

July 18, 2018
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Jeff Bunklemann – Central Arizona College
Richard Matthews – Queen Valley Fire Department
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners

Community Working Group members not present:

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
George Martin – JF Ranch
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior
Sylvia Werre – Top of the World
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Filomena Cornelio – Communities Manager

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Speakers:

Scott O’Mack – Westland Resources
Avi Buckles - Westland Resources

Public Guests:

Lonna Garai - Queen Valley
Rick Stevens – resident
Tina Gutierrez – resident
Henry Munoz – Retired Miners & Concerned Citizens

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone. He reported that several group members are attending the Rebuild Superior board meeting tonight, so can’t be here. They will try to come if they are finished early.

The newspaper this morning announced a series of meetings sponsored by Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens in collaboration with the University of Arizona about environmental impacts of mining in general. Roy Chavez passed out a flyer announcing these. The meeting on July 25 will address soils, and the following meetings on air and water quality will be held on August 22 and September 26. As an illustration of how mining has affected this region for 100 years, Chavez mentioned that the water system at the Hayden High School was closed down due to extremely high levels of arsenic several years ago. He also mentioned the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) cancer and health studies in Superior that showed a 60% higher cancer rate than the national average. He said that ADEQ has been doing water monitoring in other communities that have had smelters, including Hayden, Miami, Dewey-Humboldt; the state does not have enough funds to include Superior at this time. Chavez mentioned his concern about contamination at the West Plant site, particularly related to demolition. He would like to see the community move forward in a productive manner in an environmentally responsible and safe way.

Godec reminded that group that we have gathered all the health studies that have been done in Superior, and these are available on the CWG website. A visitor told the group that the Arizona Water Company website includes a list of all the contaminants found in water in each community.

Bruce Wittig reported that he has contacted Andrew Lye of Resolution about how the new trade tariffs might affect the copper industry; for example, there are only three smelters in the U.S. so most copper will need to be sent offshore for processing. It was noted that produced metals are taxed at the smelter. He thinks, therefore, that it might be beneficial to consider building a new smelter here. Hesston Klenk observed that it would be “close to impossible” to permit a new smelter at this time.

Recreation User Group, Historic Preservation, Community Monitoring Updates

The RUG will be meeting next week on July 25 to try to finalize a trail map and concept.

The Community Monitoring Task Force received a sampling report from Southwest Groundwater Consultants from the May 24 well sampling. There were no concerns other than the drought that prevented sampling of the Martin well this time due to extremely low water levels.

Update on West Plant Cultural Resources Inventory & Historic Preservation Activities

Scott O'Mack & Avi Buckles – Westland Resources

Godec reported that Resolution hosted a public meeting in June at which Westland Resources described their cultural resource studies for the West Plant and Superior. This seemed important for the CWG to learn about also, so the presentation tonight will be similar.

Scott O'Mack told the group and he and Avi Buckles are both historical archaeologists who have been working in the Superior area for a long time. Resolution hired them to document the remaining portion of the smelter complex, including research into its history and documentation of resources at the site, according to Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) standards. This included historical research on the smelter, architectural documentation, preparing a report, and completing forms for SHPO. He showed a series of slides describing their studies.

Westland used an aerial drone to photograph the site. O'Mack provided an overview of early mining in Superior, which was originally a silver mining area. Copper began to be mined in 1902 and Superior was incorporated on Queen Creek. The Silver Queen was renamed Magma Shaft #1 in 1910, with investment from William Boyce Thompson. He described the expansions and developments of Magma over the years until 1924, when the smelter was completed. This was supposed to be the best smelter in the world at the time, and was designed by the San Francisco firm of Bradley, Bruff & Labarthe. Twohy Brothers from Seattle build both the smelter site and the railroad, but the stack itself was built by Custodis Chimneys (who also built the tallest stack at Anaconda). The design is a perforated radial brick chimney, invented by Custodis. The bricks for this stack and buildings were manufactured in Superior.

Interestingly, the stacks were built tall for air quality purposes, and included electrostatic precipitators and air quality monitoring vents that were constructed with the original stack. The concern in those days was probably more for dirt than for public health.

O'Mack explained the SHPO's architectural documentation process and requirements, noting that documentation of large buildings can be challenging.

