



FULL BOARD MEETING

Public Environmental Center

Thursday, July 11, 2002

DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at the Public Information Center

Members Present:

French Bell
Jim Bierer
Lisa Blair
Kathryn Brown
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin Clawson
Steve DePoe
Lisa Crawford
Lou Doll
Pam Dunn
Jane Harper
Steve McCracken
Graham Mitchell
Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

Blain Burton
Gene Jablonowski
Bob Tabor
Tom Wagner

Designated Federal Official:

Gary Stegner

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Douglas Sarno
Crystal Sarno

Fluor Fernald Staff:

Sue Walpole

Approximately 15 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives of from the Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald.

Call to Order

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes from the June 16, 2002 Board meeting were approved.

General Remarks and Announcements

Jim thanked Tom Wagner for presiding over the Steering Committee meeting in June. As a result of that meeting, a roundtable discussion was held among stakeholders, DOE, EPA, OEPA and Fluor on July 9 to address some concerns regarding communication. Lisa Crawford was asked to provide the FCAB with an update. Lisa reported that about 20 individuals participated and each identified his or her top three concerns. The main issues were communication, silos, On-Site Disposal Facility, and safety. DOE promised to improve communications and will begin implementing new procedures. Lisa thought it was a good meeting. It had been five years since a similar meeting was held.

CAB members agreed that they should also try to improve communication and that they should advertise CAB meetings more in the future, to encourage greater attendance by members of the public. With site activities moving so fast, members believe that there is a need to keep up with all of the important issues. Some frustration was expressed that DOE Headquarters was not responsive and was making decisions without a lot of feedback.

Members also discussed the desire to hold technical workshops focused on silos and other issues. Jim said it had been one of the goals of the retreat last year to communicate better and the FCAB needed to keep this focus. Doug Sarno noted that a lot of people were having trouble keeping track of issues because there were so many of them and that a tracking system needed to be developed. Doug asked for feedback on the status sheets developed by the site this spring. Work is underway to develop similar materials to track emerging issues and changes.

Jim then turned the meeting to updates from ex-officio members. Anne Wickham from the DOE Ohio Field Office noted that they now have a direct liaison with EM31 that they haven't had that before and believe it will facilitate communication with headquarters.

She also said that DOE's draft Long-term Stewardship Strategic Plan has been redrafted. She anticipated that this revised draft would be available for public comment in August. Jim asked Ann to send a copy to Gary or Sue when the draft was available, so that it could be included in a FCAB mailing.

A Site Acceptance Criteria document is also being developed, at the request of Assistant Secretary Roberson. Doug reviewed a memo stating that a DOE Environmental Management policy on records management is anticipated in August. This policy will not be available for public comment.

Steve McCracken reviewed a press release noting that Congress appropriated an additional \$300 million to the DOE cleanup account, bringing the total

additional funding available to \$1.1 billion. DOE and Fluor will hold the first silos technical roundtable on silo 3 on September 10. Steve also asked the FCAB to review a table presenting upcoming stewardship planning actions. This table was developed to provide the FCAB with general expectations for the stewardship planning process. FCAB members provided some brief comments, and Steve noted that this was a first draft that would change over time. Steve asked the FCAB members to provide additional feedback to him.

Tom Schneider noted that the group received a copy of the letter of commitment from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and DOE for an accelerated cleanup.

After a brief discussion, the FCAB agreed to plan a tour of the Weldon Springs site s new interpretive center on Friday, September 6.

The FCAB members also received a memo from Martha Crosland explaining why Roberson did not respond to the accelerated cleanup letter from the FCAB. Headquarters does not have a record of receiving the letter. The follow-up letter was received, and Roberson is working on a response.

The Utah waste tax issue in not going to be on the fall ballot. The petition signatures did not have an adequate distribution across counties. They can repetition in 2 years, so the tax could appear on the ballot again in November of 2004.

Sue Walpole explained that the site s envoy program was begun in 1993. The envoys are well known in the community. The envoys received training and now receive monthly updates which they distribute throughout the community.

Conceptual Design for the Education Center

David Scheer reviewed the results of the design charrette. He reminded FCAB members that they wanted a relationship to exist between the site and the proposed education facility rather than between the building and the road. Because large earth moving machines will be used on site, there is an unusual opportunity to save excavation costs. David proposed using the metaphors of digging and excavation to describe this building. He explained that these words are used in everyday language to describe a process of discovery, exploration, and the search for knowledge.

David walked the group through a computer design of what the building might look like. Doug explained that the next step is to develop a more detailed drawing so that the FCAB will have something to begin showing people and generating interest.

The FCAB discussed the drawings and asked questions of David. The major discussion topics are listed below:

- An auditorium with fixed seating would limit the functionality of the space.
- The building should address Native Americans and local folklore, in addition to the environmental cleanup.

- Efforts should be made to capture as much natural light as possible.
- The Cold War Garden should appear in one space, as the workers requested.
- A cafeteria has not been included in the design.
- Some members of the community would like to incorporate the water tower into the design of the facility.

Report on Public Records Feasibility Study

The final report for the public records feasibility study is due to EM 51 at the end of September. Doug provided an overview of the report and asked for comments back by August 1

Doug explained that the report is going to be an interesting work for the complex as a whole. What came out of the public workshop in March was the concept of telling the story: How do we tell the Fernald story? How does it get preserved? The report will stress that telling the story is a necessity, and there are long-term commitments to which DOE must agree. The report will also include specific recommendations for what needs to be addressed at Fernald. Jim Bierer, Marvin Clawson, Steve DePoe, and Pam Dunn volunteered to review the draft report when it is available.

Cultural Resources Program

Joe Schomaker conducted a building to building search in order to create a registry of site artifacts. Larger items have been tagged, and will be moved later.

Two excavations are planned for this summer. One is a gravesite that includes 10-12 separate graves. Also, the reinterment report has been completed and is now in Washington. After it is reviewed, it will be distributed to the tribes and then to the public. Joe expects this to take 4-5 weeks. Then, the area for reinterment will be prepared. Steve DePoe suggested that one or two members of the public should be on the evaluation teams.

Doug stated that he had met with Ric Stroble about the photo archive. It does appear that resources are being made available so that site photos can be screened and cataloged.

Fernald Performance Management Plan

Doug explained that in order to receive monies from the accelerated cleanup funds, the site is required to produce a Performance Management Plan. The plan is due at headquarters by August 1. Steve McCracken reviewed the Fernald plan for the FCAB and requested comments from the FCAB members.

Discussions regarding the plan focused on an absence of information regarding long-term stewardship and the site's commitment to safety and quality control. Steve stated that this document was to let Congress know how the site would manage performance and should not contain a lot of details. In addition, Steve agreed that the FCAB's letter of support for accelerated cleanup would not be included in the report unless a response was received from Roberson.

