

December 2, 1997
Meeting Minutes

Chair's Opening Remarks and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- David McWilliams convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

- Discussion of the November meeting minutes was deferred until the January meeting since the November and December CRO meetings were only two weeks apart.

Treasurer's Report

- CRO Treasurer Sharon Cornwell reported that she prepared one check for Curt Paddock's services since the November CRO meeting. The next quarterly report is due soon. Cornwell commented that the last report went well using the Department of Treasury's new automatic payment system. She can access the account at any time, 24 hours per day. Terri Hoffman, DOE Fernald Procurement and Contracts Division, provides backup documentation of these transactions for the Treasurer's file.

DOE Report

- Gary Stegner reported that Congressman Rob Portman will tour the Fernald site on Dec. 3. He invited members to the Dec. 9 Cleanup Progress Briefing, which will feature a discussion on authorized release of Fernald copper ingots, a discussion of the Silos 1 and 2 Proof of Principle Testing document and the public involvement path forward. On behalf of DOE, Stegner also recognized the hard work and dedication of the CRO members throughout 1997, and commended them on their accomplishments.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

- Paddock discussed his Dec. 2 tour of Fluor Daniel Fernald's warehouse, which houses excess equipment and furniture from the site. He met with Mike Townsend, Fluor Daniel Fernald's liaison to the CRO on equipment and material reuse issues, to discuss property management procedures and discuss the CRO's future relationship with Townsend's group. Paddock said that Townsend commented that he looks forward to the CRO's help in communicating what resources are available, and aligning community needs with the resources.

- Paddock met a second time with John Merwin, Fluor Daniel Fernald liaison to the CRO on worker transition issues, and the Manufacturers' Consortium to discuss plans for retraining and employing machinists. Paddock said there are plans to bring interested employers out to the site to discuss resources in more detail.

- Paddock said he met with Steve Wentzel, Fluor Daniel Fernald, on a draft proposal for a community fire district.

- Paddock said he received a newsletter from the National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) about a February 1998 seminar to be held in Cincinnati for CRO members to learn about new opportunities. More information on the seminar will be available in the future.

Old Business

- McWilliams said that he and Paddock met with Fernald Envoys in November to enlist their help in communicating the CRO's messages to their constituents and requesting public input in the decision process.
- Paddock reported that the IRS should send the CRO official notice of its tax exemption from federal income taxes before the end of the year. He explained the grant is to fund an Entrepreneurial Program at Fernald modeled after a successful program at Rocky Flats. Through a series of mini-grants, the program would provide assistance to would-be entrepreneurs within the local communities. He noted that incorporation is a state process, and tax exemption is a federal process.
- Paddock said he met with Terri Hoffman, DOE Fernald Procurement and Contracts Division, regarding a letter Hoffman sent to the CRO several months ago regarding Fluor Daniel Fernald employees' support of CRO activities during working hours. Stegner agreed to discuss this issue with Hoffman, and determine an appropriate path forward for the CRO to enlist Fluor Daniel Fernald assistance.

New Business

- Due to the busy time of year, the Communications and Public Participation Committee did not meet before the December meeting. Instead, Paddock asked members for input on communications tools that have been worked well, or not so well, and future options to solicit public input. Using this feedback, Paddock will then draft a public participation plan before the January meeting. Paddock will place the draft plan in the Public Environmental Information Center for public review after the January meeting. Lisa Crawford recommended periodically writing Opinion/Editorials for the local papers since they're free and a good way to spread the word to different stakeholder groups.
- Paddock requested members' comments and suggestions on the DOE planning grant, which is an extension of the CRO's start-up grant. Randy Welker asked why the CRO was only asking for \$250,000, the minimum amount for the grant. Paddock said he talked with Debbie Swichkow, DOE Office of Worker and Community Transition, about the grant and she recommended this amount due to the size of the Fernald site compared with other DOE sites and limited funding. Since the planning grant will be an extension of the start-up grant, a progress report will need to be attached to the grant.

Paddock asked for input on proposed budget and scope of work, including schedule and deliverables. Cornwell asked whether there was adequate time to accomplish the work built into the schedule; Paddock responded that he thought the schedule was adequate.

Julie Loerch, Fluor Daniel Fernald, said that the CRO office will no longer be available for free after June 1998, since Fluor Daniel Fernald plans to terminate its contract at the JAMTEK Building. She recommended that the CRO budget for an office, if they still want to maintain one. The CRO decided to discontinue its office at that time since it was not being used by Paddock or other members. Members discussed researching other local locations for committee meetings when the JAMTEK is no longer available.

Members discussed Paddock's contract with the CRO through April 1998, with an opportunity for renewal. In the next few months, the CRO will need to define the scope of work for the option period.

Welker moved to authorize the submittal of the (approximately) \$250,000 planning grant to DOE, based on members' comments noted during the discussion. Bill Hinkle seconded the motion. The CRO unanimously approved the submittal of the planning grant to DOE.

Committee Assignments and Meeting Dates

- There will be no committee meetings during December due to the holidays.
- The next CRO meeting will be on Jan. 6 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Ross High School. Members agreed to change the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. to accommodate stakeholders.
- The Executive Committee will meet at 5:45 p.m. before the Jan. 6 CRO meeting .
- Darryl Huff requested that his name be added back to the Worker Transition Committee roster.
- Bob Tabor moved to adjourn the meeting; Cornwell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.