



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: September 11, 2003

Topics:

- Draft letter and recommendations on the role of the Fernald community in post-closure management of the site.
- Work plan to build partnerships for post-closure education programs at Fernald.

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Marvin Clawson
Steve DePoe
Pam Dunn
Jane Harper
Bob Tabor

FRESH

Carol Schroer

The Perspectives Group

Doug Sarno
David Bidwell

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Tom Schneider

Fluor Fernald

Sue Walpole
Eric Woods

Other

Warren Strunk

General Updates

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Gary reported that DOE had supplied information to the Hamilton County Park District, with which the agency has discussed post-closure management of natural resources at Fernald. Gary explained that these talks are still in the very early stages, and there have been no specific discussions about how the site would be managed. Eric Woods noted that an estimated 200 acres of the site are located in Butler County.

Gary stated that Anne Wickham would provide the Stewardship Committee with an update on records management at its October meeting. He noted that in the following week, representatives from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) would conduct a preliminary assessment of Fernald records.

David Bidwell explained that the Energy Communities Alliance recently released recommendations regarding the new DOE Office of Legacy Management. A copy of this document was provided to the committee members.

Draft Letter and Recommendations regarding the Community Role in Stewardship

Doug reviewed discussions from the August meeting of the committee. At that meeting, the committee determined that it must communicate more clearly the need for ongoing education and community involvement at the site. Although the FCAB has made many statements and recommendations regarding this topic, the committee felt that DOE has not responded fully to the community's concerns. The committee suggested that a concise letter and more specific recommendations should be developed and sent to DOE. The letter should clearly and succinctly outline the arguments for Community-Based Stewardship.

Doug presented a draft letter to the group. He asked the members to provide him with comments on the letter prior to the October meeting, at which a second draft of the letter would be discussed.

The Stewardship Committee briefly discussed the letter and provided some suggestions. A committee member stated that recent press coverage of events at Fernald was evidence that ongoing community education was needed. Members stated that the letter should outline specific requests and ask for a detailed response from DOE. They also stated that the letter should be copied to the Congressional delegation and Legacy Management, for informational purposes. Members asked that the letter stress that addressing these issues would require coordination between Environmental Management and Legacy Management.

Steve DePoe explained that the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum organization recently released a lengthy feasibility study for a museum at the Rocky Flats site in Colorado. Steve showed the committee a copy of the report and provided copies of news clippings related to the release of the study. In these articles and the report, representatives of the museum initiative argue that the projected startup costs of a museum—estimated at \$13 million in the report—are minor compared to the total cost of cleanup. The committee discussed the need for the Fernald community to coordinate with other sites that are trying to create museums and education facilities.

Work Plan for Building Partnerships

As requested at the August meeting, Doug distributed a draft work plan for developing partnerships with organizations and individuals that could be involved in post-closure education activities. Doug stressed that community members need to take a leadership role on building a coalition that could be sustained after site closure. He reminded the group that the FCAB would only be fully funded for one more year (FY04) and partially funded for the following year (FY05).

Doug reviewed the work plan. The first step would be to identify potential partners and assign a member of the community to cultivate a relationship with each of them. The Perspectives Group would develop promotional materials that could be used to explain conditions at the site, future use of the site, and community needs. Then, early in 2004, the Stewardship Committee would host a workshop to talk about how a coalition could work together. The objective would be to catalyze the formation of a formal nonprofit organization. Bob Tabor

stated that it would be critical to communicate to potential partners what they would gain by being involved in the site. The Committee decided to move forward with this work plan and identified two short-term priorities: 1) developing effective talking points, messages, and images, and 2) reaching key members of the community who could build support for this initiative. The committee felt that it would be critical to get well-connected "rain makers" to serve on a small board of directors for a new organization.

Pam Dunn requested a list of organizations and individuals that DOE, Ohio EPA, and U.S. EPA have contacted in the past. She suggested that people might show more interest in the site if contacted by a member of the community. The Stewardship Committee discussed the types of organizations and specific individuals who could be contacted:

- The Fernald envoys should be briefed regarding this issue, because their role is to reach out to local officials and retirees. Retirees may be a good source of volunteer labor and local connections.
- Members of Fernald Living History, Inc. are already enthusiastic about this initiative. Some of them are regionally well connected. Joyce Bentle, who recently left Fluor Public Affairs, was involved in videotaping living history videos and could be interested.
- Nearby universities should be contacted. Steve DePoe stated that Jason Krupar from the University of Cincinnati has expressed an interest in being involved and is creating a new graduate-level program on information technology and the preservation of information.
- Stan Chesley is a well-connected individual, whose participation would garner more regional support.
- The Fernald union's national AFL-CIO contact would have a lot of powerful connections.
- Native American Tribes should be involved.
- The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners might be willing to lend support to this initiative.
- The support of Bob Fluor would be important to the formation of a new organization. The committee thought that it would be appropriate for the corporate side of Fluor to contribute to a Fernald community initiative. Sue Walpole explained that one option would be for Fluor to contribute to a donor-designated fund, set up through a local foundation.
- Participation by members of the Crosby Township Board would be critical for this initiative.
- Local and statewide offices of environmental organizations, such as Audubon, Sierra Club, and the Nature Conservancy could be interested in the educational value of the ecological restoration.
- Leaders within the Ohio Historical Society would be valuable contacts.
- Dan Pinger is a well-connected public relations professional in Cincinnati.

Pam stated that it would be critical to coordinate these efforts with all of the designated stewards for the site, such as the DOE Grand Junction Office and possibly Hamilton County Park District.

Doug stated that he would present this work plan to the FCAB at its annual retreat on Saturday, September 13. He stated that this initiative would require participation by a larger number of Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Stewardship Committee will be Monday, October 21, 2003 from 6:30 to 8:00 in T-214 at the Fernald site.