

Meeting #60  
November 8, 2017  
MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch  
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College  
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department  
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison  
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners  
Henry Munoz – Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners  
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
Tiffany Rowell – Superior resident  
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association  
Sy Sohmer – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Marcos Rodriguez – Central Arizona College  
Sylvia Werre – Top of the World  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board  
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail  
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Melissa Rabago  
Lisa Dean

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

John Godec  
Debra Duerr

*Speakers:*

none

*Public Guests:*

Mila Besich-Lira – Town of Superior Mayor  
Larry Johnson – consultant with Superior Chamber of Commerce  
DeLores Hatfield  
Melvin Werre  
David Gunn  
Mike Lin – Town of Superior

## **Introductions & Housekeeping**

John Godec announced that we have two new CWG members joining tonight. Marcos Rodriguez is a student from Central Arizona College who has agreed to join the group. Godec thanked Dr. Bunkleemann for helping to arrange this. Rodriguez told the group that he was valedictorian in high school and received an engineering scholarship to college. Henry Munoz has also agreed to join the CWG to represent the Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens. Munoz said he was born and raised in Superior, was an underground miner for many years both here and at San Manuel, and served on the Town Council; he just retired. His main concern is the safety and well-being of the community and its residents. Godec asked CWG members to introduce themselves and welcome the new members.

He introduced the discussion topic for the meeting, which is the draft recreation plan developed by the Recreation User Group (RUG), a subcommittee of the CWG. Godec asked that the RUG members present tonight help to present the plan. The Mayor has also been invited to talk about the Town of Superior's perspective, since they have a major stake in this effort.

Hank Gutierrez reported on the Forest Service 2017 International Seminar on Mining held in October. He, Fernando Shipley, and Karen Jones represented the CWG in speaking to this group about the CWG and the role of community involvement in the Resolution Copper Mine project. He thought the group was particularly impressed with Karen Jones, who introduced herself in the traditional manner noting her clan connections and background. Gutierrez observed that the group this year was younger and quite engaged. Many were senior government officials, managers, and lawyers in their countries, of which 16 were represented. They had a number of questions for the CWG including how they are funded, how they can operate without a formal legal status, and whether they have any power. This concept seems to be unfamiliar to many countries, where such groups tend to be more formalized. Some were concerned that their governments were too corrupt to undertake this kind of program. Hank observed that the CWG is unusual even on a global scale, and has "standing" with this international group because of the discussions at the last two years' conferences. A suggestion regarding funding was that the CWG should be included in Resolution's Mine Plan of Operations as a mitigation commitment.

The Town Manager announced that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will be holding a second hearing at Town Hall on Monday 11/13 at 6:00 PM about Resolution Copper's water discharge permit.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

The RUG will meet tomorrow morning, November 9, to try to finalize the multi-use trail map and approach to the plan.

The Community Monitoring Task Force should be doing the last quarterly sampling this month. Previously, this has been done on the last Thursday of the month. The facilitators will check with Resolution and Southwest Groundwater to arrange this.

## Recreation User Group Semi-Final Trail Plan Discussion

RUG Members

The proposed trail system, as currently configured, was shown on a slide and copies of the map were included in the CWG meeting packets.

Mayor Lira said this plan came to be because of the Legends of Superior Trail (LOST), which was the original trail in the area. When it was realized that many user groups wanted to expand opportunities in the Superior area, the idea of joint planning emerged. Because many of these groups were approaching the Forest Service separately, Pablo Burghard suggested combining their efforts to develop a comprehensive trail system. The RUG realizes that they can't do everybody's 'wish list' all at once, but needs to break it into smaller pieces. She noted that nobody got everything they wanted but everybody got something. Keep in mind that this is just a paper plan at the moment, and surveys of on-the-ground conditions will help to refine and finalize it. Once a plan is agreed to, it will be submitted to the Tonto National Forest (TNF) to be evaluated as a system in an Environmental Assessment (EA). A RUG member pointed out that some of this might be considered "offsets" for the mine development, which is one reason TNF is involved. The Mayor thinks that it's important to have a broader public review and then submit this to the Forest Service.

Godec explained how the RUG was set up with support requested from Resolution. Resolution agreed as long as the study stayed at an EA level to manage costs. The company has provided staff, logistical, and financial support to prepare an EA application for the Forest Service, and will perform environmental survey of the selected routes.

The planning process includes all the recreation groups who use the area and have a desire for improved facilities and opportunities for their users. Members include International Mountain Bicycling Association, equestrians, Tonto Recreation Alliance, Queen Creek Coalition, Arizona Trail Association, and the Town of Superior in addition to the Legends of Superior Trail and CWG. Over the past two years the group has developed a proposed map of a comprehensive trails system that is limited by geography to fit an EA. Resolution will prepare a written proposal to be sent to the Forest Service as the basis of an environmental review. The RUG is hoping to finalize the map of the trail system at their meeting tomorrow.

