

**Minutes • Community Interest Group/Public Meeting  
Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site in State Game Lands 211, Pennsylvania  
April 23, 2014 • East Hanover Township Building, Grantville, PA**

**Community Interest Group Members and Project Staff Attendees**

Dennis Coffman	Lou Samsel	Jo Anderson, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Terry Fetterhoff	Jay Saylor	Wayne Davis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Baltimore District
Larry Herr	Dorman Shaver	Rob Halla, Army National Guard Directorate
Randall Hurst	Paul Shoop	LTC Dale Waltman, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Donald Kleinfelter	Shirly Shoop	MAJ Angela King-Sweigart, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Mike Kneasel	Joseph Smith Jr.	John Gerhard, Weston Solutions, Inc.
Joan Renninger	Ruth Smith	Ryan Steigerwalt, Weston Solutions, Inc.
John Rossey		Bryan Hnetinka, Weston Solutions, Inc.
		Bruce Moe, Weston Solutions, Inc.
		Bruce Carnal, Weston Solutions, Inc.
		Eric Stahl, Weston Solutions, Inc.
		Deb Volkmer, Weston Solutions, Inc.

**Other Attendees**

John Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Glenn Moyer
John Goetze	Dreama O'Neal, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Claudia Hacker, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Tom Powers, Save Stony Valley
Warren Harris	Dorman Shaver
David R. Keefer	Sharon L. Southall, Lebanon Valley Hiking Club
Galen D. Kleinfelter	Connor Verhagen
	Jennifer Verhagen

**Handouts from the Meeting**

1. Agenda
2. Revised Draft Meeting Minutes, Community Interest Group, Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site in State Game Lands 211, PA, October 27, 2011
3. Fact Sheet April 2014: Remedial Design and Land Use Controls Summary
4. Flyer: Healthy Earth Healthy You Fair

**Welcome**

Jo Anderson, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She introduced the revised minutes on the October 27, 2011, meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dorman Shaver moved to approve the revised minutes and Joan Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Anderson introduced the project team and representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and presented the agenda.

MAJ Angela King-Sweigart, Public Affairs Officer, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, said she looks forward to discussing concerns and welcomed meeting attendees. She added that she is interested in obtaining feedback from the neighbors of the installation. She stated that project information included her name and contact information, she has business cards available to distribute, the installation has a Facebook page, and a Community Information Line (717-861-2007). The Community Information Line provides updates of range operations.

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Wayne Davis, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the Corps is working with the Army to execute the remedial action phase of the project. The Corps is considered the technical experts for ordnance and explosives and personnel include ordnance and explosives safety specialists, geophysicists, chemists, and environmental engineers. The Corps is involved in the project to execute the contract, provide input and oversight of the field work, and make sure the project is done safely and efficiently.

Rob Halla, Cleanup Program Manager, Army National Guard Directorate, said his main focus is to secure funding and to coordinate the Corps' involvement in the project. He became involved in the project just before the public meeting for the proposed plan (June 21, 2012). He looks forward to the completion of the project which is expected to be late summer of 2014.

### **Overview of Remedial Design and Remedial Action**

John Gerhard, Project Manager, and Ryan Steigerwalt, Technical Manager, both with Weston Solutions, Inc., presented an overview of the remedial design and remedial action, which is provided in Appendix B. The presentation included a brief summary of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Military Munitions Response Program processes and a timeline of site documents and activities from 2003 to the present. The presentation provided the basics of the remedial design and remedial action. The objectives of the remedial design are:

- Reduce explosive safety hazards and ensure protection of human health, public safety, and the environment.
- Minimize exposure to:
  - The public while maintaining access for recreational activities.
  - Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel and contractors.

The remedial action entails the following activities and schedule:

- **Surface removal action:** Removal of exposed or partially exposed munitions and explosives of concern across 1,334 acres of the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site.
  - Survey
    - Perform boundary surveys to define removal action area.
    - Establish grid system across each removal action area for navigation and quality control.
  - Unexploded ordnance technicians will perform surface removal work.
  - Magnetometers will be used to detect munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris.
  - Surveys will be complete and full coverage.
  - Munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris that are either visible or under leaf litter will be removed.
- **Subsurface removal action:** Removal of munitions and explosives of concern to the depth of detection across the 11 acres of the Cold Spring and Yellow Spring Herbaceous Openings.
  - Use digital geophysical surveys to detect munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris in the subsurface.
  - Full coverage surveys were performed across both herbaceous openings.
  - Process and analyze geophysical data to select individual anomalies and potential burn areas.
  - Locate and dig to investigate anomalies.

