



**Project:** Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Use Defense Sites (FUDS) Property  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

**Date:** April 10, 2025, 6:30 pm

**Location:** Cape Hatteras Anglers Club, 47231 Light Plant Rd, Buxton, NC 27920

**Meeting Purpose:** Meeting #1

## **Participants:**

### **RAB Members**

- Brian Harris, Community Co-Chair
- Brett Barley, Community member
- Betsy Gwin, Community member
- Alyson Flynn, Community member
- Stewart (Bud) Nelson, Community member
- Carla Reynolds, Community member
- Michael Gould, Community member
- Meaghan Johnson, National Park Service
- Mary Ellon Ballance, Dare County Commissioner
- Shelia Davies, Dare County Department of Health & Human Services
- Lat Williams, Community member—Absent

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District**

- COL Ronald Sturgeon, Commander
- Sheridan Gayle Fajardo Garland, USACE Co-Chair
- Cheri Dragos-Pritchard, USACE Media Relations Chief
- Thomas Woodie, USACE Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management (DPM)

### **North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)**

- Jared Edwards, LG Environmental Program Consultant, Washington Region Division of Waste Management – Underground Storage Tanks Section

### **Dawson Solutions, LLC (DAWSON)**

- Alyssa Drye, RAB Facilitator
- Emma Kosub, RAB Facilitation Support

These meeting minutes are intended to capture overall discussions from the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property RAB Meeting held on April 10, 2025. The meeting was held as an in-person only RAB meeting with 32 total attendees present.

*\*Note: Conversations noted with an asterisk were recorded in these minutes, however, discussion points are out of scope of the RAB.*



### RAB Meeting Welcome, Logistics, and Introductions

The meeting began at 6:30pm. Ms. Alyssa Drye welcomed the RAB Board Members and community participants and began the meeting by reviewing the agenda and relevant safety information including building exits and restroom locations. Introductions of DAWSON, RAB members, and USACE followed the welcome. COL Ronald Sturgeon addressed the RAB Board and the community. Ms. Drye explained meeting guidelines to the RAB and community members.

### RAB Business

The first item on the agenda under RAB business was for the RAB to review and provide comments on the Draft Operating Procedures. Ms. Drye asked the RAB if there were any questions, comments, or revisions to the Operating Procedures provided in advance of the meeting for review. No comments or revisions were provided. Ms. Drye facilitated the RAB on a vote to approve the Operating Procedures. The Operating Procedures were approved unanimously by the present RAB members.

The second item on the agenda under RAB Business was the nominations and election of the Community Co-Chair. Two nominations for Mr. Brian Harris were received prior to the meeting via SurveyMonkey. Ms. Drye asked the RAB members if there were additional nominations or self-nominations. No additional nominations were provided. Ms. Drye facilitated the RAB on a vote to elect Mr. Harris as the Community Co-Chair. The present board members unanimously elected Mr. Harris as the Community Co-Chair. Ms. Drye concluded RAB Business and opened the floor to the USACE Co-Chair.

### Update on Current Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property Environmental Restoration Projects

Ms. Sheridan Garland gave a Technical Presentation on the Overview of Current Projects 01, 03, and 04 (see attached presentation). Following the presentation, the RAB members were given time to ask questions on technical aspects presented. The following reflects discussions related to the presentation:

Mr. Michael Gould asked what contractor was supporting the comprehensive sampling contract and which project would be addressed. Ms. Garland shared that Nicklaus Ensafé Joint Venture. would support the comprehensive sampling effort.

Mr. Harris asked who would address forever chemicals in groundwater. Ms. Garland shared that since USACE can only address contamination within the scope of the FUDS program, USACE is currently researching whether prior Department of Defense (DoD) activities or operations could have contributed to the per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that were detected on the property during the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Site Inspection. She shared that USACE, St. Louis District, is currently drafting a report of their findings from the Archival Search.\*



Ms. Alyson Flynn asked whether structures could be removed. Ms. Garland shared that if results from comprehensive sampling indicate petroleum plumes are underneath structures, then structures will likely have to be removed to resolve contamination underneath the structures similar to the September-December 2024 interim response action.

Ms. Mary Ellon Ballance asked how to determine whether there are other contaminants at the property. Ms. Garland shared that USACE historians are conducting research to determine the possible extent of historic DoD activities at the property for any potential PFAS contamination. Ms. Ballance asked how it could be caused by any other entity since DoD has been on the property for so many years.\* Ms. Garland shared there is a distinction between Navy impacts and USCG impacts. She shared that the FUDS program restoration, the focus of the RAB, only applies to DoD activities conducted prior to 1986. There was a short discussion between RAB members regarding possible timelines for each agency's use of the property prior to 1986. Ms. Drye asked for any remaining questions from the RAB.

