

Meeting #33
May 13, 2015
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior

Community Working Group members not present:

Matt Nelson – Arizona Trail Association
Kiki Peralta – Superior Rotary Club
Nina Crowder – Superior Rotary Club alternate
Patrick O'Donnell – Superior Unified School District #15
Mark Nipp – Town of Superior
Evelyn Vargas – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association alternate
Michael Lira – Central Arizona College
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board

Resolution Copper Company:

Jim Schenk – Manager for Communities & Social Performance
Bryan Seppala

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec
Debra Duerr

Public Guests:

Greg Williams – Superior resident

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked, “What’s new in Superior?” Reports included the fact that the girl’s basketball team won the State Championship in a very exciting game. Sad news for the group is that the Martins experienced a fire that destroyed their home and dog family members. Anthony Huerta announced that the Head Start Program has begun a

book program for the summer, where young children can exchange books at a 'birdhouse' that's been placed in Besich Park; he urged members to participate.

The guest speaker invited to this meeting, author Bill Carter, decided not to come. He told Godec that he respected what the group is trying to do, but didn't feel comfortable coming to speak with us. The group decided to talk about the book at this meeting anyway.

Godec asked Jim Schenck to report on Resolution's meeting with the Arizona Community Foundation. Dave Richins, Hugh Thatcher (attorney) and Schenck met with foundation representatives to learn more about who they are, who they work with, their financial situation, and how Resolution might be able to work with them. In some of the existing programs under the wing of the foundation (e.g. Safford), the foundation 'runs the whole show', and Schenck doubts whether that would be the model used here. Resolution is still evaluating this organization as a possible administrator for a community development fund, but this is only one of several directions that could be taken by the company. It was agreed that the next step in developing suggestions for a community investment program is for Bill Vogler and Bruce Wittig to meet with Resolution staff (Schenck, Richins, Thatcher) to explore approaches.

Pam Bennett and Nancy Vogler reported that the Recreation and Access Task Force met to define a role. This was mostly a brainstorming session to generate ideas about recreation impacts, and to discuss some of the users and initiatives that are already going on around Superior. Focus areas would include Superior, Oak Flat, Queen Valley, and the tailings area. The group would like to get more information about the Tonto National Forest Travel Management Plan and how it relates to the tailings site. Members asked when the plan is supposed to go into operation, and what it would include. Pamela Rabago is most knowledgeable about this but no one knows for sure. Godec asked the group if they'd be interested in having the Forest Service talk with the group about the plan, and everyone thought this would be very helpful.

Schenck contributed that Resolution is interested in hearing recommendations on a user access plan for Oak Flat. Several ideas have been suggested for establishment of an alternative camping site to replace Oak Flat. At a public meeting at Top of the World/JI Ranch, people said they definitely did not want a public campground near there. Grounlan Ranch & Devil's Canyon are two other sites that have been considered.

The Historic Preservation Task Force, Pamela Rabago and Lynn Martin, met to discuss the areas they're interested in. The primary objective is ultimately to evaluate and preserve historic resources in and around Superior. These include old Resolution (Magma) buildings associated with past mining including the stack, powerhouse, and a number of brick buildings nearby. The Solado prehistoric site should be investigated further. There is also interest in evaluating sites around the Hewitt Station Road area. Finally, it is reported that Resolution may be interested in purchasing the old Harding School and using it for a mining museum, which this group strongly supports. Rabago noted that there have been past efforts to do surveys on buildings to determine their historic significance, but neither the Town nor the property owners wanted to pay for these. Several other people who might have interest or knowledge, including the

Superior Historical Society, were suggested as contacts. The task force will ask Resolution for information about the area included in the Mine Plan of Operations to see which historic/prehistoric sites are within the affected areas. Jim Schenck wondered what the thinking is on the Salado ruins site; reportedly it is owned by BHP, and group members not sure what ADOT's role and responsibility is for the area adjacent to the new highway improvements. It was suggested that Resolution should meet with Jesse Gutierrez, the head engineer for the ADOT project.

Book Report on *Boom, Bust, Boom*

All

Most members of the group have read the book. Some felt it was biased against copper mining, and some mentioned that there were a number of inaccuracies and some outdated information. It was noted that we should keep in mind that the book is mainly about the history of mining, which has often been bad, even though some in this community have a more positive view of Resolution Copper Company. Roy Chavez said he had met the author a year ago, and learned something about how and why he wrote the book based on a personal experience. It was observed that the copper is here, and someone will mine it; if mining in the future is different it will be because of increased laws and regulations. One member was skeptical of the author's starting premise, since it is very unlikely that the implied arsenic food contamination could have happened.

