

Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 1998

1. Call to Order & Reading of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Army Co-Chair Mark Patterson at the Windham Town Hall, 6:00 p.m. Secretary Becky Carter took attendance with 18 present, 2 resigned (Wm Schultz & Deborah Ayers), 2 excused and 4 absent (absent Dr. Coogan, Alice Green, Keith Misner and Bruce Nelson), then the minutes were presented, Caryl Griswold moved to approve them as corrected, Walter Landor seconded, voice vote taken which passed.

2. Membership:

Mark Patterson stated the board needed three new members, one of which is the community co-chair as Adrian Stefanish resigned as did Wm Schultz and Deborah Ayers. Mark Patterson nominated Tom Tadsen as interim community co-chair, Barbara Andreas seconded, voice vote was held and passed. Dr. Coogan will have a membership meeting to fill the two seats and Tom Lawson is the Freedom Township representative.

3. Presentation by Mr. Robert Indian on cancer:

Mr Robert Indian of the Ohio Department of Health gave his background and presented members with a letter about the cancer rates in Ravenna City, Portage County and the State of Ohio from 1966 through 1995 (Exhibit A attached). He explained various cancers and the possibilities of people developing it. Our quality of life has improved and more live to over age 65 than any other time in history. The older your population, the more likely you are to have cancer. Ohio is #1 in the rate of cancer in the country for males smoking tobacco, only 30% of our calories should be of fat, we do not get enough exercise. In 1993, according to H.B. 213, cancer became a reportable disease. He explained the various year tables in the handout. Lung cancer is the top cancer in Ravenna and Ravenna is about average with the state of Ohio. Ravenna is slightly higher during the 30 year test period. In more recent years, these figures decrease. It is hard to control environmental choices, persons will do as they please even though regulations are made. Nationally cancer rates are down 1/2%. Jay Abercrombie wondered if Ravenna perhaps has more incidents because of the hospital, various nursing homes, etc. Mr Indian stated perhaps, but the year factor was used also which seemed to discount that possibility.

Caryl Griswold asked if heredity factors in. Mr Indian stated definitely and explained this. Tom Lawson asked about Table 4 and whether chlorinated water could be a factor. Mr. Indian stated not likely. Nancy Ambers Massar asked if the toxins at the Arsenal were found, could they be a factor. Perhaps stated Mr. Indian. Irene Glavies-Lutz asked if actual incident rates would be used later and Mr. Indian stated yes, but they must be done very cautiously. Benzene was mentioned by Irene and she wondered if the situations were similar in Marion to the Ravenna Arsenal? Mr. Indian stated more leukemia cases were found there and perhaps it was not the high school, so other areas were sought and it had increased 120% in Marion, but decreased in the county. Irene asked why Ravenna was chosen instead of the outlying areas perhaps closer to the Arsenal area. Mr Indian explained why he looked at Ravenna and perhaps later they could look

at other areas. Mike Sever stated the other areas are in the Portage County figures.

William Roberts stated the water supply in Ravenna was shut down for a better supply, did this have an effect? Mark Patterson stated the well sampling happened between last meeting and now and Eileen Mohr explained this. They sampled for TAL metals, explosives, general water quality, iron and manganese were sampled at 25 wells. Results of explosives were none, it was doubly validated; general water quality was good; some had higher iron and manganese, but no nitrates were detected. Resampling will be done on Thalium. TNT has very low solubility and Eileen stated it is not affecting the water supplies on the Arsenal property.

Bob Whelove states TNT traces were not in the ground water and they are not seeing this in Ravenna. Some sites were not accessible for testing.

Paris Township was cited as an area with allegedly high incidences of cancer as was Minyoung Rd for thyroid cancer by an audience member. Nancy Ambers Massar asked if the people would be surveyed and Mr Indian stated the department knows these facts and they can be plotted.

Milan Markov asked about the flow of water and according to Eileen Mohr it is East to Northeast. Markov cited a lot of dumping on the property and it was stated how this would be plotted, etc. Milan Markov stated that these findings do not mean the arsenal is responsible for the cancers as people move in and out of the area. Mr Indian explained how this is traced and a report could come to the RAB. Milan Markov asked if Mr Indian trusts statistics and Mr Indian stated yes and he won't say the arsenal was the cause of these problems.

