

**Pribilofs Restoration Advisory Board  
Recreation Hall  
St. George, Alaska  
Thursday, September 16, 2004**

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**Meeting Notes<sup>1</sup>**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Max Malavansky, co-chair, City of St. George  
 Mr. Bernie Denno co-chair, NOAA  
 Andy Kashevarof, Tanaq  
 Alvin Merculief, City of St. George  
 Anthony Merculief, St. George Traditional Council  
 Mark Merculief, Sr., President Chadux, Chairman Tanaq Corp.  
 Louis Howard, ADEC  
 Ellen Clark, NOAA  
 John Lindsay, NOAA  
 Jim Malchow, NOAA  
 Paula Souik, NOAA  
 Minh Trinh, NOAA

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- Circulation of sign-in sheet

**REVIEW OF ST. GEORGE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEMBERSHIP**

- Mark Merculief replaced Laurence Lestenkof as a representative from Tanaq.
- Andrew Malavansky moved from being a St. George at large representative to a Traditional Council representative, replacing Gregory McGlashan who moved off-island.
- St. George at large seat now vacant; looking for a person to fill this seat.
- Below represents current St. George RAB membership.

<b>September 16, 2004 Updated St. George RA B Membership</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Max Malavansky	City of St. George, co-chair
Alvin Merculief	City of St. George
Andrew Malavansky	IRA Traditional Council
Anthony Merculief	IRA Traditional Council
Gilbert Kashevarof	St. George at large
<b>VACANT</b>	St. George at large
Andronik Kashevarof, Jr	Tanaq
Mark Merculief	Tanaq
Ivan Sanders	Pribilof School District
Bernie Denno	NOAA, co-chair, non-voting
Louis Howard	State of Alaska, non-voting

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<sup>1</sup> Final RAB meeting notes and materials presented at the RAB meetings will be posted to the following website:  
<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/pribilof/rab/welcome.htm>

**DISTRIBUTION OF JUNE 16, 2004 RAB NOTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

- Minutes approved

**ADDITION TO THE AGENDA**

- Closure of currently operating landfill cell

**UPDATE ON SEASON'S FIELD ACTIVITIES**

Overview

Four Two Party Agreement (TPA) sites remain to be cleaned up (collectively referred to as the ocean front sites), plus groundwater cleanup and petroleum-contaminated soil (PCS) relocation. Free product removal pilot to begin in October or November. After that a full-scale removal can be designed. Efforts are dependent on funding.

Enhanced Thermal Conduction (ETC) system demobilization

- The components were not securely stacked when the system arrived from St. Paul. It was a time consuming effort to restack the components and prepare them for shipment.
- The system is now staged on flat racks at the harbor.
- It will be shipped to Dutch Harbor then to Seattle for storage at Fort Lewis next year.

Excavation of lead contaminated soil

*Old Carpenter Shop*

- Conducted excavation at this site three years in a row, 2002 through 2004. This year went back to excavate areas where lab results from last year indicated lead remained above cleanup level.
- Used XRF for real time, accurate lead analysis.
- 138 cubic yards of soil removed; placed in supersacks.
- Preliminary lab results indicate soil left in place is below cleanup levels.

*Inactive Gasoline Station*

- 6 cubic yards of soil removed; placed in supersacks.
- Preliminary lab results indicate soil left in place is below cleanup levels.

*Old Power Plant*

- Four potential lead hot spots investigated; removed lead soil before beginning removal of PCS.
- Lab analyses determined that this lead soil is considered hazardous waste.
- The lead soil was shipped off island for proper disposal at a hazardous waste facility.

**Question:** Lead paint stored in a former paint shop located between the hotel and old carpenter shop was used on bidars at the carpenter shop. Therefore, lead contamination may exist at the location of the former paint shop. A request was previously made to sample this area. Has sampling been conducted?

**Motion:** to request that this sampling be performed and that Anthony assist field personnel in identifying sampling locations.

**Response:** NOAA indicated that historic photographs could also be helpful in determining locations to be sampled. NOAA agreed to consider the question.

### PCS removal preparations

- 2000 cubic yards of soil were excavated at the red pit quarry for use as backfill at the Old Power Plant.
- Constructed a decontamination station to clean large equipment.
- Lab hood moved from Wash House to school. Chadux hired subcontractors to install the hood. New lab was professionally designed and installed, and will be given to the school when no longer needed by NOAA.
- Dump truck covers were installed on two Kenworth trucks. Still need to install cover on Mack truck. Covers required for hauling PCS.

