

June 12, 2019
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
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
Mila Besich Lira – Town of Superior
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board

Community Working Group members not present:

Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
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
Jeff Bunklemann – Central Arizona College
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman
Martina Burman – Town of Kearny
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Resolution Copper Communities Manager
Kami Ballard – Resolution Copper Environmental

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Speakers:

Hesston Klenk, Resolution Copper Mining

Public Guests:

Cat Brown – reporter
Elizabeth Butler – RUG
Scott Stilgenbauer - Resolution Copper
Chris Lillen - Resolution Copper
Gabino P(unreadable) - Resolution Copper

Steve Holmquist – Superior resident
David G(unreadable)
James E. O’Donnell – AAREA
Paul Castaglia (?)
David Herrera – Superior/Kearny resident
Gina Lopez

Introductions & Housekeeping

Godec welcomed guests and gave a brief overview of the CWG for those who haven’t been here before. He explained that Resolution had to change the planned topic of water to the July meeting. Tonight, Hesston Klenk will talk about the US60 tunnel closure. Resolution will then leave so the group can have a private conversation about what it would like to do for the rest of the year.

Godec told the group that Supervisor Woody Kline and Kathy Melvin of Gila County will be joining the CWG starting in July, as their level of interest has increased with the addition of the Skunk Camp tailings site.

In local news, Bruce Wittig reported on the Woodbury fire, saying that Cecil Fendley is providing support for the firefighters tonight. There hasn’t been a fire in this area since 1960, so the growth is heavy.

The Prickly Pear Festival is on August 17, and Godec inquired whether the CWG wants to have a presence there. The group didn’t seem to be interested in this, as it’s more tourist-oriented.

A CWG member reminded the group that they had mentioned the possibility of changing the location of the CWG meetings to the Roosevelt School. This topic can be discussed further at a future meeting.

There is a grand opening of the food court this Friday for Second Friday, which the Mayor described. It will include a farmers’ market and a debut of Bert’s Pizza.

Explanation of US60 Tunnel Closure

Hesston Klenk – Resolution Copper Mining

Hesston Klenk apologized on behalf of Resolution for poor communication about the tunnel closure. He noted that there were some safety hazards discovered, so it had to be closed, at least temporarily, in accordance with Resolution’s safety policies and programs. He said that the golden rule for underground mining is never to be under unsupported rock because the company’s goal is to make it safe for people. He recognized that the fencing and signs that went up were what were on hand, and this was done in a hurry, so they were not optimal.

The tunnel is about 100 years old, and some work is needed. He realizes it's part of a popular hiking trail. A preliminary geotechnical report has been prepared on options for the tunnel, which include:

- Reopen with substantial rehabilitation, rock work on portal overhang, etc.
- Close one end (east) if rocks can't be fixed
- Close and turn into a bat habitat - This has complications, too, and Kami Ballard said there are 9 different types of bats in the tunnel.

Resolution's next steps are to complete a geotechnical plan for rehabilitation and a biological study, particularly for bats. These will dictate what kind of work can be done, when, and how. These reports will be done by the end of July or early August, at which time Resolution can figure out what the approach and schedule will be.

CWG members had the following questions and comments:

- Who owns the old tunnel and the old highway?
 - Resolution Copper
- Jim Schenck noted that both the company and the town want economic diversification, and many people – both local and visitors – use that trail. Perhaps someone from the town should be on the committee that's evaluating this.
- The Mayor endorsed this and gave a bit of history about this issue. She emphasized that this area is an important part of the town's overall recreation initiatives. She observed that this seems to be just one more thing that the company is letting the community down on, as evidenced by gossip.
- More and better communication would have helped and been appreciated.
- Regarding the bat habitat idea, bats need access to large bodies of water, so these may not be the kind of bats you see in Austin, for example.
- The Town Manager said this should be easy for Resolution since this is what they do in their business.
 - Hesston offered to have town representatives come along on inspections and be more involved in this process.
- Ricardo Provencio noted that this is an "awesome" hike that many families do together, and it's part of local heritage. Anything that can be done to improve it would be most welcome.
- Jim explained how this trail segment is planned to hook up with the LOST and other local trails.
- There were old APS transformers in the tunnel in the past to hook up with Oak Flat substation. Will they be needing to use these facilities again?
 - A Resolution representative said there are new transformers now.
- There is rubble near the entrance to the tunnel – is that from water or from the rock?
 - It's falling from the rock.
- Is this being held to a lower standard than you would use underground?
 - No, it will be the same, to protect the public the same as we protect workers. Different types of ground support (mesh, bolts, bi-annual scaling, etc.) are being evaluated.
- It would be nice if this could be done before winter visitors return this fall.
 - That is the objective.

A Resolution geotechnical expert, Scott Stilgenbauer, said the company is expecting that representatives from the CWG and /or the RUG could accompany them on some visits to

evaluate the tunnel. He emphasized that this was just a very high-level look at the tunnel to begin a more detailed process.

The group asked Resolution to come back at the August meeting to update them on this issue and progress.

