

**Community Reuse Organization
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2000**

Members in Attendance:

Sharon Cornwell
Lisa Crawford
Karl Dillhoff
Dan Lawler
Dave McWilliams
Gary Storer
Bob Tabor
Don Thiem
Todd Trammell
Randy Welker
Christi Williams
Curt Paddock, Consultant
Gary Stegner, DOE

Opening Remarks & Approval of January 2000 Meeting Minutes

CRO Chair Dave McWilliams opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and asked whether there were comments on the January meeting minutes. Bob Tabor motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Dan Lawler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

CRO Treasurer Sharon Cornwell reported the current account balances are \$2,000 in checking and \$38,000 in savings. She will issue a payment to Curt Paddock for January services. The CRO's authorization to spend money after January was suspended until it receives initial funding from the implementation grant.

DOE Report

Gary Stegner announced that DOE issued the draft request for proposal (RFP) for Fernald's closure contract on March 3. McWilliams and Paddock received copies of the RFP, and the executive summary was distributed to all CRO members. The RFP is available on the DOE Ohio Field Office Web site or in the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC). Stakeholders may submit comments through March 31. DOE will offer a tour to potential bidders or interested stakeholders on March 21.

Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald vice president of the new Site Closure division, can not attend the CRO meetings at this time due to his involvement on Fluor's proposal team. Eric Woods will represent the division at future CRO meetings.

Stegner attended the Office of Worker and Community Transition Workshop (OWCT) on March 6 and 7 in Cincinnati. Over 800 workers may be impacted by workforce restructuring/downsizing at Portsmouth and Paducah. It is unclear how this might impact the OWCT budget, which is approximately \$24.5 million.

The next Cleanup Progress Briefing is March 14. Project managers will provide updates on each cleanup project.

On April 11, DOE will hold a meeting to discuss the upcoming public involvement process for public use of the Fernald site and long-term stewardship. The FCAB is planning to sponsor a meeting on public use/stewardship in May. Stegner suggested the CRO consider co-sponsoring the May workshop with the FCAB. On Wednesday, March 17, Curt Paddock will participate in a short tour of the areas at Fernald that may be affected by public use once cleanup and restoration are complete, followed by the FCAB Stewardship Committee at 6:30 p.m.

Cornwell said Fluor Fernald is offering a voluntary separation program for 100 people in certain grade levels. The program will be offered through May, and implemented in June.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

Paddock said he plans to begin increasing communications to CRO members through weekly mailings or emails.

Paddock recommended the CRO board revisit its current committee structure. He suggested structuring the committees around the economic development programs identified in the Community Transition Plan. Prior to the April meeting, Paddock will develop a description of each new committee and send it to members for consideration.

Old Business

Land Use Committee Report

The Land Use Committee did not meet in February. Paddock recapped the discussion during the January CRO meeting about the board's position on land reuse and the 23-acre parcel of land that DOE set aside for potential economic development.

Todd Trammel said there might be an opportunity to make a decision now on the 23-acre area that would benefit the Fernald workforce, rather than waiting several years. Karl Dillhoff asked when the 23 acres would be available. Paddock responded that according to DOE, the land would not be available until after most cleanup is complete because of the high volume of traffic and activity in the area. Because of DOE's position, and the response from the CRO-sponsored market demand study which indicated there was not much interest in this parcel of land, the board originally agreed that the land would not be available until most cleanup is complete.

Lisa Crawford asked for a copy of the OSDF Borrow Area Strategy Report. Fluor Fernald will provide a copy to Crawford and Paddock.

Crawford recommended the CRO begin coordinating discussions and plans regarding land reuse with the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) to centralize planning efforts and avoid bombarding the community with too many meetings. Members of FRESH and the Natural

Resource Trustees are already working with the FCAB. She suggested that interested CRO members participate in FCAB Stewardship Committee meetings to formalize the relationship between the two groups. The FCAB Stewardship Committee is looking into such issues as public use of, and access to Fernald, and long-term stewardship.