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- **Removal Action Explosives Safety**
  - Work will be performed in accordance with the Final Remedial Action Work Plan and Explosives Safety Submission.
  - Exclusion zones will be established during subsurface investigations and munitions and explosives of concern demolition.
  - Munitions and explosives of concern will be destroyed using engineering controls (sand bags or soil cover).
  - Munitions debris will be segregated, manage, and recycled.
- **Containment and controls – land use controls**
  - Signs
  - Brochure/awareness bulletin
  - Awareness video
- **After action report**
  - Project activities and operations
  - Munitions and explosives of concern removal action results
  - Quality control activities and results
  - Dig sheet data
  - Munitions and explosives of concern disposition/accountability records
- **Schedule**
  - Survey – February through April 2014
  - Surface removal – Mid-May through July 2014
  - Subsurface removal – July 2014
  - After action report – Fall 2014

Joan Renninger – How much digging will be involved in the whole area? (Presentation slide #14 – Remedial Action - Survey)

Ryan Steigerwalt – The unexploded ordnance technicians will use magnetometers to locate munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris on the surface of the ground. There will not be a lot of digging in the areas for the surface removal of munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris.

Joan Renninger – So you're not going to scrape the entire area?

Ryan Steigerwalt – No.

Joan Renninger – What do you mean by land use controls?

Ryan Steigerwalt – That will be the media, signage, and brochures. (Presentation slide #19 – Containment and Controls/Land Use Controls)

Joan Renninger – So every orange flag means you have detected something in the herbaceous openings?

Ryan Steigerwalt – The herbaceous openings removal of munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris requires something different than the other areas. In the herbaceous openings areas requires subsurface, intrusive work. The technicians will be using different equipment (EM61MK2) which is a sumped-up magnetometer which will digitally detect subsurface metals. The 11 acres of the herbaceous openings have been mapped to find buried metal. The technicians will investigate to identify the metal object. The orange flags at the herbaceous opening are test strips for quality control of the instruments.

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Question – How deep will the magnetometers be able to detect?

Ryan Steigerwalt – It is based on the size of the item so the bigger the item is the deeper it can be detected. For example, if an item is as large as 155-millimeter it can be detected from 3.5 feet to 4 feet deep. At the Cold Spring location we are looking for disposal areas. Historically, it was common practice during operations to bury unused items in a pit at the completion of training activities. In those instances, because there is more metal we can detect the items at a deeper depth.

Joan Renninger – Will the instruments detect metal but not explosives?

Ryan Steigerwalt – Right, the magnetometer is a metal detector. There are some limitations. If an item is small and deep in the ground the instrument may not detect it. That is why the project has containment and controls and land use controls as part of the remedial action.

Larry Herr – So you will be working on-site in May during spring turkey season? (Presentation slide #21 – Schedule)

John Gerhard – That is correct, we will be working during turkey season. Turkey season ends May 31<sup>st</sup>.

John Gerhard – Scott Bills, Land Manager with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, approved the work to start in mid-May.

Wayne Davis – Remedial work will be conducted only during the week and not on weekends.

Larry Herr – How big will the exclusion zones be? If you find something in the Cold Spring field will a person be able to park in the parking lot or will that whole area be closed?

Ryan Steigerwalt – The size of the exclusion zones depends on where we are working. Generally, the exclusion zone will be between 200 feet to 220 feet. We don't want to block off areas for a long period of time; however, there may be a time, perhaps a day or so, where that area will be closed.

There was discussion regarding the use of flags currently onsite. Ryan Steigerwalt said existing flags are for project quality control activities (test strips). One attendee asked about the relatively large orange flags he observed on the south side of Second Mountain – west of where the Fort Indiantown Gap and Trail 10 is located and near the mountain top – the far west end of the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site. Jo Anderson said the orange flags are not related to the Ricochet Area project. Lou Samsel said large flags are typically used for communications for fiber-optic lines. The only flags we would have would be at Yellow Spring and Cold Spring Herbaceous Openings.

John Rossey – In the area of stakes that state “Start A,” “B,” and “C” have you found anything there?

Bruce Moe – Those stakes indicate work areas.

John Gerhard – Nothing has been found yet with our operations this year.

John Rossey – The land is priceless, but how much have you spent on this so far to date – as of this meeting – the whole project? The whole nine yards.

MAJ King-Sweigart – We will look up that information. Someone else had asked a similar question. She asked Mr. Rossey to provide his contact information and she would calculate and follow-up with the answer.

John Rossey – How long will it take to do section “A” and then “B,” is that how it is? How long will it take to do “A” – as long as it takes?

Ryan Steigerwalt – Yes, as long as it takes. We are trying to finish the field work in July.

John Rossey – What is the purpose of the flags in the woods?

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Ryan Steigerwalt – That is our grid system. The grid system is how we navigate and track the operations. Other flags you may have noticed mark the boundaries of the appropriate areas to make sure we're doing a complete coverage of the site.

John Gerhard – We won't approach the site in alphabetical order. We will probably start with the smaller sections and then the larger area. We will coordinate our access to Second Mountain trail with Range Control. There are certain times we will not be able to access that from the Fort Indiantown Gap side because of activities at the installation. Weather may impact our production and there is challenging terrain at the site.

John Rossey – So you think you'll be done this fall?

John Gerhard – I hope we will be done in July or August. We will prepare the after action report. In five years the government will prepare a five-year review to make sure the remedial action is protective for the community. The land use controls and public awareness program will be in place. I can't say there won't be more work but it is highly unlikely.