Additionally, Westland is also conducting oral history interviews with people who worked at the mine, had knowledge of "the old days", and whose families are historically connected to Superior. Several interviews have been conducted and Westland hopes to interview more for an upcoming project that will use a professional videographer. People will be invited to participate over three days, bring photographs, stories and memorabilia to "create a record of life and work in Superior during the Magma years". CWG members were asked to suggest people who could/should be interviewed.

Member had the following questions and comments:

- How tall is the stack?
 - About 300 feet, about 20 feet across, 2 feet thick
- It looks like the lining is red.
 - That's just the bricks. The stack once had a copper lining but now it's fire brick.
- What was the temperature in the smelter?
 - 1200 degrees
- When will demolition begin?

- The contractor has been given a Notice to Proceed and will probably start demolishing the buildings in the next few weeks. Containment methods will be constructed for the stack demolition to contain contaminants. Hesston Klenk observed that it will be “quite a show”. Public notification will be made before demolition of the stack.
- Bruce Wittig mentioned that the San Manuel stack demolition can be found on YouTube, as an example.
- Is the oral history project just for smelter workers or for any kind of miner and employee?
 - Anyone is welcome.
- How is the current price of copper affecting things these days?
 - Short-term fluctuations are not really affecting this project yet.
 - A CWG member noted that what usually happens in economic downturns is the industry ‘mothballs’ the underground mines and concentrates on open pits.
 - Klenk pointed out that block caving is cheaper than open pit.
- How are the West Plant artifacts being documented, and who is doing it?
 - Resolution is doing this work, not Westland. Anything of interest is being set aside in other locations; there is not a lot left. There is quite a variety of things, which Melissa Rabago is listing/documenting. Some artifacts may be used around town in various open spaces.

Update on Cultural Heritage Project Community Outreach

In reviewing the Town of Superior and Resolution’s MOU plan development schedule, Godec suggested to members that the CWG try to work toward consensus on community heritage concepts at the August meeting and to finalize their recommendations to the Committee by the end of September.

Community outreach activities and ideas stemming from that were reviewed. Jim Schenck had prepared a presentation that was shown to the CWG summarizing the Rebuild Superior/CWG public meeting held on June 25. A variety of creative suggestions were offered.

The Town Manager reminded the group that the CWG is tasked with gathering comments from the public, but not necessarily about priorities. However, he asked if there were any ideas that seemed to be more favored or popular, noting that some indication of community preference would be very helpful to the selection Committee.

Two more CWG public outreach initiatives for the near future are a discussion at the senior center and a conversation with the high school students. Joann Besich will talk with people at the Aug 4 Optimist Club Casino Royale night at the Magma Club at 6:00 PM. The Prickly Pear Festival is August 18, and the group thought this might be an opportunity to collect additional public comments. CWG members will be canvassed to see if anyone wants to volunteer to man a booth. CWG members have handed out comment cards to various groups, but no one knows how many have been returned. Nonprofit and faith-based organizations will meet Monday, when Jim Schenck will give them a similar presentation to what was done at the public meeting. The Town Manager suggested that it might be possible to insert letters/notices into the town sewer bills; these would need to be a 1/3-page size. There should also be some social media

polling once the general concepts are developed, and volunteer is needed to develop this. The group agreed that the facilitators will be the official 'keeper' of the comments.

Public Comments

A visitor suggested that most of the historic preservation/cultural heritage ideas discussed, except the train display and the cell tower, could be accommodated at the Harding School.

Future Meeting Planning & Next Meeting

Godec asked if the group wants to have a meeting in August. The consensus was to continue work on the cultural heritage project at both the August and September meetings. August 8 will focus on priorities and poll questions, and September 12 will be used to formulate recommendations on concepts. In considering whether to take time off this winter, the suggestion was to review this question after the cultural heritage 'deliverables' are done.

Godec also reminded the group that there are several other topics they expressed interest in addressing including water quantity, water quality and watersheds/surface water. The facilitators will review previous meetings to see what we've learned about the subject of 'water' over time. Resolution is willing to update the group on mine water use and mitigation.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, **August 8**, 2018
Superior Chamber of Commerce
6:00pm*