

December 8, 2021

## Opening Remark 2021 National Cleanup Workshop

Good morning and welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> National Cleanup Workshop.

Before I get to the Opening Remark I would like to recognize one of ECA's Retiring Board Members Bob Thompson. Bob was one of the founding members of ECA. Bob served 27 years as either the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, or council member of Richland the Handford Community of the DOE Complex. Let's give Bob a round of applause.

My name is Ron Woody and I am the Roane County Executive in the Oak Ridge area. I also chair the Energy Communities Alliance and have chaired for the last four (4) years.

This past year and a half has been challenging, and we are so glad to see everyone here in person.

Despite the challenges of the past year with Zoom calls and virtual conferences, I think it is impressive how much was still accomplished during the pandemic.

ETTP in Roane County is cleaned and ready for industrial development. WIPP has received it's 13,000<sup>th</sup> shipment. Contracts have been awarded throughout the year. ECA, DOE, and EFCOG have collaborated to put together this workshop featuring some key decisions and policy makers who you will hear from the next two days.

- DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm
- IKE White
- Shalanda Baker
- Todd Shrader and more
- Tennessee Congressman Chuck Fleischmann

As the Chief Executive of my county it's certainly exciting to be here talking about cleanup with experts for EFCOG and DOE.

Each year this meeting has gotten more and more productive due to three (3) pillars of the ECA mission.

1. Communities
2. Contractors
3. DOE

ECA has several priorities:

- Engagement of the ECA communities in decision making.
- Work with DOE contractors in our communities.
- Support DOE in examining expediting cleanup in a way that is risk based and protective of human health and environment in our frontline communities.

- Insure DOE has adequate funding.

Meeting like this helps us build trust and strengthen relationships.

Finally, I want to thank our sponsor that allowed us to bring everyone together. Well, not finally because I have one more story.

“Seven Old Men Going Fishing”

My 3 brothers and dad commercial fished growing up and when you commercial fish, you generally don't enjoy sports fishing.

The last two (2) years I have been invited with two (2) of my brothers and four (4) other old men to trout fish the Buffalo and White River in Arkansas.

Coming back from our last trip I reflected why am I doing this.

Getting up earlier than when I go to work to drive and fish. Spending \$700 for a trip to buy shrimp you can eat, but use as bait, a place to stay, and boats propeller from hitting the shoals.

Listening to the old men telling tales to the County Executive on how to solve the County's issues. One suggestion was for equality to build a Cat Park since we recently had a Dog Park built.

We had different backgrounds: politics, religion beliefs, stance on masks and vaccinations.

We all had specific chores to do.

We worked passed our differences and accomplished our goals.

As I was driving up I-81 Monday, I hear the Zac Brown Band song

“We are all in the same boat.”

Fishing from the same hole.

We could all believe what we believe and peacefully agree to disagree.

If the ship keeps rocking, we'll all go overboard.

It's been a couple of challenging years for contractors, workforces, DOE management, and local governments.

Much was accomplished to stay focused on the mission.

Thank you for your service and have a great conference.

Now, help me welcome EFCOG Chair Michael Lempke.