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FERNALD COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER
14, 1996 ORIENTATION RETREAT MINUTES

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FERNALD COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION

September 14, 1996 Orientation Retreat Minutes

On Saturday, Sept. 14, a retreat was held for the Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO) from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Alpha Building near the Fernald site. Fourteen of the 18 CRO members attended, including the DOE exofficio member.

Marty Collier Stevens was introduced as the meeting facilitator. Mrs. Stevens is a senior instructor for the Miami University Department of Communications, Middletown Campus. She opened the day with a brief introduction of some of the approaches she would use throughout the retreat to facilitate discussion and encourage group participation. Each member was asked to answer several questions: What needs to happen today to make the time worth while? What is your personal level of commitment to the group? How confident are we as a group?

PRESENTATIONS

Fernald Overview

Dennis Carr gave a 60-minute overview on the Fernald Environmental Management Project, including the production history, current remediation efforts, and implementation of the Accelerated Cleanup Plan. Copies of his presentation were available as handouts.

Fernald Citizens Task Force

Task Force Chair John Applegate discussed briefly the Task Forces' mission and recapped the group's final recommendations published in July 1995. He emphasized the Task Force's recommendation on future use of Fernald property because of its applicability to the Fernald CRO's mission. He offered the Task Force as a resource for the Fernald CRO. The Task Force final report "Recommendations on Remediation Levels, Waste Disposition, Priorities and Future Use," and the Task Force Tool Box were available as handouts.

Natural Resource Trustees: Three members of the Natural Resource Trustees, including Eric Woods, Fluor Daniel Fernald, Tom Schneider, Ohio EPA, and Pete Yeraçe, DOE FEMP, addressed the group on the history of the trustees and future plans. In summary, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) imposes liability on DOE for the injury of natural resources on and around the Fernald Site due to releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances. The Fernald Natural Resource Trustees act as guardians of natural resources on behalf of the public. The Trustees have prepared a letter to the U.S. EPA proposing a tentative path forward for resolving DOE's potential natural resource liabilities. The Trustees' path forward involves a natural resource restoration-based approach as part of the overall remedial design process, as opposed to a formal Damage Assessment. Comments on the path forward may be sent to the trustees or to Gary Stegner. Copies of the Natural Resource Trustees' presentation and letter to U.S. EPA were available as handouts.

Start-up Grant: Gary Stegner discussed the status of the initial startup grant for the CRO. Copies of the DRAFT application were provided to members for review and comment. Members were asked to provide comments to Gary within two weeks (September 30).

Gary mentioned the purpose of the grant is to retain a professional consultant to help the CRO with day-to-day operations; write grants; develop strategic plans, including the CRO's public participation plan. CRO members had several comments and questions during this discussion, including:

- CRO members must have an opportunity to comment on the consultant's "job" description in advance of the Request for Proposal process, and also must play an active role in screening candidates and selecting the consultant.
- DOE and the CRO should make sure the hired consultant has no conflict of interest.
- The CRO should consider using the same approach that the Task Force used to select its consultant. The Task Force named a special subcommittee to be involved in the interview and screening process, and then the subcommittee presented its recommendation to the full Task Force. CRO members agreed to adopt this approach.
- What is DOE's financial commitment to this community in terms of economic development? Gary said the Department is willing to contribute to local communities if they come up with good, organized plans. Mentioned DOE's \$10 million grant to Miamisburg as an example of DOE's financial commitment.
- What are the federal requirements for the RFP?
- Several members were encouraged to learn that the scope of the CRO is broader than they first thought (not just confined to "reuse" of 1050 acre Fernald site but regional development).
- How much land is already committed?
- What authority does DOE have beyond the FEMP fence line?
- Is DOE interested in giving seed money to projects rather than continuing support of projects? Gary explained that DOE was willing to put "seed" money in projects to get them started but would not provide continuous project funding.

CUED

CUED spokesman Scott Cody could not attend the meeting, so Gary Stegner distributed a handout which established a preliminary agenda for the two-day Fernald site visit. CRO members were asked to review the targeted categories of people (economic developers, local lenders, small business owners, elected officials, etc.) and fill in as many names as possible. Members are to contact Julie Loerch, Fluor Daniel Fernald, with names within the next week. Julie's office number is 648-4071.

A request was made to add local residents to the list of interviewees, and another request made was to add Butler County officials. CRO members said the week of Oct. 21, possibly Monday and Tuesday, would work best for the two-day forum -- Thursday, Oct. 24 is not available. The dates must still be confirmed.

PATH FORWARD

Marty Stevens facilitated the remaining 90 minutes of the meeting. Due to time constraints as a result of the morning presentations, several of the planned exercises to stimulate group discussion on internal operations were skipped. However, Mrs. Stevens will summarize the group's feedback from several exercises conducted throughout the retreat. The feedback will be available to CRO members at a future meeting.

Regarding future meetings, members agreed to the following terms:

- once per month for two hours;
- second Tuesday of each month preferred;
- evenings preferred, beginning at 7 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m.;
- if more time is required, meeting start time may vary but end time should remain 9 p.m., if possible.

Members agreed that the next meeting would be Tuesday evening, Oct. 8, beginning at 7 p.m. The location will most likely be the Alpha Building again, but this will be confirmed in the letter to members.

Although an attempt was made to record the retreat on audiotape, the quality of the tape is poor due to background noises, distance of speakers from the recorder, and movement throughout the room. The retreat adjourned at 1:30 p.m.