

Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2000**Members in Attendance:**

Sharon Cornwell
Lisa Crawford
Dan Lawler
Dave McWilliams
Tom Renck
Bob Tabor
Todd Trammell
Randy Welker
Christi Williams
Curt Paddock, Consultant
Gary Stegner, DOE

Opening Remarks & Approval of March 2000 Meeting Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

CRO Treasurer Sharon Cornwell said DOE has requested that she begin to breakout accounting by task, such as consultant fees, travel and administrative expenses. This will be required under the new implementation grant. The CRO has \$39,034 available, and another \$11,000; however, it is still not authorized to spend the money until it receives initial funding from the implementation grant.

DOE Report

Gary Stegner announced that the public comment period for the draft Request For Proposal (RFP) for Fernald's closure contract ended on March 31. DOE's schedule is to issue the final RFP in May and award the contract in September.

On April 11, DOE will hold a public meeting to discuss the upcoming public involvement process for public use of the Fernald site. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Services Building conference room. Then in May, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB), the CRO and other public groups will sponsor a public forum to obtain public input on public use of Fernald.

DOE will hold a public hearing on April 25 to obtain public input on the proposed cleanup plan for Silos 1 and 2.

Debbie Swichkow has left the DOE Office of Worker and Community Transition and has taken a position with DOE Environmental Management.

3145

Train 21 is scheduled to leave Fernald on April 18.

Economic Development Consultant's Report

Paddock distributed copies of a letter from Dave McWilliams to DOE recommending that it modify the draft RFP for the Fernald closure contract to include incentives for the contractor to work with the CRO to deliver economic development services. He said it is unlikely the letter will have any impact since DOE-HQ does not allow contractors to subcontract with CROs. Tabor mentioned that the FAT&LC also recommended in its comments that DOE include language to encourage the contractor to interface with the CRO on worker transition issues.

Old Business

Alternatives for Meeting DOE's Full-Time Staff Requirement

Dave McWilliams reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss an alternative to hiring a full-time staff person to implement the programs outlined in the Community Transition Plan. The Executive Committee has asked DOE whether it would agree to allow the CRO to contract local economic development corporations, such as the Butler County Economic Development Corporation and the Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation, for this type of support rather than hiring an employee, and DOE has responded favorably. One of the advantages of this approach is the economic development agencies already have mechanisms and procedures in place to handle day-to-day activities. The CRO would provide the policy but would not have to manage a staff person. The CRO would develop an RFP, and the county corporations would then operate according to the RFP requirements. The Executive Committee would like the CRO board to consider this new option. McWilliams asked board members for comments.

Tabor said it was a good idea since the corporations have expertise and contacts already established. He asked whether there would be dividing lines between the Butler and Hamilton County corporations. McWilliams said the CRO would be specific about the division of responsibilities in the RFP.

Cornwell said the agencies can go beyond their respective county since they are corporations; however, they focus on their own county. The CRO would request a single point of contact for the board and DOE, with others supporting the work. She said another advantage is the CRO would not have to provide an office or equipment. Also, the CRO will not have to amend the grant request or Community Transition Plan.

Christi Williams said the Butler County Economic Development Corporation is not set up as an independent company like Hamilton Economic Development Corporation. Butler's staff members are government employees. Stegner asked whether the corporations receive EDA funds. Welker said Hamilton does, and Williams said Butler does not.

Todd Trammell said he likes having another option but still likes the idea of hiring a full-time dedicated person who would be engaged in CRO business. He asked whether the CRO should pursue both options to see how much interest there is before making a decision.

Randy Welker said he has talked briefly with the corporations and they are interested. He recommended that since there is another good option available, the CRO should avoid hiring a full-time director since its members are volunteers and therefore do not have the time to manage the person and issues such as workers compensation, benefits, etc. He also recommended that Paddock begin meeting with the county corporations to see what their perimeters are so the CRO knows how to structure the RFP.

Lisa Crawford said it seems like a more cost-effective approach in the long run and agreed that she does not want to oversee an employee.

Tom Renck said if the CRO decides to use the county corporations, it can always choose to hire an employee at a later date.

The board decided there was no need to rescind the motion from March since it only authorized identifying the steps to create a new director position. Dan Lawler motioned for the CRO to develop the RFP for the county economic development corporations; Tabor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

McWilliams asked whether Fluor could help develop the RFP. The Executive Committee decided to meet first to discuss the preparation process.

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

Paddock reported there has been daily interaction with the DOE financial staff. As of this meeting date, the grant has not been awarded. Stegner said there were no more open issues and DOE Legal should complete its review within two weeks. Also, Jack Craig may be able to help move things along when he assumes his new role at the Ohio Field Office. Paddock said the contract with the county corporations would not go into effect until the CRO receives the balance of the implementation grant.

New Business

Discussion of CRO Sponsorship and Positions for Public Access

The CRO will be helping the FCAB and other groups with a May public forum on public use of Fernald. There was a discussion on what the CRO's role should be in the meeting, and whether the board should develop a position before the April 11 DOE meeting and the May public forum.

Eric Woods, Fluor Fernald Site Closure Division, gave an update on public use issues that must be addressed, such as access points to the site, roadways, trails and interpretation stations to document site operations, etc.

Paddock said the CRO should consider recommending that the south access road is maintained so it does not inhibit the 23-acre area.

Lawler recommended that the CRO make its position clear now. Paddock said the CRO did make its position on land use and the 23-acre potential development area clear to DOE in 1998 during a public hearing. The issue now is public use of the site. Mac said the final use of the 23 acres will make a difference on determining access issues.

Stegner said rather than determining a position now, the CRO could attend the April and May public forums and listen to the discussion. There will be opportunities later in the year to submit comments.

Renck asked who will pay to maintain the site after cleanup is complete. Stegner said DOE will own the site in perpetuity, however, who or what agency will actually maintain the site is a good question to raise during the public forum.

Cornwell said since the CRO is helping to sponsor the May meeting, it should listen to input rather than come up with a position. Trammell and Crawford agreed that members could express ideas and contribute as individuals, but should wait to develop a group position.

Paddock will not attend the April 11 meeting because he will be representing the CRO at a CRO directors' meeting in Denver on April 11 and 12.

Complete Assignments to New Committees

Paddock has only received a response from a few board members on new committee assignments. He will call board members before the next meeting to determine membership. Members will only have to contribute to the development of policy and not day-to-day activities.

Impact of Ohio's Proposed Brownfield Legislation on the Implementation of the CRO's Community Transition Plan

The discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Meeting Dates

The next full board CRO meeting is May 2, 6:30 p.m. at Ross High School.

The Executive Committee will meet on Monday, April 17 at 3:30 in McWilliam's office. The Entrepreneurship Assistance Committee will meet on April 24 at 5:30 in Tom Renck's office.

Paddock will confirm a time for a daytime conference call with the Revolving Loan Committee members.

Public Participation

There were no comments. Lawler motioned to adjourn the meeting; Crawford seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.