

April 11, 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
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch

Community Working Group members not present:

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior (resigned)
Henry Munoz – Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Filomena Cornelio – Communities Manager

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Speakers:

none

Public Guests:

Melvin Werre – Top of the World
Mila Besich-Lira – Mayor, Town of Superior
Robert Levi Pedrick – new Superior resident

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone. He noted that Superior mayor Mila Besich-Lira is joining the group tonight in light of the fact that Superior's Town Manager Todd Pryor was not able to attend, and asked if members were comfortable with that, given the normal CWG policy of not including elected officials as formal members of the group; everyone was happy to have the mayor join the conversation. He told the group that the facilitators have a scheduling conflict with the regular May CWG meeting date, and asked members if they could meet on May 23, which they agreed to do. It was noted that this time will probably be in fire season so that could affect availability of some. Godec announced that Tom Spridgen of the Rotary Club has resigned from the CWG, and asked the group if they can suggest a replacement. Sy Sohmer's replacement from Boyce Thompson Arboretum is Gaylyn Yanke, the acting director, but she has not been able to attend meetings so far. Cecil announced that he will be retiring from the water district and plans to start bringing his replacement to CWG meetings; the group welcomed this idea. Noting Karen Jones' absence, Godec told the group that we are having trouble finding a reliable transportation solution for her but are still working to resolve that. He asked CWG members to suggest additional members they think would be good additions to the CWG. A member asked if Henry Munoz is still a group member, which he is. Godec asked Joann Besich if she would be comfortable speaking with him to find out if he is still interested.

Recreation User Group, Historic Preservation, Community Monitoring Updates

The RUG met today. Fred Gaudet reported that the meeting was productive. The consultants have field-checked about 30 miles of proposed trails and will complete about 15 more miles. They showed some photos of locations along the proposed system, which were very helpful. The group is still working on identifying final trails and their associated uses. The Mayor said she felt the consultants took two years of conversations and put them in a format that everybody can understand. She noted that the Forest Service is naturally concerned about maintenance in the longer term. Evan Pilling of Westland Resources offered to try to meet with the Forest Supervisor to show him that the group has a serious proposal. The Mayor observed she had talked with someone she knows with trail experience who said this will be a world-class destination, possibly better than Sedona. She suggested that this trail system might be a good prospect to consider as mitigation for the mine, in terms of community investment and economic development. Pilling has said that he considers this to be an area people would drive many miles to visit.

Godec showed the CWG part of the photo presentation from the RUG meeting. A member asked if any of these trails are for quads, which they are not. Parts of this will be for motorcycles, but those specific segments haven't been decided yet. The RUG will meet again on May 23 and may be close to taking the plan out to the public after that. Gaudet thinks this project has moved far ahead this Spring and said he can now "see the end of the road".

The task order for Southwest Groundwater Consultants to support the Community Monitoring Task Force was extended for 2018, at the request of the CWG. The next sampling will be on May 24.

Opportunity Zones

Hesston Klenk – Resolution Copper

Hesston Klenk reported that Superior has been designated as an Opportunity Zone by Governor Ducey under new provisions of the Treasury Department. An explanation of these zones was included in the CWG packets for the meeting. He wondered if the CWG would be interested in forming an economic development subcommittee to address opportunities related to this designation.

The Mayor praised Jim Schenck for finding out about this opportunity zone and thanked the Town of Superior and Resolution who lobbied for the designation. Superior did not originally qualify, but they convinced the county to include it. This is an example of the improved working relationships among Superior and other levels of government and Resolution. This has resulted in positive economic benefits, such as restoration of \$300,000 in excise tax to the town and a new distribution of the state HURF funds. She characterized these as “big wins for the town”.

It was suggested that the CWG should get an update of what’s been going on in Superior economic development and other projects. This could be a topic for a future meeting. Most of the Town of Superior economic development committee members are also CWG members.

Update on Town of Superior/Resolution Historic Preservation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Hesston reported that Resolution has been working with the Town of Superior on an MOU, but it will not be ready to take to the Town Council yet. He thinks an agreement will be reached soon. A member asked when this might be ready, since it appears to be a critical component of moving forward with a plan for historic preservation. The Mayor explained a bit about the process, which needs to be vetted by all relevant parties. Todd Pryor and Hesston Klenk are working to find a middle ground, and the process is moving along. Nobody wants to rush it since it’s a very important project. A CWG member asked for clarification of what the MOU will say and its purpose. The town believes it needs to say that the company commits to pay for an idea that is developed but recognizes that this could be a sticking point. Resolution feels that there needs to be some kind of budget before it commits to payment.

Klenk said the company would like to get the CWG’s input and ideas, and asked if they are willing to do this. Group members said they are anxious to provide suggestions but still have questions about when and how their input will be addressed. They want an agreement to be in place before the stack is demolished.

The group asked Klenk to recap the process for getting a plan approved. The first step is to ‘sell’ the idea internally to Rio Tinto, and then get permission to study it. An ‘order of magnitude study’ is done to look at costs, value, schedule, etc. For this project, we will generate ideas and cost them out with timeframes and cost/benefit. Rio Tinto would then approve funding for detailed study and design for some number of ideas; this is pre-feasibility. From that, a preferred plan is selected, and this goes through detailed design, permitting, and finally funding. He observed that this is why it’s so important to get ideas from this group and the community, so they can start framing a proposal. He noted that the company no longer likes to hand out money without a plan.

