

Meeting #51
January 11, 2017
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Jeff Bunklemann – Central Arizona College
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident

Community Working Group members not present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Resolution Copper Company:

Jim Schenck, Communities Manager
Kami Ballard, Environmental Permitting
Heather Gluski, Environmental Permittins

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec
Debra Duerr

Speakers:

Kami Ballard - Resolution Copper
Heather Gluski – Resolution Copper

Public Guests:

Dolores Hatfield – Rotary Club of Superior
Luke Zandfliet – Triple R Alliance
Anna Petty – Capstone, Pinto Valley Mine
Gabe Arroyos
Leslie Watson – Watson Environmental

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec noted that several CWG members weren't able to attend the meeting tonight. He informed the group that Mark Seigwarth is no longer a member, as he has retired from Boyce Thompson Arboretum; another representative will be sought once a new director is in place.

Pam Bennett observed that there are only several members remaining from the original group who started meeting at the Magma Club. She remembered how the members invited Resolution representatives to sit at the table if they were going to work as a team. She noticed tonight that now members are friends, care about each other, and do indeed work as a team. Godec said that the CWG has done a great deal of work over the last three years, and congratulated them.

He asked members and visitors to introduce themselves.

Update on West Plant Site Well Drilling

Heather Gluski, Resolution

Some drilling will be starting between the 20th and 23rd of January. The "concentrator fault" is of particular interest geologically, and is of concern, so three wells will be used in this area – forming a triangle - to confirm the direction of groundwater flow. Gluski illustrated this configuration with a drawing showing new and existing wells and the fault line. Drilling will be completed quickly, in about two days plus mobilization time, using a sonic drill rig. The process preserves the rock coming out of the ground and allows interpretation of water flow. National Wells and Pump will be the contractor; they have worked here before. The whole process will be very visible to the community, and will be publicly noticed. It's outside of Resolution's fence line but is still on Resolution's property. Sound barricading will be provided although this rig does not require sound protection and is very quiet.

Historical modeling has indicated that groundwater flows southwesterly, but there is no empirical data to prove this. The concentrator fault may act as a boundary that water does not traverse. However, this or other faults may have leaks. These are the parameters the wells will help to evaluate.

CWG members had the following questions and comments:

- How deep is the well?
 - 150 feet
- How visible will it be?
 - There is a mast but it will be much smaller than the one at Near West, probably about 40 feet high.
- Will residents feel vibration?
 - No

- Are there houses nearby?
 - Resolution will communicate with nearby neighbors at Magma Avenue and High School Road. Work will only be conducted during daylight hours.
- Will this well be monitored continually?
 - Yes, for water levels and water quality.
- Will the fault line cause any impacts to the community?
 - No, this test is just to determine groundwater flow between the geologic structures. Water is moving through the rocks very slowly (e.g. it takes months to refill the well once it is pumped). Consequently, Resolution needs to use low-flow pumping methods. Depending on what is learned, there could potentially be some impacts in future. Comparison of the water chemistry in the three wells will help to determine whether they are hydrologically related and how water flows through the area.
- Why is it called Concentrator Fault?
 - There used to be a concentrator facility located on top of it.
- Could these wells be used in future for continuous monitoring by the independent consultant for the Community Monitoring Task Force?
 - Possibly, we can discuss it with the task force. But the slow recovery of these wells may present a problem for sequential sampling, or even concurrent sampling; there may not be enough water present to take two samples.
- How much water do you need to sample?
 - About 1.5 litres, and these wells may not even have this much.

Presentation of Tailings Site Video Simulation

Kami Ballard, Resolution Copper

John Godec introduced Kami Ballard, saying that the idea for these visual simulations originated about a year ago when the CWG requested a better idea of what the tailings facility would look like. Ballard summarized that a number of viewpoints were selected as being key viewing locations. Simulations from several of these were completed, and the CWG reviewed these at a previous meeting. The simulation being shown tonight is an animation with narration. Simulations of the mine subsidence area are being prepared and final versions will be provided at a future meeting; several preliminary views were later shown to the group at this meeting.

