



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved September 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tenn., beginning at 6 p.m. A video of the meeting was made and may be viewed by contacting the ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584. The presentation portion of the video is available on the board's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Noel Berry
Alfreda Cook
Lisa Hagy
Bob Hatcher
Mary Hatcher
David Hemelright, Acting
Chair

Bruce Hicks
Howard Holmes
Jennifer Kasten
Jan Lyons
Fay Martin
Scott McKinney
Donald Mei

Greg Paulus
Belinda Price
Julia Riley¹
Wanda Smith
Coralie Staley

Members Absent

Jimmy Bell
Carmen DeLong
Gracie Hall¹
Scott Stout

¹Student Representative

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Federal Coordinator Present

Dave Adler, Department of Energy-Oak Ridge Office (DOE-ORO), Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)
Susan Cange, (DOE-ORO) Deputy Manager for Environment Management (EM) and ORSSAB DDFO
Connie Jones, Liaison, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 (via telephone hookup)
John Owsley, Liaison, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Federal Coordinator, DOE-ORO

Others Present

Spencer Gross, ORSSAB Support Office
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office
Lorene Sigal

Four members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Adler – Mr. Adler reported on two outstanding responses to ORSSAB recommendations.

Concerning Recommendation 217: Recommendation on Stewardship Point of Contact for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), Mr. Adler said a response was delayed until it was determined if the EM and Stewardship Committees would merge. He said the response has now been completed and the board should receive it before the next board meeting. The basic response is that the EM & Stewardship Committee liaison will be the stewardship point of contact for the board.

He said Recommendation 218: Recommendation to Develop a Fact Sheet on Site Transition at Ongoing Mission Sites is being addressed at DOE Headquarters and a response to the recommendation should be available prior to the next meeting. He said the fact sheet has been revised, and he expects it will be acceptable by the board, but the response is still being reviewed by headquarters.

Ms. Cange – Ms. Cange reminded board members that the fiscal year ends on September 30. She said a budget for FY 2014 has not been passed by Congress and the government will operate under a continuing resolution. Guidelines are provided by DOE Headquarters as to what spending limits will be during the continuing resolution. The guidelines are usually based on the previous year's budget and are conservative so there is no overspending before a budget is passed.

Ms. Cange said the remaining six units of the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) have been declared criticality incredible and the units are ready for demolition, which will begin the week of September 16. The expectation is to have the remaining units demolished and the area cleared of debris in about a year's time.

DOE EM Senior Advisor David Huizenga and Oak Ridge Manager for EM Mark Whitney have had discussions with representatives of the governor of Nevada regarding the disposition of the Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project uranium-233 at the Nevada National Security Site. The governor of Nevada has objected to having the U-233 disposed at the site. There will be additional discussions, but DOE Oak Ridge has not received a go-ahead to begin shipping the material to the site. Ms. Cange said the hope is to have the issue resolved soon.

Mr. Bell asked Ms. Cange to explain how the project is to be completed. She said the proposal was to dispose about 50 percent of the material directly without downblending. The remaining 50 percent, because of its current form, would have to be downblended and rendered less hazardous before being disposed.

Mr. Owsley – For the benefit of newer members, Mr. Owsley explained the work of the TDEC DOE Oversight Office, of which he is the director. The office is part of TDEC's Division of Remediation, which is responsible for overseeing Superfund cleanup across the state. The ORR was placed on the National Priorities List for cleanup in the late 1980s and a Federal Facility Agreement was signed by DOE, EPA, and TDEC outlining how cleanup of ORR would be accomplished.

Mr. Owsley said the DOE Oversight Office handles TDEC's responsibilities under the agreement. His office is also responsible for environmental monitoring both on and off the reservation, including soil, surface water, sediment, and exit pathways of groundwater. His office will respond to any incident that occurs within the ORR that crosses the boundaries of the reservation. It does not respond to emergencies within the reservation boundary.

TDEC provides a small grant to local governments to participate in DOE activities that impact them as part of a public outreach effort. TDEC also provides annual environmental monitoring reports as well as reports on its general activities.

Mr. Owsley encouraged board members to ask questions of him at board meetings on any aspect of the Oversight Office's work related to cleanup of the ORR.

Ms. Staley asked if TDEC had any priorities for the ORR cleanup. Mr. Owsley said TDEC provided ORSSAB a list of priorities to the board at the annual meeting. They include mercury remediation at Y-12 National Security Complex, groundwater strategy for the reservation, and the siting and construction of a second on-site waste disposal facility.

Ms. Jones – Ms. Jones agreed with Ms. Cange's comments about reaching the milestone of criticality incredible for K-25 and said EPA is looking forward to working with DOE on beginning demolition of K-27.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation

Ms. Sigal's presentation was a Review of Long-term Stewardship for Contaminated Areas of the ORR. The main points of her presentation are in Attachment 1.

