

**February 28, 2018**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

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

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Sy Sohmer – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Melissa Rabago – Communities Coordinator  
Hesston Klenk – Manager of Communities  
Filomena Cornelio – Manager of Communities

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

John Godec, Debra Duerr

*Speakers:*

Casey McKeon – Resolution Copper Permits Manager  
Andrew Lye – Resolution Copper Project Manager  
Avi Buckles – Westland Resources Archaeological Field Director  
Dennis Tucker – Arcadis Structural Engineer  
Kapil Vigh – Resolution Copper

*Public Guests:*

Melvin Werre – Top of the World  
Jonathan Ward – Resolution Copper  
Scott O'Mack – Westland Resources Principle Investigator  
Chris Garrett – SWCA  
Bo Deen – Resolution Copper  
Tina Gutierrez – Superior resident

## **Introductions & Housekeeping**

John Godec welcomed everyone, noting that because this meeting was rescheduled, our next meeting will be in two weeks, on March 14. He announced that Sy Sohmer from Boyce Thompson Arboretum has left Arizona, and the new interim director, Gaylyn Yanke, has been invited to replace him on the CWG. Godec introduced Hesston Klenk, who will be joining the CWG meetings as Resolution's new communities manager. Filomena Cornelio introduced herself, saying that she is new to Resolution and Arizona, and will be working with Hesston in social performance and communities.

The Chamber of Commerce said that the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mining Festival is coming up in two weeks. There will be live music, a kid's zone, and many activities. Godec asked the group to look for opportunities to hand out the CWG business cards if possible. A member suggested that perhaps a booth could be set up, and another said she will leave some at the Chamber where there will be speakers.

The Forest Service had a public meeting at Queen Valley on alternatives, which was basically the same presentation as they made to the CWG. This meeting was sponsored by the Retired Miners, but the Forest Service was invited to give a presentation.

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

The RUG met earlier this month and decided to meet again on March 14 to try to finalize the trail plan and map. Jim Schenck reported that the trail connection to the new LOST section and the Arizona Trail is being completed nicely.

The Community Monitoring Task Force, Southwest Groundwater Consultants, and Resolution performed a well sampling last week. They found that the well at Martins was very low, so it took several hours to get enough water to sample. Resolution is using a contractor (Montgomery Associates) to sample the Martin well, and the task force thought they did a very thorough job.

## **Resolution Copper Reclamation Plans for 2018**

Andrew Lye introduced Resolution's presentation on details of the company's reclamation plan at the West Plant site, which needs to be completed by November 2020. They have done a thorough evaluation of the stack and the associated buildings. Unfortunately, the conclusion is that all these structures need to be removed, remediated, and materials safely placed at the old tailings site. He acknowledged that there are historic and cultural resource concerns and questions in the community that will still need to be addressed to answer questions of how we can preserve the cultural heritage of Superior.

The company has briefed the Mayor and Town Manager, Resolution staff, and stakeholders, and will host a community meeting next Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00pm at the High School.

Casey McKeon explained the voluntary remediation program that Resolution participates in with the State of Arizona to clean up the old tailings. These are being placed in the old impoundment, where mine excavated materials are being mixed. The hillside behind the stack has had up to 3 feet of soil removed that were contaminated with arsenic, lead, and copper.

Because the stack is so tall, 300 feet, and is within the area of contaminated soil, a 300-foot area around it has been closed off to access for safety reasons. Detailed structural studies have been done about the stability of the stack and also about costs to remediate and rehabilitate it. The structure is unstable with the top 60 feet being 1 foot off center, so there are concerns that it could be compromised in certain situations like high winds and seismic vibrations. Dennis Tucker of Arcadis summarized the results of their structural engineering studies. The design was common in the 1910's and '20's by a New York company who built such stacks all over the world. Aging and thermal expansions/contractions over time are probably what caused the cracks. The smelter hasn't operated since the early 1970s, and the costs and feasibility of fixing it are not reasonable. Resolution also looked at whether the buildings could be rehabilitated. They are contaminated with arsenic on the exterior, friable asbestos inside, lead-based paint, and various oils, all of which create poor to fair conditions and not feasible to bring back for use.

A contract for demolition is planned to be awarded in the April-May timeframe this year, with demolition likely taking place in late September 2018. This will depend on establishing air quality, noise, and vibration monitoring protocols and systems beforehand. There are specialty explosive demolition companies who perform this kind of work. A hole will be cut in the base of the chimney, explosives will be inserted and detonated, and the chimney is expected to fall over "like a tree". McKeon handed out a Q&A sheet on smelter removal and reclamation for the group's information. This will be included on the company website.

A CWG member suggested that for safety reasons the buildings should perhaps be demolished after the stack so people aren't working around the stack if it's unsafe. Arcadis said they are not concerned about this because the stack is stable at this time. The buildings have a different mixture of hazardous materials that needs to be disposed of, and they do not want to have to separate the stack waste from that. All the demolition materials will be consolidated and disposed of at the #6 tailings facility on the north side of the property.