Klenk emphasized that there needs to be some ‘development hook’ (e.g. tied to the EIS, or, if this/then that criteria) to ensure a formal commitment from Rio Tinto, since people come and go and corporate memory is short. The Mayor made a plea for a commitment, as she noted that the potential for the smelter to be demolished has been known since 2005; the company should have been planning for this, under their social license to operate. She noted that the town is trying to work with Resolution, but they count on the CWG “to keep the company honest”. A CWG member recalled that when this group started, it was made clear to Resolution that the history of the community was very important, and the company does not seem to be responsive to this. Another member predicted that there will be “bad press and a bad taste” when the stack comes down, and if there is no plan and no response it will also make the CWG look bad. Everyone will lose credibility. It was again emphasized that the company has known that it had to meet its West Plant mitigation commitments by 2020, so this is starting to look disingenuous. “London knows what their comfort level is, and they have sent you out to fail.” The Mayor offered to join in a teleconference with London if that would help. She apologized for getting emotional but felt that this is a very unfortunate circumstance that Rio Tinto has allowed to happen.

CWG members asked Klenk what they can do to help Resolution “sell” what this community wants to Rio Tinto. He suggested that this group can define what a legacy project would be, as a start. Some considerations are scale, sustainability, economic development (v. legacy, or both). The group asked:

- Is this a legacy preservation plan or an economic development plan?
 - It is really both, and they are interconnected. The larger vision of the town is definitely related to economic development, but mining legacy is a key factor in that.
- Is the hang-up in whether to put a dollar amount on a commitment?
 - This is a tricky thing for all parties. It’s a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation.

Discussion on Superior Historic Legacy Project - Where do we go from here?

The group thought that a guiding question for future discussions is:

- **What does legacy preservation mean, and how do we get there?**

Members observed that they “don’t want to sit here and develop a plan that won’t get implemented. We don’t want to waste our time.” They thought, however, that this can be an

opportunity to prove that the company and the town can work together productively and quickly, while this issue is top of mind. It was notably stated that, “Superior has an arranged marriage to that ore body. Every time we need to take our attorney to a meeting is like taking your mother in law on the honeymoon.” We want to be good partners. The CWG would like to see both an agreement to create a plan and a plan for action before the West Plant is demolished.

There was discussion about developing legacy projects. Suggestions were:

- Help from Resolution in getting equipment for the US 60 park, and having a celebration about this before the smelter comes down
- A widely-discussed proposal is to create a mining museum at the Harding School. It was suggested that Resolution should work with state Brownfields programs, acquire the school, and start working on it before it gets too deteriorated. This building is a burden to the school district as it represents a hazard.
- A member questioned whether the ‘pay building’ at the West Plant should be evaluated and could be preserved.
- Klenk suggested that legacy concepts might encompass mining, history, culture, and environment. He explained that for a mining project, Rio Tinto would look at how much money will they make. In this case, we need different criteria, but we do need some criteria.
- CWG members offered history, education, ecology, sustainability, and cultural heritage as objectives of a legacy project.
- We need to think about attracting workers, residents and visitors to Superior in future.
- The CWG can help get broader community input. One idea is for members to speak with senior citizens to gain their perspectives and recollections.
- How should projects be coordinated with Resolution’s timeline, e.g. permitting? How long will it take to do an inventory of artifacts and resources at the West Plant site?
 - This process will take a few months. Then we will have a better idea of what would be available to put in a museum.
- Regarding the initial discussion questions developed at the last CWG meeting, members wondered if the newspaper would be interested in publishing them so the wider community could contribute ideas. It was suggested that a digital format could also be developed that would allow people to submit online comments. There may be a small cost associated with this. The questions are:
 1. If someone asked you to describe the history of Superior, how would you describe it, from your perspective?
 2. How would you describe the culture and personality of Superior as it is today?
 3. In 50 years, what of Superior’s legacy will you want your great-grandkids to know and experience?
 4. What parts of the demolition of the west plant will be missed the most?
 5. What hardware/physical attributes of Superior’s legacy are most important to preserve?
 6. How do you picture the legacy of Superior being preserved?

CWG members asked if Resolution has gotten any responses on ideas from its meetings and community contacts. They said they have not received too many suggestions. Some ideas are also being collected from Facebook.

Action Items & Next Steps

The group agreed to proceed and craft a plan. They will start with discussing these questions. Members agreed to provide initial answers via email. Suggestions on specific projects can also be provided. Responses will be consolidated in preparation for the next CWG meeting.

Public Comments

A guest who had just moved to Superior suggested surveying everyone in town about what they want to see and use that to develop a proposal to Resolution. This could be paid for by the company.

Future Meeting Planning & Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, **May 23**, 2018*
Superior Chamber of Commerce
6:00pm

This is not the regular second-Wednesday schedule due a conflict of the facilitator. The group will continue its discussion of historic legacy.