

**March 10, 2021
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Jim Schenck – Legends of Superior Trail
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Mila Besich – Town of Superior
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Silvia Werre – Top of the World
Amanda Moors – Arizona Wildlife Federation
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce

Community Working Group members not present:

Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society
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 (retired from Town of Kearny and CWG)
Sylvia Kerlock – Town of Winkelman
Richard Matthews – Queen Valley Water Board
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Cathy Melvin – Gila County
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Mayor Bracamonte – Town of Winkelman
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Department, Fire Department

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk - Manager – Native American & Regional Government Engagement
Melissa Rabago – Communities & Social Performance
Caitlin
Vicky Peacey

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Public Visitors: The public was not able to attend this online meeting.

Housekeeping

Mayor Besich thanked Fernando and Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center for expanding the Gila County vaccination program to include Superior and Queen Valley residents.

The group asked if they may be able to meet in person in the near future. Resolution staff said they are discussing this but there is no decision or plan yet. Jim Schenk offered the new Rebuild Superior office at Town Hall; Besich Park and the food court were also suggested, depending on weather.

Queen Valley is doing very well, with the golf course doing a great business and real estate moving quickly.

BTA is being featured by Smithsonian as one of the 6 most beautiful gardens in the world – March 27th or 28th program. Lynne will let us know.

Discuss Resolution Copper Project EIS Developments

Hesston reviewed the current situation and asked if the group had any questions. He reiterated that Resolution will continue to support the mitigation they've agreed to that's not directly tied to EIS decision. They expect this to be a 'bump in the road', and they will be prepared to 'hit the ground running' at the other end of this. He noted that this is a political maneuver and there will be a lot of work going into making sure it continues.

- What additional work or studies might be needed to make this go forward?
 - The process was stopped to continue Sec. 106 consultation, not for any environmental reason. So, Resolution doesn't expect much more study to be needed on their part.

There may be news about a proposed bill by Rep. Grijalva to repeal the land exchange, which apparently will be reintroduced. Members noted that this is not totally unexpected since there is such a difference between the last Administration and this one, but they feel it will proceed in the end. There are many other things in the state that are affected by the recent Executive Order, such as several TNF programs like the Travel Management Plan.

The mayor noted that this was a shock to everyone, particularly after the developments with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, but the town has taken significant opportunities to put their voices forward. They met with Robert Bonney, USDA coordinator, and Liz Archuletta, the USDA liaison with the White House. They were receptive to concerns but have many other things on their plate (e.g. Capstone EIS at Pinto Valley is also at risk) and are limited in what they can do legally because of the Mining Act of 1872. It was agreed that the town would follow up with them in about a month to check in on progress. There will be a mining summit tomorrow with local elected officials to develop an advocacy strategy. It will be important for local voices to be heard. There may also be pressure on the Arizona congressional delegation who were generally elected because they are moderate and have supported the mine; they are concerned

about the positions that Grijalva is taking. He, however, is the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee so it will likely pass his committee; then it will be up to the Speaker to send it on to the House. People generally feel that it would not pass the Senate, however.

Bruce observed that the price of copper has skyrocketed since the EIS for this project and for Capstone has been stopped. Hesston said this has something to do with the policy support for electric vehicles and other initiatives, as well. All agreed that it's best not to make this a partisan political issue, however. Also, there is 'no winning in the media' right now, so direct communication with Senators and other elected officials is probably the best approach.

- Is the price of copper for concentrate or finished product?
 - "Comax" (Commercial and Mercantile Exchange) – The primary futures and options market for trading metals. Formerly known as the Commodity Exchange Inc., COMEX merged with the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) in 1994 and became the division responsible for metals trading.
 - Bruce said there was a Comax warehouse at San Manuel, and the controlled distribution from there had a lot to do with copper prices.

RUG members reported that the RUG decided to write a support letter to elected and administration officials in a month to make sure this stays on the front burner, since there are new people in place now than at the beginning of the year.

A CWG member said he's very disappointed in the news media where there is a lot of bias. He noted that if he hadn't attended these meetings, he'd probably be opposed to the mine, too. There was much discussion about this issue. It's more important now to win than to tell the truth.

Resolution gave a compliment to Arlynn. Resolution was contacted by a budding entrepreneur from the White Mountain tribe, and Arlynn with Seedspot is providing assistance. So, it's not all bad news.

Future Meeting & Activity Planning

Godec showed a running list of possible meeting topics for future CWG meetings, and asked the group if they have suggestions for priorities or new topics.

1. Regarding land exchange parcels, the legislation says the value of lands, based on appraisals, needs to be relatively equal. So, if the value of Oak Flat is determined to be greater than the value of identified exchange lands Resolution could pay the difference in cash or with additional properties. The group is not interested in a field trip, which would constitute a tour of the state of Arizona.

2. Water quality monitoring – particularly at Skunk Camp. The group is interested in learning more about this. It was agreed to contact Greg Ghidotti to find out if he's made any progress in working with the folks at Dripping Springs. Hesston said that they have bought several of the

properties and are negotiating with others. The existing group could probably do sampling at least on the parcels that Resolution owns.

3. Tailings reclamation – no difference between the Far East site proposals and those for Skunk Camp. Still progressive reclamation.

4. Planning for workforce housing – Globe noted that they have a real shortage, which is driving prices very high and properties are sold immediately. Suggestions for addressing this are Pinal County Investment Board, Seedspot. We should start planning for this and talking about it, even if it's not urgent. Resolution is working with unions and apprenticeship programs on training people in the building trades. There is a consideration both for construction-related housing and also long-term housing. Bruce noted that there is a proposed new housing development at Queen Valley.

5. Shutting down the Hayden Smelter – We should try to learn more from Asarco about their plans, since new smelters are likely to be very difficult to permit.

6. Look for funding on infrastructure and environmental enhancements through state and federal agencies and grants. This is why it's helpful that both the town and Resolution have lobbyists in Washington, who work together. There's a market feasibility analysis being done. The town has done a lot of work in this area and have several grant applications. A CWG member asked if the Arboretum has access to any other sources, since they are a world-class facility. Lynne said they are embarking on a master planning effort, but do not have any 'shovel-ready' projects to put forward at this time.

7. World copper market – Hesston will try to find someone in Rio Tinto to talk about this.

(Is the water flow from #9 increasing and is it draining into #10? No, pretty static. The rock down there is pretty tight. Not much change in monitoring wells around the shafts. There has been a slight decrease from 600 gpm pumping to 500 gpm.)

8. how to transport concentrate to Florence Junction – slurry pipeline or railroad? Is this a discussion that we should have if it's not decided? Hesston said the railroad isn't off the table but the plan is for a pipeline.

9. any news on BHP properties? Invite Maricella to talk about this as well as all BHP properties in the Copper Corridor.

Public Questions & Comments

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
6:00pm