



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

Membership Committee

**Nevada Support Facility
Searchlight Conference Room
March 23, 2015
3 – 4:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Michael D'Alessio, Donna Hruska, Janice Keiserman (phone), Steve Rosenbaum (phone), Bill Sears, Cecilia Flores Snyder (phone)

U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE): Kelly Snyder – Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)

NSSAB Administrator: Barbara Ulmer

Welcome

Donna Hruska, Membership Committee chair, welcomed everyone.

Election of Committee Chair

Janice Keiserman was elected as the new Membership Committee chair.

Student Liaison Background

Member Hruska provided the committee with a background on former student liaisons. The Membership Committee did not receive any applications for student liaisons for the current school year 2014-2015. For the prior three school years, the student liaisons were tasked with a project to develop an educational tool that included information on the NSSAB and Environmental Management (EM) activities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). This educational tool was given to the students, and the student liaison reported the results to the NSSAB at the end of the school year. There were a number of challenges that student liaisons faced with their projects, i.e. faculty advisors not as supportive as expected, teachers not permitting the student liaisons to utilize their educational tool during regular class time, one student liaison doing all the project work, etc.

Objective(s)

Member Hruska reported on a junior mini-internship available through the Clark County Medical Society. She felt that the liaison position is not clearly understood, and a student may commit more readily to a three-month project versus an entire school year.

Committee members felt that it is important to educate students on the history of the NNSS as it is an important part of Nevada's past that is not covered adequately in the current school curriculum. DDFO Kelly Snyder informed committee members that if the NSSAB followed this

path then the educational focus would need to also include EM cleanup/remediation activities and the responsibilities of the NSSAB. She mentioned that the NSSAB has a developed road show presentation available for this purpose. In terms of outreach, DDFO Snyder reminded the committee that the Nevada Field Office (NFO) is responsible for outreach related to the NNSS and the NSSAB is responsible for providing recommendations to the NFO on EM activities, including outreach. Additionally, DDFO Snyder also explained that it is within the purview of the NSSAB to conduct outreach promoting the NSSAB and what it does. With the current resources and personnel, the NFO's Public Involvement team is focusing its educational efforts at the middle school level with its *Operation Clean Desert* Curriculum which has been vetted by the Clark County School District.

Steve Rosenbaum noted that a good avenue would be to contact Cooperative Education through the university system to see if there is interest in offering it as an EM tract, including history, public policy, etc. A good reference point for the public school system is the Public Information Officer who can assist in providing research for methods to incorporate student participation on the NSSAB.

Any program for student involvement would need to include benefits for the student, i.e. extra credit, tour of the NNSS, addition to portfolio when applying for colleges, etc.

Objectives that the Membership Committee determined for youth participation include:
1) NSSAB receives and utilizes youth perspectives when providing recommendations to DOE, and 2) NSSAB promotes education of the NSSAB and history, current missions, and EM activities at the NNSS to the youth and the community, which ultimately results in better-informed and involved citizens for the future.

Path Forward for Youth Participation

Membership Committee decided to initiate the following contacts regarding the proposed youth involvement program:

- 1) Michael D'Alessio will contact the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) leader at the Pahrump High School,
- 2) Bill Sears will schedule a meeting with representatives of the Membership Committee and the principal at Bishop Gorman High School, and
- 3) Janice Keiserman will contact the Clark County School Board and a science teacher at West Career Technical Academy.

During these conversations, committee members will gauge interest and solicit thoughts in the proposed youth involvement program and enlist the contact's assistance in developing a program that would be beneficial and of interest to the student.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determine Need/Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled after the initial contacts listed above.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.