

**FERNALD COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
September 1, 1998 Meeting**

- Bill Hinkle convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., in the absence of CRO Chair Dave McWilliams.

Approval of Aug. 4, 1998, Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by a board member to approve the minutes with no changes; Maury Hornbach seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- CRO Treasurer Sharon Cornwell issued one check for \$14,000 to Paddock Management Services.

DOE Report

- Gary Stegner announced the Sept. 8 Cleanup Progress Briefing, the Sept. 23 Natural Resource Trustees roundtable, the opening of a 30-day public comment period on Sept. 21 for the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Final Land Use at the Fernald Environmental Management Project*, and the Oct. 13 DOE Land Reuse public hearing.

The EA presents DOE's preferred alternative for future land reuse, and is available at the Public Environmental Information or online at: www.fernald.gov. Stakeholders can submit comments to DOE during the public hearing, by mail, or electronically to: Gary.Stegner@fernald.gov. The public hearing will begin around 7 p.m. at the Alpha Building, following a 6:30 p.m. presentation by a DOE Nevada Operations Office representative on the *Intermodal Transportation of Low-Level Radioactive Waste to the Nevada Test Site EA*.

Stegner also commented that continued funding for community transition appears likely based on input he has received from Washington.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

- Curt Paddock distributed news clips from an Aug. 10 article on the CRO in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

- Paddock discussed the potential impact to the CRO if a House of Representatives appropriations bill passes with or reduced funding for community transition. If the bill passes, this would mean no funding beyond FY 2000. Paddock explained that community transition is the "stepchild" to worker transition; however, there is no specific language on community transition in Public Law 3161.
- Paddock discussed a meeting he attended in Denver with other CRO directors. He said a decision was made to write letters to local senators stressing the value of the community transition program. If the House language prevails, there will be legislation to re-authorize community transition program funding; therefore, any push or support for the program will have to come from the Senate. Paddock suggested that the CRO send a letter to the Ohio delegation on this matter, and encouraged individuals who feel that continued funding for community transition is important to send letters, too.

Committee Report: Membership Committee

- Dan Lawler reported that nine CRO members' initial two-year terms expire in September. Eight of the nine have indicated they wish to renew their membership. Ralph Hennard has elected not to renew his membership. During September, the CRO will be recruiting new members to replace several vacant positions, including two positions which were intentionally left vacant after two members resigned in 1997. Applications will be accepted through Sept 25. The Nomination Committee plans to present a list of candidates to the board at the October CRO meeting.

New Business:

UC Economic Impact Study

- The CRO board authorized a contract with University of Cincinnati (UC) to conduct an analysis of Fernald's economic impact on the Greater Cincinnati area economy. (Welker motioned to use UC for the study; Lawler seconded the motion. The motion carried.) The analysis will be through 2007. The CRO selected UC because it conducted a similar study for Fluor Daniel Fernald in 1995, which extends through 1998, and can build upon the experiences and groundwork from this effort. Also, UC was the most economical choice, with a verbal estimate of \$8,000 compared with estimates of \$15,000 and \$20,000 from other universities. Lisa Crawford requested that the CRO make it very clear to UC that there were some problems associated with the first report which should be avoided. DOE requires and Economic Impact Study as part of the CRO's planning grant application.

Target Industry Study

- Paddock said the Greater Cincinnati Target Industry Study should be complete in November. Randy Welker commented that the study will identify specific companies the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce may wish to attract. The report will help the CRO identify various industries it may want to promote for the tri-township area.

Site Market Assessment

- Paddock said he has engaged three firms to conduct independent market analyses

of the 23-acre tract of Fernald land off Willey Road for potential commercial or industrial demand. Representatives of the firms toured Fernald and plan to have the assessments complete around mid-September. The CRO Land Reuse Committee will meet in September to discuss the reports.

Project ADEPT (Entrepreneurship Assistance Program)

- Paddock said that he will pursue, on behalf of the CRO, an amendment to the start-up grant to have leftover funds (approximately \$78,000) directed to Project ADEPT. These funds will supplement the \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development for the entrepreneurship project. The amendment will be submitted to DOE in early September.

New Business:

Hamilton County Port Authority and City of Hamilton Target Possibilities

- Paddock reminded board members that one of DOE's primary expectations for the CRO is to document how many jobs the CRO has created for displaced Fernald workers. In support of this mission, Paddock described three endeavors he is pursuing which may serve as potential opportunities for Fernald workers. The first is ongoing discussions he has had with the City of Hamilton to discuss brownfield redevelopment of industrial properties which will require massive remediation and an experienced work force. The second is the potential for an Incubator, where new firms with similar needs and missions can share office space and resources until they get off the ground. And the third example is the Hamilton County Port Authority, where workers with expertise in remediation and environmental skills may be needed.

Economic Development Options Workshop

- The CRO will hold two public workshops in October to solicit public input on proposed economic development options. Some of the options being considered include: revolving loan fund; business incubator; local development corporation, and continuation of Project ADEPT. Paddock is developing a fact sheet describing the options.

The first workshop will be on Oct. 6, 7 p.m. in Ross High School, immediately following the CRO board meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. A second workshop will be held Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. in Ross High School. Following the public involvement process, the CRO will develop a Community Transition Plan, which outlines the program options in detail.

Public Participation

- A member of the Crosby Historical Society asked the CRO to consider a study on the viability of using site property for a museum. Before committing to any additional studies, the CRO indicated they would like to wait until after DOE's Oct. 13 public hearing on land reuse to listen to public input, and until they've had a chance to review the commercial/ industrial market analyses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.