

**May 15, 2019**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison  
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College  
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County  
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior  
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior and Legends of Superior Trail  
Silvia Werre – Top of the World  
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
Mila Besich Lira – Town of Superior  
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman  
Martina Burman – Town of Kearny  
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association  
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch  
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch  
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board  
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community  
Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Tino Flores – Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition  
Anna Flores – Town of Kearny  
Richard Matthews – Queen Valley Water Board  
Sylvia Kerlock – Town of Winkelman  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Matt Jesche – Rio Tinto Communities group, Salt Lake City  
Kieran Gauge – Rio Tinto Global Communities team, Brisbane  
Hesston Klenk – Resolution Copper Communities Manager  
Vickey Peacey – Resolution Copper Senior Environmental & Permits Manager

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

John Godec, Debra Duerr

*Speakers:*

Mary Morissette – Resolution Copper  
Rick Schonfeld – WestLand Resources  
Mila Besich – Mayor, Town of Superior

*Public Guests:*

Henry Peacey

## **Introductions & Housekeeping**

John Godec asked everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed a new CWG member tonight. Lynne Nemeth is the new Executive Director of Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and has agreed to join the CWG. Lynn said that she has been running the arboretum in Flagstaff. She holds a degree in environmental studies and is an endangered species specialist. The group welcomed her and expressed their gratitude to her for filling this important vacant position on the CWG.

Mayor Besich offered an observation that these meetings might be a bit uncomfortable for the recent CWG members from Kearny and Winkelman who are new to this process and the group, which has been meeting for several years. Godec agreed and offered to talk with representatives from the other Copper Corridor communities individually before the next CWG meeting.

In other miscellaneous topics, Vicky Peacey reported that there should be copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project available at Town Hall and at the library, after it is released. A CWG member mentioned that Rosemont Mining has just received their mining permits. Hesston Klenk said that Rio Tinto has recently invested in automated haul trucks at several locations including Western Australia, which may be an option for Resolution. A member asked if Resolution has completed their hydrogeological studies at the Skunk Camp tailings site; Hesston said they have now obtained permits to perform test drilling. Another CWG member asked if there is a map of the final Tonto National Forest (TNF) Travel Management Plan available yet. If so, we should get one for the CWG and the RUG to review. Rick Schonfeld said that there is a 'zoomable' version of a GIS map online at the TNF website.

## **Presentation and Discussion of Final Recreation User Group (RUG) Multi-Use Trail Plan**

Recreation User Group

Rick Schonfeld – WestLand Resources

Mary Morissette – Resolution Copper Mining

Vicky Peacey and Mary Morissette gave an overview of how the RUG got started. At the request of the Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, to consolidate a number of separate recreational proposals they were receiving, Resolution agreed to coordinate preparation and submission of these various ideas so that they could be reviewed more comprehensively for environmental impacts. The CWG then formed a subcommittee and invited a wide range of recreational interests to join. The group has been meeting for 3.5 years to develop a consensus on a multi-use trail plan that could be partially used as mitigation for loss of recreation opportunities from the Resolution Copper Project mining and tailings operations. The RUG agreed on a plan and Resolution submitted it to the Tonto National Forest this May as part of its proposed mitigation in the current EIS.

It was observed that this area is well-loved for outdoor recreation and is ripe for increased user experiences. The current RUG plan represents a ‘starter plan’ that will, hopefully, be expanded in future.

Rick Schonfeld explained that Resolution asked WestLand to come into the process when the RUG needed help, and Southwest Trails Solutions also joined. The key components that were important to the Forest Service were “constructability” and “sustainability”. WestLand narrowed down the network of routes suggested by all the RUG member groups so that the project would be a manageable size. They then ‘ground-truthed’ – or field checked – these routes for conformity with the Forest Service criteria. Schonfeld showed the narrowed-down study area agreed to by RUG members and explained that the area is generally divided by a ridge between Arnett and Telegraph canyons. Generally, motorized uses are to the east of this ridge and nonmotorized trails are to the west. There are existing and proposed motorized and nonmotorized trails seen on the map as well. Many of the proposed new motorized trails would need to be limited to single-track motorcycle use. He observed that this area is really world-class from a scenic value, and the mountain biking community is very excited about this new proposed access. He showed some photos of the area illustrating the topography and the scenery. In summary, the RUG plan includes:

- 120.5 trail miles total
- 72.5 miles of trails suitable for motorized use
- 45 miles for nonmotorized use

The Castleberry area is also being considered as a camping area, and Rick showed a concept for this. The area is 41 acres.

CWG members had the following questions and comments:

- Has the area north of US60 and the Oak Flat area been eliminated from this plan?
  - Yes, we needed to narrow down an area, and consider this to be a first phase. We need to demonstrate to the Forest Service that this smaller system will work. Also, the recently-designated Apache Leap Special Management Area (ALSMA) now needs to be avoided, although that was originally considered, along with rock climbing opportunities.
  - Elizabeth Butler of the RUG explained that part of the reason it’s a smaller plan was to keep it at an Environmental Assessment (EA) level of analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. This was before it was included in Resolution’s mitigation plan.
  - Vicky Peacey observed that this plan fits nicely into the EIS as mitigation that works regardless of the tailings site alternative chosen. She thinks that submitting the plan like this has a better chance of being carried out as proposed versus just submitting it as a separate plan.
- Is the climbing group OK with this?
  - Climbing was originally included in this plan, but no longer. Climbers are now looking at the Inconceivables Wilderness Area near Kearny. Although climbing isn’t precluded from the ALSMA, the RUG did not feel that formalizing a system of routes within it would be looked upon with favor.

