

**January 10, 2018**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department  
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior  
Sy Sohmer – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Sylvia Werre – Top of the World  
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board  
Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association  
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County  
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College  
Marcos Rodriguez – Central Arizona College  
George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch  
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior  
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners  
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community  
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Henry Munoz – Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Melissa Rabago – Manager of Communities  
Casey McKeon – Permits Manager  
Janeane Mancha – Permits Specialist

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

John Godec  
Debra Duerr

*Speakers:*

Kevin Hebert – Southwest Groundwater Consultants

*Public Guests:*

Jeff Payne - Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Melvin Werre – Top of the World  
Botha Ellis – Resolution Copper  
Jonathan Ward – Resolution Copper  
Jerri Mentzer – Top of the World

## **Introductions & Housekeeping**

John Godec noted that there are quite a few members absent tonight, with some being ill and others having conflicts. He invited Resolution and Southwest Groundwater folks to leave after their presentations if they choose.

Jeff Bunkleemann has informed the facilitators that our student representative will be changing his class schedule and so will not be able to participate in CWG meetings in future. Dr. Bunkleemann is looking for another student to replace Marcos.

## **Recreation User Group, Historic Preservation, Community Monitoring Updates**

The RUG met this morning to work on finalizing the multi-use trail map and supporting features like staging areas. At the meeting today, all the user groups worked collaboratively on refining and making additions to the plan, and were happy with their progress. Westland Resources will prepare another edition of the map and then start to conduct ground-truthing on new routes. This information will be posted online soon, if CWG member are interested in looking at it. The plan should be completed relatively soon. The RUG is hoping to have a public meeting before the plan is submitted to the Forest Service. The Forest Service participation in the RUG has been very valuable in early avoidance of problems. The RUG will continue working on the plan at their next meeting on February 14.

On behalf of the Community Monitoring Task Force, Southwest Groundwater Consultants are here tonight to discuss results of the sampling from 2017.

## **Report & Discussion of 2017 Community Monitoring Task Force Well Sampling Program**

Kevin Hebert – Southwest Groundwater Consultants (SGC)

Godec introduced the discussion, for the benefit of visitors, and provided background to the community monitoring effort. He said the CWG hired its own consultant to take quarterly groundwater samples to establish baseline conditions, along with Resolution Copper, and sends the samples to an independent testing laboratory.

Kevin Hebert said he has all four quarters of data to present tonight. He explained that they have done four samples at the same time as Resolution, in February, May, August, and November. The first samples were from the Gallery well and Ayres Lake at Boyce Thompson Arboretum as well as the Castleberry well; in the following visits the lake was not sampled. For the fourth sampling a new well was added that is downgradient from the other sample locations. Well DSQ-17 was opened in 2017, near Hewitt Station and the proposed tailings site.

He showed the list of water quality parameters that are tested. SGC takes split samples with Resolution, and sends them to a different lab than one that Resolution uses for testing. Hebert explained that what they might look for as “red flags” would be order-of-magnitude differences from time to time; these samples do not show anything like that. Arsenic is the only parameter

that would exceed drinking water standards, but it's important to note that these are not drinking water wells. Arsenic is naturally-occurring in Arizona so it's not unusual to find it. These results are not unexpected since these are baseline studies, and nothing is happening at this time that would affect water quality. He observed that the water quality in the new monitor well is even better than that in the other wells. Hebert asked Resolution to confirm that the DSQ-17 well is the one near the tailings; Casey McKeon confirmed that it is near the toe of the tailings pile.

Godec asked the Queen Valley Water District representatives how they deal with arsenic. They said the levels in their wells are very low, and they do not need to treat for it. The only constituent that is occasionally high is nitrates, especially from flooding in wet years. Superior has arsenic in their drinking water wells, and they need to treat for it before delivery. Superior's water is purchased from Arizona Water Company in metropolitan Phoenix.

Janeane Mancha of Resolution reported that these data are very similar to the results they have received from their lab. This is to be expected.

Godec said that some CWG members have questioned why we're doing this testing now when nothing is happening. It's important to have baseline data to compare later on when Resolution starts discharging water to Queen Creek, and even later when mining begins and the tailings facility starts to operate. McKeon noted that about 8-12 sample rounds are optimal for establishing a reliable baseline condition. A member asked Resolution how long it will be until they start discharging to Queen Creek. McKeon said they need to update their existing permits with the State of Arizona first, so it will likely be more than a year.

