



## MEETING SUMMARY

### Recent FEMP Stewardship Documents

**Date:** June 13, 2002

**Topics:**

- Recent FEMP Stewardship Documents
- Education Facility Design Charrette Results

**Attendees**

**Fernald Citizens Advisory Board**

Marvin Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Pam Dunn

**The Perspectives Group**

Doug Sarno  
David Bidwell

**U.S. Department of Energy**

Ed Skintik  
Gary Stegner

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**

Donna Bohannon

**Fluor Fernald**

Joseph Schomaker  
Jeff Wagner  
Sue Walpole  
Eric Woods

**Others**

Jim Innis

Doug Sarno opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Doug explained that the site recently released three documents pertaining to stewardship.

The revised Master Plan for Public Use of the Fernald Environmental Management Project includes responses to the FCAB's comments on the draft plan. Doug stated that most of the Stewardship Committee's suggestions were included in the revised plan. However, the question of whether fishing will be allowed at the site remains uncertain. Eric Woods explained that this decision has been deferred until a post-closure risk assessment can be performed. Until that time, fishing is prohibited. Gary Stegner explained that because there is no plan to stock fish in the restored wetlands, it would be some years before fishing was possible. Pam Dunn stated that in addition to health risks, the impact of people fishing (e.g., litter and length of stay) would be problematic. Eric stated that any future use would need to be consistent with the plan, and that the public will be notified of any changes to the plan.

The committee then discussed the revised FEMP Site Deer Management Plan. The site will continue to use plastic tree tubes and repellants, support off-property depredation permits, and monitor its efforts. Eric indicated that these approaches are having some success and stated that deer impacts will become less concentrated when more of the site is restored. In addition to these strategies the site will also experiment with deer exclusion fencing solutions, in a small area behind the storm water retention basin.

The site also recently released the Southern Waste Units Accelerated Natural Resource Restoration Design Plan. Eric explained that this plan allowed the site to begin restoration projects in the Southern Waste Units. Soils in the area are currently being graded to meet the plan specifications and some seeding and placement of erosion matting have occurred. Approximately 500 trees have been planted this year. Sue Walpole noted that students from Crosby and Ross grew plants and recently planted them around one of the ponds in the area. The next phase of planting will begin in October, and will include



## MEETING SUMMARY (continued)

approximately 2400 saplings and 1600-1800 shrubs. A species list is included in the plan. Doug announced that the complete plan would be posted on the FCAB website.

### **Education Facility Design Charrette Results**

Doug explained that the architects who led the May 18 design charrette, Scheer and Scheer, were unable to attend the Stewardship Committee meeting. However, David Bidwell was able to meet with David Scheer to discuss his progress on preliminary conceptual designs for the proposed education facility. Gary stated that he had spoken with a teacher who attended the charrette and that she was very positive about the experience. Pam expressed concerns that some of the ideas from the charrette had not been realistic and were too elaborate.

David Bidwell presented material that was provided to him by architect David Scheer, including six key principles that arose during the charrette:

1. The building should relate to the site landscape.
2. The building should relate to the full history of the site. This includes Native American and natural history, in addition to the Cold War history and environmental cleanup.
3. The building should look like it belongs to the area.
4. The building should have an institutional presence. In other words, it should not look like a house.
5. Natural materials should be used whenever possible.
6. The building design should be environmentally sensitive.

The Stewardship Committee confirmed that these were acceptable principles for the design of an education facility. Jim Innis suggesting adding an additional principle that the building should be inviting and draw people to it. Others agreed to this addition.

Scheer also proposed that the facility be located at the northern end of the twenty-three acre site, away from Willey Road. He believes this would help link the building to the trail system and provide better views of the OSDF. Because the terrain is relatively flat in this area, the building would still be visible from Willey Road. Jeff Wagner noted that signs along Willey Road could also draw people to the building. Marvin Clawson asked if the twenty-three acres would contain ponds as the result of soil borrow activities, but Eric stated that if the site were used as a borrow site the excavation would not be extensive.

Scheer is working with a design concept in which functional spaces branch out from a central lobby and reception area. This would allow each space to be opened or closed independently. For instance, the site records space could be closed while the meeting space remains open for an evening event. The education space would function as the portal to site trails. Pam stated that everyone should be able to access trails from the building, even if they are not involved in an education program.

The last concept suggested by David Scheer was to place most of the building below grade. The front entrance, sod roofs, and the entire education space would be visible above ground, but the remaining building spaces would sit below ground. Placing the majority of the building below grade would save energy costs and help the building fit in to the landscape. Having the land graded as part of cleanup activities can reduce excavation costs. Overall, committee members felt that this concept was supported by the ideas expressed during the charrette. Some concerns were expressed regarding the availability of natural daylight in a below grade building space, but David explained that skylights and ceiling-level windows could be used. Members also asked for additional information on sod roofs.

The Stewardship Committee agreed that David Scheer should move forward with a conceptual design, based on the preliminary ideas that were presented. Committee members, however, expressed concern about the overall size of the building and suggested developing multi-use spaces to reduce the building's total footprint. David Scheer will attend the July FCAB meeting to get input on more developed designs. Then, it will take approximately two weeks for Scheer & Scheer to complete their final report and designs.

Sue Walpole announced that Steve DePoe recently held a workshop for teachers, focused on Fernald. The teachers who attended were generally positive about building an education facility at the site. They desired a space where they could assemble at least one hundred students. They were also interested in having indoor and outdoor learning stations, and stated that there is great local demand for stream studies and other outdoor learning opportunities. Jim Innis noted that the Master Plan for Public Use might need revisions to accommodate stream studies, which likely require some wading.

Joe Schomaker announced that there would soon be a data recovery project on the site, which will require a full archaeological effort. An on-site grave will also be excavated. Joe will provide the group with up-to-date information, in case Committee members would like to observe the project. Joe also reported that the reinterment plan continues to move forward.