

**ORR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
FOCUS GROUP MEETING NOTES**

July 12, 2002

A working meeting of the Focus Group was held in the City of Oak Ridge's Public Works Building on Woodbury Lane at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on July 12, 2002.

Attendees

The following members of the Focus Group were in attendance Wendy Watterson-Murray for Scott Davis, Steve Alexander, Paul Boyer, Ray Evans, Parker Hardy, Lorene Sigal, Dev Joslin, Ralph Lillard, Bill Pardue, Lloyd Stokes, Joe Valentino, Marshall Whisnant, Beth Phillips (Tony Grande alternate), Lawrence Young, Eric Rauch, Jim Evans for Dave McKinney, Pete Craven, David Mosby, Marty Marina and Robert Kennedy.

Members of the Facilitation team in attendance were Barry Lawson, Pat Parr, Marianne Heiskell, Wayne Tolbert and Mike Deacon. Susan Cange of DOE was also present. Six members of the public were in attendance.

New Action Items

- Include the letter from the NRCS on prime farmlands in the Final Technical Report
- Barry Lawson has the action to write up an interpretation of the Focus Group scenario voting results.
- Barry Lawson agreed to re-write a draft of Dev's proposed resolution incorporating many of the comments from the Focus Group discussion.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda

The proposed meeting agenda was briefly discussed, agreed upon, and followed. Two corrections to the June meeting notes were discussed.

Announcements

Marianne Heiskell indicated that discussions were continuing on the DOE-Albuquerque proposal for more land needed for programmatic uses at the intersection of Blair Road and Highway 58. She also indicated a proposal had been received from the City of Oak Ridge Greenways Committee for an extension of the north boundary greenway to Blair Road, going near the Wheat Church. She also mentioned DOE-ORO has initiated an effort to explore possible methods for "preserving lands" for conservation uses.

Susan Cange of DOE discussed the request to DOE for Parcel ED-1 to be sold to CROET instead of leasing. She recounted a brief history of the parcel noting the size (1000 acres) of the parcel, recent NEPA action (an Addendum to the original EA). She said DOE is considering transfer of only the developable portions of ED-1; DOE would retain title to the lands under the mitigation plan (which would still be leased to CROET).

ORR LUPP Focus Group Meeting Notes - 7/12/02

Pat Parr indicated that the Technical Report had been made available with many copies mailed to various parties. She reported that she and Marianne Heiskell had met with the Oak Ridge Environmental Management SSAB and were trying to arrange a meeting with both EPA-Region 4 and TDEC.

Pat discussed the upcoming public meeting, which is scheduled for September 9.

Ray Evans announced that the Roane County Industrial Board had a meeting regarding the TVA Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site and the City of Oak Ridge is to have a similar meeting on July 15.

Responding to questions from the Focus Group members about the Executive Order 12512 process, Marianne Heiskell indicated that the work of the Focus Group would feed into the 12512 Survey. There was some concern expressed by the Focus Group that the 12512 process was coming after the Focus Group efforts and not before. Focus Group Members also expressed concern that with the development of the ETTP Closure Plan, ETTP should have been included in this current effort. Information was exchanged about the two strategies contained in the closure plan.

Public Comments

Norm Mulvenon stated that ETTP will be available for industrial use by 2008 and this land should be considered by the Focus Group in this planning process. Ray Evans responded that the City's needs are in addition to these ETTP lands. He also noted that these lands are not as desirable for industrial use as many competing sites in the southeast US. The current proposals for closure of the ETTP Site do indicate "industrial use"; however, there will continue to be ongoing dialogues about the ultimate use of the ETTP lands.

Draft Technical Report

Wayne Tolbert spoke briefly about the Draft Technical Report noting some changes to be made in the Final. He requested comments from the Focus Group, preferably in writing. Would like to have comments by August 2.

Steve Alexander made several comments and promised, if possible, to put these in writing before going to the field for an extended period. The discussion on prime farmland should include the letter from NRCS stating the rationale for removing any designation/consideration of prime farmland on the ORR. The Farmland Protection Policy Act stipulates that prime farmland designations are based solely on the geochemical properties of the soils in question. The farming history of the ORR should also be evaluated. I believe that the Oak Ridge city limit designation which included the entire ORR may have influenced that determination by NRCS. It might be beneficial to evaluate the prime farmland map units for Tennessee.

The sections which mention the possibility off-site migration of contaminants from ETTP and Y-12 should include a comparative discussion of ecological risk based screening levels. While I understand that industrial use risk levels drove the RODs for ETTP, I believe it is especially important to utilize ecological risk screening levels when considering contaminant transport and migration, exposure potential and sensitivity of biota in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and sensitive/protected habitats.

ORR LUPP Focus Group Meeting Notes - 7/12/02

Recent migratory bird survey data on the ORR, including Parcel ED-1, would enhance the discussion of interior forest habitat. The biodiversity section should be enhanced. Storm water management discussions should include consideration of karst formations and associated biota in individual project areas. There should be a discussion of groundwater contamination (reference last paragraph in Conclusion section).

Marty Marina wanted the report to add reservation maps showing areas and habitat types proposed for conservation as Natural Areas by the State of Tennessee. She wanted the report to elaborate on the natural processes required to ensure ecosystem conservation and for it to address threats posed by increased development such as exotic plants and domestic animals.

Dev Joslin requested that an economic analysis be done of environmental uses.

Lloyd Stokes noted a problem with line 8 of page 6 and Robert Kennedy observed that light pollution has the potential to affect an observatory 20 miles west of the study area.

Ray Evans noted an error in the descriptions of highways 58 and 95.

Visual Survey/Scenarios

Someone (?) mentioned that the public had similar "values", as expressed in visual survey, as the Focus Group. The Focus Group voted preferences for the 4 scenarios. After some discussion about the desirability of trying to reach a consensus on one scenario and whether some scenarios could be "tweaked" to make them more acceptable to more members, it was generally agreed not to do this. It was observed that there was a high degree of agreement among the Focus Group members on most of the land (maybe 90% or so). There are areas of disagreement on best use for the approximately 200 acres near Wisconsin Avenue and the approximately 300 acres south of Hwy 58. Barry Lawson has the action to write up an interpretation of the results.

Focus Group Report

It was observed that the draft Focus Group report did not have anything in it about the City of Oak Ridge needs for land and this should be added as one of several components. Dev Joslin then proposed a resolution, which was discussed by several members of the Focus Group. (Mike Holland dropped in for a short time while this discussion was ongoing. Barry Lawson agreed to re-write a draft of the resolution incorporating many of the comments from this discussion.

Future Planning Activities

Barry Lawson noted that there would be an evaluation of the land use planning process. There is a public meeting scheduled for September 9. At the public meeting both the Revised Technical Report and the Focus Group Report will be discussed. Public comments on the Focus Group report will not be sought; it was felt that this report is the product of the Focus Group. The next Focus Group meeting is scheduled for August 9.

Comments from the Public

Joann Thompson expressed her appreciation that a Technical Report had been drafted.