

Meeting #42
March 15, 2016
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College
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
Karen Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe

Community Working Group members not present:

Frank Stapleton – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident

Resolution Copper Company:

No representatives, by request of the CWG

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec
Debra Duerr

Public Guests:

Rosemary Barba – Superior resident
Autumn Giles – Globe Miami Times
Saunders Sanner – local resident

Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone, and asked attendees to introduce themselves as there were a couple of visitors to the meeting tonight. He thanked people for being flexible about changing the date of the meeting. Several members were not able to attend due to illness or travel. He pointed out that Resolution staff are not attending this meeting so that the members can

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 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process. The compendium of issues is included in the group packets, with those that were discussed at the last meeting as well as those we need to cover tonight.

Godec told the group that he has spoken with Mark Stapp from Arizona State University, executive director of the Master of Real Estate program at Cary School, about coming to talk with the group about their interest in the topic of real estate. Mr. Stapp has agreed to speak with the CWG at the September meeting. If the group has any other suggestions about real estate experts or contacts, they would be welcome. A group member mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce says there are less than 12 houses for sale in Superior at this time, indicating increased interest in the community. Another said that Susan Stewart, the main real estate agent of Queen Valley, is also very busy with home sales there.

Members reported that the Mining Festival was a great success. The Chamber estimated that about 4,000 people attended, and some vendors ran out of food. Members complimented Cecil Fendley on the performances by his band, who played at the festival.

CWG Subcommittee Status

None of the subcommittees have had any activity since the last meeting.

Continued Discussion of CWG Scoping Comments

All

Godec reviewed again the process the facilitators used to assemble the list of issues for discussion. He said that some of the responses from the last meeting were rather surprising. It seems that some of the issues that were once of concern to this group are no longer of concern. He reminded members of the purpose of the CWG, showing them the description on their web site. He noted that members of the group represent the larger community, but members have more knowledge of the Resolution Copper Project than most people in the region. He speculated that this group may have gained answers to a lot of the questions they once had, and so do not feel the need to raise these issues in their scoping letter.

He observed that the purpose of the EIS is to take everything from "ground zero", as if nothing has happened yet, so that the Forest Service can look at the project independently, with fresh eyes. Therefore, he asked if there is value in the EIS looking at most or all of the issues this group has looked at in the past few years. Members felt that the general public should have the opportunity to learn the same things, and the EIS should discuss them. Some felt it wasn't fair not to include some major issues just because this group has gotten satisfactory answers to these questions. On the other hand, some felt that mentioning every issue that's been discussed may diminish the work this group has done in learning and imparting what they learn to their constituents and neighbors.

It was agreed that the scoping letter could say something like “We have looked at these issues and believe they will be adequately addressed by Resolution, but we think the EIS should present an independent review and disclosure of them.” This group should prioritize the issues they are most concerned about. A member offered that when she explains what this group does she says that we identify concerns, from most to least important, get information and invite experts, and then let the community know. All agreed that this is a good explanation.

A member asked if the public scoping process has started. The facilitator answered that the official start of the process should happen upon publication of the *Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS* in the Federal Register, which he understands will occur this Friday, March 18. Public scoping meetings have been tentatively scheduled starting in Queen Valley on March 31, with others to follow in Superior, Globe, and the East Valley, probably the next week. Godec will send the final dates and locations to the group as he learns them.

For the rest of the meeting, the CWG reviewed and agreed on the remainder of issues they wish to include in their scoping letter. The facilitators will prepare a draft letter for group members to review before the next CWG meeting.

Public Questions & Comments

A visitor asked where the community gets water from, and whether there is a cap on it. Where does the mine get its water from? Can they use rainwater? CWG members answered these questions, and noted that the majority of water to be used for the mine will come from Central Arizona Project agricultural water.

Another visitor who has owned a house in Superior for 10 years said she ran into someone who was very against the mine. He showed her some materials of past mining problems and predicted problems from this one. She’s very interested in learning more about impacts of the project, and indicated that she will probably attend more CWG meetings in the future. A guest asked how the categories of scoping issues were developed. Debra Duerr explained that the categories selected for the CWG process mirror the topics as they are categorized and generally addressed in federal Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CWG will be held at the normal time. The Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens group has been invited and tentatively agreed to discuss their mine and tailings models and displays that they have been sharing to groups around the region. The CWG was very interested in seeing this presentation.

5:30 PM
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Superior Chamber of Commerce