

**Summary Notes, August 19, 2008**  
**SRS Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Strategic & Legacy Management Committee Meeting**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Strategic & Legacy Management (S&LM) Committee met on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 640 Broad Street, in Augusta, GA

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss: 1) Status of Training Proposal by the Army; 2) Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Overview; 3) the Final Report on the Carolina Bays; and 4) the Savannah River Site Wetland Mitigation Bank; and to provide an opportunity for public comments on CAB related documents.

**ATTENDEES:**

**CAB Members**

- Madeleine Marshall, Chair
- Kathe Golden
- Judy Greene-McLeod
- Ed Burke

Mercredi Giles  
Leon Chavous  
Stan Howard  
Mary Drye  
Wendell Lyon  
Joe Ortaldo  
Donna Antonucci

**Stakeholders**

Lee Poe, Public  
Eric Nelson, SRNL  
Vernon Osteen, SRNS  
Mila May, SCDHEC Reg. 5  
Tiajuana Cochnauer, Forest Service  
Dean Fletcher, SREL  
John Seaman, SREL  
Liz Goodson, Public  
Rob Pope, EPA  
Ernie Chaput, Public/EDP  
Sam Booher, Public  
Larry Coleman, Public  
Karen Patterson, Public  
Murray Riley, Public

**DOE/Contractors/Others**

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR  
Helen Belencan, DOE-SR  
Chuck Borup, DOE-SR  
Dennis Ryan, DOE-SR

Carl Bergmann, SREL  
Chris Barton, Univ. of Ky.

- *S&LM Committee Members* Alan Eckmyre – Technical Advisory

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Ms. Madeleine Marshall, Chair, S&LM, opened the meeting with a welcome to all. The attendees introduced themselves.

**Committee Update:**

Ms. Marshall reminded everyone of the open membership campaign and encouraged application. She then referenced the meeting ground rules and the upcoming committee meeting schedules and topics.

She reviewed the status of the five open and pending S&LM recommendations and would like to close of Recommendation #253.

**Committee Meeting Summary:**

Members of the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 640 Broad Street, in Augusta, GA. DOE-SR hosted the meeting.

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**Committee Meeting Summary:** *(continued)*

The agenda topics were: 1) Status of Training Proposal by the Army, presented by Chuck Borup, DOE-SR; 2) Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Overview, presented by Dr. Carl Bergmann, SREL Director, University of Georgia; 3) the Final Report on the Carolina Bays, presented by Dr. Christopher Barton, University of Kentucky; and 4) the Savannah River Site Wetland Mitigation Bank, presented by Dennis Ryan, DOE-SR. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided. The meeting was well attended. Two *draft motions* are under consideration from the meeting discussions.

The Proposal for Utilizing SRS Property for Military Training Purposes generated a lot of discussion and questions. The Board members support the opportunity to use the SRS property for military training, but want to ensure precautions, oversight, preserving the site boundary and habitat, and protection of the environment is maintained. The Board members are interested in the schedule to begin, use specifically of the property, and their opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment which is expected to be issued late-fall. The Board requested (if possible) a copy of the Interagency Agreement for their information. Due to the significant interest and questions, Madeleine Marshall, Chair, requested Mr. Borup to provide the presentation to the full board in September.

Dr. Carl Bergmann, Director, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, University of Georgia, provided a very informative overview of the current status of SREL operations and future projections. He stated that the SREL operations are much better than a year ago and its viability depends on diversifying funding, grants, and attracting new researchers. Dr. Bergmann was invited and agreed to provide another update of the SREL operations, with an outreach demonstration, at the full board meeting in January.

Dr. Christopher Barton, University of Kentucky, provided information on the restoration of Carolina Bay Depression Wetlands at the Savannah River Site. He stated the project objectives were to establish alternatives for Carolina Bay restoration to determine the influence of restoration practices, initiate a system to establish wetland mitigation credits for input into the SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank, and disseminate results to the scientific community and general public to aid future restoration efforts. CAB members expressed interest in the types of vegetation and results in the stabilization of habitat.

Based on these discussions, the Committee is considering drafting a motion to thank the Department for its positive response in helping SREL to survive and recover; congratulate the management of SREL for changing its business model to survive and recover; and recommend that the SREL homepage be linked on the CAB homepage.

Dennis Ryan, DOE-SR, provided an update on the SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank which provides a mechanism for advanced compensation for wetland losses caused by development activities. Credits are gained by restoring damaged wetlands or creating new wetlands. Credits are used when a project causes unavoidable wetland impacts. These credits would only apply to SRS and SRS projects. The Board members agreed that the banking process is good. Considering the results, the Committee would like to consider a draft motion to congratulate the mitigation team and DOE on an outstanding program; recommend plugging the rest of the Carolina Bays, harvest trees; and reseed all Carolina Bay sites; and fund a program to count all of the bays, track and report back to the CAB on progress.