Ms. Sigal began by saying the Student Summary of the Stakeholder's Report on Stewardship was a good way for members to get a basic understanding of stewardship. The report is available at the DOE Information Center.

Ms. Sigal showed a map of the ORR (Attachment 1, page 2) that shows areas of contamination. Those areas are noted in red and are concentrated near the main industrial areas of ETTP, Oak Ridge National Lab, and Y-12. She noted that most of the ORR is not contaminated. Of about 35,000 acres only about 10 percent of the reservation has contamination. Most of the contamination is on site, with the exception of a plume that is to the east of Y-12 in Union Valley, some mercury that is leaving the site in East Fork Poplar Creek, and cesium, strontium, and tritium in the Clinch River. She said stewardship requirements are in place for those areas. Property owners in Union Valley have restrictions from using any groundwater. Signage along East Fork Poplar Creek warns against swimming or eating fish from the creek. White Oak Dam restricts contamination going into Clinch River.

She said DOE continues to release some contamination into the environment under permit, but she assured the board that Oak Ridge is a safe place to live. The area is well monitored with state-of-the-art surveillance and maintenance and emergency response capabilities available.

Ms. Sigal showed a timeline of stewardship activities in Oak Ridge (Attachment 1, page 3). In 1996, DOE asked ORSSAB to host a public meeting of citizens to encourage them to become involved in the cleanup of the ORR. As a result, the End Use Working Group (EUWG) was formed to make recommendations on final uses of the reservation after cleanup was finished. Ms. Sigal said the group realized that some of the contamination on the reservation would have to remain in place. The group would not agree to leaving the contamination on the reservation unless long-term stewardship plans were in place. That led to the formation of a Stewardship Committee to make recommendations on long-term stewardship.

Working simultaneously, the EUWG and the Stewardship Committee published two reports in 1998 – the Final Report of the EUWG and the Stakeholder's Report on Stewardship. When the two groups completed their work and were disbanded, a Stewardship Working Group was formed, which published a second report on stewardship, the Stakeholder's Report on Stewardship, Vol. 2. It was continuation of stewardship efforts to be followed on the ORR.

In 1999 Oak Ridge hosted a national workshop on stewardship that resulted in a number of recommendations on stewardship being sent to DOE Headquarters.

When the Stewardship Working Group finished its work it was disbanded, but ORSSAB established its own Stewardship Committee to follow stewardship issues on the ORR. Ms. Sigal said ORSSAB asked DOE to consider the committee a citizens' board for stewardship as long as ORSSAB existed. If the board disbands then DOE would establish a separate citizens' board that would have oversight of stewardship on the reservation. Ms. Sigal said DOE's Public Involvement Plan includes a statement about the Stewardship Committee being a citizen's board for stewardship, and she said it's important to make sure that statement is in the Public Involvement Plan when it is revised every three years.

Ms. Sigal reviewed the definition of stewardship as 'acceptance of the responsibility and implementation of activities necessary to maintain long-term protection of human health and the environment from hazards posed by residual radioactive and chemically hazardous materials' (Attachment 1, page 4). That definition was written in relation to cleanup of the ORR. Ms. Sigal said the definition has worked well over the years and continues to guide stewardship efforts.

After the definition of stewardship was developed, a list of goals for long-term stewardship was worked out (Attachment 1, page 5). Ms. Sigal said it was important for the first two goals to be legally defensible and that they be included in Records of Decision.

She said funding for stewardship is not adequate but should be stable to meet the needs of proper stewardship activities.

Ms. Sigal reviewed the organization of stewardship elements (Attachment 1, page 6), which was related to the first goal of long-term stewardship (page 5). She said the ultimate goal was the long-term protection of human health and the environment. To reach that goal, the first thing that had to be established was authority and funding. The primary authority is the federal government, in this case DOE, for ensuring stewardship elements are in place. Then there are three stewards – principal (DOE), implementation (DOE/contractors), and oversight (TDEC/EPA/ORSSAB/local government/public). The stewards oversee the various stewardship operations.

Ms. Sigal explained that institutional controls are restrictions, permits, or ordinances that restrict access or use of protected areas. Physical controls are signs, fences, and other structures that prevent access. Information systems are records that describe the property, where it is, what it contains, what the hazards are, etc.

Ms. Sigal reviewed the current short- and long-term stewardship activities that have been followed by the Stewardship Committee (Attachment 1, pages 7-10). She noted that the Stewardship Committee is merging with the EM Committee, but the issues will continue to be followed in the merged committee.