### Sampling of Public Health Service stockpile

- Previously the RAB voiced a concern that soil removed from the village (during installation of septic/sewer along ocean front in 1985-1986) and placed at the Open Pits Site was contaminated.
- With the help of Alvin Mercurief, Max Malavansky, Andy Kashevarof, and Bret Colburn, the pile suspected to be contaminated with petroleum products was identified.
- NOAA collected samples from this pile for thin-layer chromatography analysis.
- Chadux and Tetra Tech then collected samples for off-island laboratory analysis.
- Preliminary results indicate that petroleum products in the soil are below cleanup levels.

### Monitoring well cover repairs

- The hinges on groundwater monitoring well covers were corroding. Chadux welded chain to the cover and upright as an alternative to using hinges.
- Well done.

### PCS Removal at the Old Power Plant

- Had to build a road into the site on the south end of the building.
- Digging was slow around the Old Power Plant. Operators did a good job, not damaging building.
- Had to dig around an active sewer line. Did actually hit part of the active sewer line—the elbow, field constructed with concrete. Repairs were made.
- Agreed with Chadux to stay 50 feet off cliff edge with heavy equipment.
- Encountered refusal in many areas; contaminated soil excavated to the extent possible.
- To the north of the Old Power Plant, excavated down slope to the lip of the cliff. Refusal was very shallow at this point (~1 ft.). Contamination seems to have ended at this edge because of geology.
- Geojute laid and secured with 6-inch metal staples; seed spread. New grass is already growing.
- Work conducted July 22-August 9, 2004
- 123 truck loads or ~1500 cubic yards of soil removed
- 2 cubic yards of abandoned asbestos/concrete pipe removed

### Waste Shipment/Equipment Mobilization

- Drill rig, D-5 CAT dozer, John Deere loader, and 30-ton tilt-bed trailer brought over from St. Paul. D-3 CAT dozer shipped to St. Paul.

- 60 cubic yards of tarp and investigation derived waste and 5 cubic yards of asbestos/cement pipe shipped off island.
- 155 supersacks of lead and mercury contaminated soil from 2002-2004 shipped off island.
- ETC equipment was too heavy to ship off on landing craft. Will need to go out on barge.

**Question:** Is there a barge coming out soon? If so, can NOAA give the City a heads up?

**Response:** There is no schedule for when the next barge is coming to the island. Most likely next spring. NOAA will let the City and community know.

#### Free Product Removal Pilot Project

Testing of wells over 10-12 days in October. Will inject clean water into wells to see how it moves. Based on results will come up with design for full scale project. Design expected by February. Project dependent on funding. Have about 40K-50K gallons of free product. Contractors will evaluate alternatives for reuse. If reuse is possible, priority should go to island use.

#### Stockpiling of 15,000 cubic yards backfill

- Expect this work to begin next week.
- Backfill will be used next year to fill ocean front sites after excavation.

#### **PCS DISPOSAL UPDATE**

- At first NOAA was going to treat PCS using the ETC system. Given high costs and time to conduct treatment, Congress strongly recommended that NOAA look at cost and time saving alternatives. NOAA hired a contractor to conduct analysis of various options for disposal/treatment. A monofill was considered among other things like land farming and land spreading.
- NOAA realized through discussions with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) that land spreading with phytoremediation would be a suitable option to implement in this situation. The State conducted a human health and ecological risk assessment and John Lindsay sought buy in from NOAA leadership.
- A site on St. George Island needed to be identified where NOAA could conduct the land spreading. The City approached NOAA with the idea of using the PCS to complete berm at new landfill site. The city needed 20,000 cubic yards of soil and NOAA coincidentally anticipates needing to dispose of 20,000 cubic yards.
- NOAA spoke to the State about this concept and it was determined to be an appropriate beneficial use of PCS.
- The City submitted a letter of terms and conditions to NOAA to allow for the movement of PCS to complete the landfill berm.
- NOAA Pribilof Project Office has taken steps to begin implementing the agreement through NOAA's Office of General Counsel, as well as by purchasing heavy equipment.
- NOAA general counsel is currently drafting an agreement to consummate this arrangement. Due to complexities of this agreement, it involves a contract and an environmental lawyer to complete.
- Part of the terms of the agreement is to allow the City to participate in the activities, e.g., relocating the soils. NOAA is intending to enter into an agreement with the City to move the soils at the current stockpile site. Hopefully will be conducting this work this year.

- PCS excavated from the ocean front sites would also be applied to the landfill berm.
- Overall idea is to move soils from location where they pose high risk to location where they pose low risk.

