

**April 8, 2020
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
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimists Club
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman
Silvia Werre – Top of the World
Mila Besich – Town of Superior

Community Working Group members not present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
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
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Roy Chavez – Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Cathy Melvin – Gila County
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites
Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Caitlin Pierce – Communities Manager

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Welcome & Introduction to Zoom

This is the first time that a CWG meeting has been held ‘virtually’ online. We are using the Zoom platform, and the facilitators provided a quick overview of its functions. John Godec asked everyone to mute themselves unless speaking, to reduce background noise. Some CWG members joined the meeting via telephone since they have unreliable internet connections.

Given the challenges with inviting the ‘general public’ to online meetings as observers, Godec asked the group to think about whether they would want to live-stream the CWG meetings on Facebook or other social media, to allow the public to participate. There were mixed feelings on this idea. Concerns expressed by CWG members included the difficulty of managing and moderating participants in this format and the possibility of slowing meetings down or having disruptions. It was suggested that recordings of the meetings could be posted to the CWG website but most members felt that this would not be a satisfactory substitute for being able to attend the meetings. The group agreed to continue the way we are doing because members want accountability for anyone who joins. Meeting summaries will continue to be posted to the website.

Housekeeping

A CWG member asked Mayor Besich to update the group on a rumor that a janitor at Asarco in Kearney had COVID-19, which prompted a lot of concern about spread. The Family Dollar in Kearney is closed because one employee has the virus and is in the hospital. Pinal County has refused to release specific locational data, and there may be lawsuits over this. Pinal County still has rapid spread, and there have been two deaths of elderly men. There are daily updates that people can tune into, and local elected officials maintain contact with federal representatives. Superior has lost access to all its inmate work crews.

Superior’s agreement with Resolution on planning and funding for the new community center is still going ahead. The Mayor lauded Jim Schenck for all his work and help.

As information for those who want to get out on the trail, the Queen Creek segment of the LOST, up to the tunnel, has become very popular with people from the Valley; it was suggested that if you don’t like crowds go out early. Also, less crowded is the new LOST segment going into town, which is a pleasant walk. It’s hoped that there can be a nice inauguration “after the Apocalypse”.

The Community Monitoring well sampling was cancelled for this quarter as it was not considered an essential activity at this time. Hesston Klenk said the monitoring would resume as restrictions are released. This year, sampling will start to transition from the Near West tailings site – no longer to be used - to the proposed Skunk Camp site.

He noted that Resolution is anxious to begin a monitoring program at Skunk Camp, and some local residents there are interested in participating in that program.

Resolution Copper Update on COVID-19 Response & Protocols

Hesston Klenk reported that Rio Tinto and Resolution Copper Mining took early and proactive precautions to address the virus threat, as did the Town of Superior. A Business Resiliency Team was activated to evaluate what they'd need to do. By the first week of March more than 60 people at the company were working from home. Those who came in were divided into teams so they didn't cross-contaminate. Resolution had to make sure that critical functions were continued, e.g. mine pumping, and also that they didn't lose momentum on other work. So far, there have been no layoffs; one drilling contractor was put on hold.

There have been no impacts to the permitting timeline, so far. The Forest Service, although working from home, are still focusing on their review and production of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). One area that's been affected is the government-to-government consultations with Native American tribes, which are typically held in person.

Rio Tinto has authorized distribution of \$25 million to be targeted to their host countries and communities. Resolution doesn't know what its share will be yet. Hesston has been talking with mayors and tribes about what needs are out there, so they can make recommendations for getting funds. Some areas identified have been elderly assistance while they are at home, and supplementing and procuring basic needs like toilet paper and medical/protective supplies.

Future Meeting Planning

Godec asked the group if they would like to continue this approach to CWG meetings. They agreed to continue online with the same dates and times as normal CWG meetings until in-person meetings can resume (hopefully by July). They would like to plan meetings for the next four months. Godec noted that the same format will probably be used for the Recreation User Group.

The list of upcoming topics and reports from Resolution that are planned include:

- May 13 - Special study on dark skies, and updates on water and hydrology mitigation studies
- June 10 – RUG plan and funding, and filter plant location and rail line
- July 8 – socioeconomic update
- August 12 – final environmental mitigation plan

Public Questions & Comments

Due to restrictions for online meetings, the public was not able to attend this meeting.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

6:00pm

Online