- Is this plan connected to both the Legends of Superior Trail (LOST) and the Arizona National Scenic Trail?
  - Yes. We hope it will help to bring users of these trails into town.
- What kind of vehicles can be accommodated? Are the motorized trails just for motorcycles, or can they be used by OHVs?
  - Motorcycle, or single track, routes are a resource that was lacking on the Tonto, so most proposed new trails are for motorcycles and dirt bikes. Most of the larger vehicles would use existing roads and trails in the flatter areas near the high school (where the garbage dump used to be).
- If there's going to be housing expansion by the town, it would probably be in this area to the southwest. Would this preclude or limit the town's plans?
  - It wouldn't be inconsistent with development. The town is considering annexing this area, partly because they want to have the trails in town.
- What creeks run through here?
  - Arnett Creek, and other drainages
- Todd Pryor mentioned the tentative Bronco Creek Exploration drilling plan, which is located in the same place as the proposed RUG trail plan. If this goes forward, it could drastically affect this area. The town is now coordinating with the TNF on this proposal.

### **Presentation and Discussion of Town of Superior Recreation and Economic Development Initiatives**

Mayor Besich said that Superior is going through a once-in-a-generation opportunity for catapulting the community into its next iteration. She credited Resolution Copper with investing funds to the Chamber of Commerce to hire specialized consultants to evaluate opportunities and to create *Rebuild Superior*. The main initiatives that the town has identified include eliminating blight, supporting the arts and beautification, and marketing Superior to a wider audience.

She briefly discussed the situation prior to 2016 versus the situation now in which the town is developing leadership and capabilities. To get here, they had to develop strategic investment opportunities in negotiations with Resolution. Major ideas include the Roosevelt Multi-generational Center Complex (RMGC), housing and lodging rehabilitation and development, the municipal airport helicopter landing zones, and the Superior Industrial Zone, riparian area restoration, and linkages with outdoor recreation opportunities.

Features of the RMGC will include sports and recreation, fitness, library, business incubator and 'makers space', adult education, and a senior center. The town worked with The Davis Experience architects (Tempe Town Lake) to help the community vision the RMGC, for which Requests for Proposals went out last week. The town is committed to funding this to the extent of \$2 million. They would like to complete this in 2-3 years.

The Mayor talked about LOST. This was originally envisioned in 1998 during Mayor Hing's administration. The Arizona Trail Association felt that Superior could build a 'gateway' trail and helped with the first segment from the airport. The Arnett segment wasn't really planned but

happened when ADOT affected the trail with Highway 60 reconstruction. Completion of the LOST will create a continuous trail from Picket Post Mountain to the US60 tunnel. The trail design and maintenance plan is in development through a National Park Service grant. All easements have been acquired and all permits have been obtained. Along with improving the LOST, the town is also focusing on restoration of riparian areas along Queen Creek.

Housing and lodging is also a town priority. This will be needed when the mine starts development and other business and industry moves in. Superior wants to be attractive to young adults, families, individuals, business owners and retirees. (Reference: Elliott D. Pollack and Company, Housing Market Assessment of Resolution Copper Area Report, July 2017.) Lodging is also needed immediately to accommodate executives and businesses, and more will be needed in future. BHP owns a lot of property on US60 that would be suitable for a hotel.

For airport improvements, new infrastructure will be funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A new master plan is being developed. Several firms in other airports are interested in moving into Superior. Reorienting and paving the runway would cost \$29 million, and the Mayor jokingly asked if anyone in the room would like to donate this. She showed a slide outlining specific improvements.

The Superior Industrial Park has two shovel-ready lots. This area is now located in a recently-established Governor's Opportunity Zone, which provides incentives for investment via tax programs. She noted that the Superior Opportunity Zone is the size of Delaware, including Kearny and other Copper Corridor communities.

The Mayor reported that downtown revitalization has made great improvements. Along with this, there are several major popular events, with more being developed, mainly due to the efforts of the Chamber. She said that event organizers are starting to come to Superior.

The Mayor recognized the contributions of the town's strategic partners. These include Resolution, BHP, Arizona Commerce Authority, Chicanos Por La Causa, Local First Arizona, DAVIS, Arizona Community Foundation, Lowes Foundation, Helios Education Foundation, Pinal County government, Superior Chamber of Commerce, Rebuild Superior Inc., IO-Inc (Ioanna Morfessis, consultant), Karen LaFrance (consultant), Arizona Forward Association, and Expect More Arizona (education advocate).

She emphasized that, through everything, the town wants to maintain a focus on its natural assets, and repeated the slogan:

*Together, We Are Superior!*

Hank Gutierrez said he's thankful to Resolution for making the investments it has made that have served as a catalyst for more recent strategic programs and developments. Resolution likewise thanked the town for their leadership and vision.

The Mayor closed by showing a YouTube video that used Superior and environs as its setting. This was a music video called *Northern Lights*, created by the Hunter Brothers, a Canadian musical group.

Todd Pryor told the group that *Sunset Magazine* called Superior “the Mayberry of the West” in a recent article. He also provided a link to an advertisement in [Golden Corridor Tourism](#) magazine called *Visit Superior*.

### **Public Questions & Comments**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

### **Next Meeting**

The next CWG meeting is planned for:

**Wednesday, June 12**  
**5:30 pm**  
**Superior Chamber of Commerce**

Resolution has been asked to discuss water use and management. Another topic to pursue in future is Bronco Creek Exploration’s plans.