On a related topic, Todd Pryor mentioned the historic Bellamy Trail in Queen Creek Canyon going to the waterfall. This could possibly be an alternative to the tunnel. It's more challenging than the tunnel and needs extensive maintenance but it may be able to provide a 'workaround' that would allow people to see the tunnel but continue on to the waterfall. It is also located on Resolution property. Bruce noted that this trail is not hikeable at this time, but the segment from the falls to Silver King is a good trail; other members also agreed that this trail is very difficult.

CWG Internal Discussion

After Resolution representatives left the meeting, Godec invited the group to have a candid conversation about ideas, plans, concerns, and issues. He said there may be some topics the group would like to talk about without Resolution present, as the group does on an occasional basis. Some topics discussed recently include the Skunk Camp tailings site and related concerns of Kearny and Winkelman, water issues and impacts, Bronco Creek mineral exploration, housing for Superior, workforce planning, and possible CWG responses to the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Topics of interest to the CWG are summarized below.

Water

CWG members remembered that at the March meeting the consultant talked about potential water impacts, saying that they believe that there are at least 5 springs that would be dried up by mine dewatering whether the mine is developed or not, and at least 3 more springs are affected by mining operations. Wells in the New Magma Irrigation District could drop 40 feet. It was observed that water will be the defining issue over the next years and that the Town of Superior is working with hydrology consultants. An 18% loss of water in Queen Creek would be very serious and could affect the survivability of the Town. What does an 18% decrease in flows mean and what will the effects be on Queen Creek, springs, wells, and water availability? The CWG may have not taken this issue seriously enough. Also, the company says some things are a matter of law, but they are really only policy. The CWG didn't seem to understand or really process this information adequately at that time but needs to take it seriously now. These impacts are more severe here in Superior closer to the mine, and they lessen as they flow to the Arboretum and Queen Valley.

It was suggested that there is a simple mitigation measure, by dropping water here above town rather than sending it to Florence. The problem with this was water quality, but there is now a treatment plant that could be used to remove the acid from the mine water.

A member observed that people are not only concerned about the town, but about what will happen to our desert? Will it be more like Phoenix? What will happen to the groundwater aquifers?

The CWG made two requests of the facilitators:

- Prepare a one-page summary of what we know about water now, as a basis for discussion for the July 10 meeting.
 - Godec noted that there have been many discussions and presentations on the topic of water and offered to extract main points from past meeting summaries. This will be more than one page, however.
- The group suggested that SWCA representatives should be at meeting where Resolution talks about water issues.
 - An inquiry will be made of the Forest Service.

Bronco Creek Exploration Proposed Drilling near Superior

Plans were summarized as follows: It includes drilling test holes on 90 claims between the airport and Arboretum. Kennecott has funded exploration in this area and in Silver King. Included in the area are parcels committed to the federal land exchange. Bronco Creek's application to the Forest Service for drilling is on hold now. If they ever mined the area it would be block cave, with all the potential impacts of the Resolution mine. Bronco would do preliminary work and then sell to some other mining company. The town doesn't own the mineral rights on the land exchange properties except at the airport, so they would need to buy them. The other issue is that this area overlaps completely with the RUG planning area, and so would destroy the recreation potential of the plan.

The CWG would like to hear from Kennecott and Rio Tinto at the same time as Bronco Creek. The facilitators will try but are doubtful the larger companies will be able to come.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Members observed that this study seems to be moving more quickly than we had previously thought. The Draft EIS should be out in June. There's a possibility that it will not identify a preferred tailings alternative.

Housing and Workforce

We need to understand what's going to happen and to get moving on this issue so there's adequate housing and not 'man camps'. Examples were mentioned of North Dakota and other boom places where there were significant increases in STD rates and domestic violence, along

with exorbitant prices. Because Superior doesn't have an appropriate workforce (because of lack of commitment from Resolution), all these outside issues may come into play.

Skunk Camp Tailings Site

Kearny and Winkelman should be talking to Resolution about mitigation.

Godec asked each CWG member to say which 3 issues are the most important to them so that the facilitators can try to organize upcoming CWG around these issues. A tally was taken, and the consensus was:

1. Water
2. Bronco Creek Exploration
3. Workforce / and Housing (It was noted that housing and workforce are related)

Public Questions & Comments

David Herrera was on the Kearny Town Council and was born in Superior. He told the CWG that some people in Kearny have formed a group to look at water issues. It was mentioned that the 9 million gallons a year that Resolution is banking is enough to feed every person in the country for a year. The Eastern Pinal-Southwest Gila Watershed Partnership, intend to apply for federal grants. It was also mentioned that Resolution is trying to buy Kearny's 4 new wells they had installed at higher elevations so the water tastes good, to be used for slurry.

The new Arizona Drought Contingency Plan promotes long-term storage. A visitor wondered why Superior can't be the long-term storage facility for Resolution. The group suggested asking Resolution.

Next Meeting

The next CWG meeting is planned for:

**Wednesday, July 10
5:30 pm
Superior Chamber of Commerce**

Resolution has been asked to discuss water use and management. The planned topic for the August 14 meeting is Bronco Creek Exploration's plans.