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Subject	Barnes ANGB RAB TAPP Training – Meeting Minutes		
Project No.	D3298400.OT.04.01		
Prepared by	Johannah Phelan		
Location	WebEx Meeting	Date/Time	July 7, 2022, 1500
RAB Members	Additional Meeting Participants		
Col. David Halasikun	Bill Myer/NGB		
Kristen Mello	John Richardson/104 FW/EM		
Kathleen Hillman	Lt Col Chris Ruscio/104 FW/JA		
Rachael Morin	MSgt Lindsey Watson/104 FW/PA		
Eric Oulette	Kathryn (Kate) Lynnes/AF		
Chris Clark	Amy Brand/Jacobs		
	Johannah Phelan/Jacobs		

Notes

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Members with an understanding of the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Grant process and the steps required for obtaining a grant. The slides reviewed during the teleconference are attached.

- 1 Amy Brand made introductions and reviewed the agenda. The RAB co-chairs provided opening remarks. TAPP is a military funded civilian program with support provided by the Base Colonel.
- 2 Bill Myer, the Air National Guard (ANG) program manager presented the attached slides. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) allows RABs to seek funding through TAPP to support a specific need identified by the RAB to help with their participation in the restoration process.
- 3 A TAPP grant can be used to have 3rd party technical reviewers support the RAB in understanding the results from various phases of the remedial process. The 3rd party review can ensure that government contractors are working according to best practices.
- 4 The slides covered topics including when it may be helpful to the RAB to have support, eligible and ineligible activities under TAPP, and how to apply for a TAPP grant. The RAB members must agree on a specific project and have it approved by a majority of members. The application for the TAPP grant is signed by the Base Colonel.
- 5 Bill explained that the next step in the process at Barnes is the Remedial Investigation (RI).
- 6 TAPP funding is limited to a total of \$100,000, with a \$25,000 limit per year. Once the \$100,000 limit is reached, the RAB can request a waiver through the Secretary of the Air Force, SAF I&E. The TAPP handbook explains the waiver process.
- 7 Kristen Mello, speaking on her own behalf and not for the City of the Westfield, provided a presentation developed with support from Kathleen Hillman and Chris Clark. The RABs hope is to secure TAPP funding for a project that will allow for more meaningful public participation and engagement.

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- 8 The relative risk site evaluation (RRSE) will be reassessed when federal PFAS regulations are revised.
- 9 Kristen noted that there are thousands of pages of technical documents publicly available for interpretation. The RAB would like to have experts review the available data and have them provide their interpretation and an explanation to the RAB to help them better understand the nature and extent of PFAS in their community. This will allow the RAB to facilitate and achieve better public participation.
- 10 Kristen indicated that no one has fully explained the data and the public does not have a fully informed understanding of what is going on. She mentioned that 3-dimensional modeling would be helpful. The presentation identified two professors at the University of Massachusetts they would like to have support the RAB by reviewing existing documents. The first year of funding would be used to help the RAB and public get caught up on the work completed to date.
- 11 Col. Halasikun and Bill indicated to the RAB that there are contracting tools in place to hire the RAB's preferred technical support team. The RAB needs to have a scope of work (SOW), explaining the services that will be provided by the professors, their level of effort (hours), and a list of deliverables that will be provided to document the work completed. It is the RAB's responsibility to develop the SOW outlining their expectations and deliverables from the professors.
- 12 The Site Inspection (SI) determines the presence or absence of contamination, and the Remedial Investigation (RI) determines the nature and extent of the contamination, exposure pathways, and risk to human health and the environment. The RI has not yet been completed so the data to build a full understanding and 3-D models is not yet available.
- 13 The Base recommended that the RAB ensure they use funding wisely and soliciting support before the RI is complete may be premature.
- 14 Kristen indicated that the recommended professors have experience working with government entities and they can provide an SOW and deliverables list.
- 15 The Base is hoping that funding for the RI will occur in fiscal year 2023.
- 16 Kate Lynnes explained that the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that will be developed for the RI (work planning document) pulls data from the SI and documents proposed sampling locations, standard operating procedures, laboratory analytical methods, etc. This would be the ideal place for the RAB to solicit expert support to assist the RAB.
- 17 Chris Clark iterated that the RAB is interested in getting help now, sooner rather than later.
- 18 Amy indicated that the next step is for the RAB members to discuss among themselves and identify a specific project they would like to pursue as a group.
- 19 The meeting schedule for future RAB meetings was discussed. The plan is to schedule four meetings in advance. If there is not sufficient information to discuss, then the meetings could be cancelled.
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Action Items

- 1 The RAB will provide the details of their selected project to Col. Halasikun.



Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

Barnes Air National Guard (ANG) Base
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Training Meeting
July 7, 2022



Agenda



- 3:00 PM Welcome and Agenda Review
- 3:05 PM Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)
Bill Myer, National Guard Bureau (NGB)
 - Questions
- 3:30 PM TAPP Us In!!!
Kristen Mello, Westfield Residents Advocating for Themselves (WRAFT)
 - Questions
- 3:55 PM Discussion and Next Steps
- 4:15 PM RAB Meeting Scheduling
- 4:30 PM Adjourn



Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

Bill Myer
Restoration Program Manager
National Guard Bureau/A4VR



DERP Funding

- Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)
- What that means for Barnes
- What is different
 - Can become a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
 - Eligible for Technical Assistance for Public Participation
- What is not different



What is TAPP?

- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)
 - TAPP provides RABs with independent technical assistance that contributes to community members' ability to provide advice to decision makers by improving their understanding of cleanup activities at a site.
 - Specifically, the TAPP program helps RAB members better understand the scientific and engineering issues underlying environmental cleanup activities.
- <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2016-title32-vol2/pdf/CFR-2016-title32-vol2-part203.pdf>



1st Step - Define a Project



- RAB members define a project to better understand the environmental restoration program.
- Two most common types:
 - Training/education on a particular technical issue
 - Interpretation of technical documents produced by the installation's restoration contractor



Types of TAPP Projects



Eligible Activities (§203.10)	Ineligible Activities (§203.11)
Interpret technical documents (e.g., Site Inspections, Remedial Investigations, Feasibility Studies, Risk Assessments, Health Assessments, etc.)	Litigation or underwriting legal actions
Assess technologies	Political activity or lobbying
Participate in relative risk site evaluations	Generation of new primary data (e.g., well drilling and testing, split sampling)
Understand health implications	Reopening final DoD decisions
Training, where appropriate	Epidemiological or health studies
	Community outreach efforts (e.g., renting a facility and conducting public meetings, producing and distributing newsletters)



How to Apply for TAPP Funding

- The RAB must agree on the project to be submitted for a TAPP and certify by majority to apply for TAPP.
- Community Co-Chair is responsible for developing TAPP application and ensuring it meets requirements.
- Once the RAB members formally submit an application, DoD reviews the TAPP project to ensure it meets eligibility requirements.
- RAB members can use TAPP funding for support with activities such as reviewing human health risks, assessing technology, interpreting technical documents, and participating in relative risk evaluations.



Questions

TAPP Presentation by
Bill Myer/NGB

TAPP US IN!!!

Technical Assistance for *(more educated & meaningful)* Public Participation

A Presentation by Community RAB members of
Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves

Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

Provides community RAB members with access to independent technical support through the use of government purchase orders.

...within Limits:

Annual: \$25,000 or 1% CTC (Cost to Complete) Restoration
[Annual Limit is the lesser of these values. \$25k = 1% of \$2.5M]

Lifetime: \$100,000

*Helps us put the meaning in
Meaningful Engagement.*

How can TAPP money be spent?

Approved Uses:

1. Interpret technical restoration docs
2. Assess proposed remedial technologies
3. Interpret potential health implications of cleanup levels, technologies
4. Explain health implications of site conditions
5. Participating in relative risk evaluations
6. Certain technical training

Where, at this time, approved use(s):

2-4 would be premature.

5 has already passed, yet may come up again.

6 has not been identified.

What is the NEED for Technical Assistance for Community RAB Members?

DoD has produced tens of thousands of pages of analytical documentation, including water and soil testing, regarding the PFAS contamination of the Barnes Aquifer stemming from Barnes Air National Guard Base.

Our interest for the TAPP is in taking the data on this contamination plume from the available reports from the [Air Force Administrative Record](#) and MassDEP's [notices of environmental sampling](#) for waste site 1-0020093, including (listed in decreasing order of importance):

- Final Expanded Site Inspection Report for PFAS. Parsons. 2020.
- MA DEP NOES - 2017- Present.
- Final Phase 1 Regional Site Inspection Report for Perfluorinated Compounds. AMEC. 2018.
- Private Well Sampling Results. Mass DEP. 2017-Present.
- Final Perfluorinated Compounds Preliminary Assessment Site Visit Report. BB&E. 2016.

and having experts help us learn everything that we can about the contamination plume(s), fate, and transport, along with characterizing the contaminant(s) plume(s) so that we know,

for example, if the municipal and private well water drinkers have already had the worst of it, or if the worst is yet to come.

Community RAB members
NEED help understanding the
nature and extent of the
PFAS contamination of our
environment and water supply
in order to achieve
meaningful engagement and
active participation in
discussions about remediation options,
as is our RIGHT by law.

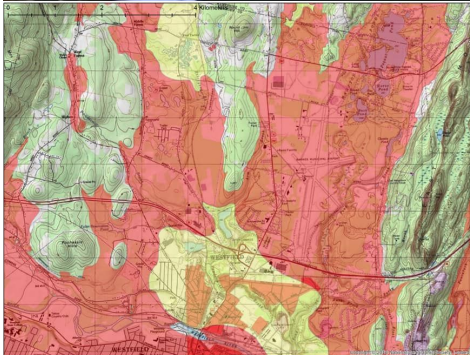
Can the need for Technical Assistance be met by existing support options?

Community RAB members must evaluate technical assistance needs and whether they can be met (or have even attempted to be met) by existing support options.

