

Meeting #38  
**November 11, 2015**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison  
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch  
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College  
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail  
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance  
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Matt Nelson – Arizona Trail Association  
Michael Lira – Central Arizona College  
Evelyn Vargas – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center  
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
Arlynn Godinez, Superintendent - Superior Unified School District  
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Jim Schenk – Manager for Communities & Social Performance  
Vicky Peacey - Senior Manager of Approvals, Communities & Environment  
Kami Ballard – Environmental and Permitting Specialist

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

John Godec  
Debra Duerr

*Public Guests:*

Nathan Higgenbottom – University of Arizona  
Tara Kitcheyan – Resolution Copper

## Housekeeping

John Godec thanked everyone for coming, particularly since it's Veterans Day. CWG military veterans were recognized and thanked with a round of applause from their fellow members. Godec asked the group to introduce themselves. Bill Vogler noted that the Superior Copper Alliance has changed its name to The Copper Community Alliance.

Godec asked the group for their impressions of the underground mine tour that was held for CWG members over the last two days. Everyone who attended thought the tour was extremely interesting and informative.

## Update on Visual Simulations

Kami Ballard, Resolution Copper Company

Kami Ballard told the group that some work has been completed on the visual simulation project being conducted by Resolution's consultant, TruScape. Tony Coggan, of TruScape, will be here at the next meeting to provide more information on the process and to update the group on progress. Although there will be a number of sites included in the overall effort, the first activity is working on the tailings site. About 44 potential viewpoints have been identified as a basis for preparing simulations of the tailings facility, and scaled photographs of those sites have been constructed. For the meeting next month, Ballard said TruScape will prepare two test 'true views' to show the group; these will be a simulation of the tailings pile at 40 years. She asked the group to assist in picking two locations from which to prepare these for the next meeting. After reviewing the photos and discussing their pros and cons, they suggested:

- √ Queen Valley, at Charlotte Street
- √ Arizona Trail, on Montana Mountain

The group did not think many of the photo locations were optimal or truly representative, and suggested several other locations that would be either better or more heavily-visited sites. A better viewpoint along Highway 60 was suggested to replace the one that's already been photographed. Also, the location of the new Boyce Thompson Arboretum office near the parking lot was suggested as a more sensitive place than the entry drive. Route 172 near Hewitt Station is also a desired viewpoint since this is a primary off-road recreation route. Because there was concern about the safety of trying to take photos from some of the suggested sites, Bruce Wittig of Queen Valley Fire Department offered to furnish an emergency vehicle to escort and help protect people who might go out to take photographs along the highway. The group asked how long the simulation process will take; Ballard speculated that the finished product will take several months.

Group members observed that it's very important to select the most appropriate viewpoints that the general public will agree are representative, since the tailings are likely to be a controversial aspect of the project. They mentioned recent tailings accidents as an issue compounding public concern.

## Leadership Changes at Resolution

Vicky Peacey, Resolution Copper Company

Vicky Peacey updated the CWG on a number of recent staffing changes that have occurred at Resolution. Tom Goodell, the leader of Underground, will be retiring. James Almos, manager of West Plant, will also retire; his replacement is not known yet. Health and Safety Manager Tim Fox is taking another job at Rio Tinto. A new Communications Manager will also be joining to replace Bruce Richardson who left nearly two years ago; his name is Bill Tanner, an American who formerly worked for Shell. Chris Pascoe, a Mining Engineer, has found another position. Ian Edgar, Manager of Studies, has left the company and recruitment is underway for his replacement. Peacey will no longer be managing Communities, but will concentrate on permitting and environmental studies. A new Communities Manager, Diego Ortega, will be joining Resolution in the next several weeks from Rio Tinto in Peru.

Group members were very concerned about losing Vicky in the community liaison role. They think this will be a difficult transition for the public, who have a high level of trust in her. Recognizing that the new person may have a lot of experience in this practice, they told Peacey, "He's not you to this community." They wondered who would be conducting public meetings in future, and suggested that Vicky participate in meetings with Mr. Ortega to provide a smoother transition. Likewise, they were sad to hear that Ian Edgar is leaving, as he has been a great asset to the CWG and is also well-respected by them.

## Task Force Reports

The **Historic Preservation Task Force** met recently for a presentation about the structural integrity of the smelter stack, provided by Resolution's consultant Arcadis. Task Force members were grateful for this comprehensive presentation, and summarized some of the concerns and technical information discussed at the meeting. The engineers' conclusion is that the stack is at risk of collapsing at some point in the future, as it is vulnerable to either seismic activity or strong winds. They estimate costs for the option of demolishing the stack at less than \$2 million, while a preservation/rehabilitation option would be over \$11 million. As suggested by the Task Force, the next steps are for Resolution to evaluate costs of rehabilitating the historic buildings near the smelter, to get more detailed costs for both demolition and reconstruction of the stack, and to estimate costs for constructing a replica stack, in the interest of cost and public safety, while maintaining this important symbol of Superior. Resolution noted that they would like to have a plan in place by 2020.