Mr. Gould asked to confirm what will determine whether sampling for PFAS will occur. Ms. Garland stated that an open project must be in place before PFAS can be addressed.\*

Ms. Ballance asked who decides if a project is approved to be opened. Ms. Garland shared it is a chain of people within USACE for project approval, but she would have to find an answer and report back. DPM Thomas Woodie confirmed that this is an agency decision with multiple levels of approval. **Action Item: USACE Co-Chair to provide additional information on the process to the RAB.**

Mr. Bud Nelson asked who else could have impacted the property. Ms. Garland shared that DoD remained at the property after 1986 [*Post-meeting note: This statement was an error. DOD operations ceased in 1982. Also, USCG is not part of DoD, but Homeland Security, and USCG operated the property after 1986*]. Mr. Nelson asked if it was possible a project would not be opened due to a lack of information. Ms. Garland shared it is possible but not currently known whether the project will be opened or not.\*

Ms. Ballance asked for a timeline of when the project for PFAS may be opened. Ms. Garland noted she is not aware of a timeline for a potential project related to PFAS.\*

Mr. David Hallac, of the National Park Service, provided additional input that the USCG has provided a Site Inspection with results of their initial sampling and clarified that he believes the RAB is wondering if it is possible that the Navy contributed as well so that USACE can clean up the Navy impacts. \*



Ms. Ballance asked who should be responsible for USCG contamination. Mr. Hallac stated that the Site Inspection report by the USCG identified no further action necessary. \*

Mr. Harris asked where the USCG is and how the RAB can get the USCG here. Ms. Kosub shared that the USCG was invited as an agency to apply for RAB membership and the RAB could invite the USCG to attend a RAB meeting. It was unanimously decided by the RAB to invite the USCG to the July RAB Meeting. *[Post-meeting note: The invitation must only be to discuss petroleum impacts from the USCG, as that is within the scope of this RAB].*

During the New RAB Member Orientation held before the RAB meeting, the RAB decided the next meeting would be held on July 17, 2025, at 5:30pm. The preferred location is the Cape Hatteras Angler's Club. Ms. Drye will follow up with the RAB to confirm that the Angler's Club location is available for the selected date. The date of the next meeting was shared with the community members in attendance.

This concluded the RAB portion of the agenda.

#### Questions from the Public/Additional Input

Ms. Drye opened the meeting to the public noting 15 minutes would be available for public questions and/or comments. The following reflects questions or comments received:

A local business owner asked who participated from the USCG at the last public meeting. Mr. Hallac shared that two offices came, one from a local Hatteras office and one from the Cleveland Civil Engineering office.

A Buxton resident asked when the beach will be expected to be opened again. Mr. Hallac responded that National Park Service is working with Dare County to determine best guidance moving forward. They are expected to meet in mid-April to discuss a potential beach opening timeframe. Mr. Hallac noted he has the ultimate authority to open or close the beach but is relying on input from Dr. Sheila Davies. \*

A Buxton resident asked for a timeline on the Archival Search Report *[Post-meeting note: USACE will prepare a Memorandum for Record, not an Archives Search Report]* in response to PFAS. Ms. Garland shared that the Draft Report is expected internally by end of April and shared that two-week intervals of review period and response to comments are expected at each revision. \*

A Buxton resident asked whether expert comments from the responses of the Archives Search Report will be published for public view. Ms. Garland shared typically the Final Report is published. She shared that responses to comments are likely Freedom Of



Information Act (FOIA) accessible.\* *[Post-meeting note: Internal agency responses to comments on a draft document are deliberative and therefore not releasable under FOIA].*

Mr. Hallac made a public comment thanking USACE for working alongside National Park Service and stated he is appreciative of the progress made.

A Buxton resident suggested that erosion of the beach and repairing of groins must be the priority, ahead of cleanup actions due to the beach washing away. Ms. Ballance and Dr. Davies shared that that is outside of the scope of the RAB which addresses activities under the FUDS program for the property. It was noted that the resident can meet with Dare County separately about this issue.\*

A Buxton resident asked where the old firing range is to know where the lead was found. USACE shared that the old firing range was located in the southwest corner of the property.\*

Ms. Drye thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Co-Chairs were given time to address the community members and RAB before adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by the RAB Co-Chairs at 7:15pm.

#### Action items

USACE Co-Chair to provide additional information on the process of project establishment to the RAB.

#### Attachments

- A. Update on Current Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property Environmental Restoration Projects Presentation

These meetings are approved by the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property RAB Co-Chairs:



Recoverable Signature

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Sheridan Gayle Fajardo Garland  
USACE Co-Chair  
Signed by: Alyssa Drye



## X Brian R Harris

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Brian Harris  
Community Co-Chair