

Community Reuse Organization May 18, 1999, Meeting Minutes

Approval of March 1999, Meeting Minutes

- CRO Chair Dave McWilliams opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Karl Dillhoff motioned to approve the March 23, 1999, meeting minutes; Bob Tabor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

- CRO Treasurer Sharon Cornwell reported that a check was issued to Paddock Management Services for \$13,659. Cornwell said that \$56,216 is available through the end of the fiscal year (September 1999).

DOE Report

- Gary Stegner reminded the group of the Office of Worker and Community Transition (OWCT) National Stakeholder Workshop in Chicago on May 27 and 28.
- Curt Paddock said that he, Tabor and Lou Doll will represent the CRO at the OWCT Workshop.
- U.S. Congressman Portman will send a letter to Secretary Richardson in support of the CRO's Community Transition Plan once it is submitted to DOE for review. Tom Ross is Portman's local contact.
- Fernald initiated rail shipments of contaminated material to Envirocare on April 26.
- The OWCT funding request for FY2000 is 30 million.
- The *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Final Land Use at the Fernald Environmental Management Project* is undergoing DOE review and will be issued in June.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

Old Business

- Curt Paddock clarified that the CRO's implementation grant submission is for fiscal year 1999, so the funding has already been set aside and will not be out of the FY2000 funding request Stegner mentioned.
- Paddock is working with the DOE contracting officer to make sure all issues and deliverables are cleared before submitting the Community Transition Plan to DOE.
- Once submitted, DOE will have a 90-day review process.
- Paddock is gathering names of contractors to conduct a feasibility study of incubators. The study would be funded by the Ohio Department of Defense using the \$50,000 grant DOD awarded last year for the Entrepreneurship Assistance Program. The state has agreed to extend the time frame to complete the study by September.

New Business***Fernald CRO Alternatives Post DOE Funding & Related Grant Strategies***

- Paddock said that the group needs to determine sources of future funding for the economic development programs. Comments included:
 - Bob Tabor and Don Theme both expressed that there is value in pursuing other funding sources.
 - Kristi Williams said that it was helpful to economic development agencies to work closely with groups like the CRO since they know the area and communities.
 - Tom Renck said that it is the duty of the economic development agencies to first survey the community to determine what it wants as far as development. Renck said that the CRO needs more direction from the community before attempting to get additional funding.
 - Dave McWilliams recommended that it might be a good time to update the "Path Forward" document the CRO developed three years ago.
 - Sharon Cornwell recommended that the community should continue momentum with the CRO and eventually break ties with DOE after this funding is spent.
 - Paddock said there is general agreement to the five program priorities. The group will need to determine whether there are extra funding sources for these programs and bring them to the table for review and discussion. He also said a retreat may be necessary for long-range planning and to determine a path forward for a future mission.
- Renck asked about an article in the April 29 issue of "Harrison Press" that mentioned that 100 acres "will become the burial ground for unidentifiable American Indian remains." Stegner pointed out that the acreage reported in the paper was significantly more than what DOE anticipates is needed for reburial. He also stated that the reburial would be carried out in restored areas identified in the Natural Resource Restoration Plan (part of the 884 acres identified for natural resource restoration). Reburial would have no impact on restoration plans or on the area set aside for potential economic development. McWilliams said that the CRO's decision/recommendation to DOE on land use was largely based on the understanding that, other than the 23 acres, the site could not be used. Stegner explained that any use (i.e., reburial) of the remaining 884 acres would be totally compatible with ecological restoration plans. Renck asked when there would be another opportunity for the public to provide input on future land use issues. Stegner said that there will be an opportunity to respond to a master plan for public use around October, and recommended that members express these ideas in writing.

Renck asked about the relationship between the CRO and the FCAB on final land use issues. Stegner explained that the FCAB concentrates on stewardship issues after cleanup is complete, such as ecological restoration and potential Native American reburial. McWilliams suggested that the CRO revisit these topics at the next CRO meeting in July.

Meeting Dates

- The next CRO meeting will be on July 20, 6:30 p.m. at Ross High School. (An Executive Committee meeting was planned in June but was later canceled.)

Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.