An audience member asked if the 1940s showed more incidences of cancer and Mr. Indian stated the data was unreliable but probably no. An audience member asked if skin cancers were not reported and Mr. Indian reported what is with the exception of two types. Thomas Tadsen asked the relation to Berylliosis asbestosis and Mr Indian explained this is a form of lung cancer and Berylliosis was not noted in the study. There was a lot of asbestos on the arsenal. Milan Markov asked about spun glass wool if it would react the same and Mr Indian stated it was not good but he did not know. Nancy Ambers Massar asked about Table 10 in relation to stomach cancer and Mr Indian did not know the reason other than stomach cancer declined when refrigeration came into the U.S.

Rachel Craig stated the Phase 1 studies showed what toxins are found and how these would relate to various cancers. Mr Indian stated if the EPA wants, a study of this type could be done. Audience member stated what was the main cause of liver cancer and Mr Indian stated Hepatitis B virus and it is rampant in China and also Cirrhosis from alcohol. Mark Patterson asked about the cancer of the area, how specific can statistics get and Mr. Indian said they can go down to the individual street level. They guarantee confidentiality and the data is accurate.

An audience member asked if a street is 2 blocks long, how does this get accurate results with a 1 block long street and Mr. Indian stated they have computer programs for this. An audience member asked if his office

performed surveillance on cattle, fish, wildlife? Mr Indian said yes, but it is not the Dept of Agriculture and explained cancer in fish in Ohio and he got the information at the Smithsonian registry but it came from Ohio State University. An audience member asked if his department traces unknown diseases? Mr Indian stated honestly no.

Mark Patterson asked when the plots would be done and was told the data plotting would lead the way, demographics of the area was explained.

Rachel Craig was asked if she was interested in the community co-chair position and she said no.

4. TAPP

Mark Patterson explained the Technical Assistance for Public Participation which provides RABs help with the restoration programs, getting monies and help in reviewing data, training for RAB members and he handed out the pamphlets and explained them and perhaps these could be used on the Winklepeck Burning Grounds which is to be addressed this year. It was suggested to form a TAPP committee. Rachel Craig stated the monies would be taken from the restoration funds for the given year. Kevin concurred with this. Rachel Craig stated this was done in Minnesota. Barbara Andreas asked about the \$100,000 limit and Mark Patterson stated this was the limit during the life of the clean up period.

Nancy Ambers Massar asked if we need to be specific on what we want for this project and Mark stated you did have to be specific and demonstrate that the answers do not exist with someone on the base. Milan Markov stated various items were dumped on the site and could the money be used to find out what this is. Mark Patterson stated that TAPP monies cannot be used for field investigations, but can be used to review results of proposed or existing investigations. Comments can be submitted as a result of the review and these comments will be considered and can affect the course of the investigations. Richard Kern asked if Phase 2 would be the item used for this money. Bob Whelove stated they would start along Route 5 and work that area and on to the Westernmost load line. Milan Markov asked where the Ramsdell Quarry came in and Bob stated that it is on the NE area of the plant and is handled under RCRA and no opinions have been formed so far. Mark Patterson stated there are funds for the study at Ramsdell. Eileen Mohr explained the work to be done and Milan asked about C Block Pit. Mark explained its history as being low at this site. Further discussion was held about this area.

Milan Markov mentioned the Charlestown gravel operation and it would be good to test the water there. Eileen Mohr stated how the flow and monitoring was done.

Nancy Ambers Massar made the motion that Rachel Craig head the TAPP committee, Mark Patterson seconded, Jay Abercrombie volunteered to serve as did Barbara Andreas and Nancy Ambers Massar and Tom Tadsen as community co-chair, voice vote was taken and passed.

5. Next meeting

May 20 will be the next meeting, 6:00 pm hopefully at Paris Twp. The program for the evening will be on a new field screening test for

explosives.

6. Other business

Bob Whelove asked all RAB members to put their initials on the site evaluations and hopes to blend these in with the Army plan. He will report on this at the next couple of meetings.

Thomas Tadsen asked if we could have a budget summary for the RAB operating budget for the remainder of the year and Bob Whelove stated he would get it. Bob explained the budgeting schedule and testing schedules for possible 3rd or 4th quarter monies.

Rachel Craig asked if other RAB members received a letter from a Rev. Dr. Werner Lange and Mark Patterson stated the RAB policy is that individuals could reply but not the RAB as a whole. A formal file will be kept on the letter with the Secretary, (Exhibit B attached).

Caryl Griswold stated the original set up of the charter states the surrounding townships would appoint a representative and Tom Lawson is the Freedom rep. The other slots on the board will be solicited and turned over to Al Coogan to select the reps. These are for non-appointee members only. Caryl Griswold and Milan Markov suggested we re-write the portion of the charter on this so as not to lose these appointments and Milan will send Mark Patterson his draft of suggestions on this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Carter, Secretary