Several of the static simulations, known as True Views, were shown illustrating current conditions and the tailings at year 45 at the ultimate size, after progressive reclamation. The first is from milepost 219 on westbound US 60. The group discussed the accuracy of this view, and the angle from which the photo was taken. Some local residents felt that the view should be looking directly north from another point along US 60, and questioned whether the tailings facility was even in the correct location. Kami affirmed that the tailings location is correct based on Resolution's data and geographic references. Another view was shown from Picket Post House at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. A CWG member thought that this would not be particularly noticeable to arboretum visitors, after reclamation. The view from Charlotte Street in Queen Valley was shown, and was considered not to be very noticeable from this location. Another view was shown from Happy Camp along the Arizona Trail, from where it would be very visible. A CWG member wondered if it would be possible or desirable to move this portion

of the Arizona Trail away from the ridgeline to minimize these impacts. From the selected viewpoint on Montana Mountain on the Arizona Trail, the tailings pile would not be visible. Ballard noted that a separate visual study will be needed for the entire section of the Arizona Trail in the area, as there will be many locations from which it will be seen.

The animated video was shown. The group was impressed and thought this was an accurate representation of what the tailings facility may look like.

Ballard will send the simulation digital files to the facilitators for posting on the web site, including the animation.

She previewed some draft simulations of the mine subsidence. The subsidence area does not touch Oak Flat, but if the land exchange goes through there could be mining beneath Oak Flat. The CWG had a number of questions about this feature, as follows:

- Will shock waves be felt as the land starts to subside?
 - This will happen very slowly over many years, so vibrations will probably not be felt by nearby communities.
- When will subsidence start and how long will it last?
 - Initial breakthrough will be about 5 to 10 years after mining starts. Subsidence will last through the entire period of active mining, and the area will continue to subside and shift beyond that timeframe.
- Will the tunnel that goes from the mine to the West Plant fill with water?
 - No, it's at a much higher elevation than groundwater at about 2800 feet.
- Is Resolution paying anything for the land at the tailings site?
 - No
- How many acres will the subsidence area cover?
 - Ballard didn't have this information at the moment but referred members to the website for all available information.
- When will Resolution know if they will be allowed to put the tailings there?
 - Not until the NEPA process is complete, which is likely to be 6 to 8 years.
- How deep will the subsidence be?
 - About 1,000 feet.
- Please confirm that the subsidence area will be fenced off from public access.
 - Yes, it will be, in all three zones: cave zone, fracture zone, continuous zone on the outer edge. There will be seismic activity in all of these zones.
- Is Rio Tinto prepared to say that there will be no effect on the hydrology of the area between Mineral Creek, Devils' Canyon, and Queen Creek Canyon?
 - Current studies will analyze this in the NEPA process.

A CWG member asked to see an example of a tailings feature that has been reclaimed with indigenous material that has been successfully completed in this kind of environment; he's skeptical that this has ever been or could ever be accomplished in the desert.

Review of Draft ALSMA Comment Letter

Godec asked CWG members to review the draft letter. He said that the facilitators have had some comments from RUG members, who suggested preparing two separate letters from the CWG and the RUG. Revisions will be made tomorrow and final drafts will be sent for the two groups to approve. Comments are due to the Forest Service by January 31.

Subcommittees

There will be a kickoff meeting for the Community Monitoring Task Force and Southwest Groundwater Consultants on Monday, January 16 at 11:00 AM at the Chamber of Commerce.

The RUG will meet on February 8 at 10:00 AM at the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion of CWG Membership & Meetings

Godec said that he talked with the individual who hasn't been attending meetings, and that person promised to try to attend more in future. The group agreed to retain the member and evaluate his attendance this year.

George Martin suggested inviting Jim Schenck to become a member of the CWG after Schenck told the group that he no longer works for Resolution Copper. The group thanked Jim for all his support of the CWG over the years, and wished him the best. The CWG voted to ask Jim to be a member, and he agreed to do so, as a small business owner in Superior.

A tentative list of suggested CWG meeting topics for 2017 was reviewed. The Historic Preservation Task Force asked to have a meeting with Vickey Peacey in the next few weeks, before they talk with the larger CWG about the stack issues. Kami Ballard agreed to set this up.

Ballard told the CWG that Resolution's Permitting group, led by Vicky Peacey, will be supporting the CWG again in future, rather than the company's Communities group. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

*Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Superior Chamber of Commerce
5:30pm light dinner for CWG members and invited speakers
6:00pm Meeting*