- Has any member of the Air Force, Air National Guard, Dept of Defense, or any contractor thereof, made any attempt to address this information with the Community? Would the members trust the information as presented by those responsible for the contamination? Have the experts provided to us so far been up-to-speed or well prepared on the situation here in Westfield?
- Has MassDEP or EPA made any attempts to address this information and its broader implications with the Community? Have they attended any RAB meetings or responded to any communications?
- WRAFT members have poured through, and tried to highlight important information from, tens of thousands of pages of documentation since 2016.

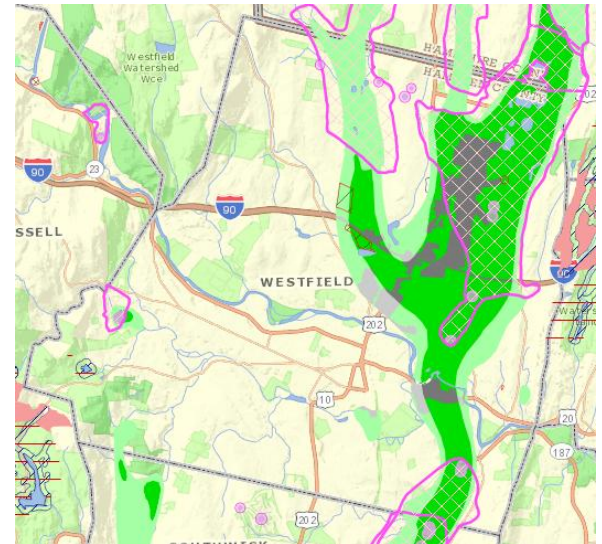
It is not right or sustainable to continue to lay all the responsibility for Technical Assistance on these poisoned Residents who are literally volunteering their time.

Who are our Local Experts?



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ADVOCATING
FOR
THEMSELVES

- [Dr. Robert Newton](#), [Professor Emeritus at Smith College](#), now Director at [Geosciences Solutions, LLC](#), is a groundwater geologist, hydrologist, and geomorphologist.
- Served as Technical Advisor to the [Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee](#) (BAPAC) from 2007 - 2018. Dr. Newton is the local expert on fate and transport of contaminants within the Barnes Aquifer.
- Dr. Newton helped Westfield residents better understand the PFAS contamination of the drinking water beneath their feet at WRAFT's "[Aquifer Hour with Dr. Robert Newton](#)" Community Meeting, Westfield, MA. March 14, 2018
- Began volunteering assistance to WRAFT members in 2016



Who are our Local Experts?

[Dr. David Reckhow](#), [Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMASS Amherst](#), with expertise in physical-chemical processes, as well as in water treatment, quality, and chemistry.



- Dr. Reckhow's team has been trusted by MA DEP to coordinate private and public drinking water PFAS testing. [Professor David Reckhow's team coordinating water tests in public water and selected private wells in 84 Massachusetts communities](#)
- Served on Massachusetts [PFAS Interagency Task Force](#)
- Educated Westfield residents, employees, and elected officials at "[PFAS with UMASS](#)" Community meeting, Westfield, MA, Oct. 17, 2019
- Participated in "[PFAS 101](#)" educational event for elected officials in MA. Attended by staffers from MA Congressional offices and by several MA State Senators and Legislators, Westfield city officials and candidates. Amherst, MA, Oct. 25, 2019
- Began volunteering assistance to WRAFT members in 2018.

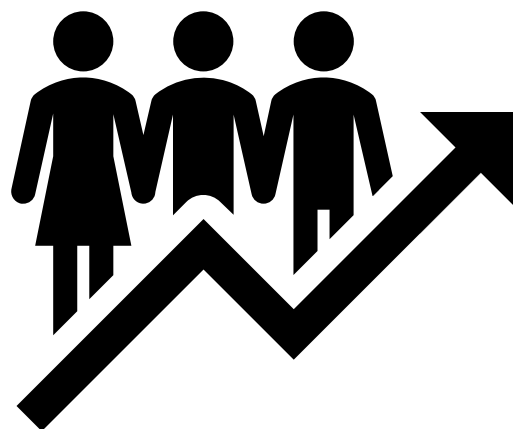
Next Steps...

Community RAB	Community Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines technical assistance needs • Votes on pursuing TAPP & individual projects 	Community RAB POC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated focal point for communications with DoD regarding TAPP procurement process • Responsible for reporting requirements 	
	Installation Co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews application to ensure it's complete, describes an eligible project, within budget • Serves as liaison between RAB & contracting office 	DERP Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers TAPP request, draft SOW & approves/ denies application 	Contract Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares Statement of Work (SOW) • Manages money, purchase order (PO)
Assistance Provider	Provider/Contractor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any party to whom the DoD awards a contract for technical assistance 	Project Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POC with DoD • Obligates organization executing PO to terms & conditions 	



Questions

TAPP Us In!!! Presentation by
Kristen Mello/WRAFT



Discussion and Next Steps



RAB Meeting Schedule

Amy Brand
Jacobs



Options for Scheduling Future RAB Meetings



	Meeting Frequency	
	2x per year	4x per year
Hard Schedule (set dates in advance)	?	?
Soft Schedule (set dates as needed)	?	?
Some combination	?	?



Adjourn