

DRAFT AGENDA

HNRTC Meeting
May 13~~th~~, 1999 – Bechtel Building
Richland, Washington

Thursday, May 13, 1999:

- 8:30 ✓ Welcome and Introductions
✓ Approve Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes
✓ Review Action Items
- 8:45 ✓ Announcements (All)
- 9:00 ✓ GW/VZ Presentation on the Status of the Risk Portion of the Project
(Pam Doctor/Amoret Bunn)
- 9:45 ✓ HNRTC Administrative Database (Teri Elzie)
- 10:00 ✓ BREAK
- 10:15 ✓ 200 Area Implementation Plan & Eco Assessment (Tom Post)
- 11:00 ✓ ERDF Revegetation Update (Ken Gano)
- 11:15 ✓ Pitt 24 Wetlands Project Update (Ken Gano)
- 11:30 ✓ Election of Vice-Chair (All)
- 11:45 ✓ LUNCH BREAK
- 12:45 ✓ HRA-EIS (Tom Ferns)
- 1:15 ✓ 100 Area Assessment Plan – Public Meeting (Doug Mosich)
- 1:45 ✓ Tolling Agreement (Doug Mosich)
- 2:00 ✓ Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research Program (NABIR)
(Proposed Field Research Center at Hanford) Phil Long
- 2:15 ✓ Update on In-Situ Redox (Arlene Tortoso)
- 2:45 BREAK
- 3:00 ✓ RL's Additional DDT Assessment (Jamie Zeisloft/Ken Gano)
- 3:15 ✓ Chromium/Salmon Study Phase 2 Proposal (Dan Audet/Dan Woodward/
Dennis Dauble)
- 4:45 ADJOURN

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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 1999

Bechtel Building - Richland, Washington

Council Attendees:

John Carleton	Jenifer Linville
Teri Elzie	Jay McConnaughey
Larry Gadbois	Doug Mosich
Wendell Hannigan (Not Present)	Tom O'Brien
Susan Hughs	Preston Sleeper (Not Present)
Nick Iadanza (Not Present)	Darci Teel
Jake Jakabosky	JR Wilkinson
Dan Landeen	Jamie Zeisloft

Presenters & Guests:

Dan Audet	Phil Long
Dennis Dauble	Tom Post
Pam Doctor	Arlene Tortoso
Tom Ferns	Joy Turner
John Fruchter	Mary Ann Wuennecke
Ken Gano	Dan Woodward

Welcome and Introductions:

Jay welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over a few items of interest: the Hanford Openness Workshop; Wildlife Application to Remediation Decision-Making Schedule Change; and "Birds in a Sagebrush Area."

Approve Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes:

The current agenda was approved, but Jay asked that approval of the meeting minutes from the March meeting be postponed until next meeting so that he would have time to review and comment.

Review Action Items:

The Action Item List was reviewed and updated.

Action: Susan/Jen/Jamie – Discuss changing the NRTC Web page logo.

Groundwater/Vadose Zone Presentation on the Status of the Risk Portion of the Project – (SAC Dependence Webs and Risk Status) – Pam Doctor

Pam provided the Council with an overview of the risk analysis part of the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Project. She said the purpose is, “to assess the effects of radioactive materials and chemicals on ecology, human health, culture, and economy.” Pam said that it is very important to have input from the Tribes, regulators, stakeholders, and the public on the entire process. She stated they are using existing data to determine what contaminants there are now and what is currently going on in order to predict what could happen in the future. The critical locations are the intersection of contaminants and natural resources as valued by people or intrinsically important to ecosystem structure and function. Examples of critical locations on the Hanford Site are some of the groundwater plumes and the Fall Chinook spawning areas. Pam said the dependency webs will identify resources “at risk” and make the connection among the resources. The dependency webs will be a mechanism to communicate with and receive feedback from stakeholders. The dependency webs will provide a conceptual model for assessment; a tracking tool to ensure impacts to resources are addressed; a framework for explaining impacts and risk in a holistic way; and will focus attention on dominant issues. Pam said the webs are based on location. The risk assessment will be used to provide information for decision-making based on a wider set of questions than in the past, it will focus on locations that are important; and will provide continuum of present to future conditions and how impacts/risks change.

A copy of Pam’s presentation is filed with the meeting information.

NRTC Administrative Database – Teri Elzie

Teri provided an overview of the NRTC administrative database; how it works, what it is made up of, and how to locate something. She said that if any of the Trustees have copies of letters, e-mails, memorandums, etc. that they think need to be in the database, send a copy to Teri and she will enter it into the database and file a hard copy.

