



MEETING MINUTES

Outreach Committee

June 30, 2009

Sedan Conference Room, Nevada Site Office
232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Members Present: Hal Sullivan, Chair; Kathy Bienenstein; Herb Spiegel
Members Absent: Vernell McNeal; Walt Wegst
U.S. Dept. of Energy: Kelly Snyder, DDFO
Liaison: Helen Neill, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Facilitator: Denise Rupp, Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

Charter and Scope Clarification

Kelly Snyder provided a review of the Community Advisory Board's (CAB) scope under the charter. The CAB is chartered to provide advice and recommendations concerning the following Environmental Management (EM) site-specific issues:

- clean-up standards and environmental restoration
- waste management and disposition
- stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials
- excess facilities
- future land use and long-term stewardship
- risk assessment and management
- clean-up science and technology activities
- other EM project or issue advice and recommendations as requested

While the CAB is empowered to give advice and make recommendations regarding EM outreach, it is not appropriate for the Board to actually conduct such outreach. Ms. Snyder provided several examples of this (i.e. specifics for lesson plans may be recommended, but actual development of lesson plans would not be appropriate). The CAB may actively participate in outreach to publicize its own activities and meetings and Ms. Snyder encouraged the Committee pursue this.

While there is not existing EM budget for new outreach projects or activities, suggestions for existing projects (such as the enhancement of Operation Clean Desert) could be evaluated on a case-by-case basis relative to the current budget. If additional funding is necessary, it could be considered in the next fiscal year's budget.

Suggestion/Task Review

Hal Sullivan advised the Committee there were a number of open suggestions/tasks that had not been formally resolved. Denise Rupp provided a spreadsheet of open items, status, and possible resolutions. The Committee reviewed each topic.

Operation Clean Desert (OCD) Lesson Plans

Discussion regarding lesson plans has been ongoing, without a recommendation being made to Environmental Management (EM). Based on previous discussion, EM did develop a lesson plan with the Clark County School District for use with OCD. While it is not in their purview to

create lesson plans, the Committee agreed the recommendation of additional lesson plans would be an ongoing effort. Future suggestions will include topics, grade levels, supporting material, and other pertinent information.

Mr. Sullivan will take the lead on this task. The Committee was asked to provide specific suggestions at the September meeting. The suggestions will be consolidated and a recommendation letter prepared for presentation to the Full Board at the September 9 meeting.

OCD Display Venues

An earlier suggestion had been made for the Committee to recommend locations for the OCD display. Ms. Snyder reviewed the current venues. The Committee agreed no further discussion/action is required.

Science Fair

A previous suggestion was made to recommend EM host a competitive science fair at local schools. Since CAB member involvement in a science fair on behalf of EM is not within their purview, Ms. Snyder suggested the Committee consider a CAB-sponsored science fair. The Committee discussed this possibility with the following results:

- Entries limited to one Nevada Test Site-specific topic (suggested topics were radiation, groundwater contamination and air contamination)
- Science fair/competition held at one rural school with Beatty (one school with all grades) as first choice and Rosemary Clark Middle School in Pahrump as an alternate
- Awards were suggested; Ms. Snyder will look into the acceptability of sponsored awards
- A September meeting will be scheduled with the school to determine interest and school-specific suggestions; a letter will follow outlining the timeframe and details
- Ideas should be solicited from the Full Board

Mr. Sullivan and Helen Neill will lead this task. Mr. Sullivan will request Full Board discussion and approval to pursue this project at the July 8 Full Board Meeting.

Children's Book/PowerPoint Presentation

A previous suggestion had been made to create a children's book or PowerPoint presentation on the Nevada Test Site. After review of the Committee's scope, Herb Spiegel withdrew with suggestion.

NTS Oral History

The subject of an NTS Oral History had been previously discussed. The Committee agreed there were be no further discussion as this is not within the CAB's purview. At the Committee's request, Ms. Snyder will include a link to the oral histories on the CAB website.

CAB Display

The creation of a CAB display had been previously suggested. The Committee agreed to pursue this project, making the following suggestions for inclusion:

- Committees
- Recommendations, both successful and not so successful
- CAB structure
- Photos
- "story" of the CAB well success and Department of Energy responsiveness
- Statistics of EM incorporation of CAB recommendations
- Target completion date – January 2010

Kathy Bienenstein will take the lead on this project. Ms. Snyder will provide thumbnail photographs, CAB fact sheets, and a mirage display board. Mr. Sullivan will request Full Board discussion and approval to pursue this project at the July 8 Full Board meeting.

OCD Science Projects

Herb Spiegel presented three experiments for consideration. He suggested these experiments could be performed and handouts provided, with the format of all experiments to be consistent. It was suggested all experiments/projects include applicable standards and grade level. The Committee discussed these and other suggested experiments/projects including:

- Aquifer
- Water cycle
- Water filter
- Uplift
- Percolation
- How containers work
- Resources including www.carlsbadca.gov/water/wdkids.html
- Filming of experiments/projects

Ms. Snyder suggested those projects dealing specifically with the EM (groundwater, soil and waste management) would be more likely to be accepted. The Committee agreed to provide Denise Rupp with additional suggestions by hard copy, web site or any other source by August 25. The Committee will review all suggestions and vote on which to pursue at the September 8 meeting.

CAB Hotline/On-line Forum

Originally, it was suggested a CAB-staffed phone hotline or interactive on-line forum be created to answer CAB or EM-related questions. After discussion, Mr. Spiegel withdrew the original suggestion. He suggested the Committee recommend EM promote the EM website to teachers and students for use in classroom studies. Ms. Snyder advised the Committee there is a dedicated email address that can be incorporated in such promotion. Suggested promotion included letters, radio, television and print advertising. It was also suggested EM include a 48-hour response time to all inquiries.

Mr. Spiegel will provide Ms. Rupp with a draft recommendation letter for presentation at the July 8 Full Board meeting.

It was agreed the task spreadsheet was a helpful tool for the Committee. This will become an ongoing tracking system for Committee suggestions.

The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the Atomic Testing Museum, 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.