



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved September 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September, 12, 2018 at Kume Japanese Cuisine, 100 Wilson St., Oak Ridge, TN, beginning at 6 p.m.

Members Present

Terry Allen	Eddie Holden
Leon Baker	Marite Perez
David Branch	Brooke Pitchers
Richard Burroughs, Secretary	Bonnie Shoemaker
Bill Clark	Rudy Weigel
Sarah Eastburn	

Members Absent

Martha Deaderick	Leon Shields	John Tapp
Shell Lohmann	Deni Sobek ¹	Ed Trujillo ¹
Belinda Price, Vice Chair	Fred Swindler	Dennis Wilson, Chair

¹Second consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Others Present

Steve Cooke, DOE-OREM for the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Reindustrialization and Historic Preservation Efforts
Sherry Browder, UCOR
Olivia Fleenor, Oak Ridge High School student representative
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office
Jasleen Narula, Hardin Valley Academy student representative

Four members of the public were present.

Mr. Burroughs chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. Wilson and Ms. Price, who were both attending the National Cleanup Workshop in Alexandria, VA.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Noe – told members that DOE will be holding public meetings with information about the proposed plan for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF). She said the first meeting was scheduled for the following day (September 13) from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center (DOEIC). She explained that the first meeting would be a poster information meeting and a second meeting would be held October 2. The time and location had not been confirmed yet, though she expected that information to be confirmed by the end of the week. She said a more detailed presentation, including a video, would be included in the third public meeting, set for October 18. She told members that the EMDF proposed plan is available to view at the DOEIC.

Ms. Jones – added to Ms. Noe’s comments to tell members that there is an index for the documents that support the decision on the proposed plan that can be requested through the DOEIC. She also told members that efforts are underway to make that index available electronically.

Mr. Czartoryski – explained to members that TDEC did not approve the preferred alternative EMDF plan that DOE proposed, but that TDEC’s concerns were placed in a state section of the report and TDEC agreed with EPA that DOE could release the proposed plan for public review.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation

Mr. Cooke gave a presentation (Attachment 1) about the Reindustrialization and Historic Preservation efforts at ETTP and progress on Vision 2020.

Mr. Cooke prefaced his presentation by noting that some of the information may have been in a briefing to ORSSAB that was given last October, but he said there have been some updates since then that have been incorporated. He said that at one time, when talking about the future of ETTP, it was just about reindustrialization. Now, he said, it is increasingly about a multi-use space that provides jobs, preserves history, and protects greenspace.

Mr. Cooke reviewed a map of ETTP that showed areas envisioned for reindustrialization. He said about 577 acres have been transferred, including an area on the south side of Highway 58.

Mr. Cooke went into detail on the basic process for accomplishing Vision 2020. He explained that the first step is to demolish the buildings, the next is soil and groundwater remediation, and then re-industrialization, which includes transferring property to the private sector, transferring safety oversight for that property to the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA), and transferring the infrastructure to the City of Oak Ridge.

He further noted that “a huge footprint at ETTP had been demolished,” including about 400 buildings to-date, and about 12 buildings have been salvaged and transferred to private industry. He said the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Incinerator was just demolished within the past month and there had been progress on the Poplar Creek facilities.

Mr. Cooke then detailed OREM’s progress on soil remediation, noting that most of the work in Zone 1 had been completed. He said there was still some buried infrastructure, primarily in the former powerhouse area, and also an area that still needed a soil cap. He said DOE is still formulating a remedy for the 720 Fly-Ash Pile, which is an area of coal fly-ash from former power plant operations.

He said work continues in Zone 2, where the main focus is soil and slab removal of the former K-25 building. He said that work was about 40 percent complete.

Regarding groundwater, Mr. Cooke told members that the K-1401 treatability characterization was completed in December and a feasibility study was underway to determine the alternatives to look at for the main plant area groundwater remediation. He said a remedial site evaluation for the K-31/33 area is expected to be submitted to regulators in early FY19. He said the remedial site evaluation results for the K-31/33 area will inform the approach for the remaining areas of ETPP in terms of groundwater evaluation.

Returning to the topic of property transfers, Mr. Cooke told members that in June DOE completed transfer of safety oversight responsibility for about 400 acres to TOSHA, bringing the total to about 577 acres for safety oversight transfers. He said transfers for Duct Island, Portal 4 and Portal 11 are in process. Additionally, he said DOE continues to support the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority's (MKAA) plans for an airport at the site, with MKAA working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the project and DOE providing support when requested.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Cooke about potential security concerns about locating an airport at the site, and Mr. Cooke referred the question to Ms. Browder of UCOR.

Ms. Browder told Mr. Clark that UCOR had been involved with planning for the proposed airport in various capacities, but primarily providing support. She said the project went through a very detailed feasibility study, and she assured him that it had been taken into consideration.

Mr. Cooke added that DOE did an evaluation for transferring the property and the outcome was a Finding of No Significant Impact to transfer the property to the MKAA. He said that when and if the FAA approves the airport, there will be a separate and more detailed evaluation that looks at the construction and operation of the airport.

Mr. Cooke then asked Ms. Browder if she knew of any updates regarding the FAA's process for the airport. Ms. Browder replied that the team anticipated getting comments within the next couple months and they expect getting conditional FAA approval.

Mr. Cooke then returned to the topic of transferring infrastructure, noting DOE's partnership with the City of Oak Ridge on fire and emergency response, which he said began with the transfer of the ETPP fire station in 2008. He said it's been an effective partnership for both parties – cost effective for DOE while allowing the city to provide better services to residents. He also told members there had been additional progress toward transferring the electric distribution system with the transfer during the past year of an electric line that runs through the center of the site and an expansion of that to the northwest portion of the site underway. He explained that transferring the electric distribution system to the city allows private telecom services to offer services at the site and noted that AT&T plans to bring private telecom services to the site using the distribution system transferred to the city.