Crawford also cautioned members to be sensitive to the term "commercial" when referring to the 23-acres since commercial implies light industrial and there was general agreement during the April 1999 Future of Fernald workshop that the parcel will not be used for commercial use.

Tabor said the CRO needs to be in the loop of the decision process so the board can influence the decision-making process. He agreed that CRO members participate in related FCAB meetings.

Eric Woods, Fluor Fernald Site Closure division, said it is a good time for the CRO to become engaged in the decision process with the FCAB, the Natural Resources Trustees and others on these issues.

Dave McWilliams agreed that the CRO should revisit its previous position on land use, and its current mission. He said it seems the CRO has gradually moved away from being a "reuse" committee and instead has focused its resources on economic development. The board's \$12 million budget request to DOE and the Community Transition Plan are directed at economic development, not reuse. Stegner agreed that the CRO's mission is focused more on economic development than reuse, as reflected in the Community Transition Plan.

Paddock concluded the discussion by agreeing to attend related FCAB meetings, and will let members know in advance of the meetings so they can choose to attend. Gary Storer requested copies of FCAB meeting minutes.

Status of \$325,000 Initial Advance on First Year Implementation Grant

Paddock has submitted the supplemental data for justification of funding to DOE on the implementation grant, and predicts the CRO will receive the \$325,000 initial installment in the next three weeks. During the transition period between contracts (Paddock's current contract ended in January), no invoices for his time are being incurred.

New Business

Hiring Economic Development Director

The Executive Committee recommended that the CRO begin the search for a full-time director to implement the programs outlined in the Community Transition Plan. In addition to the director's services, the CRO will also need payroll, worker compensation, benefits, accounting, and other services. Crawford asked what the director would do. Cornwell responded that the director would assume Paddock's responsibilities and implement the programs. These services are needed after the award of the \$325,000 initial grant.

McWilliams requested a motion from the board to move forward on the search for the director. Welker motioned that the CRO proceed with whatever measures are reasonable to identify the necessary information to create a new director position, including wage and salary information. Tabor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Outcomes of DOE OWCT Cincinnati Meeting on Early Closure

Paddock said the focus of the workshop was on Paducah and Portsmouth facilities, which are expected to have major workforce reductions. The Paducah and Portsmouth CROs are trying to attract Department of Labor funds to assist with economic development planning. This may impact the availability of OWCT funds.

Paddock had an opportunity to talk with Dr. King, new director of OWCT, about the Community Transition Plan and the revolving loan fund. He said King thought there was value in the revolving loan fund.

Tabor said DOE responds favorably to placing emphasis on helping site workers.

Cornwell said this is an opportune time for the CRO to align with site workers. Fluor Fernald is currently offering a Voluntary Separation Package for 100 workers in three grade levels. Fluor Fernald wants every employee to leave Fernald employed, and has a Career Development Center to help employees find job leads, prepare resumes, and brush up on interviewing skills. Tabor recommended Fluor Fernald work closely with the CRO on workforce transition issues in the future. Paddock said the Entrepreneur Assistance Program would be one of the first programs implemented with the \$325,000 initial grant. He said he has a good relationship with Fluor Fernald Workforce Restructuring Liaison John Merwin and will work closely with him.

Prospects for FY2001 Appropriations

The FY2001 OWCT budget is \$24 to \$25 million. The Senate wants more; the House less. The outcome usually ends up close to what OWCT has requested.

RFP

Now that DOE has issued the draft RFP for the Fernald closure contract, Paddock asked the board whether it wanted to send a second letter to DOE requesting it add incentives for the contractor to work with the CRO to deliver certain economic development services. Although DOE included language on working with stakeholders through the cleanup process, there was not specific language on working with the CRO. After discussion, Randy Welker motioned that the CRO submit a letter to DOE requesting they add language to the RFP to encourage contractors to work with the CRO; Dillhoff seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting Dates

The next full board CRO meeting is April 4, 6:30 p.m. at Ross High School.

Public Participation

There were no comments. The meeting adjourned.
