

Recreation User Group
Meeting 28
November 12, 2020
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Representative	Organization
Fred Gaudet	Arizona Trail Association
Greg Waterman	Sun City Anthem Hiking Club
Bill Scott	Sun City Anthem Hiking Club
John Bricker	Tonto Recreational Alliance (TRAL)
Jim Schenck	Rebuild Superior, LOST & CWG
Mila Besich	Mayor, Town of Superior
Todd Pryor	Manager, Town of Superior
Erik Filsinger	Queen Creek Coalition
Elizabeth Butler	Friend of the Tonto, equestrians
Tom Hawk	Imerys Plant Manager
Nick Lund	Tracks
Jason Scow	Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District
Hesston Klenk	Resolution Copper Company
Mary Morissette	Resolution
Vicky Peacey	Resolution
Rick Schonfeld	WestLand Resources
John Godec	Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)
Debra Duerr	GRA

Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced a new member, Nick Lund, who has recently moved to Superior and expressed an interest in joining the RUG. Nick has been involved with trailbuilding with Tracks, an outdoor recreation group in the White Mountains.

The Forest Service reported that the Four Peaks Cleanup was very successful, even with social distancing. Rehabilitating burned out areas is very satisfying. Fire restrictions ended yesterday on the Tonto National Forest although there hasn't been any substantial precipitation. There are still some closed areas, i.e. burned areas where flooding is expected in the first rainfall.

John Bricker told the group that there will be an OHV running of Montana Loop on November 28th in memory of Kevin Patterson, a RUG member who sadly died a year ago.

Schedule for Final EIS

Vicky Peacey of Resolution Copper said that the Forest Service is working on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) but it will probably not be released until January. She confirmed that the company has provided responses to the Forest Service on all the comments people submitted on the Draft EIS. Issuance of the FEIS triggers the land exchange, which needs to be completed within 60 days of release; however, an appraisal must be done first and the appraiser is delayed due to the death of his wife. RUG members noted that they are really looking forward to it and urged the Forest Service and Resolution to get it done. Jason Scow will provide an update on progress at the next RUG meeting.

Update on installation of Lost/Arnett Creek Trail signs

The first two signs will be installed in a week and be finished by the end of December. Shawn Redfield of the Arizona Trails Association will be there to supervise. There are a total of 8 signs, which are being provided by the Forest Service.

Update on LOST planning – Airport, Forest Service Trail, Arnett Creek

RUG members went out to the Pinal City area to look at the situation. There are still some old signs that just take you up to US60, which are not helpful. The next step would be to have TNF Ranger Adam Bromley and the Mayor walk through and discuss options. The group would like to have more signs in the Pinal City area. Increasing the number of signs using the same kind that are there is preferred, and would have a low impact.

Mayor Besich congratulated them on getting signs installed for last Arnett Creek section. She looks forward to working on Pinal City area.

Superior Marketing Program

This is really taking off. Mayor Besich mentioned that Arboretum attendance, for example, is up 50% over last year. The group was very pleased to hear this.

Other Discussion Topics, Suggestions, Study Needs, Action Items

Responding to recent developments in discussions about mitigation for the Resolution Copper Project, the Mayor noted that the Town of Superior is not receiving any signed confirmations of Resolution's commitments on mitigation. In a meeting with Andrew Lye it was indicated that the company has no plan for funding mitigation until there is subsidence (15 to 40 years). The town wants funding immediately at construction to make all the work done over the past few years worthwhile. She trusts that Rio Tinto will do the right thing in the end, but to date they do not feel there have been good-faith negotiations. Her job as Mayor is to hold all companies responsible. There will be a letter to the Forest Service on Council agenda today to remind everyone of mitigation commitments, especially about water and socioeconomics. At this point,

the town thought they would have some solid commitments, and the town needs to advocate for itself.

Vicky Peacey confirmed that she's heard and understands everything the Mayor and Manager have said, and that the expectation is that mitigation will begin before impacts occur. She knows that the RUG trails and campground are a priority. Resolution understands that tying everything to subsidence is not acceptable. Tying it to notice of construction may be preferable.

Peacey assured the group that Resolution is preparing a summary of all its commitments that will be given to the town, along with timing for all the committed EIS mitigation measures. There will also be a description of priorities for things that aren't addressed in EIS: historic water issues, emergency services, etc. Resolution recognizes that economic diversification is critical to the community.

The Mayor said she appreciates this letter and hopes for a productive relationship going forward. She reiterated that her job is to defend Superior, recognizing that even though they are a town with a world-class mine they don't want to allow themselves to be rolled over.

Imerys Concerns

Godec reminded the group that Tom Hawk of Imerys is attending the meeting today, and asked if anyone has questions for him. He also offered Tom the opportunity to expand on previous conversations. Hawk apologized for not being at last month's meeting. To reiterate, Imerys would like to maintain the facilities and operations they have in place, and felt they needed to state their concerns with the RUG plan. For example, he noted that sometimes while in his office he can watch OHVs traveling around, so Imerys primary concern is that this trail system will invite more trespass on their property or result in injuries to the public from blasting. They wanted to put everyone on notice that they are opposed to this, but Hawk also thinks there are ways to mitigate risks and work around them. He is personally a supporter and participant in hiking and outdoor recreation.

On another topic of interest, Hawk told the Town of Superior that Imerys has signed the pre-annexation agreement, which should be at the town's office today. Todd Pryor was grateful.

A RUG member commented that the work they've done together with the Tonto Recreation Alliance was extremely productive, and he recognizes Imerys concerns. However, he feels that the trail plan is the best way to ensure public safety and manage increased recreational use. There will be more people in this area regardless of whether this plan goes into effect.

Peacey observed that this is widespread challenge for Resolution as well, since they have mining land all around them that can present conflicts with recreation uses. She offered the Queen Creek climbing agreements as an example of how these uses can co-exist. Erik Filsinger confirmed that climbers have been working with Resolution for years to find ways for all objectives to be met. This will be the same with the campground at the mine site where these

issues will need to be managed for some period of time. She offered to talk with Hawk about ideas and suggestions based on Resolution's experience, and he said he would welcome that.

Mayor Besich said she appreciates Hawk's willingness to be a spokesperson for his company and for signing the annexation agreement. She hopes the Forest Road 4 process can be an example of how they can work together productively. On that note, TRAL representatives asked Imerys if the signs on FR 4 are holding up, but Tom didn't know.

A RUG member asked if the Arnett trail easement request over Imerys property is making any progress. Hawk responded that they're working with their new attorney who is more amenable, and they expect to have a signed agreement in 6 weeks or so.

It was noted that Apache tears are one of the biggest draws to the area for folks. Are there other acceptable areas where people can go to collect these that are not in the active mining area? The whole valley is perlite so there may be scattered ones. Hawk said that once per quarter he guides the Apache Junction rock club to go and collect gems, and he's willing to continue that. He just doesn't want trespassers (e.g. from New York, Germany, and Israel). Peacey asked if it's worth asking Resolution geologists if they know of any other places people might find the resource. It was suggested that someone could contact the travel websites that promote this activity and ask them to stop doing it.

The group thanked Tom for taking the time to join the RUG and they hope he will continue. They feel we have a good basis for working together since we already have done so.

Next Steps, Next Meeting

For next month's meeting RUG members suggested further mitigation discussion as a follow-up to Resolution's letter. They are also anxious to review the FEIS when it is released.

The next RUG meeting will be held on:

Thursday, December 9

10:00am to Noon

online