

**Meeting Minutes
August 4, 1998**

Overview

The Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO) met on Tuesday, August 4, 1998 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. at Ross High School, 3425 Hamilton-Cleves Road. The meeting was open to the public.

Twenty-two people attended the meeting, including CRO members and representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE); the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Fluor Daniel Fernald; The Cincinnati Enquirer and The Ohio Department of Development.

CRO Members Present:

Sharon Cornwell
Lisa Crawford
Karl Dillhoff
Lou Doll
Bill Hinkle
Maury Hornbach
Dan Lawler
Tom Renck
Alisa Rhodes
Gary Storer
Don Thiem
Joe Neyer, ex-officio member

CRO Members Excused:

Ralph Hennard
Darryl Huff
David McWilliams

**Bob Tabor
Randy Welker**

DOE Designated Federal Official Present:

**Gary Stegner
Mike Jacobs**

Chair's Opening Remarks

Vice-chair Bill Hinkle opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. There were no announcements or other remarks.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were brought up for approval with no discussion. Tom Renck moved to approve the minutes; Maury Hornbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Sharon Cornwell

The only expenses during this period were travel expenses for Sharon Cornwell and Bob Tabor who attended a workshop. The new grant money is not in the CRO account as of yet. Cornwell will be working to resolve this issue.

DOE Report - Gary Stegner

Gary Stegner reported that the new Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, was confirmed on July 30. The Waste Pits Project recently awarded a contract to Envirocare of Utah Inc. for disposal of the pit waste. The FEMP has now taken down over 30 buildings, so progress is continuing. A hearing on land use and the Natural Resources Trustees issue will be held this fall.

In reference to continued 3161 funding, there seems to be no change from the last meeting. It looks as though the program will sustain at current levels. However, the last funding cycle will most likely be fiscal year 2000.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

Curt Paddock introduced Kathryn Lester from the Ohio Department of Development (ODD). He reminded everyone that ODD gave the CRO a \$50,000 grant for entrepreneurial development.

Paddock will be traveling to Denver on behalf of the CRO next week to attend an economic development meeting.

Because the funding from DOE-HQ will not be available for many more years to come, Paddock suggested that the CRO work to finish their transition plan by the end of December and submit it to Washington.

Correspondence

The only letter came from the Crosby Township Historical Society. A representative from the group will speak about that letter during the time set aside for public participation.

Committee Reports

Land Reuse - The committee looked into the property disposition issue. There is already an extensive existing policy with regards to excess property. However, there are several opportunities for CRO involvement. Paddock made reference to a memo sent out to members from the committee and opened the floor for discussion. There is already an efficient way to prioritize and distribute equipment to educational institutions, but not some of the other equipment that will eventually be excessed from the lab, medical or other facilities on site. The CRO could step into the process by declaring some of the property needed for economic development ("ED") purposes, thus speeding up the process. After some discussion of the three listed options, the group agreed to proceed as recommended by the committee. The Development Consultant will develop guidelines and procedures for designating property as "ED". These guidelines should be available for CRO review and possible adoption by the October CRO meeting. A list of potential users and potential equipment should also be compiled.

Economic Development and Worker Transition - Issues will be covered under new business.

Old Business

Site Market Assessments - Paddock has been in contact with real estate firms on the issue of conducting a market assessment for the 23 acres set aside for possible future use. Three firms have assessment and all price

estimates are lower than expected. A motion was made to contact these firms immediately and ask that all three be given the opportunity to conduct the survey which will be completed by the end of August and for no more than \$2,000 each. Lisa Crawford moved on the motion and Don Thiem seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Target Industry Study - The CRO is participating in a study being conducted by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. A consultant has been selected and the survey will be completed in November. This study will include a listing of industries that the Cincinnati should and could attract. This has impact on the types of employment the Fernald workers will have access to when looking for jobs outside of Fernald.

New Business

Project ADEPT - Authorization for use of DOE Carryover Funds - The CRO treasurer has found out that there is \$78,000 in the FY 98 CRO account from DOE. These funds can be carried over for functions. A motion was made to make \$60,000 available for additional entrepreneurial grants. This will more than double the opportunities for startup companies. Sharon Cornwell moved on the motion, Alisa Rhodes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Project Options - A memo from the Economic Development and Worker Transition Committee was brought up for discussion. As a beginning point for public participation, the committee has looked at four possibilities which will help to mitigate the impact of worker and community transition resulting from the eventual closure of the FEMP. These four options include a Revolving Loan Fund, a Business Incubator, Continuing Project ADEPT and establishing a Local Develop Corporation. Paddock explained each one of these options.

The ensuing discussion revolved around the opinion that the whole package is not included in these four options. If we will be seeking public input, we should throw more of the possibilities such as land reuse, a possible museum, and that fact that there may be those who would prefer nothing be done with the site once cleanup is completed.

A motion was then made that Paddock go forward with the proposal stating that these are some of the ideas for economic development. The ideas should include not only those stated in the memo but also the other options mentioned during the discussion and leave it open-ended. We are seeking ideas from the public, not giving them choices. The group reached consensus that we would move ahead with plans with the stated adjustments made. Paddock will complete this fact sheet and mail or fax it to the members, who will then have 48 hours to respond.

Public Participation

Jim Innis spoke to the group as a representative from the Crosby Township Historical Society. A letter was sent to both the CRO and to DOE-FEMP for their consideration. The society would very much like to see a museum left behind when remediation is complete. This museum could house information about the area, which would include Native American and pioneer history. The manufacturing process at Fernald and the cold war legacy should also be part of the museum. Other ideas include photo archives, the public record, literature, a time line and much more. This is one way that the community can benefit from what went on at Fernald and what is being left behind.

Other Issues

Kathryn Lester suggested that there is a wealth of outside speakers available to the group when it comes time to set up meetings with the public.

Dan Lawler asked about membership issues and who would be continuing or if new members would be recruited. Paddock stated that members are being canvassed and the findings would be given to the nominating committee for further action.

Because the CRO's Community Transition Plan need to be completed by December, it was decided that the full committee would go back to meeting on a monthly basis. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1 at the Ross High School Media Center beginning at 6:30

Adjournment

Hinkle adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

The CRO approved the January 7, 1997, meeting minutes at the March 4, 1997, CRO meeting.