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**Public Comment:**

Lee Poe, Citizen, provided written public comment as follows.

August 20, 2008

**Public Comment to CAB by W. Lee Poe, Jr.**

I have made this same comment at several of the CAB Committee Meetings. The most recent was at the Waste Management Committee meeting on August 12, 2008. Joe Ortaldo told me to write the comment.

Public comments made at Committee Meetings should be documented, reviewed by the author of the comment to ensure the thought behind the comment is correct. The CAB and DOE should develop a response to the comment and the documented response reviewed by the Committee members, author and CAB committee. When comments go beyond a time limit established by the CAB Committee members they lose their intended function.

Some public comments are made to get a formal answer and others to inform CAB members of certain aspects of SRS activities. It is always possible for commenter to go directly to DOE to get questions answered

I understand the desire to respond only to written comments but I do not think this is a wise option. The people making comments in the public portion of the meeting are making serious comments and are desirous of giving the members of the public, or CAB Committee, or DOE, or DOE Contractors, or Regulators an opportunity to hear the point behind the comment or its response. Given this concern, I do not think an oral or written comment can be treated differently. I consider one of the CAB major function to be the go-between between the public and SRS.

**Adjourn:**

Ms. Marshall adjourned the meeting at 8pm.

**Follow-Up Actions:**







- Proposal for Utilizing SRS Property for Military Purposes:
  - Provide the presentation to the full board at the September meeting.
  - Provide additional information on the specific activities.
  - Ensure the CAB members have the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment.
  - If possible, provide a copy of the Interagency Agreement to the Board for information purposes.
- Savannah River Ecology Laboratory
  - Provide an update to the full board in January 2009 to include an outreach demonstration by Whit Gibbons.

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**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Proposal for Utilizing SRS Property for Military Training Purposes –  
 presented by Chuck Borup, DOE-SR**

<p style="text-align: center;">Presentation to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board Strategic &amp; Legacy Management Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal For Utilizing SRS Property For Military Training Purposes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Charles Borup, DOE-SR August 19, 2008</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefed Citizens Advisory Board last January.</li> <li>• Explained Purpose of the Proposal.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Expanding Army Training requirements exceeding available resources.</li> <li>– In June 2007 DOE/Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to consider Army Use of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Lands for Limited training.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementing MOU             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conduct Environmental Assessment</li> <li>– Develop Interagency Agreement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Possibilities             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Long Haul Logistics/Convoy</li> <li>– Establishing Command &amp; Control Facilities</li> <li>– Special Operations Forces</li> <li>– Helicopter Operations/Airborne</li> <li>– Dismounted/Light Infantry Maneuver Training</li> <li>– 12 Events Per Year, 5-14 Days Duration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Limitations             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No live Fire</li> <li>– No tracked Vehicles</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Activities Since January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Day Workshop conducted at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in March.</li> <li>• Army Visited Fort Polk Louisiana to review agreements between Forest Service and Army in May.</li> <li>• Joint Army / Department of Energy meeting at SRS on August 13.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Eliminate Obstacles to Environmental Assessment Development and Determine Path Forward.</li> <li>– Review Initial Draft of Interagency Agreement and determine next steps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmental Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Army will:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Further Articulate Specific Activities</li> <li>– Further Define Land Requirements</li> <li>– Match Intensity of Land Activities to Land Use Limitations</li> <li>– Provide Overall Request for Consideration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Department of Energy will:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Work With Army to Refine Proposal</li> <li>– Develop Revised Cost Estimate</li> <li>– Conduct Environmental Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Environmental Assessment will undergo normal public review process:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Citizens Advisory Board will be briefed</li> <li>– 30 day public review period</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interagency Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedite Interagency Agreement (IAG) Development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop list of actions required to complete IAG</li> <li>– Assign responsibility for accomplishment</li> <li>– Develop schedule</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concurrent Activity             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Army may request individual training activities at R and P Reactors</li> <li>– Use of building only</li> <li>– No significant actions triggering Environmental Assessment requirement</li> <li>– Begin training as early as January 2009</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

**Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Overview – (Informal Remarks)  
 presented by Dr. Carl Bergmann, Director, SREL, University of Georgia**