**Comment:** Assistance requested in getting purchase order for this project moved. The purchase order is signed but St. George's is having difficulty obtaining a contractor central registry number.

**Question:** Will the soil or site be prepared in any special way?

**Response:** No. The State has determined that disposal of the PCS at the new landfill location poses no unacceptable risk.

**Question:** Has The Aleut Corp., the subsurface owners, played a role in this decision?

**Response:** According to Max, lands transferred from the federal government to local St. George entities under the 3(e) withdrawal section of ANSCA entitled the recipient to both the surface and the subsurface land rights; thus, the City, not The Aleut Corp., owns the subsurface at the new landfill location.

#### **UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER SAMPLING ACTIVITIES**

- Fourth quarter of monitoring completed in May 2004.
- Results show that groundwater contamination levels have not changed significantly from last quarter.
- There may be two separate plumes in the village area, one being contaminated with diesel-range organics (DRO) and the other being contaminated with DRO and gasoline-range organics (including benzene). If they were connected, one should see gasoline diffused throughout.
- NOAA has monitoring wells that will remain as sentry wells, though some will likely be decommissioned. These wells have consistently shown non-detect concentrations for all tested contaminants. These wells are located between drinking water wells and the village.
- Near the Tanaq shop, DRO was detected, but below cleanup levels.
- The 2003-2004 data will be synthesized with the 2001-2002 data and a new sampling plan will be proposed to the State. NOAA does not feel it is necessary to continue monitoring all wells. The monitoring frequency and number of constituents analyzed could also decrease.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE SHOP/STORE UST SITE**

NOAA explained that Tanaq requested NOAA not to perform additional excavation at the Shop/Store UST site, by the Tanaq Office, because of Tanaq's concern over the slumping of the cliff. NOAA requested a letter from Tanaq on this matter, and once received, NOAA will submit a request for no further action to ADEC.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE CELL AT THE CURRENT LANDFILL**

- ADEC has stated in a letter to the City that the City is responsible for the closure of the current landfill in accordance with the City's approved design plan.
- The City is requesting that the State or NOAA provide financial assistance for the closing the temporary cell atop the closed landfill. **Motion** to support this request moved.
- NOAA is not opposed to helping the City if NOAA is in a position to do so. NOAA funding opportunities are about to run out. City would need to expedite opening of the new landfill in

order for NOAA to help close the current landfill. The City is not generating that much waste. If NOAA is to help, it would need to be done next year.

**Question:** When would the City be in a position to close the landfill?

**Response:** Hopefully the new landfill will be on line in late FY05. Last year the City requested an extension of the grant money. Does this have to be done again?

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### Alternative Energy

- Wind Energy- NOAA has colleagues in the Department of Energy (DOE) who might be able to assist with getting a pilot project started. Need to get data from the City to better understand the peak load issues. Generators would need to be installed, and then some energy saving practices would have to be implemented (e.g., use of fluorescent light bulbs). Bernie and Minh will contact DOE to gather information on potential money sources to assist the City with augmenting their current energy source with wind energy. Potentially grants are available from the state and federal governments, or perhaps funding from restoration funds. Bernie and Minh will do some research and send an email to the group letting them know of the findings. Will look at manners in which the City can increase their energy efficiencies. New generation of windmills turn more slowly, have longer blades, resulting in lower impact to birds.
- Solar Energy- Would be cost prohibitive. Solar panels are expensive and they are not efficient, especially on the Pribilofs given long dark days in the winter. Even in Hawaii the use of solar has proven difficult.

### Drill Rig

**Question:** How long will the drill rig be on island? Would it be possible to work with NOAA to drill wells at the airport and down at the Harbor?

**Response:** NOAA may need to bring it back to St. Paul shortly to address a NOAA Weather Service free product issue. NOAA is not supposed to be providing equipment to for profit corporations for their own use. This needs to be taken into account with such requests. It is a different situation if the tribe or the City requests assistance.

## **CLOSING REMARKS; TENTATIVE DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

- The week of December 6th in Anchorage was proposed for the next RAB meeting. Typically Anchorage meetings are joint St. Paul/St. George meetings. The St. George co-chair, Max, indicated the date, location, etc. were fine.
- Meeting subject to change given flights, weather etc.
- NOAA can provide funding, subject to availability, for non-profits and members at large, if necessary. A request for support must be made in advance and travel is subject to federal travel regulations. Contact Jackie Babcock (206-526-6965) for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09.