

Meeting #41
February 10, 2016
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident

Community Working Group members not present:

Evelyn Vargas – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Arlynn Godinez - Superior Unified School District

Resolution Copper Company:

No representatives, by request of the CWG

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec
Debra Duerr

Public Guests:

Steve Holmquist
Nathan Higgenbottom
Guest, did not sign in

Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone. He said that Vicky Peacey suggested that Resolution staff not attend this meeting so that the members could discuss their issues and concerns candidly. The focus of tonight's meeting is on finishing the comments the group would like to submit for the EIS scoping process. The compendium of issues is included in the group packets. We will be discussing each of these.

CWG Subcommittee Status

Godec gave a brief update on the status of CWG subcommittees and task forces, as follows:

Recreation User Group: The Recreation User Group met earlier today, February 10, to update the Tonto National Forest on the status of joint trail planning. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13 at 10:00 AM. In the meantime, Mary Morissette of Resolution will be meeting individually with user groups to identify conflicts and opportunities in the mapped proposals.

Community Monitoring Task Force: The first Community Monitoring Task Force meeting was held on Monday, February 8. Resolution showed some of the tools they use to do sampling. They have decided to also take samples from near the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. The group talked about how they could select an independent sampling company to check what Resolution does. Sampling wells are now installed. The group visited the Arboretum and other sampling sites including Martinez (70-foot-deep well) and Castlebury (25-foot well). Background sampling will be collected for some months to establish baseline conditions before any emissions begin. Releases to Queen Creek will probably begin in Fall 2016. The purpose of this group is to oversee what Resolution will be doing, so that the process is credible and transparent to the community. Independent samples will be sent to a different laboratory than concurrent Resolution samples at any given time. There was discussion of current releases from the Superior sewage treatment plant to Queen Creek and how they might relate to Resolution releases. Godec suggested that Dr. Jeff Bunkelmann might like to look at the list of contaminants that Casey McKeon has developed. Hank Gutierrez asked to be added to this task force.

Recreation & Access Task Force: A follow-up meeting of the former Recreation & Access Task Force was held on Thursday, February 4 with Ann Thomas, Rebecca Hoffmann, and Christine Crawford of Tonto National Forest to discuss travel management. The final Environmental Assessment (EA) on the plan is supposed to be finished in April, and the Forest Service is leaning towards Alternative C. They have funds to block closed roads and funds to mark open roads. They will spend another year or so developing an implementation plan that looks at each road to determine status and maintenance requirements. One particular road of interest to Superior residents (FR 1039) will be closed for administrative use, mainly because there is a piece of private land for which the government does not have an easement; if an easement can be obtained in future this status will be reviewed. A CWG member asked about the status of air quality enforcement for dust around the Queen Valley/Hewitt Station Road area; Pinal County has agreed informally to work with residents on this issue although there is no current contract between the county and Forest Service.

Conservation Lands Task Force: The Conservation Lands Task Force has not been convened yet, although several contacts have been made, including Superstition Area Land Trust. Godec will work with Fred Gaudet and Vicky Peacey to further coordinate this group.

Historic Preservation Task Force: The Historic Preservation task force reported that they are waiting for Resolution to prepare additional cost estimates for options for the smelter stack and associated buildings. The group does not want to see the stack demolished, but prefers rehabilitation even though more costly.

Community Investment Subcommittee: A Community Investment Subcommittee meeting will be set up soon with Diego Ortega.

Continued Discussion of CWG Scoping Comments

All

Godec reviewed again the proposed schedule for the Resolution Copper Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The public scoping process will be starting very soon. He asked the group to think about this question while reviewing the issues list tonight: *“What questions would you like the EIS to answer?”*

A CWG member reported that a scoping meeting appears to have been scheduled in March in Queen Valley. Several members noted that some of these comments listed in the draft scoping letter have been answered for the CWG, but they are being asked because the larger community needs to have answers to these questions. Members reiterated that jobs are a concern of paramount importance to the community.

The group discussed each of the issues that had been assembled by the facilitators from all previous CWG meetings, and decided which of these to carry forward into a group scoping letter to the Forest Service. Due to time, not all of the issues were addressed, and members agreed to complete this task at the next meeting. The facilitators will craft a draft scoping letter based on what was discussed tonight, and send it to all members for input before the March CWG meeting.

There was a request to invite the new State Land Director to a future CWG meeting to discuss the current thinking on use of the Superstition Vistas parcel for tailings.

Public Questions & Comments

There were no questions or comments from the public in attendance.

Next Meeting

The facilitators cannot attend on the regular date of the second Wednesday in March, and asked the group if they would be willing to change it. The group agreed to meet on the third Wednesday.

5:30 PM

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Superior Chamber of Commerce