



Robins Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)



Fact Sheet

Volume 18, Issue 2, September 2025

The Robins AFB RAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters, Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or Base) has established the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The mission of the RAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base's environmental restoration program and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the RAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with the environmental restoration program at Robins AFB. The RAB supports the Air Force environmental mission of sustaining readiness, being a good neighbor, protecting human health and the environment for the Base and community, and making smart business decisions.

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September 2025 RAB Meeting

The fall RAB meeting was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

This *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

RAB Members Tour Restoration Sites and GWTP

During the fall RAB meeting, RAB members toured Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 59 and 60 (CG501 and CG502), SWMU 28 (CG028), and the GWTP. After the tour, an official RAB meeting was held at Building 359.

SWMUs 59 and 60

SWMUs 59 and 60 are fuel release sites located along the flightline. The remedial system includes vertical and horizontal biosparge wells designed to increase oxygen in the subsurface to enhance natural degradation of the subsurface contaminants.

Site investigations conducted to refine the conceptual site model identified residual light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) beneath the taxiway near active and inactive pipelines outside the zone of influence of the current remedial system. The residual LNAPL is generally located below the water table.

The LNAPL appears immobile and non-recoverable and

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Dr. Kip Gray, with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec), provided an overview of the expanded biosparge installation activities at SWMUs 59 and 60.

RAB Members Tour Restoration Sites and GWTP (Continued...)

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is acting as an ongoing source contributing to the downgradient groundwater plume. To address the contamination, a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Addendum was prepared by Geosyntec to expand the biosparge system at both sites with a total of four horizontal directional drilled biosparge wells (two at each site) and 16 vertical biosparge wells (eight at each site).

The CAP Addendum was approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division

(GA EPD) in October 2021. Installation of the vertical and horizontal wells was completed in late 2023 and early 2024 with construction of the biosparge conveyance piping and mechanical parts of the system in 2024. During the tour, the RAB members were given an overview of the expanded biosparge system at the site by **Dr. Kip Gray** with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.



Installation of a horizontal well at SWMU 60.

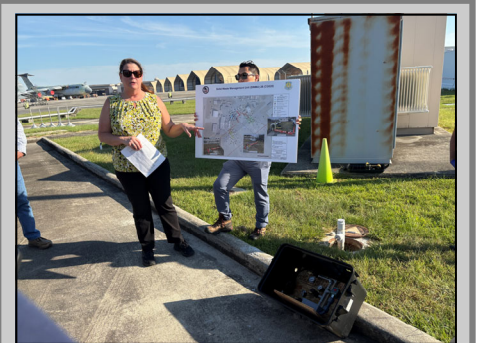
SWMU 28

SWMU 28 is the site of a fuel release from purge fluid tanks originally identified in February 1990 when purge fluid was observed in an excavation during valve maintenance activities at the site. Purge fluid is used to remove jet fuel from aircraft prior to maintenance.



Biosparge pilot study activities at SWMU 28.

A pilot study is ongoing to implement enhanced biosparging activities. Ambient air has been injected below the water table using compressed air and specifically de-



Ms. Elizabeth Rhine of Bhate Environmental (Bhate) provided an overview of the pilot study at SWMU 28.

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EAB Community Co-Chair Election

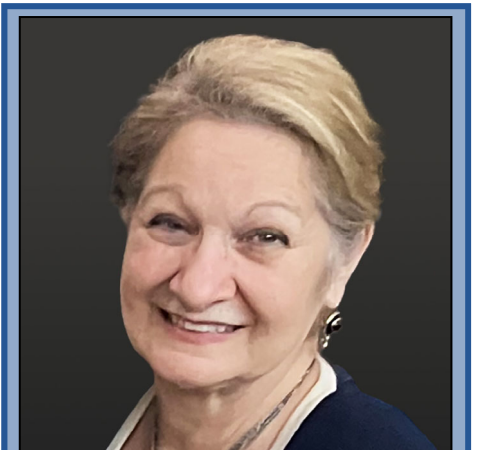
At the September RAB meeting, **Dr. Linda Smyth** was re-elected to serve as the Community Co-chair for a three-year term. She has been active on the Board since 2004.

Dr. Smyth is a retired Associate Professor, who served as the Vice President for University Advancement at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) and as Executive Director of the FVSU Foundation for more than a decade.

She has been an active leader in several state, regional, and community organizations. She previously served as Chair of the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition, Georgia Entomology Council, and Macon Arts Alliance, President of the Central

GA Mercedes Club, and as Treasurer of Central Georgia Cares.

She is Secretary Emeritus of the Macon Charter Academy and Historian of the Ocmulgee Porsche Club.



Dr. Linda Smyth was re-elected as the Community Co-Chair at the fall RAB meeting.

RAB Members Tour Restoration Sites and GWTP (Continued...)

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signed injection wells.

