The USAEC has a website of information for SFAAP. The web address is <https://aec.army.mil/sfaap>

Mike Pierce: Is there any remediation ongoing now?

Scott Smith: Yes. We are gearing up for some remediation to begin and can provide an update on the current clean up at the next RAB meeting.

Jennifer Hensley: May I request a RAB tour in conjunction or around the next RAB meeting in February?

Scott Smith: I will note that request and determine probability.

Chris Connell: Will the RAB meeting replace the yearly Public Meeting held?

Ian Thomas: Yes. The RAB meetings will replace those yearly meetings going forward.

Paul Oberle: Will the Environmental Update include the funding process?

Ian Thomas: It will be touched on but limited.

Mike Pierce: Are investigations ongoing?

Scott Smith: Yes.

David Rhodes: Do the investigations/remediations focus on the installation as whole and not property ownership?

Scott Smith: We will be discussing the remediation conducting by Army only. Remediation efforts have been completed on land transferred out of SRL ownership.

Vicki Selzer: Why is Army involved now?

Scott Smith/Ian Thomas: Army has a CERCLA liability to finish the remediation. Soil is projected to be completed in 2028 and groundwater will continue for some time after that.

Feedback from the RAB ended, and Scott Smith opened the meeting to public comment and questions.

Nancy Moneymaker: Is testing of adjacent properties to the installation planned?

Scott Smith: No sampling outside the installation boundaries is currently planned.

Nancy Moneymaker: Is the current testing out there available to the public?

Scott Smith: Once the data is reviewed and validated it is releasable to the public.

Nancy Moneymaker: Can the public go on a tour? Can private citizens request a tour?

Scott Smith/Ian Thomas: Generally, no. There are no resources as of now for that activity.

Syed Hasan: What criteria were used to select RAB members:

Scott Smith: Those community members who showed interest in becoming a RAB member by submitting a community interest form were reviewed. Kansas Department of Health Environment representative, USEPA representatives, and Army representatives formed a panel to review the community interest forms. The panel selected a cross-section of individuals who lived near the installation.

There were no further questions from the Public.

Scott Smith moved to close the meeting at 7:28 pm. This was affirmed by all RAB members present.