Another member said that the perspective of people who live in historical mining communities is different from the general public. Copper mining is "the devil you have to dance with" in the end, since it's been going on for thousands of years, and modern society cannot live without copper. Even renewable energy depends on copper to a large extent. On the positive side, large mining companies have developed processes to overcome the changing challenges faced throughout the world, and have had some successes with communities. A member noted that the last word in the book is "compromise", and suggested that it's up to us as a community to improve the process and develop the next thing that might help communities in the future. It's up to us and our community leaders to understand the corporate approach and "push it" so it's more of a benefit to the community. We (this community) should be establishing the sustainability models, and fostering continuity in the approaches that are used everywhere, because one negative experience hurts everyone.

A member observed that the main message of the book is that the economic base of the area needs to diversify, or it will be a 'boom, bust, boom' situation here again. He wondered, parenthetically, who funded the author for all the travel he undertook in writing the book. Another member noted that while the mining industry is diversifying, the affected communities are not, which is partly why the boom/bust syndrome happens. He pointed out that the Copper Triangle communities are stagnant, with very few young people graduating from the schools and drawing state education funds. The group agreed that, at the end of the day, no one can guarantee the outcome of mining projects. Resolution noted, however, that the idea of 'leave it

better than it was' is common in the mining industry, and there are many good and honest people in the industry who do strive to support their communities.

A member wondered what the Superior community would be like if Resolution wasn't here today? Several observed that there was a long period of time when there was no mining here, and the leadership of this community had 20 years to do something different. It was felt that they had misspent funds and built up a huge debt that will never be recovered because the population base is not sufficient anymore to pay it off.

Godec asked the group whether, perhaps, a message is that we as a society are trading off economic prosperity for environmental impacts. Members thought that this is true for all industries, not just for mining, and all have left environmental disasters in their wake. Resolution started with a \$50-million commitment to clean up after Magma, so we need to take each mine and each company individually and not lump them all together. Each of the Copper Corridor communities have unique relationships with the mining companies, and Superior has an opportunity to take the lead on developing a "new framework" for mining because we have access to resources and to willing partners in Resolution. The Arboretum director also emphasized that Boyce Thompson Arboretum can be an anchor in regional redevelopment.

Godec observed that the CWG has done a very good job in keeping an open mind, even though members include both supporters of the project and opponents as well as those who are neutral. He thought this book also did an effective job pointing out both the positive and negative aspects of copper mining, which is why he suggested the group might want to read it.

Open Discussion

Some of the group wanted more information about recent layoffs. Schenk explained that Cementation, a contractor, is laying off some staff because the No. 10 Shaft is completed. When the pumphouse is completed in July, there will be about 50 additional layoffs. Before further excavation can be done, Resolution needs to do more geological investigation. Resolution said they will also be hiring some people to do environmental work on the West Plant. The cycles of what needs to be done at any given period of time will always change, as will the types and numbers of jobs.

Mark Siegwarth told the group that he has been contacted by several media representative for opinions about the project. Godec agreed that it's possible that members of this group may be approached by media in future. He wondered if the group would like to appoint someone to be the media contact. There was discussion about this, but no decision was made.

The group talked about differences between the way Resolution operates with the community and the way previous companies did so. Long-time residents said there is a big difference, due both to new laws and regulations and to internal Rio Tinto policies, i.e. their concept of a 'social license to operate'. Schenk talked about the evolution of this policy, which is not a legal requirement, but has evolved through working with communities worldwide.

Godec asked the group whether it wanted representation from broader Copper Triangle communities. Members felt that it depends on whether these communities have a vested interest and are to be included in funding. The Copper Corridor Economic Development Corporation was suggested as a possible member, but the group is reluctant to become too heavily weighted with economic development representation. They agreed that the ultimate goal of inviting other communities should be more clearly defined. The Community Investment Subcommittee is suggesting that those communities be involved in exploring the nature of a charitable foundation, or similar.

There were questions about what has happened to those who used to come to meetings and no longer do. Godec summarized his discussions with some of these organizations. The group feels strongly that if new people are invited they need to commit to coming to meetings on a regular basis.

Godec asked the group if they would like to take time off in the summer. Several members can't make the August meeting, so perhaps we will cancel that one.

In reviewing the list of topics that group is interested in learning more about, Godec said he's contacted the Arizona Department of Health Services for an update on the Superior Health study that was previously presented. Based on tonight's discussion, the facilitator will invite Tonto National Forest to speak with the group about the new Travel Management Plan as soon as possible.

Public Questions & Comments

Greg Williams introduced himself; he's a mining engineer who has been living in Superior for about two years. He read the *Boom, Bust, Boom* book a couple of years ago. He spent most of his career in the coal industry. Although he considers himself pro-mining, he's not necessarily 'pro-mining-company' because he's seen what goes on behind closed doors. He's a senior project engineer at Ray Mine now, and is very interested in copper mining and the issues surrounding it. He's glad to see this kind of community involvement as evidenced in this group.

Future Meeting Planning

Next Meeting:

5:30 PM

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Superior Chamber of Commerce

Tonto National Forest will be invited to talk about the Travel Management Plan.