



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2020

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

Prepared by Godec, Randall & Associates, Facilitators

This report is being prepared at the end of the calendar year instead of mid-year as has previously been the case.

Purpose of the Community Working Group

The Superior Community Working Group (CWG) provides a forum for stakeholder involvement, communication, discussion, consensus, and planning for the proposed Resolution Copper Project in Superior, Arizona. The group was formed to help resolve issues surrounding the proposed Resolution Copper (RC) mining project. The group works to communicate and represent the concerns of the Superior and greater Copper Corridor area regarding this significant project and its potential effects on the community. While the meetings of the group are financially supported by RC, the group operates independently of the company and is managed by a neutral third-party facilitator.

The CWG is designed as a process to inform decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of the greater Superior region and all affected stakeholders. The intent of the CWG is to invite a broad range of community interests to participate in dialogue and fact-finding. The CWG meets regularly to explore topics of interest, review the status of issues and project components, develop and carry out work plans as desired, provide information to respective stakeholder groups, and provide guidance to RC.

Membership

Membership in the CWG is open to any interested party or organization having an

interest in the Resolution Copper Project, by invitation of the group. CWG members reflect the broad range of public interests within the Superior and Copper Corridor communities. As agreed by the group, membership does and may include local landowners, members of special interest groups, community service organizations, environmental conservation groups, business interests, educational institutions, community leaders, local elected officials, and others. Present CWG membership is shown below.

Community Working Group Members 2019-20

Member Organizations
Arizona Trail Association
Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Central Arizona College
City of Globe
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Copper Community Alliance
Gila County
Hewitt Station/Ranching Community
Legends of Superior Trail (LOST)
Optimist Club of Superior
Queen Valley community
Queen Valley Fire Department
Queen Valley Water District
Rebuild Superior
San Carlos Apache community
Superior area at-large
Superior Historical Society
Superior Chamber of Commerce
Superior Unified School District #15
Top of the World community
Town of Kearny
Town of Superior
Town of Winkelman
United Superiorites

Past members include Retired Miners and Concerned Citizens, Queen Valley and Superior business representatives, Queen Valley Homeowners Association, Rotary Club of Superior, Superior Little League, and students from Superior Junior/Senior High School and Central Arizona College. The CWG continues to seek replacements for members who have left and to identify additional interested parties.

CWG Meetings

The Superior Community Working Group generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Until April 2020, meetings had been held at the Superior Chamber of Commerce, 165 E. Main Street. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 virus and associated public health risks, CWG meetings had to be moved to an online platform to avoid group gatherings. The Zoom meeting platform has, therefore, been used for CWG meetings through December 2020. Members hope to be able to gather in person again when the situation allows. The online meetings have been a challenge to attendance for some CWG members who do not have reliable internet service available to them. This approach has also been a constraint to public attendance of CWG meetings, which has always been a hallmark of the group.

News releases are issued in advance of each meeting. Meetings have taken place once or twice per month since June 25, 2013. To date, 96 meetings have been held, covering a wide range of topics in which the group has expressed interest. The CWG has participated in several field trips to examine various aspects of the mining project. Additionally, RC sought the guidance of the CWG in selecting a proposed site for the project tailings facility in 2013, which has been evaluated in the Tonto National Forest Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the mining project.



Highlights of meetings held during this year are given on the following table. Agendas, detailed meeting summaries and supporting documents, meeting presentations, and news items of interest are available on the CWG website: <http://superiorazcwg.org/>

**Meeting Topics
July 2019 to December 2020**

Date	Main Topic Discussed	Guest Speaker
July 10, 2019	Resolution Copper Project Water Use	Greg Ghidotti, Resolution Copper Company (RC)
August 14	Mineral Exploration Update Around Superior	Mike McCarrel & Dave Maher, Bronco Creek Exploration
September 11	Resolution Copper Mining Water and Environmental Mitigation Planning & Commitments	Greg Ghidotti, RC & Allen Hayden, Natural Channel Design
October 9	Overview of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange (DEIS)	Mary Rasmussen & Chris Garrett, Tonto National Forest
October 14	Finalize CWG Comments on Resolution Copper Project DEIS	CWG Members
December 11	Internal Discussion – Plans for 2020	CWG Members
January 22, 2020	Mining Law of 1872	Roger Ferland, Esq.
March 11	Changes to Federal Clean Water Act, Consequences for Arizona	Justin Bern, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
April 8	Resolution Copper Update on COVID-19 Response & Protocols	Hesston Klenk, RC
May 13	Dark Skies & Water Resources Studies Updates	Vicky Peacey, RC
June 10	Update on Recreation User Group (RUG) Multi-use Trail Plan	RUG Members
July 8	Updated Socioeconomic Analysis for EIS & Economic Development Studies for Superior	Danny Court, LED Pollack & Trevor Barger, Arizona Strategies
August 12	Filter Plant Location & MAARCO Railroad	Vicky Peacey, RC
September 9	#9 Shaft Development & Geologic Characterization Program	Greg Field, RC
October 14	West Plant Remediation Program Completion	Darla Gage, RC
November 10	Community & Environmental Mitigation Discussion	CWG Members
December 9	Summary of Resolution Copper Company Mitigation Commitments to Date	Hesston Klenk, RC & CWG Members

Subcommittees

The CWG currently maintains two issue-specific subcommittees dealing with topics of particular interest to the larger group.

