

December 11, 2019
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior and Legends of Superior Trail
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Mila Besich – Town of Superior
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society

Community Working Group members not present:

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tino Flores – Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition
Anna Flores – Town of Kearny
Sylvia Kerlock – Town of Winkelman
Richard Matthews – Queen Valley Water Board
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman
Roy Chavez – Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Silvia Werre – Top of the World
Cathy Melvin – Gila County

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Speakers: none

Public Guests:

Maryjo Fales – resident, Arizona Trail Angel
Millie Hidina – SSC Garden Group
Patricia Burke – resident

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed the group, and asked members to introduce themselves for the benefit of guests. He noted that it seems like a long time since we've met, since there was no meeting in November.

In local news, the Town of Superior reported that the playground at US 60 park is close to completion, and the stage at Besich Park is being built now.

The Community Monitoring group reported that yesterday's sampling went very well. Water levels in the wells were up, which is good news. The subcommittee members hoped that Matrix New World's contract will be extended. They also want to discuss the potential for adding the Skunk Camp tailings site into the sampling program, perhaps including some residents of the Dripping Springs or other adjacent towns. Hesston Klenk told the group that monitoring has started at the site and Resolution has talked with Dripping Springs and Wind Spirit folks. He said that as far as he knows the Matrix contract will be extended. A subcommittee member said that if the decision to use the tailings site is made mid-summer, we may not need to continue sampling the Martin well, but the Arboretum sampling should definitely be continued.

Klenk said that Resolution has established a hydrology working team, which Todd Pryor sits on. He asked if one or more members of the Community Monitoring subcommittee would like to be part of this group. They generally meet via conference call. Pryor noted that it's definitely a very technical group. Hank Gutierrez and Jim Schenck volunteered to participate.

Godec showed the group the RUG brochure and told them it will be printed as soon as possible. Several CWG members asked to have copies for their organizations, e.g. Superior Visitor Center on the highway, Arboretum, Globe Chamber of Commerce. Godec said that at the RUG meeting, Mary Morissette confirmed that Resolution has agreed to the Forest Service that they will establish an independently-managed endowment to support construction and maintenance of the RUG trails. They are also working on approaches to plan, fund, and manage the campground at Castleberry.

Also related to the RUG, the Tonto Recreation Alliance (TRAL) is installing signage on Forest Road 4 on Monday, and Schenck invited CWG members to volunteer if they are interested. Meet at 9:00am at Circle K. It should be about a half day's work.

Gutierrez told the group that he and Fernando Shipley gave another presentation to the Forest Service international group for the fourth year. He noted that the participants are always surprised to learn how the CWG works, which is not common in other countries with other political systems and corruption.

The Miracle on Main Street Christmas light parade is this Friday the 13th, and all are welcome. The organizers are still looking for entrants. The mayor humorously noted that the child population in Superior doubles during this annual event.

A guest said that she is an Arizona Trail Angel. There is a documentary being done in February on the Arizona Trail, and she said that when something similar was done on the Pacific Coast Trail the hiking use went up exponentially. The same could happen for the Arizona Trail. The biggest visitor population is in January, February, and March. The town said that they would be happy to publicize this documentary. It was noted that by March the LOST will be completed so people can walk from the Arizona Trail into town. The Arizona Trail representative said that a concern on the trail is that many people don't know how to hike in the desert and this presents safety hazards for trail managers, e.g. in providing water. The town mentioned that if they do, in fact, annex the RUG area they will need to think about having a search-and-rescue unit in the fire department to address this issue.

Queen Valley representatives noted that since the Skunk Camp tailings alternative looks like it's going to be selected by the Forest Service, real estate sales and construction have increased in the Queen Valley community.

A CWG member offered that what he likes about this group is that "facts matter", so when he hears things from the public he can be confident that he has the correct information to respond.

CWG Planning for 2020

Topics of Interest

Godec showed the running list of meeting topics that have been suggested by the CWG over the years. He suggested that a legal expert is available in January to discuss the Mining Law of 1872. Members mentioned that they tend to get questions from the public about these issues and, therefore, thought this would be helpful to them in learning more about the law, its provisions, and how it applies to the Resolution Copper Project. It was observed that the current permitting time for a new mine is about 24 years.

Other topics suggested by CWG members were updates on reports from Resolution's technical consultants who are working on studies related to the EIS, including:

- water and hydrology
- socioeconomics (Elliot Pollock)
- Recreation User Group trail system funding
- filter plant location, including the rail line
- final mitigation plans

The group is also interested in continuing discussions about the following topics:

- establishment of a community investment foundation
- conducting an historic preservation feasibility study
- updates on Bronco Creek Exploration permit initiatives with the Forest Service
- expanding community monitoring and including other resources, such as air quality

The schedule for release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the end of July (barring another federal government shutdown). About 30,000 comments were received, which might translate into about 700 substantive comments. The Forest Service says it won't have comments all reviewed and categorized until the end of January. The FEIS release will be followed by a formal objection period of, probably, 30 days. The land exchange can occur starting 60 days after the FEIS. This will require an appraisal of the mineral value and subsequent payment to the U.S. government based on this. A CWG member asked why opponents to the project continue to argue that the land exchange shouldn't occur; it was clarified that this would require repealing the original legislation, which is not likely to happen. It was mentioned that the *Earthworks* website contains Roger Featherstone's comment letter on the land exchange if members are interested in seeing these.

(https://earthworks.org/publications/earthworks_comments_on_south_arizona_land_exchange/)

CWG Initiatives

The CWG is interested in pursuing:

- contract renewal for Matrix
- Skunk Camp community monitoring
- Joining the Resolution hydrology group (Jim, Hank)
- Keeping track of Bronco Creek Exploration permit initiatives with the Forest Service

It was suggested that since there are so many topics and so little time, the group might consider holding a longer meeting or retreat to cover several of them. This idea will be further developed in future meetings.

2020 Meeting Schedule

The current meeting schedule of the third Wednesday of the month seems to be preferable for CWG members for next year.

Public Questions & Comments

Visitors said they had been interested in the group and had seen that notices invited the community. As a property owners in Superior, they are interested in the work of the CWG.

Next Meeting

Due to date conflicts, it was suggested that the January and February CWG meetings be combined on an alternative date. Dates suggested were January 15 or 22 (February 5 conflicts with the Planning Commission). The group decided to meet on:

January 22, 2020
5:30 pm
Superior Chamber of Commerce