Godec suggested that it would be a good idea to hold a public meeting before this plan is submitted to the Forest Service. The meeting could be hosted by the RUG, the CWG, and the Town of Superior. The Mayor agrees with this approach, but said this should not happen until sometime next year. At present, there are several other recreational plans that are being developed (Tonto National Forest Comprehensive Plan, Arizona Trail Comprehensive Plan, TNF Travel Management Plan, Legends of Superior Trail just approved), so we should try to avoid public confusion over all these. The number of public meetings and target audiences were discussed. This topic will be further discussed when the plan is more complete.

RUG members emphasized that this first plan is a sort of pilot plan that may be expanded in future. At this time, there are limitations on budget and practicality of construction. It is a multi-use plan that includes both motorized and non-motorized trails to accommodate several uses. There are about 57 miles of new trails involved; construction is not the major issue here, but maintenance is the greater concern. Tonto Recreation Alliance (TRAL) is one organization that partners with the Forest Service to build and maintain trails on the National Forest. Due to lack of adequate funding, the Forest Service would otherwise shut the trails down if they can't be maintained.

Of note is that the LOST is not included in this plan, as it was reviewed separately. The Forest Service recently agreed to the proposed LOST realignment through Arnett Canyon. The Town Manager distributed a map showing the concept for extension of the LOST into the Town of Superior. He has talked with BHP about the next connection that's needed, and BHP's Mr. Reese has agreed to discuss private property segments between the airport and town.

Most of the RUG plan is located southwest of Superior in the area between the Boyce Thompson Arboretum and the high school and from US 60 south to the Tonto National Forest boundary. A member wondered if there is a shorter route from the Arizona Trail into town; ADOT is not in favor of having foot traffic along the highway for safety reasons. Once this plan is build, recreationists would not need to use the highway at all to get to Superior. Signage will need to be a component of a system.

Larger objectives include recreation opportunities, outdoor recreation for health, and economic development opportunities for the town and region. The CWG thought of several business support activities that might fit with these recreation activities. It was mentioned that town code may not allow horses. A Chamber of Commerce representative said that many visitors ask for maps and information about trails in the area.

In discussing the plan, several CWG members wondered whether it includes any camping facilities, because OHV and mountain bikers like to camp out. The Castleberry area has been proposed as a staging and camping area, but the presence of cultural resources needs to be considered here. Camping rules along the Arizona Trail and on public lands were discussed. Group members wondered who would monitor this; all agreed that monitoring and enforcement are issues of concern in the long term.

It was thought that the Queen Valley community would be in favor of this plan, as it presents new opportunities for off-highway vehicle use. It was clarified that the only new motorized trails would be width-limited for motorcycles, so would not add to the larger OHV trail system.

A group member asked if there is any provision for rest rooms along this system. It was noted that the Forest Service doesn't want to build new toilets because they don't want to maintain them. Long-term maintenance was considered the major concern, and it was noted that the TNF will want to know the maintenance plan before they approve new trails. In this regard, public-private partnerships will be critical.

The group discussed questions regarding the interface of the RUG recreation plan with the Apache Leap Special Management Area (ALSMA) because of the rock climbing element that uses the Leap. Due to the complexity of this issue, the RUG decided to drop consideration of any trails in this vicinity from its initial plan. Queen Creek Coalition, however, had historic conversations and commitments about access for rock climbing that they want to see included. There is also a plan to have a trail at the base of Apache Leap that would connect to the LOST and Old Highway 60 at the tunnel. There will be further explorations of this issue as Forest Service and Resolution Copper plans are solidified.

Godec asked the group what they thought the community might be concerned about. Suggestions were **parking, camping, trash, maintenance, crime and law enforcement from visitors, emergency response for accidents, and private property infringement if any.** Regarding public safety, it's important to think about increased traffic and level of emergency response from Superior and Queen Valley fire departments. Perhaps a Sheriff substation would be warranted here. It was pointed out that the County also has issues on Forest Service lands.

The group felt that there should be answers for questions of maintenance, funding, and management before the plan is offered for public review. An argument in favor of this approach is that we're getting ahead of potential impacts and planning for them, rather than just trying to respond to unintended consequences. Possible lessons to be learned from Moab, a world-class mountain biking center, were discussed. Examples of other areas that were 'ruined' by target shooting and misbehavior were mentioned. **In conclusion, the CWG urged that the RUG plan must include strategies for implementation, monitoring, and maintenance.**

**Public Comments** - There were no comments from public visitors.

### **Future Meeting Planning & Next Meeting**

The CWG had requested a briefing on the status of BHP's property around Superior. Todd Pryor reported that BHP has 158 acres and 56 properties in town including many vacant lots that used to be mine housing; six of these will be given to Habitat as soon as 2019. Reportedly, they are not holding their land for development, and have tentatively agreed to give the town an access corridor. They still own most of the green space in Superior including about a mile of Queen Creek and the south undeveloped part of town. Godec will consult with Resolution's Lisa Dean to see if this conversation can be expedited, and will provide background information to her.

The CWG also wants to review this year's well sampling test results by Southwest Groundwater.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, **December 13, 2017**  
Superior Chamber of Commerce  
6:00pm*