

Meeting #47  
**September 14, 2016**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior  
Karen Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail  
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance  
Maria Munoz (for Jeff Bunkemann) – Central Arizona College  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch  
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison  
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association  
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Arlynn Godinez – Maricopa County  
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Jim Schenck, Communities Manager

*Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)*

John Godec  
Debra Duerr

*Speakers: Guest speaker, Mark Stapp, was unable to attend*

*Public Guests:*

Todd Pryor – Manager, Town of Superior  
J. Mark Stevens – homeowner  
Neil Blindauer – Oak Realty  
Karen Afdahl - homeowner  
Pat Richards – homeowner  
Leslie Watson - resident

## Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone back from the summer break and greeted the visitors, saying that it's been a while since our last meeting. He asked people to introduce themselves. He apologized to attendees that, unfortunately, the guest speaker we had invited for the meeting tonight was not able to make it at the last minute, but we will try to reschedule a discussion about real estate. Therefore, the group may have an opportunity to discuss other items of interest tonight.

CWG members offered updates on some community events and activities. Superior has a new mayor, Mila Besich-Lira, who received a round of applause. Anthony Huerta reported that the St. Francis Fiesta is taking place this weekend, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest car show in Arizona. He invited everyone to come.

There is a new air burner for green waste for Superior, which will enhance the town's ability to dispose of green waste in an economic way. More information about pricing and how to use it will be provided soon. A newly upgraded transfer station is also scheduled to re-open in November. Members thought this was wonderful.

Jim Schenck reported that last week the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) had a public hearing on Resolution's discharge monitoring permit application. Several CWG members attended. One member noted that he was surprised so many people were opposed to discharging to Queen Creek again, since the water can benefit many users. There is a lot of misconception about the water quality, and this may account for it. Some folks think that this discharge will degrade the water quality in Queen Creek, which some people believe is already contaminated. Cecil Fendley of Queen Valley Water District clarified that this is not true; contamination levels are well below regulatory standards. This discharge permit is for water being pumped out of the mine, which is basically clean groundwater and some floodwater. There are discharge points and settling ponds. Those who grew up here see it as a benefit in restoring former riparian and other landscapes. A member said she remembers that ADEQ came to town some years ago and said that the creek was contaminated with copper, but no follow-up information was ever provided.

Schenck noted that at the ADEQ hearing Hank Gutierrez did a good job of explaining the CWG, which many people attending the hearing didn't know about. He also talked with Sierra Club representatives who are interested in groundwater monitoring. It was thought that there might be an opportunity for the CWG to approach Sierra Club about joining the Community Monitoring Task Force.

John Godec told the group that their submittal for the IAP2 Core Values Awards did not win the Project of the Year award, although IAP2's response letter was very complimentary of the group. A member suggested letting the local paper know about this. Even though the CWG didn't win, the application and letter from IAP2 let people know what the group has been doing.

Godec said that topics for the October and November CWG meetings have been proposed. Guests and discussions will cover current tailings site activities and the new Apache Leap Management Plan. Jim Schenck and Melissa Rabago are working with Pam Bennett to organize a public meeting in Queen Valley in November when winter visitors come back, to provide information on the tailings site plans. Ms. Bennett reminded the group that the timing on meeting in Queen Valley can be sensitive in that it's important to make sure winter visitors can attend. Schenck said that Resolution is having two upcoming community forums, where the tailings topic will be briefly discussed. These will be next Wednesday (September 21) in Superior and the following Thursday in Globe.

Godec told the group that the Forest Service is putting together a week-long international forum on mining, and have asked him to speak about the CWG. He suggested that it might be helpful to have a CWG member join him at this forum to answer questions. The workshop will be on October 24, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Mr. Gutierrez expressed interest in this.

The Town Manager reported that Superior will also be having a meeting related to this forum in Superior Council Chambers on Saturday October 29.

Congress is requiring the Forest Service to develop a management plan for Apache Leap by the end of 2017, as a condition of the land exchange. This will require coordination with tribes and interested stakeholders and public. The management plan will require a separate Environmental Assessment (EA) from the larger study of the mine. It's believed that public scoping meetings are planned for October. The facilitators will research this and let the CWG know the specific dates of these meetings. The Forest Service will be speaking about this topic at the CWG meeting on November 9.

