



**Project:** Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property

RAB Meeting

**Date:** January 22, 2026, 5:30 pm

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

**Meeting Purpose:** Quarterly RAB Meeting

### **Participants**

#### **RAB Members:**

- Brian Harris, Community Co-Chair
- Brett Barley, Community member
- Betsy Gwin, Community member
- Alyson Flynn, NC Coastal Federation
- Stewart (Bud) Nelson, Community member
- Carla Reynolds, Community member - Absent
- 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

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

- Brigadier General Zachary Miller, Commanding General, South Atlantic Division
- Stephanie Hall, Director of Regional Business, South Atlantic Division
- COL Ron Sturgeon, Commander, Savannah District
- Thomas Woodie, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management (DPM)
- Sara Keisler, COR and FUDS Program Manager,
- Gayle Garland, Project Manager and Co-Chair
- MSG Paul Gaeth, Contracting Officer
- Jennifer Hurst
- Emily Munzer
- LT Becca Boushelle

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

- George Adams, Engineer, Division of Waste Management, Superfund, Federal Remediation Branch
- Bill Hunneke, Division of Waste Management, Superfund Section Chief

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

- Alyssa Drye, RAB Facilitator
- Alexandra Jangerell-Tackett, Senior Program Manager of the Compliance Service Line



## **Eastern Shawnee Bay West Joint Venture (ESPS-BW JV PM)**

- Hillary Weber, Program Manager
- Ryan Stobaugh, Project Manager

These meeting minutes are intended to capture and paraphrase overall discussions from the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property RAB Meeting held on January 22, 2026. The meeting was held as an in-person only RAB meeting with 35 total attendees present.

### RAB Meeting Welcome, Roll Call, Safety and Operational Announcements

The meeting began at 5:30pm. Ms. Alyssa Drye welcomed the RAB Members and community participants and began the meeting with RAB member rollcall. Safety and operational announcements were presented by Ms. Drye.

COL Ron Sturgeon gave opening remarks to the RAB. He thanked everyone for attending as well as RAB members for providing feedback and for their review and comments on the technical documents. He closed his remarks stating that USACE was not done yet. COL Sturgeon introduced Brigadier General Zachary Miller.

General Miller introduced himself and explained that he has been following the Buxton FUDS project closely. He stated that he has had conversations with stakeholders including National Park Service. He expressed how great it was to be able to walk around the site and see the work performed firsthand. He stated that he reports to the Department of War (DOW) and his goal is to make sure everyone involved in the project is aligned. He said that he can't speak for all FUDS projects across the country but feels that the Buxton FUDS project is among the top 10 FUDS projects people are paying attention to. He expressed appreciation for all those involved.

### RAB Business

The first action item on the agenda under RAB business was a follow-up on the project discussion from the October 16 meeting. The RAB was informed that the Savannah District would address updated project information during the Technical Presentation and were asked to save questions/discussion until that time. This action item is closed.

The second item on the agenda under RAB Business was a recap of documents reviewed by the RAB since the last meeting and documents that RAB will review in the near future. There were no questions on the reviewed or pending documents.

The third item on the agenda under RAB Business was proposed dates for the 2026/2027 RAB meetings. The agreed dates are listed below:

#### 2026/2027 Meeting Dates:

- April 30, 2026
- July 16, 2026



- October 15, 2026
- January 27, 2027

Ms. Drye asked the RAB if they would be interested in visiting the site before the next RAB meeting. The RAB unanimously showed interest in the site visit. Details for the site visit and RAB meeting will be provided at a later date.

Ms. Drye asked the RAB if there were other topics they would like to discuss during this time. There were no additional topics brought up by the RAB.

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

Ms. Gayle 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 paraphrased discussions related to the presentations on current and pending projects:

Ms. Mary Ellon Balance asked how many monitoring well sites were around Buxton. Ms. Garland responded that she did not have the map currently, but she could provide Ms. Ballance with a map showing all the monitoring well sites.

Mr. Michael Gould asked why wells were being removed. Ms. Garland responded that the wells were in the way of the current excavation activities.

Ms. Ballance asked if there was a proposal received for Project 05. Ms. Garland responded that solicitation for a contractor has not begun, since the project is not currently funded.

There were follow-up questions regarding the funding for Project 05 from the RAB. Ms. Garland explained that funding was approved for projects each fiscal year (FY). USACE submits a "Workplan" with projects that USACE would like to work on for that year. Project 05 was not funded under the FY25 workplan and would be added to the FY26 workplan for possible funding.

