

May 13, 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
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
Silvia Werre – Top of the World
Mila Besich – Town of Superior
Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College

Community Working Group members not present:

Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman
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
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Caitlin Pierce – Communities Manager
Vicky Peacey – Senior Environmental & Permits Manager

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Public Visitors

The public was not able to attend this online meeting.

Housekeeping

Resolution's water pipeline sustained some damage during a recent wildland fire near Hewitt Station in which about 2700 feet of pipeline was affected. Hesston Klenk reported that the pipeline is now fixed and is up and running. He extended a big thank you to firefighters and all who helped.

Update on Resolution's Support to Communities for COVID-19 Response

Caitlin Pierce – Resolution Copper

Pierce said that Resolution has been able to extend increased support for communities during this time. They had reported that up to \$25 million would be invested. Current financial assistance is varied, and includes a partnership with United Food Bank, the Eden Senior Centers, and Boys & Girls Club in Globe. The scholarship fund has been expanded to support twice as many students this year. Resolution is also distributing masks and safety gear. The company is exploring longer-term partnerships for mental health and to help towns to leverage some federal stimulus money.

Godec asked if anything has changed for Resolution in terms of protective measures and general operations, and what work is still being done. Vicky Peacey and Hesston Klenk said they are operating "full steam ahead", with work continuing on the shaft and reclamation efforts. The permitting work is ongoing. Only a drilling contractor has been paused.

Godec reported that the Forest Service said this morning, at the Recreation User Group meeting, that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is postponed until winter 2021. Peacey said she was unaware of that until this morning. She then spoke with Mary Rasmussen at Tonto National Forest who was vague about it. Tribal consultations are on hold. The Forest Service promised to provide better direction in June or so. It appears, however, that the planned August completion date won't be met.

Dark Skies EIS Studies Update

Vicky Peacey – Resolution Copper

Vicky apologized because she thought she hasn't quite finished this report, but should have it completed in a couple weeks. She referred to some EIS public scoping comments about this issue. Resolution has had many conversations about this issue with the Town of Superior. The Town Manager requested that Resolution develop a brochure to explain this simply, and Peacey said this is being prepared. They have a very detailed lighting plan that follows Pinal County code. There is no lighting along major roadways, but lighting will be needed for pedestrian crossings and work areas. Lights will be directed downward. Noncritical area lights will be replaced with amber LEDs. Control systems with timers will be used so they can be turned off during nighttime.

CWG members discussed the addition of amber lights. A member wondered if lights have to be amber or can they be a different color, pointing out that the only lights that stick out in town now are the amber ones. Some think this is not because of the color but because the lights are more directional and aimed down, whereas the old lights were more diffuse. LEDs don't radiate but shine just where they are directed. Some think it's because they're LEDs rather than incandescent. It was noted that LEDs are rated by Kelvin brightness rather than color. The Town of Superior suggested that this will take a light designer, such as an engineer the town used to prepare a 300-page document dealing with each light in a 'light map'.

Peacey told the group that Resolution is open to anything, if this approach is not optimal and people have other ideas. She asked the group's input on whether there are any particular lights in town that are real problems or shining into someone's property. Members observed that some of the really bright ones do stand out, especially as others are replaced. The West Plant and from the Never Sweat tunnel to the tipping station were noted by Hank Gutierrez as possible locations for review. Peacey said she'd like to go out with Hank or other CWG members to review any 'trouble spots', as Resolution is in the process of preparing the budget request for next year and this might be included if warranted.

CWG questions and comments included the following:

- The Town of Superior offered the information that 117 lights with dimming controllers cost \$136,000.
- Does Superior have a dark sky policy?
 - Yes, it's in the zoning code. This doesn't include exact specifications but says that lighting should be minimized to preserve dark skies.
- If there won't be lighting along the MAARCO corridor, will there be light at the Arizona Trail crossing of US60?
 - No, nor on any trails or Forest Service land.
- Has the town looked at trying to obtain a dark skies designation?
 - This probably isn't possible because the town doesn't own or control a lot of the streetlights or private residential lights. New codes only apply to new construction; you can't make them retroactive, and most of Superior's lighting goes back to the 1990's and so predates the zoning code.

