

■ LOOW

RAB chair: Group is ready to move forward

ENVIRONMENT: Board has seen 'a lot of changes,' according to Garrow.

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SANBORN — Just minutes before a planned mid-summer picnic for members of the Restoration Advisory Board, Walter Garrow stood in the front of a nearly vacant Niagara County Community College classroom.

In the fourth month as the group's chairman, Garrow has ushered the all-volunteer body out from a period of instability.

The individuals that were supposed to be the community's voice in the cleanup of a federal waste dump in Lewiston and Porter faced significant challenges just to get back on track.

And while not every issue with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works has been resolved, Garrow believes his group is back on track to help inform the public.

"We've gone through a lot of changes," Garrow told a gathering of several board members late Thursday afternoon.

"We needed to get back to who we are, what we do," he



added later.

The purpose of the RAB is to guide the cleanup by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site.

It was on that site, beginning in the early 1940s, the U.S. gov-

ernment produced TNT, other munitions and contributed to the world's first atomic weapon through the Manhattan Project.

More than 60 years later, the citizens working to be the community's voice are in the midst of a disagreement with the U.S. Army Corps about access to current information about the site.

The Restoration Advisory Board wants access to those with the detailed, technical information, and both sides have recently exchanged lists of priorities.

In order to better communicate with the public, the group has created a computer presen-

tation it plans to show to interested community groups.

Also, a large public meeting is planned for Oct. 21, where several agencies are expected to present information about the LOOW site.

Guy Zaczek, chairman of the board's Historical Committee, is also working on an informational CD-ROM about the group as well as past and current site activities.

The interactive disc, planned for public distribution, will be interactive, according to Zaczek. It will include audio, video and other information about the history of the site.