John Rossey – You need to take into consideration that nobody has ever, ever been hurt back there in 50 years. I hope you will take into consideration that the place is safe. Our main concern is that the government will take the land. We're also not real happy that the road is being built through there for the timbering with the game commission. The reason why Stony Creek is the way it is today is because nobody touched it and it doesn't cost anything to maintain Stony Creek. The trails and road may need maintenance but other than that it doesn't cost millions and millions of dollars. We just want the land to be preserved.

Claudia Hacker – When you say that nothing has happened in 50 years you can consider that as lucky. Just because nothing has happened in 50 years that doesn't mean that something is not going to happen. It was determined that the likelihood of an incident is high enough for technicians to come in and survey the site to make sure the public is protected and prevent anyone from being injured in the next 50 years. The job of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is to make sure they do what they are required to do. This is all for your benefit – the protection of the public and the environment. The plan is to be as least intrusive as possible and then finish the project and I hope this will be done to your satisfaction.

Lou Samsel – Will the presentation slides be up on the project website? I especially liked the project flowchart slide.

John Gerhard – Yes, the presentation slides will be posted on the website.

Question – You said there was going to be an evaluation or a five-year plan?

John Gerhard – Yes, I don't believe it is on the flowchart slide but part of the remedial action is a requirement to conduct a five-year review to ensure that the remedy continues to be protective of users at the site. A lot can change in five years; maybe the land use has changed, maybe the property owner changed, or maybe there was a landslide which revealed more munitions in certain areas.

Question – I understand this went back to World War II, but for the majority of these explosives that are over there, and you get that cleaned up this year, what guarantee do we have from the Army National Guard that this won't happen again? Did the Army National Guard reorganize all of the ranges?

LTC Waltman – I'm not familiar with the practices that were ongoing during World War II and where the firing points were then. Now we follow strict Army regulations with surface danger zones that we designed that contain our munitions in the impact areas on our ranges. And we submit every year, reviewed by our range safety officer and then the adjutant general with those deviations for that, utilizing not only the mountain area but also those restrictions on the size of charges that is allowed to be fired on

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the different ranges to contain those emissions on the installation. So we do have established firing points now that we don't deviate from and for each firing point there is a surface danger zone with safety buffers designed on those to contain the rounds.

Comment – I do understand that because 20 years ago I was back there when they were coming over the mountain and no one believed it until certain people noticed it.

LTC Waltman – Rest assured that we do go through a process – an annual process and a daily process with range control that we control the activities of the numerous units that come train at Indiantown Gap.

Question – About the signage, how many signs will be posted and will there be yardage between the signs to cover the area?

Ryan Steigerwalt – Yes, the preliminary design is starting now and we are working on the reviews to get the language correct. They are going to be placed at about three or four access points of the munitions response site.

Wayne Davis – We will provide the Pennsylvania Game Commission about 24 signs and the commission might place more signs where they think it is appropriate. I'm sure the commission will take your input as well. In response to Joan Renninger's question earlier regarding how much area will be disturbed in the herbaceous openings, we are digging by hand with shovels. We will not be using any bulldozer, backhoe, or mechanical equipment.

### **Approval of the October 27, 2011, Meeting Minutes**

At the beginning of the meeting it was moved and seconded to approve the revised draft minutes for the October 27, 2011, meeting. Jo Anderson asked for a voice vote to approve the revised draft minutes. The majority of the votes were "yea" with one "nay" and the minutes were approved. John Rossey asked that his statement in the revised draft minutes be changed from "John Rossey asked if anybody has ever been hurt by UXO in Stony Creek Valley." to "John Rossey asked if anybody in the last 50 years has been hurt by UXO in Stony Creek Valley." His revision to the minutes will be included.

### **Announcements**

Jo Anderson – A flier entitled "Health Earth, Healthy You Fair" was circulated regarding an Earth Day and health fair event at Fort Indiantown Gap on May 1, 2014.

Women service members and veterans were invited to the "Pennsylvania Women Veterans Symposium" on June 6-8, 2014, at the Wyndham Grand Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information about the symposium contact Jo Anderson or visit: [www.pawomenvets.state.pa.us](http://www.pawomenvets.state.pa.us).

We anticipate butterfly walks probably in the July 4<sup>th</sup> timeframe.

Joan Renninger asked when the next Community Interest Group/public meeting will be scheduled. John Gerhard said the next meeting would be after the remedial action field work was completed and estimated the next meeting occurring between July and September 2014.

### **Adjournment**

Jo Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

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**List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Agenda

Appendix B – Presentation: Overview of Remedial Design and Remedial Action

Appendix C – Revised Draft Meeting Minutes, Community Interest Group, Ricochet Area Munitions  
Response Site in State Game Lands 211, PA, October 27, 2011

Appendix D – Fact Sheet April 2014: Remedial Design and Land Use Controls Summary

Appendix E – Flyer: Healthy Earth, Healthy You Fair