A CWG member asked about the levels of arsenic and contamination found from soils around the stack, which McKeon explained. The soil will be left in place before the stack is taken out. In response to a question about transmission of dust, McKeon said that demolition will not be performed if wind speeds are over 10-12 miles per hour. CWG members wondered if the media would be invited to the demolition. Resolution said they will hold media briefings, but the exact time of demolition may not be known until the last minute. A member noted that a video is available on YouTube from San Manuel that would give an idea of what will happen. CWG members asked whether any equipment from the plants will be preserved for a museum here in the community.

Avi Buckles is a historic archaeologist with Westland Resources who concentrates on mining history. He reported that for this project they will gather historic documentation and photos and prepare line drawings of the facilities that will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Westland will use drones to reproduce the plant digitally for use by others. David Lira and other community members will be interviewed for oral history purposes.

A question was asked about where these materials would be archived, and the Town Manager said they would obviously prefer to have them stay in town. It was noted that Globe has Old Dominion Park, which has exhibits of old mining features. Superior has a similar history walk that has never been finished; about 2 acres of 7 acres have been developed, so there is room for some more. Core samples from the old mining operation have been relocated to the industrial park, and these are of interest to geologists. Several CWG members felt that Resolution should purchase the Harding School and develop it as a mining museum. It was suggested that if the “noon bell” from the site could be found, it might be a good keepsake for the town in future. Several recalled the importance of this alarm while growing up in Superior. Another suggestion was to preserve some of the bricks from the stack to construct a ‘circle’ so people could see what the stack looked like; McKeon said she would not advise this as the materials are contaminated. It was suggested that other clean bricks could be used to make a model. McKeon noted that Resolution doesn’t have all the answers, and they will work with the community to explore these questions.

The consensus of the CWG is that this situation is “sad but understandable”. Most members feel strongly that that they want to see something done to preserve the West Plant artifacts, tell our story, and document our history. They noted that this group includes miners and citizens who have worked hard to preserve local history. These facilities are part of our identity.

CWG members asked Resolution if there is time to come up with a mitigation plan before the stack comes down. The company did not commit to this but said that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t work toward that. Melissa Rebago asked the group for their ideas on what they’d like to see. Most felt that there should be a museum, which they have talked about for years, and would like to see some agreements for this developed soon. A member noted that the state mining museum in Phoenix has been closed for some time due to lack of funds to operate it.

Godec asked if Resolution would be willing to develop a plan. Andrew Lye said that Resolution has a budget for this year to work with, so a plan would need to make sense and be reasonable, and future years’ funding may be needed. Todd Pryor noted that several factors need to be in place for this to work, including knowledge of how much funding is available and agreement on what should be done. He advised that proposals can’t be so complex that we can’t get it done. Several members noted that the Town would need to be the primary contractual agent, but Pryor said that they need to take suggestions and direction from the community.

Godec asked the CWG if they would be willing to work on this. The group agreed that they would devote a majority of its meeting time between now and September to develop ideas for

Resolution's consideration. Lye asked that an effort be made to include all community viewpoints in this process, not just the CWG. A question was raised about whether historic preservation of these facilities would be required or considered as mitigation under the EIS. The facilitators agreed to investigate this.

### **CWG 2018 Meeting Topics Planning**

Godec asked the group when they would like to meet this year, noting that in 2017 they took the months of July and August off. Members are anxious to work on historic preservation proposals before the stack is demolished, and therefore agreed to continue to meet through the summer and take off November and December.

Godec reviewed the ongoing list of topics for CWG meetings to identify the group's current priorities. Regarding the idea of inviting BHP representatives, Pryor said the Town is talking to them about land use, as BHP is the largest landowner in town, much of which is in floodplain. Ideas include a Habitat for Humanity "blitz-build" of 8 lots, and a permanent easement for the LOST through town. Therefore, he felt it would be best to let the town work with them separately for the time being and the group agreed.

Regarding a possible alternative for relocating the Florence Junction loading facilities to the West Plant site, Lye noted that the issues here include safety primarily. He observed that impacts of such an alternative on economic development, including the idea of a tourist railroad, haven't been evaluated yet nor are they probably the biggest decision factors for Resolution. A CWG member pointed out that if a railroad were built, a historic mining museum could be built in conjunction with that if the Harding School isn't savable/useable. This would also be within town limits. Members noted that other funding such as Brownfields or economic feasibility studies might be available. With the land exchange there is the potential for the town to double the size of its industrial park. Pros and cons of the tourist train were discussed.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for:

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

The group would like to continue the conversation about historic legacy at the next meeting. Godec suggested holding a conference call or meeting with Pamela Rabago, Todd Pryor, and Hesston Klenk to develop an approach and agenda. Hank Gutierrez offered to work on this as well. Melissa Rabago offered that Resolution will provide notes on meetings they have had and ideas they've obtained, as well as notes from the public meeting next week.