

Meeting #13

December 12, 2013 Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance
Bill Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance
Fred Gaudet (for Matt Nelson) – Arizona Trail Association
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley HOA
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Roy Chavez – Retired Miners & Concerned Citizens
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
Martin Navarrette - Superior Little League
Pam Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Steven Byrd – Superior Junior Senior High School
Dominic Perea - Superior Junior Senior High School

Community Working Group members not present:

Lynn Heglie – Superior business
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College

Resolution Copper:

Vicky Peacey - senior manager of approvals, communities & environment
Melissa Rabago – community outreach coordinator

Facilitators - Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec
Debra Duerr

Housekeeping

John Godec and the group welcomed the two new Community Working Group members, Dominic Perea and Steven Boyd from Superior Junior-Senior High School, and thanked them for agreeing to participate.

Community Working Group

Nancy Vogler presented Godec with a humorous gift, on behalf of the group, to “help” with his facilitation. The facilitation team passed out small tokens of appreciation to the group members.

In discussing when and how to meet in 2014, the group decided to meet once a month, on the 4th Thursday of each month, from 5:00 PM (earlier than this year) to 8:00. They felt they would need more time for each meeting if they met less frequently.

We discussed a number of potential meeting topics that the group is interested in; they are listed in the last section of these notes.

Discussion of Resolution’s Preliminary Plans for 2014

Presenter: Vicky Peacey, Resolution Copper Company

Peacey gave the group an overview of some of the major activities Resolution has planned for the coming year. She said that there will be a more reclamation done on the West Plant site, starting after the first of the year. If the group would find it useful, Casey can come to talk more about this. She alerted the group that there will be a lot of contractor activity related to this reclamation.

Nothing is likely to happen on the land exchange bill before Christmas and Resolution doesn’t know what will happen with it, since they do not appear to be a “national priority”.

A member asked for an update on the status of #10 Shaft. Peacey said that equipment has been ordered and work is hoped to start in the second quarter of 2014.

A member wondered why the Queen Valley community would not want the State Land parcel tailings site alternative. Queen Valley representative said they were not sure why, and noted that Queen Valley hopes to be able to negotiate additional benefits from Resolution, as they did with the new water/monitoring well. Queen Valley is a major part of the Superior emergency services response team.

Group Discussion on CWG Next Steps

Godec asked the group what they’re hearing about this project? They said:

- The mood in town seems to be more upbeat, hopeful – the last year was terrible.
- There are questions from visitors about when the mine is going to open, etc.
- The Water Board is still concerned about the tailings leaching into the water table.

Community Working Group

The group had a number of comments, observations, and questions about the project in general as well as ideas about what this committee may want to pursue. These included the following:

- A member asked Peacey about the meeting in Gold Canyon – How did it go?
 - About 130 people attended and there were very good questions. Peacey didn't sense a lot of concern or opposition. There were a number of questions about the land exchange bill and how that might affect the project. (This question is still being raised in the Superior community as well. Mr. Chavez pointed out that the history of the land exchange issue has been confused, and varying opinions and information have been offered over time.) Other questions from Queen Valley attendees concerned cultural resources and recreation, the subsidence at Oak Flat, and the size and location of the tailings.
- Many people think that property taxes will go down because of the mine.
- Regarding the flyer that came out from the Apache Tribe, Ms. Bennett said that the Queen Valley HOA sent a letter to the tribe in response saying that they considered the tribe had misrepresented the HOA, which does not take political positions although they do have concerns about water and other impacts.
- It will be hard for group to discuss the tailing site with their contacts until they are able to see the location and get a better understanding of its magnitude.
- Can we get a good aerial photo of the tailings area?
 - Yes, Peacey will provide this.
- It was noted that the Town Council formed a committee to work with Resolution on a socioeconomic plan. Mr. Chavez feels the discussion of financial and other benefits to the town should be open to the public, and funds should not be given to the Town Council directly. He mentioned several reasons why he thinks they are not good financial managers, and suggested that there should be an ad hoc committee to work with Resolution that might include members like the school, Chamber of Commerce, mine, and other social service organizations. He commented that Resolution won't pay taxes to the town, so these kinds of services would be in lieu of taxes.
- Several members suggested that this group should work on the subject of community mitigation and benefits, and the Town Council has indicated that they are interested in hearing what the group has to say. This conversation should take place soon.
 - Peacey said Resolution is trying to set a meeting with the Town of Superior to begin these discussions. This will probably happen in January.
- Superior Department of Public Safety is very underfunded, and needs help.
- Peacey was asked to explain what the situation is with Rosemont Mine.

Community Working Group

- On November 29, the Forest Service issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review, and a Record of Decision is expected in December. There will then be a final comment period. Rosemont also needs a Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sec. 404 permit for impacts to washes and wetlands. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last year issued a letter regarding Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ARNI) saying that there will be significant degradation to these resources by the mine project; the USACE will need to decide whether to issue the Sec. 404 permit under this situation, but EPA can stop the project based on these impacts.
- What has the Forest Service said about Resolution's Mine Plan of Operations and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process?
 - Tonto Forest said they won't be able to review the application until early next year, and it could be several months before they are in a position to accept it.
- The group is interested to learn more about what direction Resolution will take on the land exchange legislation next year.

Public Comments

There were no public guests in attendance at this meeting.

Final CWG Comments and Next Meeting Agenda

Based on our decision to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, the next CWG meeting will be on **January 23, 2014 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.**

Future meeting topics that the group is interested in include:

- Exploration, discussion, and suggestions for community "mitigation" and benefits.
- Additional information and discussion about water resources, particularly about the tailings site. Frank Deal should be here.
- Possibly, additional information on air quality permitting and issues.
- Cultural resources, including more information about the San Carlos Apache Tribe's needs and concerns.
- State Land Department requirements and practices regarding use and disposition of State Trust Lands, particularly related to the parcel near Florence Junction that Resolution previously explored for a tailings site.

Community Working Group

- Field trip for the group to see the tailings site as well as other mine facilities, both for new members who weren't at the last field trip and to view the alternative tailings locations identified since then.
- Recreation use and recreation impacts (including off-site effects of existing recreation displacement).
- Learn how and when the Tonto National Forest intends to process Resolution's application (Mine Plan of Operations) and how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will be conducted.
- Discuss Resolution's plans for project employment – i.e., the types of jobs anticipated, salaries, local or not, available local labor pool, training and community development, etc.