Mr. Brian Harris pointed out that this is the first time Coast Guard housing was shown on the map. Ms. Betsy Gwinn added that there were three members of the RAB that have properties surrounding the Project 05 boundary. Ms. Garland explained the previously mapped area was revised. A copy of the Findings and Determination of Eligibility (FDE) was sent out to the RAB members for their awareness. Acreage now shown on the map is part of the FUDS eligible acreage. \*\*During review of the meeting minutes this statement was corrected. The PCB and PFAS Evaluation Supplement to the Preliminary Assessment was submitted to the RAB for awareness.

Ms. Garland discussed the buried drums that were located and removed. She explained that this was a recent development and was not part of the slide presentation. Historical



photographs indicated a former drum station area and showed up as an anomaly on the Geophysical Survey. CESAS decided to go back and explore before the end of the contract. The drums were located 2 to 4 feet below ground surface. The drums were wrapped and removed. The contractor took samples to determine what the substance in the drums is. Drums are at various levels of deterioration.

Mr. Lat Williams asked if the drums were empty upon recovery and if that was due to their deterioration or if they were emptied. Ms. Garland explained that at this time, they were not sure. It could have been caused by the deterioration, or the drums could have been buried without any contents.

Further questions were asked about the exact location of the drums. At this point, Ms. Hillary Weber, showed the location on map. She explained that once the lab confirmed the type of petroleum product, the findings would be shared with the RAB.

A question was asked regarding the contract term date. Ms. Garland explained that this contract allowed for more flexibility. The base contract was for 90 days. The contract was extended for 30 days which would go through end of January. Additional funding and approval extended the contract through April 1, 2026.

A question was asked by a member of the public. He expressed his appreciation for the RAB and the work by CESAS. His question was regarding the type of work that would be done on Project 05 and specifically the Coast Guard Housing. Ms. Sara Keisler explained that there was no work intended to be done in that area at this time, unless there was evidence of contamination.

#### 2025 Interim Response Action

Ms. Hilliary Weber gave a presentation on the current Interim Response Action being conducted by Eastern Shawnee Bay West Joint Venture (ESPS-BW JV) (see attached presentation). Ms. Weber shared data, pictures and graphics of the project area and discussed the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filtration System.

The following reflects discussions related to the presentation:

Mr. Williams asked where the concrete/asphalt that was removed was taken. Ms. Weber explained that the concrete is taken to an asphalt recycler in Elizabeth City, NC. If the material is contaminated it is taken with the dirty soil.

Ms. Brain Harris asked how many drum anomalies areas have been found. Ms. Weber explained that the area where the eight drums were found was at the boundary of the USACE survey. Another anomaly area identified south of where the eight drums were found could potentially contain additional drums.

Mr. Harris expressed his appreciation for all the work that has been done.



Ms. Weber expressed her excitement for the RABs interest in a site walk in April. She stated that it is very interesting how much the area has changed. She stated to reach out to CESAS and the RAB with questions and/or concerns.

Mr. Michael Gould asked how much further east the excavation would go and how much closer to the ocean it would be. Ms. Weber explained the current effort was to the low tide line. She pointed to a map and pointed out the pink boundary. She expressed that there is a significant amount of area remaining. She stated there has been success in getting as much petroleum off site as possible.

A copy of the presentation was requested.

This concluded the RAB portion of the agenda.

### Questions from the Public/Additional Input

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

#### Open to Public Questions-

A community member questioned when the project is supposed to end and would the map with the boundary showing the Coast Guard housing still be available to the public once the project was complete. His concern is potential buyers may not be interested in making purchases if during due diligence they discover the housing is surrounding Project 05. Ms. Keisler explained that this area is where Navy activity occurred. General Miller stated a legal statement/description of the property could be written and included to state what the map is, if there were questions by potential buyers.

A question was asked regarding the comprehensive sampling and the revised QAPP. Ms. Garland responded a scope of work for the modification was solicited in December of 2025. The contractor's proposal has been received and CESAS has completed the technical analysis, and negotiations are scheduled for next week. After negotiations are completed, the QAPP will be revised. The comprehensive sampling field work will start after the current effort is complete.

A question was asked if digging was stopped at 13 ft. Ms. Garland confirmed this was correct.

Closing remarks from Mr. Harris expressed his appreciation for the work being done. He specifically expressed his appreciation for the weekly reports sent to stakeholders.

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 5:30pm.



Action items:

Details for the April 30 site visit for the RAB members to be provided.

Attachments

- A. Update on Current Project Presentation
- B. 2025 Response Presentation

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

**X**

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Gayle Garland  
USACE Co-Chair

**X**

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Brian R. Harris

Brian Harris  
Community Co-Chair