Godec showed the group a handout that the CWG had suggested to be developed. The purpose of the handout is to inform people about the CWG and to invite the public to attend CWG meetings. CWG members are asked to take packets of these and distribute them around town or hand them out to their constituents. Flyers to hand out at the car show were left at the Chamber for organizers to pick up. Karen Jones thanked Godec for preparing the brochures, and discussed some reactions in the San Carlos community about her involvement with the CWG. Some people wondered why she participates if their community won't be affected. She has explained to them that she's involved to learn more about neighboring community concerns.

### **CWG Subcommittee Updates**

Debra Duerr reported that the Recreation User Group met today (Sept 14) and reviewed a preliminary map of the combined proposals of group member organizations, prepared by Resolution's Mary Morissette. There was a shift in thinking about this plan, which is no longer concentrating on a small geographic area but will try to identify the most critical trails for each recreational use. One objective is to replace at least 38 miles of trails and roads that would be

lost to the Resolution mine and tailings area. The goal, however, is still to keep the plan at a level that will only require a Forest Service EA. The next meeting of the RUG is November 9t 10:00 AM.

The Historic Preservation Task Force met on September 9 for a presentation of cost estimates for rehabilitation of the smelter stack and associated historic buildings. Due to the high costs associated with re-use and remediation, it is unlikely that this could happen in the foreseeable future, if at all. Other ideas for taking advantage of the West Plant historic sites were discussed. The task force would like to learn more about the prehistoric site affected by US 60 construction at its next meeting.

For the Community Monitoring Task Force, we hope to have a meeting in October to review a request for proposal (RFP) to hire an independent consultant to take water samples and arrange for independent laboratory testing. Casey McKeon of Resolution developed the technical scope of work for this third-party contractor, and the facilitators will use that scope for a draft RFP that the task force will review. The monitoring and sampling will not likely start until sometime in 2017, a little later than was initially thought.

Resolution has been asked to address the proposed Community Investment Subcommittee at the October meeting.

### **Superior Health Assessments & Remediation Synopsis**

John Godec

Godec reviewed the full collection of public health and remediation reports associated with Superior and mining, and developed a synopsis in the form of a chronology and summary of those studies. Public documents and reports were collected from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and BHP. Printed copies of this synopsis were provided in the CWG packets for this meeting.

A member mentioned that her brother was tested in the 1977 study referenced in the synopsis. She wondered if a certain age group was targeted, since no other children in her family were included. Another member recounted how difficult it was for her to try to obtain data from ADEQ, and asked if parcel-by-parcel data is included in the documents on the website. She said that BHP testing was done in certain parts of town but not in others. Another Superior resident observed that many people in town would find this synopsis hard to believe. Several members said this may be due to historical mistrust in Magma. Members pointed out that regulations have changed significantly since the 1970s when some of these concerns began. Godec observed that none of studies suggest that there wasn't a problem, and that in some past cases high levels of arsenic or lead have been found. The difficulty comes in establishing a clear cause-and-effect connection between health impacts and mining. A member suggested that some folks just want monetary compensation; they don't really care about regulations or current practices. There was discussion about stories of local residents in the past using contaminated materials for yard landscaping and other uses. It was reported that children in

the 1950s and '60s would play football and other outdoor activities while smelter fog was blanketing town. Schenck noted that the ability to detect contamination has improved, and so the standards are altered accordingly to lower and lower levels.

Godec reminded the group that the original study documents, which are all public information, as well as the chronological synopsis of these documents are posted for review on the CWG website. He invited members to let him know if they have or find any additional data, studies, or information.

### **Real Estate Values & Industrial Developments**

Mark Stapp, ASU

The speaker was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Public Questions & Comments**

A visitor asked whether Congress had passed an Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. This pertains to the smelter, and also about giving information to the public. Many Superior residents didn't know what was taking place. Shouldn't information about what toxics are being used be available to the public? Godec said that companies using toxics in the U.S. must maintain a toxics release inventory (TRI), and that this information must be made available to the public. This information should also be available from ADEQ.

Schenck noted that soils studies are part of the remediation studies being conducted by Resolution, which accepted the legacy contamination on the property and promised to meet cleanup deadlines. Now the area near the smelter stack is being cleaned up, and it will need to meet test results when completed. Worker health and safety is also being addressed through prior and periodic testing, wearing respirators and protective clothing as needed, vehicle washing, etc.

### **Next Meeting**

***Wednesday, October 12, 2016***

*Superior Chamber of Commerce*

*5:30pm light dinner for CWG members and invited speakers*

*6:00pm Meeting*

Vicky Peacey of Resolution Copper Company will discuss the tailings site EA findings, site characterization plans, and current drilling activities.