1) Introduction

Background education and scientific interests

    Doctorate in Chemistry

    Research in acidic matrix polysaccharides

Qualifications for directorship

    Familiarity with a “soft money” center

    Able to bring an “outsiders” point of view to the process

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2) Current status of SREL

- a) Facilities – what is still part of SREL, what has been turned over to DOE
  - o Most of A-Area Main Laboratory – some support buildings may be transferred to other site users. The animal care facilities and some ponds will remain.
  - o SREL is transitioning out of B-Area laboratories and offices, but will maintain most of its existing storage facilities.
  - o Par Pond, including the low-dose facility is still operating and SREL is actively looking for partners to help maintain this important research asset.
  - o UGA Conference Center will remain open and SREL is exploring long-term lease proposals.
  - o field sites all remain open and active.
- b) Equipment- what equipment has left the site, impact on the lab's capabilities?
  - o Most equipment at SREL is still available. A limited amount has been (temporarily) transferred to UGA and other campuses to support ongoing research projects. What equipment will remain in the long term will depend on the evolving research needs of SREL.
- c) People – how many are still remaining, areas of expertise
  - o Currently there are 7 PhD full-time faculty and 8 MS level lead researchers at SREL
  - o Further supported by 4 emeritus faculties.
  - o 9 graduate students or post-docs.
  - o 26 full and part-time support staff and technicians.
  - o SREL also has expertise available from UGA and other university campuses.
- d) Data sets – are they still intact, how will they be handled
  - o This is a continuing challenge area for SREL and we are looking for partnerships to maintain data sets and make them more useful. A major focus at a recent workshop held on herpetological datasets was how to make the data more accessible to both the scientific and general public.
- e) Outreach program remains open, but reduced in scope
- f) Funding-
  - o UGA is providing \$400K in overhead and another 400K in faculty salaries for the '09 fiscal year. The overhead support will be reduced in \$200K increments over the next two fiscal years.
  - o Site support for '08 is approximately \$1.8 M, including FY'07 carryover and support from DOE-EM (through WSRC or SRNS), NNSA, and USFS. We currently project our site support for FY'09 to be \$1.8-1.9 M, excluding any carryover.
  - o External funding in '08 was approximately \$900K. Approximately 40% of the external funding will end. We are fairly confident of a minimum of \$500K of external funding, and currently have applications in for another \$700K/ year.

3) Future projections

Maintaining the current level of operations at SREL will require approximately \$3 million per year in a combination of site-based and external projects and grants. We believe we are on track to meet that goal, possibly by the end of the '09 federal fiscal year. Growth will require funding levels beyond that point, and we are highly optimistic that by 2010 we can reach \$3.5-4 million in a combination of site based and external funding.

The future of SREL is not guaranteed. Like any other University based research center, its viability depends largely on the ability of its researchers to bring in the projects necessary to maintain funding levels. We are also faced with the need to further diversify our funding base to provide greater stability.

4) Questions and answers

**Final Report on the Carolina Bays –  
*presented by Dr. Christopher Barton, University of Kentucky***

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**SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank – presented by Dennis Ryan, DOE-SR.**

**Presentation SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
Strategic and Legacy Management Committee**

**SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank  
Update**

Dennis Ryan, Office of  
Closure Projects, DOE-SR


August 19, 2008



1

**Purpose**


- An update be provided to the Citizens Advisory Board members on the Savannah River Site Wetland Mitigation Bank.
- The Savannah River Site Wetland Mitigation Bank Project and the Carolina Bay Restoration Project have a shared history and purpose.



2

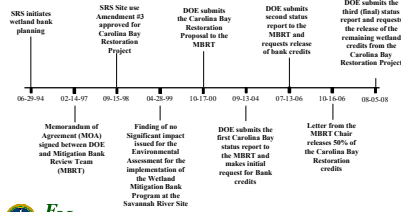
**Bank Basics**

- Mitigation banking provides a mechanism for advanced compensation for wetland losses caused by development activities.
- Regulatory Authority is found in the Clean Water Act Section 404 and the Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands.
- Credits are gained by restoring damaged wetlands or creating new wetlands.
- Credits are used when a project causes unavoidable wetland impacts.




3

**Timeline of Events**



The timeline shows the following key events:

- 06-26-94:** SRS initiates wetland bank planning.
- 02-14-97:** Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between DOE and Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT).
- 09-15-98:** SRS Site use Amendment 23 approved for Carolina Bay Restoration Project.
- 04-23-99:** Finding of no Significant Impact issued for the Environmental Assessment for the implementation of the Wetland Mitigation Bank Program at the Savannah River Site.
- 10-17-00:** DOE submits the Carolina Bay Restoration Proposal to the MBRT.
- 09-13-04:** DOE submits the First Carolina Bay status report to the MBRT and makes initial request for Bank credits.
- 07-13-06:** DOE submits second status report to the MBRT and requests release of bank credits.
- 10-16-06:** Letter from the MBRT Chair releases 50% of the Carolina Bay Restoration credits.
- 08-05-08:** DOE submits the third (final) status report and requests the release of the remaining wetland credits from the Carolina Bay Restoration Project.



4

**Next Steps**

- Finalize internal Savannah River Site banking process.
  - Identify and approve projects for Wetland Bank credits.
  - Determine the need/feasibility of future Wetland Bank restoration projects.



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