

SOUTH WEBER CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: 18 November 2008

TIME COMMENCED: 5:32 p.m.

PRESENT:	MAYOR:	Brent Petersen
	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Scott Peterson
		Michael Poff
		David Thomas
		Scott Woodbury
	CITY MANAGER:	Matt Dixon
	CITY RECORDER:	Erika Ahlstrom

Visitors: Bob Elliott, Barbara “B” Hall, Barbara Fisher, David Waite, Scott Zeigich, Marilyn Hales.

HAFB Environmental Management: Matt stated the Council had requested HAFB Environmental Management come to talk about the cleanup of Operable Unit 1 (OU1), which has been arranged for the Nov 25 Council meeting. However, last week when the Council addressed the school’s conditional use it brought about discussion about general pollution topics. HAFB Environmental Management was asked to attend this work meeting in order to understand what questions have been coming up so they can come next week and address those questions that the council and community want answered.

Bob Elliott is the division manager of the restoration program. B Hall is responsible for the OU1 furthest east where the arsenic removal is being done. Barbara Fisher works with the public affairs office. David Waite is a consultant with CH2, the contractor that performed the cleanup project.

Councilmember Peterson explained that he serves as a representative on the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). He said there seems to be a general lack of knowledge of exactly what is in the plume emanating from OU1. Councilmember Peterson listed the following as issues he would like addressed by HAFB:

- The location of the boundaries of OU1.
- How the boundaries are determined, and how they can change over time.
- Concentrations of the constituents in the plume, and what those concentrations mean.
- Risk associated with what is in the plume emanating from OU1.
- Routes of exposure uptake.
- Context placing the constituents in the groundwater plume with what you would find in your home, dry cleaners, or gun cleaners.
- Arsenic removal efforts, what exactly is arsenic, and how is it mobilized?
- What are the exposure routes associated with arsenic?
- Signage that was surrounding the work site. What does it mean?

Matt added the following:

- Report on what you found there and how much was there.
- Plan on moving forward, and how you plan to keep residents informed as you move forward.
- OU1 concentrations, what chemicals and what they mean.

Councilmember Poff said he was under the impression HAFB was going to contact the city before they started work on the cleanup. He informed them the city is concerned about slope stability. He posed the following questions:

- During the arsenic cleanup project, how was slope stability addressed?
- Potential for dust, and how that pertains to the proximity of the new elementary school.
- How runoff was addressed as they were excavating to ensure it didn’t into the canal or city boundaries.

- How have you worked with the school district and can monitoring efforts around the new school site be done long term to make sure plume doesn't move within boundaries of elementary school.

Mayor Petersen wants the following addressed:

- How are they detecting movement of the plumes.
- Is testing of children advisable.

Bob Elliott stating there is no testing for health effects that can be done that they are aware of at the levels they deal with. These tests are for very high occupational exposure. He said chemicals they deal with don't build up in the body and don't bioaccumulate in our systems.

Councilmember Poff asked about testing the air and soil around the perimeter of elementary school, and what concerns there are with having arsenic so close to the school. He would like HAFB to address this to calm concerns of residents.

Bob explained the arsenic coming out of the hillside are result of a landfill that was situated southwest of the property. The conditions created by having landfill leached heavy metals out of the natural formation. He said the Air Force agreed with the regulatory agencies to go in where there are elevated levels of arsenic and excavate to what is naturally occurring in the environment. Landfill was southwest of excavation.

B Hall explained in regard to signage and fencing that they are required to prevent exposure to sediment by keeping people from eating it, laying in it, rolling in it. She stated that arsenic is a naturally occurring metal in the soil, but the landfill changed the chemistry of the groundwater. When it hits the air, the chemistry changes again and precipitates out as a solid. B explained that the iron is what gives the soil the orange color. B reported that the value for cleanup was based on measuring the levels of arsenic in typical soil, and the goal is to take out those higher than that and make it similar to other areas.

Bob added that the signs that have raised some concerns were placed due to liability concerns and requirements.

Matt said at the last council meeting concerns were raised about the possibility of South Weber having a higher incidence of cancer. He asked what HAFB response is to a resident saying there seems to be a higher amount of cancer cases in our community. Bob said HAFB Environmental Management does not do cancer studies as part of their work. He explained these types of studies are done by health departments. He referred to a study the County did in the not to distant past with regard to the burn plant, however he does not have that information. Councilmember Peterson added that there have been several studies, and there are reports available. Barbara Harris stated she has some information she can provide to the city on health department studies.

Matt discussed that natural attenuation has been HAFB's approach to dealing with this stuff. He stated his understanding is that it's not proving to be as effective as hoped for originally. He asked:

- What are the unknowns?
- Why in your opinion does testing of children not make sense?
- Are we going to continue to let natural attenuation take care of or look at other alternative means?

Councilmember Poff asked if there are grants available that may benefit city. Bob stated there are technical assistance grants available that may be obtained through RAB membership. The EPA has grants. Brent Poll discussed that South Weber Landfill Coalition has the only TAG grant that is available from the EPA for Hill AFB. Brent Poll discussed willingness to partner with someone else with the grant.

Brent Poll felt like the best question that was posed at last weeks' meeting was by Vicki Christensen:

- When can we quit worrying?

Councilmember Poff asks Scott Zeigich, from risk management with the school district, if they have been in contact with HAFB through this project. Mr. Zeigich responded that they did have to do some investigative work through their civil engineer on this site.

It was discussed that all of the information desired will be difficult to address in a city council meeting. Councilmember Peterson and Barbara Fisher talked about doing an information fair in February. Dr. Scott Phillips could be involved to provide information on health issues.

The Council and HAFB discussed the importance of improving and maintaining communication with each other and with the community. The council stressed the importance of knowing what is going on. Marilyn Hall added the importance of educating the parents and presenting them with facts from those who know the facts.

David Waite represented the company with responsibility of the workers on the site. David reported the individuals workers were outfitted with dust monitors, and the dust could not (and did not) exceed certain levels. He said the work was done without masks because the levels were below action level. They also monitored work boundaries. David stated their ultimate goal was no dust, and if there was any dust they started watering down for dust suppression. He said every time he was on the site he saw no dust. Brent Poll agreed they did a good job. As far as surface runoff, David reported they installed and maintained silt fence all around the perimeter. The site has been backfilled with topsoil, and erosion control fabric and seed have been put down.

Councilmember Thomas would like a historical timeline.

Bob Elliott concluded that they need to do a better job in communicating with the city. He would like the city to help them understand what our needs are as a city. He stated the city needs to let them know if we feel uncomfortable and need a meeting.

Upcoming Agenda Items: Resolution for Operation and Maintenance of Weber River Train: This will be a resolution that will help ensure property owners when they donate property for trails indicating that the city will commit to maintaining the trail after it is constructed. This will be maintaining surface (gravel), some restroom facilities, garbage, and trees.

Mosquito Abatement Board: Councilmember Woodbury agreed to accept appointment to this board.

Discussion on City Council Meeting Process: The Mayor and Council discussed recent meetings and how they can improve working through the deliberation and voting process.

A motion was made by Councilmember Thomas at 7:02 p.m. to enter into a closed executive session in accordance with UCA 52-4-205 for discussion of pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Motion seconded by Councilmember Woodbury. Councilmembers Peterson, Poff, Thomas, and Woodbury voted yes. The motion carried.

Work meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes by _____
Erika Ahlstrom, City Recorder