After Ms. Sigal's presentation, Mr. Hatcher asked how she saw the role of the EM program as it transitions to stewardship. She said eventually when cleanup is complete the EM program would be dissolved, but hope is the legally defensible documents regulating cleanup will be complete enough to include all the necessary stewardship elements. Mr. Hatcher also asked what she thought EM's role in stewardship would be in the interim while cleanup is underway. He thought cleanup and stewardship should work hand in hand. Ms. Sigal agreed saying the implementation stewards do work for DOE putting stewardship elements in place. But she said all of the stewards must work together to ensure stewardship is carried out.

Committee Reports

Finance & Process – Mr. Paulus reported that the board's budget is in order and spending is within budget. The committee is working on the board's FY 2016 budget request and the goal is to try to reduce the board's budget by about 16 percent. He said as part of the work of developing a budget request, an email was sent to all board members recently asking how they felt about holding the annual meeting locally. The results of the poll will be discussed at the September 25 committee meeting.

Regarding the annual meeting, Mr. McKinney said it was the most efficient one he had been involved in, and he credited much of that to DOE, EPA, and TDEC, which provided a number of common issues for the board to consider in FY 2014 allowing the meeting to proceed quickly.

EM – Mr. Hatcher reported that EM and Stewardship met jointly on July 17 and August 26 to discuss the possibility of merging. The July meeting focused on discussing each committee's priorities and how they would be handled in a merged committee. At the August meeting Mr. Adler took the various committee priorities and drafted a potential work plan for a merged committee that alternated EM and Stewardship issues. The two committees voted to merge at the August meeting.

The EM & Stewardship committee will meet on September 17 and will work to finalize its FY 2014 work plan, elect committee leadership, and decide on a permanent meeting day.

Public Outreach – Mr. McKinney reported that Ms. Lyons has agreed to co-chair the committee with him. The committee will meet on September 24, and a number of topics left over from the current fiscal year and some potential new projects for FY 2014 will be discussed. He invited anyone interested in joining the committee to attend.

Stewardship – Ms. Staley thanked Mr. Adler and all the members of the EM and Stewardship Committees for making the merger of the committees go smoothly. She said members were accepting of the idea to merge sooner than she had expected primarily because they had discussed the issues and had been well informed by Mr. Adler how the merger would proceed. She said she was confident and excited about the success of the merger.

Executive – Mr. Hemelright said the committee met on August 28 and reviewed results of the annual meeting end of day survey. The committee reviewed the facilitator's report and discussed some lessons learned that could be used for planning the next annual meeting. He said results of the survey spoke a lot about member participation and involvement. Another item discussed was the value of holding the meeting out of town or in Oak Ridge. He said facilitator Jenny Freeman was impressed with board members' enthusiasm at the meeting.

Mr. Hemelright said the committee discussed a draft recommendation on nickel that came from the EM Committee. Mr. Hemelright recommended tabling the recommendation. He said a similar recommendation will be discussed at the October EM SSAB Chairs' meeting regarding the disposition of all metals. He wants to talk with the Paducah and Portsmouth chairs to see if any of the elements of the nickel recommendation would fit in with metals recommendation.

He said the EM SSAB Chairs' meeting will be hosted by the Portsmouth SSAB at Deer Creek State Park in Ohio October 15-17. He, Mr. Hicks, and Ms. Staley are planning to attend.

Announcements and Other Board Business

ORSSAB will have its next meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at the DOE Information Center.

Mr. Berry, Ms. Hatcher, and Ms. Smith were introduced as new members of the board.

The minutes of the June 12, 2013, meeting were approved.

A proposed revision to the ORSSAB bylaws had its second reading (Attachment 2) and was approved.

Mr. Hemelright, Mr. Hicks, and Ms. Hagy were elected chair, vice chair, and secretary respectively for FY 2014.

Federal Coordinator Report

Ms. Noe said she had signed off on all members' travel to the annual meeting. She said if anyone had not yet been reimbursed for the trip to let her know.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Motions

9/11/13.1

Mr. Hatcher moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded and the motion passed **unanimously**.

9/11/13.2

Ms. Lyons moved to approve proposed revision to the ORSSAB bylaws (Attachment 2) after the second reading. Mr. Hatcher seconded and the motion passed **unanimously**.

9/11/13.2

Mr. McKinney, as chair of the ad hoc Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for board officers for FY 2014 (Mr. Hemelright, chair; Mr. Hicks, vice chair; Ms. Hagy, secretary). He asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Mr. McKinney moved to approve the slate of candidates. Mr. Holmes seconded and the motion passed **unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Action items

Open

1. DOE will provide a link to budget volumes that provide descriptions of cleanup sites, their challenges, and funding profiles.

Closed

2. Staff will provide website address of the TDEC monitoring report to board members. **Complete.** Website address was sent to board members on June 15, 2013, by former chair David Martin.

Attachments (2) to these minutes are available on request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the September 11, 2013, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Dave Hemelright

Dave Hemelright, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
DH/rsg

November 14, 2013