

Opening Remarks

2020 National Cleanup Workshop

September 16, 2020

- Good morning and good afternoon to some, and welcome to the 2020 National Cleanup Workshop.
- My name is Ron Woody. I am the county Executive of Roane County, Tennessee which houses part of the DOE Oak Ridge Complex, and I also serve as Chair of the Energy Communities Alliance.
- This has been an unusual year, but we appreciate you all joining us virtually, and we hope to meet in person for this conference next year. We have our [800] paid registrations this year. We have record attendance and it shows the real interest and importance in this meeting.
- ECA, DOE, and EFCOG have collaborated and put together this virtual workshop featuring some great speakers who you will hear from today, including:
 - Top DOE officials like Under Secretary Paul Dabbar, Ike White, and Todd Shrader;
 - And Congressman Chuck Fleischmann from my home state of Tennessee.
- It has been my privilege to assist in opening this conference the past several years.
- I want to pause and say “thank you” for this opportunity and for bringing me into your family of colleagues.
- I truly enjoyed providing some opening remarks, and you allowing time for a few stories over the years.
- I love object lessons. It helps us remember important aspects of messages.
- In my office I have “crayons” which is a lesson that if you cannot explain the problem or situation with crayons, you are making the problem too difficult.
- I also have a “football” which reminds us one of Vince Lombardi’s iconic stories about the importance of basic fundamentals.

“Gentleman This is a Football”

- As we were preparing for this conference, Marty Schneider outlined the EM Mission having three (3) important “pillars.” Marty being very intellectual and philosophical. My southern Appalachia mind went to being practical and an “object” lesson.
- I started to think about the “old milking stool.”
- I thought one of the girls in my office may have one in which they decorate their house, so inquired. Lyndsay, our latest hire, a young girl in her thirties, said “I have my grandmother’s stool she used while milking. I’ll get it. It’s in my office.”

- We love our Southern Heritage, and we bring our milking stools to work. The stool has three (3) legs that if they are sturdy, will perform their intended purpose.
- The Ground is the firm foundation of Legislative Financing- EM Funding
- The Legs (Pillars) as Marty would say are:
 - DOE
 - Contractors
 - Communities
- The Seat is National Cleanup Workshops where we build trust and strengthen relationships and on the seat is the EM Project (s).
 - If funding is lacking.
 - If a leg of the stool is weak.
 - If the seat cracks.
- The milker, I mean project, is subject to fall into the manure.
- Sounds like a chapter in a book *“Falling Into the Manure”*
- I may need to put a little manure in a zip lock bag for object lesson.
- As we work together we must:
 - Have meaningful local government involvement in headquarters and site level decisions.
 - Build partnership among contractors and community.
 - Ensure we have adequate funding.
 - Provide reminders of past goals and promises to help us celebrate accomplishments, and motivate us from additional success.
 - Build trust and strengthen relationships.
- Today we are here to continue with open discussions of challenges and opportunities.
- Finally, I want to give a “big thank you” to our sponsors. Your support allows us to bring everyone together.
- Please enjoy the conference.
- I will now hand it over to our friend, EFCOG Chair, Michael Lewpke.

Ron Woody- Introduction for Rep. Fleischmann 2020 National Cleanup Workshop

- Our next speaker represents my home state of Tennessee. He is the co-chair of the House of Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, and an important member of the House Appropriations Committee.
- Congressman Chuck Fleischmann has been a champion for environmental cleanup and has provided his legislative insights at this Workshop several times in the past.
- We appreciate the Cleanup Caucus events he has organized with his colleague, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, which have usually coincided with our Workshop, and we hope to be able to attend those events in person again soon.

- Congressman Fleischmann will provide some remarks for us today regarding the legislative challenges and opportunities facing the EM program, and generously answered a few questions submitted by our attendees.
- Congressman Fleischmann, I appreciate you spending some time with us today, and appreciate your support for our local communities and the DOE Mission of Environment Management.