CWG members were divided in their opinions about whether to demolish the stack or try to preserve it. Some thought it should be demolished, since that option is so much cheaper, and use the remainder of the money estimated for reconstruction to build a museum and other tourist attractions. Others felt that the visual and historically-symbolic importance of the stack to the image of Superior suggested that it should be preserved. The Arboretum representative mentioned that he has a beautiful photograph of Superior and the stack dating from 1932, which he wanted the group to look at before recommending demolition. A member who had

previously worked at the site found that asbestos proved to be a problem in working on the buildings, and there is also some amount of arsenic. There was discussion about the potential level of asbestos concern and necessary treatment. Arsenic was not thought to be a significant problem.

The **Recreation User Group** will be meeting on November 30 to talk with a Tonto National Forest representative about what might be needed for a comprehensive Environmental Assessment of regional recreation plans and projects.

Godec suggested that it would be good to get the **Community Investment Subcommittee** together again soon. Jim Schenck said he would discuss this with Dave Richins.

Another new task force will be assembled to discuss the concept of identifying exchange conservation lands for the area lost to the tailings facility. The Arizona Trail representative said they would like to be involved with this.

### **CWG Scoping Comments for Environmental Impact Statement**

The facilitators have reviewed past CWG meetings to identify comments, suggestions, and concerns expressed by the group that may relate to development of the project EIS. For discussion purposes, these were divided into categories similar to those that will be studied in the EIS, and were expressed as either impact concerns or mitigation recommendations. The group agreed that over time they have discussed aspects of almost all relevant topics, including water quality and quantity, socioeconomics, recreation, cultural resources, ecological resources, air quality, noise, visual resources, public health and safety, as well as aspects of the project description and alternatives. Debra Duerr explained how the EIS would be organized, and how scoping comments would be incorporated. She said that if the group wished to develop comments for submission during the scoping period, these could be organized in any way they wish and could address any topics they choose as most important in guiding EIS studies. The facilitators will assist and support the group in this effort in any way they request.

Most members suggested that the best approach would be to concentrate on the main issues of concern to the group, noting that they should do what's most comfortable for the group. It was noted that positive comments can also be made, not just negative. A member reminded the group that the scoping process is mainly to identify issues, and there will be another opportunity to comment on what the Forest Service does with those when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comes out; at that time, the CWG can say what they think of the analyses. One member summarized by saying, "We need to tell them what we know, what we're concerned about, and how we feel about it."

There seemed to be agreement that the next step would be for members to consider the issues most important to each, and we will work on assembling and refining these at future meetings. It is currently thought that scoping will be starting in January 2016. The length of the scoping period is not known, but members thought it should be 90 days.

Two specific topics were discussed at some length. The facilitators had listed the proposed block cave mining method as an issue of possible concern that had previously been expressed by one member of the group. Few of the members attending were actually concerned about this, however. The group thought the selection of the mining method was Resolution's business, and if the mining method impacted the viability of the project the community would suffer through loss of local investments. Several members suggested that what the community cares about is the impacts of the project rather than the design of the project itself.

Another issue relates to the expressed desire of the CWG to have a better understanding of the status of Oak Flat, given the intensity of national media and organizational interest in this subject. The CWG member of the San Carlos community explained to the group that the first Sunrise Ceremony at Oak Flat was held in 2012, contrary to the assertion that it has a long tradition of such ceremonies. She said there are a number of other ceremonial sites on the reservation, including four holy dance sites where Sunrise Ceremonies will be held in the future. She felt that there are many rumors being spread. For example, some Hollywood celebrities have promoted the idea that Oak Flat "is equal to Mt. Sanai", but it isn't. A recent petition by the Center for Biological Diversity was mentioned in which they claim to have gained 1 million signatures requesting reversal of the land exchange legislation to protect Oak Flat due to its sacred status. Godec said his understanding is that the Tonto National Forest now recognizes Oak Flat as a sacred site; some CWG members, however, thought that was not the case. The group said these are examples of why more facts and clarity are needed about this issue, rather than political posturing resulting in misinformation and rumors.

### **Future Meeting Planning**

It was reported that San Carlos Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler will be making a presentation to the Town of Superior Council tomorrow evening, November 12.

The group decided to cancel a tentative special meeting on December 2 that was planned to discuss scoping comments. There will be only the one regular meeting in December on Wednesday the 9th.

### **Public Questions & Comments**

There were no public comments. The meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

### **Next Meeting**

The next CWG Meeting will be:  
*5:30 PM*  
*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*  
*Superior Chamber of Commerce*

The main topic will be visual simulations of the tailings site.