Regarding water and sewer, he said the water and sewer infrastructure had largely been transferred, although there may be additional work on a water line along Perimeter Road.

Mr. Cooke next discussed DOE's partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) at ETPP. He explained that TVA has flowage easements, or the right to flood, in some areas of ETPP, so DOE entered into negotiations with TVA to modify those easements to allow development at the site. In exchange, DOE granted TVA permanent easements for their transmission lines that go to the site.

Mr. Czartoryski asked Mr. Cooke for details about the modifications to TVA's flowage easements, and Mr. Cooke explained that the physical boundaries of those easements did not change, but TVA removed covenants that prevented development and building at the site.

Mr. Cooke then turned his attention to the historic preservation aspect of Vision 2020. He told members that during the past year DOE had begun construction on the K-25 History Center, which will have about 7,700 square feet of floor space for exhibits and a theater. The center will be located on the second floor of the fire station at the site. He said construction is expected to be completed in the spring, and exhibits being fabricated will be installed soon after. He said the goal is to open the K-25 History Center in the fall of 2019.

He told members that the next planned project at the center is an equipment building and viewing tower. The equipment building, which would be located to the back side of the northwest side of the History Center, would be a replica cross section of the K-25 building.

After the presentation board members asked the following questions:

Mr. Weigel asked whether the ducts were still present on Duct Island and whether DOE had put any covenant restrictions on that parcel of land. Mr. Cooke said that, yes, DOE placed an excavation restriction so that anyone interested in digging where the duct banks are located would need to get prior authorization from DOE. He said that doesn't mean that digging would be prohibited, but necessary precautions would be required.

Mr. Weigel followed up his question, asking whether there were any maps or illustrations showing where the duct banks are located. Mr. Cooke said, yes, they are shown in the transfer documentation. Ms. Jones added that the final Zone 1 Soils Record of Decision (ROD) would address the land use change from 10 feet to 2 feet. She said once that ROD is signed, that change would be in effect and go along with the penetration permit restrictions.

Mr. Weigel asked who would be issuing penetration permits and if it would be DOE. Mr. Cooke said that UCOR currently manages the Excavation Permit Program for DOE, and in the future it would likely continue to be DOE working with somebody through a contractual arrangement.

Motions

09/12/2018.1

Mr. Burroughs asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Board members approved the agenda unanimously.

09/12/2018.2

Staff told board members that the August 25 Annual Planning Meeting minutes in the original meeting packet contained an error that had since been corrected and reviewed.

Mr. Burroughs asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the ORSSAB Annual Planning Meeting held August 25, 2018 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, as corrected. Mr. Holden made a motion, and Mr. Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe reminded members that they had approved two recommendations during the annual planning meeting – Recommendation 241, regarding the board's budget recommendation, and Recommendation 240, regarding the EMDF. She said DOE has already sent their response to 241, and it should be distributed soon if it hadn't already. She said DOE had also already forwarded that information to the Secretary. Regarding Recommendation 240, Ms. Noe said DOE plans to respond within the required 60-day timeframe.

Ms. Noe told members that those who attended the annual planning meeting in Gatlinburg and stayed

in the meeting hotel may have noticed an additional charge on their credit cards. She explained the charged stemmed from a tax error, and said staff had been working to resolve the error.

Committee Reports

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Burroughs told members that by the next EM & Stewardship Committee meeting, Mr. Swindle will have completed his year as the chair, so nominations will be accepted for the chair and vice chair positions. Ms. Noe explained that the nomination/election process for the EM & Stewardship Committee is informal, so anyone interested should indicate so during the next EM & Stewardship Committee meeting, or if unable to attend that meeting, let staff know of their interest.

Executive – Ms. Noe told members that the Executive Committee met with Jenny Freeman, who facilitated the annual planning meeting, and Ms. Freeman provided the closeout report on how the meeting went. She said members also talked about the upcoming chair and vice chair nominations for the EM & Stewardship Committee. Mr. Burroughs added that the Executive Committee also discussed members attending public meetings of other boards and committees. Ms. Noe explained that the Executive Committee wanted to make sure all the board members understood that they are always welcome to attend public meetings of other boards and committees, but when they do so they are attending as members of the public, not as ORSSAB representatives.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Board members were informed that the next full board meeting would be held October 10, with Ben Williams speaking about the current OREM program outreach.

Ms. Noe also called board members' attention to the FY 2019 draft work plan included in the meeting packets. She said the plan outlines topics for the upcoming year, but said some of those topics could change as things come up. She noted that no meetings are scheduled for December or January due to the holidays and said that groundwater discussion was scheduled for February, but that could be moved to January if members preferred to meet in January. She told members to tell staff if they preferred to meet in January.

Ms. Noe also asked members to review the available issue groups listed on the draft work plan and decide over the following two weeks which issue groups they would like to join and then let staff know.

Mr. Burroughs told members that someone from the board had suggested members have access to more photos from inside the sites, and he explained that some areas cannot be photographed due to security considerations. Ms. Noe and Mr. Weigel concurred.

Mr. Allen asked about deadlines and procedures for signing up for travel opportunities listed in packets, and Ms. Noe explained the typical protocol for signing up, including that signups are first-come, first-served after the chair and vice chair have the opportunity to sign up.

Action Items

There were no action items.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attachments (1) to these minutes are available upon request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the September 12, 2018, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Richard Burroughs, Secretary

Dennis Wilson, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
DW/sbm

DATE