Increasing dissolved oxygen levels allows microorganisms to transform contaminants of concern into carbon dioxide, water, and microbial cell mass. Although some biodegrading microorganisms are likely present, bioaugmentation will ensure the most effective microorganisms are present at the appropriate levels to accelerate the process.

To enhance the process, Petrox™ was injected into the subsurface through the biosparge wells. Post-injection sampling results showed decreases in contaminant concentrations that continue to be monitored. The RAB members were given an overview of the pilot study and preliminary results by **Ms. Elizabeth Rhine** of Bhate.

GWTP

A leachate collection and groundwater extraction system is present at Landfill Number 3 (LF003) to collect contaminated water from the subsurface. The liquid is pumped to the GWTP. The primary treatment mechanism at the GWTP is ozone, which is a highly reactive molecule that can oxidize a wide range of both organic and inorganic contaminants. Granular activated carbon vessels provide secondary treatment. Sampling is conducted throughout the treatment process to assess if the water is being treated effectively.

The treated water is discharged through an outfall covered under the base's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The outfall is sampled for various constituents in accordance with the permit on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. Samples are sent to an environmental laboratory for analysis.

The treated effluent is commingled with treated wastewater from the base and discharged to the Ocmulgee River, in accordance with the NPDES permit. **Mr. Humberto Altamirano** of Bhate provided an overview of the GWTP system operation during the fall tour.



Mr. Humberto Altamirano discussing the dual-walled pipe used to convey extracted groundwater and leachate from LF003 to the GWTP.

Progress Update: Remedial Investigation of PFAS

At the fall RAB, **Mr. Sam Santoso** with Oneida Environmental Services Group provided an update on the PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI).

The PFAS RI investigation areas at Robins AFB are generally related to crash/fire response sites, fire department training activities, releases from fire suppression systems in aircraft hangers, disposal sites, and the industrial wastewater treatment plant. The RI includes soil, groundwater, surface water, and/or sediment sampling at these areas, as appropriate.

As of the RAB meeting, 100 percent of the borings

had been completed, with more than 1,650 soil and groundwater samples collected from them. Additionally, approximately 80 existing monitoring wells have been sampled, surface water and sediment sampling have been completed at 15 locations, and approximately 80 new monitoring wells, or 35 percent of the planned monitoring wells, have been installed,

Upcoming work includes completion of monitoring well installations, monitoring well sampling, and porewater sampling with lysimeters. Completion of the RI is scheduled for August 2027.

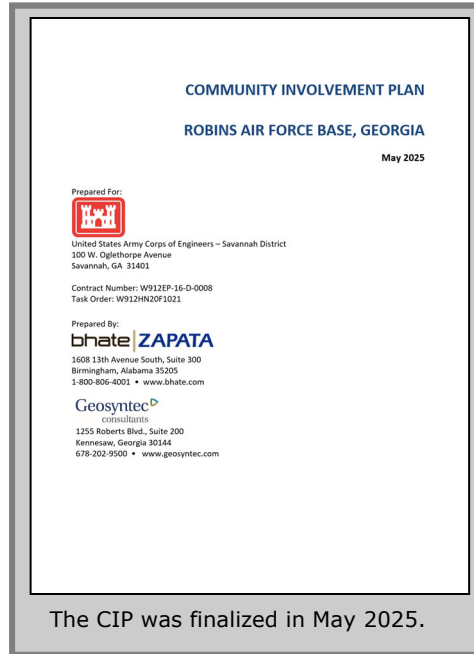
CIP Finalized

Robins AFB has finalized the CIP. Installations with environmental restoration programs are required to have a community involvement program, which should be documented in a CIP.

The CIP outlines methods to engage the community in the restoration process. It includes community strategies, public participation activities, and feedback mechanisms.

The CIP document includes an introduction, background information for Robins AFB, the current status of the restoration sites, information about the community, and an overview of the community engagement program. Key components of the community engagement program include the CIP itself, the semi-annual RAB meetings, community interviews, and the RAB website.

The CIP was completed in May 2025. The document is posted on the Air Force Administrative Record and the RAB website.



Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
Bhate	Bhate Environmental
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
FVSVU	Fort Valley State University
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GWTP	Groundwater Treatment Plant
LF003	Landfill Number 3
LNAPL	Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RI	Remedial Investigation
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit

For more information regarding the RAB, please contact **Mr. Fred Otto, Robins AFB RAB Manager**, at (478) 327-9272 or visit <http://www.robinseab.org>

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Mr. Heyward Singleton, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Ms. Tiffany Bowen, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Stephen Johnson, Macon Community Member
Dr. Linda Smyth, Macon Community Co-Chair	Mr. Lawrence Collins, Byron Community Member	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member
Mr. Fernando Martinez-Torres, US EPA Region 4 Superfund Division	Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. Brian Rood, Macon Community Member
Mr. Jim Ashworth GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. John Harley, Centerville Community Member	