



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: April 5, 2004

Topics:

- Report on Legacy Management Visit to Fernald
- Framework for Stewardship at Fernald
- Future Use of Trailers by the Community
- Planning for Post-Closure Coalition

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

French Bell
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn

FRESH

Carol Schoer
Edwa Yocum

The Perspectives Group

David Bidwell
Doug Sarno

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Donna Bohannon
Tom Schneider

Fluor Fernald

Ken Alkema
Ric Strobl
Jeff Wagner
Sue Walpole

Other

Carol Connell
Jill Evans
Warren Strunk

General Announcements and Updates

Pam Dunn called the meeting to order. David Bidwell reported that in March, Pam Dunn, Jim Bierer, and Lisa Crawford discussed stewardship issues on a conference call with Gary Stegner, Sue Walpole, Doug Sarno, and himself. On that call, the participants discussed the need for stewardship planning to move forward in a spirit of collaboration.

David announced that Joe Schomaker is no longer working at the Fernald site. Gary Stegner stated that DOE has not determined a final destination for the Native American artifacts from the site. Sue Walpole showed the group samples of how the artifacts from the Fernald site have been carefully catalogued. Gary also reported that DOE remains committed to providing land for the reburial of Native American remains. The group reviewed a letter from the Miami Tribe, which declines the opportunity to bury remains at Fernald, due to concerns about residual contamination. Gary stated that DOE has not received a final response from the Shawnee or Iroquois Tribes.

David noted that DOE and the State of Ohio met on March 13th to discuss settlement of the Natural Resources Damages lawsuit. Gary reported that a Department of Justice attorney represented DOE at the meeting. Gary and Tom Schneider stated that they were not involved in the negotiations of the settlement and were not able to share any details from the March meeting. The Stewardship Committee asked that the public be provided with more detailed information regarding the negotiation, since DOE-Fernald has promoted the settlement as a primary source of funding for post-closure education, outreach, and land management. Gary stated that he would ask what information could be shared with the public. The Committee noted that none of the NRD Trustees had responded to a letter sent to them by the FCAB in August, 2003. The group decided that a follow-up letter should be sent to the NRD Trustees, asking for a detailed update and giving a specific deadline for a response. The group also noted that DOE and the State would have to appear before the judge overseeing the NRD case in July, and this hearing would be open to the public.

Edwa Yocum reported that Fernald Living History, Inc. would be participating in two upcoming community events: the Crosby Township picnic on May 16th and the Fernald employees picnic on August 21st. At these events, the organization will survey community members regarding information needs and telling the story of Fernald. Edwa also reported that Fernald Living History discussed the possibility of meeting with staff from U.S. Representative Chabot's office. The Stewardship Committee expressed its preference that the community approach Congressional representatives with a unified voice.

David questioned the status of records disposition. Jeff Wagner promised to follow up with both Fluor and DOE and report back to the committee.

Office of Legacy Management Site Visit

David reported that representatives from the new DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) visited the site in the first week of March. They met with several stakeholder groups on March 1, including the FCAB Chair, Jim Bierer, and members of FRESH. Lisa Crawford and Pam Dunn reported that the office of LM was not very knowledgeable about the Fernald site or FCAB activities regarding stewardship. Lisa expressed concern regarding one of the representatives' reticence to communicate directly with stakeholders. However, committee members noted that LM is new to the Fernald site and expressed a desire to continue meeting with LM representatives.

Sue Walpole presented a list of what she saw as action items to come from the LM meetings. The group also received a brief summary of LM's meetings at Fernald, which was developed by Eric Woods.

Framework for Stewardship at Fernald

David reported that Pam, Lisa, and Jim Bierer had discussed the need to look at the stewardship goals that have been set by the community and the means that are available to achieve those goals. This is because DOE has "ratcheted back" on its approach to stewardship over the past couple of years, and the community

may need to look to other sources of funding and leadership in order to achieve its vision for the future of the site. David stated that this does not mean that the Stewardship Committee should not continue to work with DOE to achieve its goals, but that the Fernald Community must understand the current reality.

David also stated that a focus on the proposed education facility might have led LM to miss the community's underlying goals. He stated that it was important for the community to focus on its goals and think about how it could achieve those goals.

David reviewed a matrix of community goals and the means available to achieve those goals. The goals include maintaining the effectiveness of the remedy, records management, natural resource management, and the outreach and education activities that have been discussed by the community. The means to achieve these goals include DOE activities or contracts, the NRD settlement, congressional action, or the involvement of nonprofit organizations and universities. For each cell, the group discussed the current status or what could be possible. David noted that DOE is still responsible for long-term surveillance and maintenance responsibilities for the remedy. The Committee members offered revisions to the table, which will help the committee to track stewardship planning.

Future Use of Trailers by the Community

Doug noted that the framework reviewed by the committee shows that there is currently no clear plan for how construction of an education facility would be funded. He reminded the group that DOE had suggested the possible use of a Silos Project warehouse, but there had not been a great deal of enthusiasm regarding that space, due to the lack of plumbing and heat and its location on the site. He reported that DOE and Fluor had recently suggested that the community might be able to use the new complex of doublewide trailers that were installed for used by DOE and Fluor management. Doug stated that Fluor would need to know the community's interest in the trailers soon, to aid in future planning.

The Committee discussed the advantages of using these trailers as an interim step to the potential construction of a more permanent on-site facility. The advantages include the continued availability of utilities, due to its proximity to the water treatment facilities. Also, the committee believed that less money would be required to convert the trailers into a workable facility than would be required to upgrade the warehouse.

The Stewardship Committee recommended that the FCAB send a letter to DOE expressing interest in the trailers but asking for clarification on a number of issues. One major concern expressed by committee members related to what would be required to certify soils beneath the trailers. The committee also wanted to know what resources would be available for making improvements to the trailers.

Planning for Post-Closure Coalition

Doug showed the Committee a draft copy of a redesigned "The Future of Fernald Begins Today" brochure. Committee members approved the design and asked Doug to move forward with producing the brochure.

The Committee revisited its proposal to help form a coalition of organizations and individuals that would like to be involved in post-closure Fernald. The group still believes that it is critical to build support for the site as an education resource in the community, but committee members stated that a core group of interested organizations should be formed first. The Stewardship Committee agreed to recommend to the FCAB that a "summit" meeting be held, at which local organizations could come together and discuss a potential coalition to be involved in the future of the site. The goal of the meeting would be to inform these groups of the current status of stewardship, gauge their interest in the future of the site, and identify other groups that could be involved in a coalition.

The committee asked Doug and David to draft an invitation letter for the summit. The group also brainstormed a list of invitees, including FRESH, Fernald Living History, Inc., F-CHEC, local historical societies, township trustees, county commissioners, school districts, and Congressional representatives. Several other interests

were suggested, but committee members decided that this initial meeting should focus on groups that have already expressed an interest in the future of Fernald.

Committee members suggested that invitees to this summit should also be sent a copy of the completed brochure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.