Vicky Peacey promised to distribute the dark skies report and the lighting plan when ready, in a few weeks. Todd Pryor thanked everyone involved in preparing this, saying that it's just what's needed.

Water Resources EIS Studies Update

Vicky Peacey – Resolution Copper

Peacey reported that the Queen Creek Mitigation Plan is being prepared and should be completed imminently; Greg Ghidotti will provide details and copies of the report when available. The plan includes a stream enhancement evaluation by Resolution's consultant Natural Channel Design. This document will be used as basis for permit approvals and for how Resolution designs and funds mitigation measures. Cultural resource clearance along Queen

Creek will also be needed. Resolution has completed a Class III cultural survey. There might be some FEMA floodplain regulations that would apply, and an Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit might be needed. Authorization for all this would fall under Resolution's existing Sec. 404 permit.

CWG questions and comments included:

- How does this fit into making this a protected corridor?
 - The headwaters are owned by RCM, then BHP owns much of the corridor in the middle through town, and the corridor terminates at the Castleberry property (Martinez Ranch). RCM would purchase the BHP parcels and apply restrictive covenants to the high-water mark that would prevent development.
- A CWG member questioned the designation of the high-water mark, suggesting that a wider corridor might be desirable, to include an area on the other side of US 60 near Panther Drive.
 - Resolution can be flexible but doesn't want to make it too restrictive. For example, a proposed Castleberry Campground is adjacent but outside of the riparian corridor.
 - A CWG member suggested that if the high-water mark correlates to the floodplain, this will be satisfactory, considering that the new floodplain delineation constricts some areas and widens others.
 - Peacey offered to prepare a map showing the high-water mark and the floodplain. CWG members thanked her for this.
- A CWG member inquired whether Hesston Klenk has seen the easement agreement for the Legends of Superior Trail (LOST) at the BHP property.
 - Klenk thinks he has this, and Peacey suggested sending it to Greg Ghidotti as well.

Updates from Recreation User Group Meeting

John Godec showed the CWG plans for the proposed Castleberry Campground that were sent to the RUG today. The CWG hasn't seen these plans. Hesston Klenk emphasized that this is a draft plan. It was noted that the proposal includes extensions of septic and water service to this site, which increases the cost but will be very helpful for operation of the campground as well as for development at the airport. Resolution has retained an engineering company who's given them a cost estimate. CWG members asked for clarification about the location of the LOST relative to the campground; the old LOST and parking spot directly borders it. The group thought that a specific link to the LOST from the campground would be desirable, as would a connection to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA). It was mentioned that the RUG has had discussion about asking BTA to manage the campground, but Resolution is not nearly at that point in planning and discussions.

Vicky Peacey suggested that this topic could be a presentation for the CWG in future. The group agreed to discuss this at their June meeting along with RUG Plan issues. A CWG member expressed gratitude that there is a plan for a campground, and for other aspects of the recreation project. He said everything "feels more real" than it has ever done before.

A RUG member gave a summary of the discussions at this morning's meeting about traffic on the trail system. He said that COVID-19 advisory signs have been posted. RUG members believe there will be a need to provide for adequate parking for new and improved recreation opportunities including the Arnette trail, BTA, LOST, the campground, etc. The Forest Service told the RUG that there is \$10,000 left from ADOT highway improvement program that may be used for trail developments or improvements. Suggestions for this are being sought.

Community Monitoring Program Update

John Godec asked Resolution if there are any updates or news about the Community Monitoring program. Hesston said they are looking at adding monitoring at the Skunk Camp tailings site but they aren't able to move forward on this yet, as it's not considered a critical activity. Members felt that this monitoring should be started as soon as possible and wondered if it is still necessary to include all the well sites, e.g. Martin. Vicky said that Resolution will keep monitoring all sites to gather data; the town is also interested in learning baseline data for water depth and other factors. She offered that if the CWG doesn't want to continue monitor the Martin well, data can still be sent to them. A Community Monitoring Task Force member pointed out that under new COVID-19 guidelines there can't be more than two people in a vehicle, if we do resume this task.

Future Meeting Planning

At the next meeting the CWG hopes to discuss the status of the RUG Plan, campground, possibly filter plant and rail line.

Public Questions & Comments

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

6:00pm

Online