200 Area Implementation Plan and Eco Assessment – Tom Post

Tom Post of the EPA provided the Council with information on the 200 Area Implementation Plan and Eco-Assessment. He said the plan outlines how EPA, Ecology, and DOE are planning on characterizing approximately 700 soil waste sites in the 200 Area. Most of these waste sites were created by the discharge of solids and liquids from fuel processing facilities to ponds, ditches, burial grounds, and cribs; this strategy does not address the tank farms, the vadose zone beneath the tank farms, or the groundwater. Tom O’Brien said that these sites seem like they may be a good place to set-up and monitor a food sight for starlings and other birds. Jay said that he would encourage the EPA to look at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and what USFWS implemented there, so as not to argue whether cleanup has been done or not.

There was discussion on capping or exhuming, which is more economical. Tom said that it depends on the size of the site. Jamie said that what is being done on the groundwater/vadose zone project could provide a lot of information for what we are trying to do here. Susan asked how the Council wants to respond on being involved in this project “early.”

Jay said that we could possibly create a work group to address this issue - - do we go down the same path we have always gone down, or do we create a new and different path. Susan suggested that we could do nothing, respond individually, or create a work group. JR put forth a motion to develop a committee to look into this project. Doug seconded the motion. The committee will include Tom O'Brien, Dan Landeen, and Jay McConnaughey.

ERDF Revegetation Update – Ken Gano

Ken provided an update on the ERDF revegetation sites. Ken said that approximately 72,000 bareroot and tublings were planted last November by USFWS. The survival rates are as follows:

Area 1: 93%

Area 2: 97.8%

Area 3: 91.6%

Area 4: Not monitored (being monitored by PNNL)

Area 5: 57.8%

Ken said that Area 2 (bareroot) survived the best; looked the healthiest and cost the least amount of money. Area 5 had the highest mortality rate; possibly because the roots were so large they had to be cut back before they could be planted and may have been cut back too far. Ken said that they will check the plants again in the fall to see how they survive over the summer.

Pit 24 Wetlands Project Update – Ken Gano

Ken updated the Council on the status of Borrow Pit 24. Currently, the pit is being used for backfill in the B/C Area. The pit will be used for 3-4 more years for backfill, then the idea is to turn it into a wetland. Ken said the pit already is there, it is shallow, and already contains water, so the plan is to develop it into a wetland for wetland species. The pit would be below the water table in the fall, and then during the winter it will rise as the river comes up; there will then be water in it during the nesting season. Ken said the wetland will consist of cattails, bullrush, and willows.

Tolling Agreement – Doug Mosich

Doug updated the Council on the tolling agreement and said that not much has changed since the last meeting. He said that he doesn't see any problems with the language DOE is proposing, and it is really down to the scope of work. Jamie said that once we have results from the survey of the North Slope, we will be able to determine if there is information that would warrant a tolling agreement.

Action: Teri - Copy Tolling Agreement for the Trustees.

100 Area Assessment Plan Public Meeting – Doug Mosich

Doug provided the Council with an update of the 100 Area Assessment Plan public meeting and said that things are moving forward. He asked who would attend as a Trustee and then decide on a date. It was decided to place an advertisement in the Tri-City Herald and the Hanford Happenings. The announcement (Focus Sheet) will be sent out to the same mailing list as the Hanford Update, but it will not be included in the Hanford Update. The public comment period will begin on June 1, 1999, and close on June 30, 1999. The Council decided to have the meeting on Thursday, June 17, 1999, at Ecology's office in Kennewick. Jamie, Doug, Jay, and Dan Audet will attend. Dan Audet will check with Julie Campbell to see if her schedule will allow her to attend as well.

Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research Program – (NABIR Field Research Center at Hanford) – Phil Long

Phil Long provided the Council with an overview of DOE's proposal for a Field Research Center at Hanford. Phil said that DOE's Office of Biological and Environmental Research proposes a Field Research Center (FRC) as part of a coordinated laboratory and field research effort to understand the biological and biogeochemical processes that contribute to bioremediation of DOE's metals and radionuclide contaminated sites. Some of the benefits are long-term solutions to metals and radionuclide contamination at DOE sites; it supports the Hanford cleanup mission; augments current DOE research conducted at Hanford; \$3M/year over 10 years (already allocated money). Phil said the facility will be located in the 100H Area; because you can do relatively shallow and inexpensive drilling. All work at the site will be approved by the DOE Site Manager and Ecology

A copy of Phil's presentation is filed with the meeting information.

Election of Vice-Chair – All

Tom O'Brien nominated Barbara Harper for the position of Vice-Chair and Dan Landeen seconded. Barbara accepted the nomination and Susan will draft a resolution to be sent out for signature.