Recreation User Group

The Recreation User Group (RUG) has grown to include about 30 members who represent a broad range of regional recreation user groups. Members include both CWG and other stakeholder representatives. The RUG was assembled at the request of the Tonto National Forest and Resolution Copper Company to coordinate several separate recreational plans of various organizations. Their original mission, starting in September 2015, was to collaboratively develop multi-user trail system plan to submit to the Forest Service for environmental review and approval.

The RUG plan was completed with agreement from all member organizations. A significant addition developed during 2019-2020 is a concept plan for a new campground at the Castleberry site near Boyce Thompson Arboretum. It was decided that the RUG plan should be submitted to the Tonto National Forest as proposed partial mitigation for recreation impacts caused by the mining project – in particular, the loss of trails and campground at Oak Flat. This approach allowed the plan to be included in the overall analysis conducted for the Resolution Copper Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A final approved configuration of the RUG plan is expected to be included as part of the Record of Decision for the project.

In nine meetings held during this period, the RUG expanded its focus to include many

smaller recreation enhancement projects like signage for existing trails, additional right-of-way for trail connections, and informing the broader public about the proposed plan and how it integrates into other recreation and economic development initiatives of the Superior area. Future activities will center on funding and implementation of the trail network and campground. The group receives technical support from Mary Morissette of RC, the consultants WestLand Resources, and the Globe District of Tonto National Forest.

Community Monitoring Group



The Community Monitoring Group was established to provide independent, community-based environmental monitoring of the mining project. With support from their consultant, Matrix New World, this group takes and analyzes 'baseline' water quality samples from three wells to compare against future mine discharges and possible contaminants. Their activities mirror the testing required of RC but well samples are tested and analyzed independently of the company. Six quarterly samplings were performed this period. The group hopes to expand its activities to the Skunk Camp tailings site.

CWG Highlights

Much of the CWG's work during this period revolved around the process and content of the EIS for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange. Their interests lay in reviewing the tailings site and other alternatives developed for analysis in the Draft EIS, understanding the projected impacts of the project on water and natural resources and community social and economic concerns, and learning about mitigation programs to be required and offered by RC to address these impacts.

To this end, the CWG collaboratively developed comments on many aspects of the Draft EIS and formally submitted them to the Forest Service. Several meetings during this period have been devoted to discussions about how the Forest Service and RC are addressing these concerns.

Activities and accomplishments of the CWG in the past 18 months include the following:

- Held 17 informational meetings about aspects of the Resolution Copper Project, related issues, and implications for the Copper Corridor region.
- Through collaboration with RC, defined and gained commitment on many important socioeconomic and environmental mitigations.
- Directly participated in the Resolution Copper Project EIS through development and submission of formal comments on the Draft EIS. This gives the CWG 'standing' to comment on the Final EIS when it is released.
- Continued to enhance its community outreach strategy to broaden awareness of CWG work and meetings. A planned

informational booth at the Apache Leap Mining Festival in March 2020 had to be cancelled because of the COVID virus.

- For the fourth year, sent representatives to speak at a U.S. Forest Service International Land Managers Seminar in October 2019.
- Reviewed and endorsed the multi-use trail plan and campground proposal developed by the RUG.
- Conducted six quarterly water quality sampling and testing protocols through the Community Monitoring Group and extended the contract with their consultant.

Future Planning

The CWG continues to seek new and replacement members. They have directed the facilitator to work with groups, including those listed below, to obtain representation.

Possible Additional Community Working Group Members

Dripping Springs community
Pinal County
Red Bears
Superior Little League
Other youth organizations
High school & college students
Arizona Water Company
Faith-based communities
Knights of Columbus
Copper Corridor Economic Dev't. Coalition
Arizona Wildlife Federation

Some of the topics for future CWG meetings that have been requested by the group include those shown on the following table.

Requested Future CWG Meeting Topics

Topic of Interest	Possible Guest Speaker
Presentation and Discussion of Resolution Copper Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	Tonto National Forest (TNF) & consultant staff
Land Exchange – Parcels proposed to replace Oak Flat, POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP	RC
Updates on Resolution Copper Project water use, discharges, and management	RC
Resolution Copper summary of final mitigation for groundwater and surface water impacts	Vicky Peacey, RC
Tailings water quality monitoring and mitigation – updates and details, ‘what if’ scenarios, commitments in the case of emergencies	Jason Nelson, RC
Expansion of Community Monitoring Program to Dripping Springs tailings site	RC & Community Monitoring Group
Tailings reclamation examples – representative projects similar to Resolution	RC
Planning for housing and workforce impacts of Resolution Copper Project	TNF, RC, Towns of Superior, Kearny, Winkelman, Globe, etc.
Final Plans for Dark Skies, Noise, Vibration at West Plant site in future	RC
World Copper Market Dynamics	RC or other
Difference between “legislative” and “administrative” land exchange options	Federal or legal guest
Updates on Superior area economic development and planning initiatives	Town of Superior, Arizona Strategies
Tribal and Native American concerns – positions, interests, etc., particularly San Carlos Apache	San Carlos Community and other tribal representatives
Project opposition concerns– positions, interests, issues, etc.	Retired Miners & Concerned Citizens, others
Periodic reports on independent community water quality monitoring program	Community Monitoring Group & consultant
Environmental Enforcement – e.g. third party and agency monitoring and enforcement	Panel: AGFD, ADWR, ADEQ, TNF
Updates on filter plant location & details	RC
Real Estate issues and property valuation	Real estate experts
#9 Shaft development & geologic studies updates	RC
Updates on implementation of Recreation User Group Trail Plan and Castleberry Campground	RUG members, RC