In response to a question from a CWG member, McKeon explained that as #9 Shaft is developed to a depth of 7000 feet, the amount of discharge water will increase significantly. At this time, about 700-900 gallons per minute (gpm) flow into #10 Shaft, which is connected to #9 Shaft. The water treatment plant can handle 2500 gpm, which should be sufficient for several years. The discharge water is being sent to the farmers near Florence, under an agreement.

Janeane Mancha handed out data tables from Resolution's sampling. A member asked if the two sets of data could be consolidated into a single table for comparison. She showed photos of the Gallery well, noting that Resolution is installing a safety rail around it, which the CWG endorsed. She showed results from the new "Martins well" (DSQ-17) for which they only have one quarter of data. Both Resolution and Southwest Groundwater were surprised that arsenic was essentially not present ("non-detect") in the new well. Mancha showed results for the other wells, which are very similar to those obtained for Southwest Groundwater. Resolution uses the labs SCL, Test America, and ACZ Laboratories to test for various constituents; Southwest Groundwater uses XENCO in Tempe. All agreed that everything on these samples is below the reporting limit.

There was discussion about scheduling the next sampling event, tentatively for the third Thursday of February (15<sup>th</sup>).

A CWG member asked what would happen if there was a major discrepancy between the two samples. A re-sample would need to be performed as a first step. Then there may need to be regulatory review and possibly corrective actions. The chances of this happening, however, are very low.

It was pointed out that independent sampling will help foster water quality information credibility and confidence from the community.

A Top of the World resident asked what the water situation is there, since she's been gone for a couple of years. McKeon offered to find more information for her, and they exchanged contact information.

### **Review of Forest Service Decision on Apache Leap Special Management Area**

Godec said that the Forest Service had issued a decision on the Apache Leap Special Management Area. He reminded that group that they had submitted comments early in the planning process. Debra Duerr reported that the facilitators have reviewed the Decision to compare it to the CWG's submitted comments. In their opinion, the comments, concerns, and suggestions offered by the CWG have been satisfactorily addressed by the Tonto National Forest, with one exception. The Decision makes provision for continued motorized and nonmotorized access to the east and west sides of the ALSMA, considers the possibility of additional access development for FR 2440, provides for consideration of new nonmotorized trails within the area, and creates a process for consultation with the rock climbing community. The only uses specifically prohibited by the Decision are livestock grazing and overnight camping. The CWG does not agree with the closure of dispersed camping.

It was reported that some people in the community seem to feel the plan favors the tribes. The group was reminded that the law establishing the ALSMA specifically required tribal consultation (and Town of Superior consultation) in the primary interest of protecting cultural resources and traditional uses. The Forest Service has made modifications and accommodations for non-Native concerns and uses of the area in its Decision.

### **CWG 2018 Meeting Topics Planning and Commitment Discussion**

Godec said that he had hoped there would have been more members here tonight to participate in a conversation about CWG plans and meeting topics for the year. He pointed out the running list of topics that the group has indicated interest in, and asked members to review and add to it.

He noted that there has also been discussion about formulating some sort of binding agreement between the CWG and Resolution Copper. The CWG member who raised this question clarified that it was spurred by Resolution's past focus on social investment. He thinks the company has done a good job of establishing trust, but the importance of social concerns

can change as corporate policy and personnel change. He suggests that the CWG needs to be as rigorous as the company in pursuing its objectives. He gave examples of community monitoring programs in other locations being funded from escrow or community foundations, so that the commitment was firm. He's suggesting that the group seek funding guarantees in a formal way. It was suggested that the group should find out what the norms in other countries and states are. Several members suggested that Resolution should be thinking now about what they will do if the mine is permitted, and not wait until they get their permits to do anything.

CWG members discussed this idea considering recent changes in Resolution/Rio Tinto management, the company's perceptions of the CWG and its role in the community and usefulness, funding for the group's efforts including community monitoring, and whether there are other similar groups around the country. In general, the group believes that it represents a valuable historical information resource that has helped to educate the community and serve as a "constant" in the face of corporate and project changes. They feel that grassroots groups such as this are very important, as they represent democracy in action.

The group agreed that to continue this discussion at the next meeting when more members are present. Things to think about include what value the CWG represents to Resolution, what the group may want from Resolution, what the group wants to do and thinks is important, and the longer-term goals of the CWG. A goal of this discussion, which everyone needs to participate in, would be to decide whether to approach Resolution with some sort of a proposal.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, **February 14**, 2018*  
*Superior Chamber of Commerce*  
*6:00pm*