HRA-EIS – Tom Ferns

Tom Ferns gave an overview/update on the HRA-EIS. He provided the Council with information on each of the alternatives. The No-Action Alternative presents the current status of land use at the Hanford Site and represents no change from current land-management processes or intergovernmental relationships with the cooperating agencies. DOE's Preferred Alternative anticipates multiple uses of Hanford, including anticipated future DOE missions, non-DOE Federal missions, and other public and private-sector land uses. The DOE preferred alternative would be mostly preservation. Alternative 1, Natural Resource Trustee Alternative would be a combination of preservation and conservation. The vision of Alternative One is to conserve the Hanford Site shrub-steppe ecosystem and protect the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. Alternative 2, Nez

Perce Alternative calls for preservation of natural and cultural resources and traditional Tribal use at the Site. Alternative 3, Cities and Counties, would be mostly conservation and agriculture. Alternative Three recognizes the potential that land use at the Hanford Site has in relation to economic development. Alternative 4, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, calls for preservation of natural resources and areas of religious importance of the CTUIR as well as traditional Tribal uses of the Hanford lands, while allowing DOE greater flexibility during the clean-up mission.

In-Situ Redox Update – Arlene Tortoso/John Fruchter

John went over the In-Situ Redox Manipulation (ISRM) process and provided the Council with background on the project. John said that thus far, a PNNL/Bechtel deployment team has been formed and the DQO has been completed.

A copy of John's presentation is filed with the meeting information.

RL's Additional DDT Assessment – Jamie Zeisloft/Ken Gano

Ken Gano provided the Council with an update of DOE-RL's additional assessment of the DDT issue on the North Slope. He said that four waste sites and one control site were sampled; a total of 63 pit traps were used at the various locations. The insects were retrieved from the traps weekly and insects found in proximity to the trap were hand collected. Sites were searched for nests one to two times weekly and nest searches were conducted at each site and bird observation data was recorded one to two times weekly. Ken said the study will go another two weeks and it could take up to 45 days for the analysis.

Chromium/Salmon Study Phase 2 Proposal – Dan Audet/Dan Woodward/ Dennis Dauble

Dan Audet provided the Council with background information on the study and discussed what it is the Council wants for Phase 2. Proposed was Round 1 – look at chromium concentrations of concern; studies that support the assessment plan; allows chromium to be separated out; initiated in September 1998. The first round studies were fertilization, early life stage, and parr health. Dan Woodward said that they will rerun the same tests, beginning in two weeks, using Cutthroat Trout. Dan Audet asked the Council to revisit the objectives of these studies. Dan Audet recommends on-site work that will document injury. He said the fertilization tests could be redone this fall with salmon, and the avoidance work could be done in the lab. Jamie said that DOE does not support doing the avoidance testing. He said there is not evidence that this area is habitat limited. Susan asked if either Dan Audet or Dan Woodward are pleading the case that the avoidance study should be a higher priority than the fertilization or early life stage? Dan Audet said that literature studies show that the highest are fertilization and avoidance. Dan Woodward said that avoidance tests could be done in the lab very quickly.

Dan Woodward/Dennis Dauble gave a presentation on doing the early life stage on-site. The tests would be done using chromium contaminated Hanford groundwater. The Chromium concentration range would be 266, 120, 54, 24, 11, 0 and the Columbia River water would be used for dilution. Battelle's laboratory would be used following Columbia River temperature regime and using Columbia River Chinook Salmon. The USGS would work with Battelle in conducting this on-site test. Dennis presented a timeline for the ELH tests:

- Study Plan development - June/July 99
- Water management/safety issues – June 99
- Finalize study participants and roles – July 9
- Proposal(s) review and funding authorization – August 99
- Finalize research teams – August 99
- Initiate laboratory setup – Sept/Oct 99
- Conduct the tests – November 99 – April 00
- Tissue analysis – April 00
- Data analysis April/July 00
- Reporting Aug/Sept 00

Jamie said that the first three items are covered contractually; but the rest will have to be renegotiated come August.

Jamie said there is no use putting studies in the study plan if we don't have the funding to do them. We basically know what it would cost to re-run the fertilization tests, what we need is a ballpark estimate to do the avoidance testing. Jamie said DOE's priorities are the early life stage and site water exposure. Dan Landeen would like to see all three tests done if the funding is available.

Dan Audet provided some gross figures (estimates) for the tests: fertilization \$20K; avoidance work (depending on complexity) \$90K (does not include Battelle costs or potential equipment that may need to be purchased); on-site early life state - \$130K (does not take into account Battelle's costs or equipment).

Dennis Dauble provided some estimates for Battelle's Costs: avoidance test \$90K plus; early life stage – no less than \$260 (50% USGS/50% Battelle).

Jamie said there is money to cover the Early Life Stage Round 2 (Site Water Exposure), he can ask for money to do the avoidance tests, but there is no guarantee that he will get it. Jamie proposed that Dan/Dan/Dennis talk about a shared cost for fertilization and avoidance and then provide Jamie with an estimate.

The Council decided to send letters from their own agencies to Linda Bauer supporting the additional money to do the avoidance testing.

Action: Teri – Set up a conference call next week to discuss the BTAG letter that Tom O'Brien drafted (10:30, 5/19).

The next meeting will be held July 8-9, 1999, in Olympia, WA.