

**October 13, 2021
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present both in-person and by Zoom:

Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior, Legends of Superior Trail
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Mila Besich – Town of Superior
Ricardo Provencio – United Superiorites
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Lynne Nemeth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch

Community Working Group members not present:

Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Amanda Moors – Arizona Wildlife Federation
Bruce Wittig -- Queen Valley Water Department, Fire Department
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Silvia Werre – Top of the World
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
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Cathy Melvin – Gila County
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Mayor Bracamonte – Town of Winkelman
Gloria Ruiz – Town of Winkelman

Resolution Copper Company:

Vicky Peacey -- Environmental and Permits Senior Manager
Hesston Klenk -- Manager--Native American & Regional Government Engagement

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec
Sydney Uphouse

Principle Guest Speaker:

Octavius Seowtewa – Cultural Director, Pueblo of Zuni

Other Guests:

Several other tribal and non-tribal members involved with Resolution's tribal consultation program.

Welcome and Introductions

John Godec welcomed the Community Working Group (CWG) members and asked that they introduce themselves. There were several guests representing native tribes present. The group welcomed them and thanked them for their attendance.

Tribal Consultation: Overview of Pueblo Zuni Cultural Heritage and Historical Local Impacts

Octavius Seowtewa introduced himself and thanked the group for inviting him. He explained that he and the Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team have been working to provide information on Puebloan culture. They have been working to discover Hopi ancestral sites in and around Superior. It is important to them to make the presence of Puebloan tribes known, as some archaeologists say their people have disappeared. The Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team is currently working on filling vacancies left by elderly religious leaders who have passed on, introducing new members who represent religious societies within the Zuni, and going to sites to identify different tribes that lived in the area. He explained that it is difficult for people to understand that information about ancestral tribes is not readily available, and his team is trying to change that.

Members of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office were introduced. It was explained that tribal monitors on the ground have been extremely helpful in changing the narrative that native tribes have disappeared into history. The Cultural Resource Advisory Task Force within the office is made up of members from various sects of the Hopi Tribe. It was described how interesting it is to go out to sites and see plants and minerals while knowing what they were used for by ancient peoples. It was asked that ancestral sites and archaeological sites be respected because native people still live at those sites spiritually.

Several of the tribal representatives explained that people need to remember there were people here before us. It is important to have consultation with tribes and to be respectful of native and non-native histories in the area. It is also important for people to work together and respect tribal history and not see it as an attack on other types of history.

A member of the CWG acknowledged that Native Americans are able to recognize cultural symbols and artifacts within the landscape that archaeologists simply walk by. They asked the tribal representatives if they had made any new cultural discoveries in the past couple years. A

video of the work that has been done in the past couple years has been produced and a showing at a different time was offered.

It was explained that, originally, there was only one tribe recognized in the area. However, many tribes are now recognized, and all cultural heritages need to be recognized and respected.

Octavius described how tribal monitoring programs have opened eyes to ancestral Puebloan sites that were originally bypassed. Godec said that the Superior area is widely regarded as primarily Apache occupied lands. Octavius was asked to explain what tribes make up the Puebloan culture. Pueblo became Hopi, Zuni and others.

It was asked if Apache were originally Puebloan and it was said that Apache were not Pueblo

Octavius then shared a video, called Zuni in the Grand Canyon, which documented a spiritual trek down Colorado River in the Grand Canyon and documented evidence of ancient indigenous culture along the way. The video has won several Native American film festival awards and a language preservation award.

After the video, a member of the CWG asked if this type of cultural preservation work is going on in other parts of the country with other tribes. Octavius responded that he doesn't think so. However, some tribes are beginning to talk to elders to uncover their history, as much of it only exists orally. A lot of tribes in the eastern US were removed from their lands, and much of their history was lost. Some tribes have started retracing the Trail of Tears and going back to their homelands in the east. Boarding schools also contributed to erasure of history and have created a cultural divide between elders and younger generations. The loss of language has greatly contributed to a loss of culture. Monitoring and historical documentation of indigenous peoples in other countries is now very active.

The CWG thanked the tribal representatives for their time and for sharing about their culture and history.

Resolution Copper Updates

Godec asked Hesston for an update on Resolution regarding the FEIS status and construction updates. Hesston explained that there have been no changes in the FEIS. However, a review has been done by the USDA, FS, and US DOJ to make sure there were no clearly missing components in the report or anything that needed to be reevaluated. There appears to be no need for a supplemental EIS. Current, ongoing tribal consultation is expected to focus on water quality, quantity, and mining methods, and tribes will be able to ask questions regarding these topics. It is expected to take several months before the EIS will be ready to be republished. It is expected that there will be a 60-day notice prior to publishing

Resolution is performing periodic technical group evaluations, and it is expected that there will be a request for significant additional funding underground lateral development. Resolution has

already started doing some drilling underground to characterize where to put drifts. They also have plans for design of a reverse-osmosis plant, but its feasibility needs to be further explored. They will likely need to test small RO facility first.

Hesston also stated that Westland Resource is currently out doing riparian zone evaluations using drones.

The end of October is the new expected deadline to vote on the current proposed Oak Flat bill before Congress. If it is not voted on at this time, then it's unclear when it will be revisited due to the holidays.

Mayor Besich mentioned that there is a 2 year moratorium on drilling by Bronco Creek. Additionally, the Town of Superior plans an extensive land purchase in the area. She stated that this announcement is expected to garner a lot of attention but they plan to move forward. Superior is working with Resolution on funding.

Final Thoughts

Members of the CWG suggested that the name of Apache Leap Mining Festival may need to be changed to be more considerate of Native culture. They also suggested inviting the Hopi to the festival to share more about the Pueblo culture of the area.

Hesston offered to invite tribes to future CWG meetings to allow the group to learn more about their culture. The group agreed that they need to not only invite native tribes, but also other cultural groups to get fully an immersive cultural experience. It was suggested that indigenous tribes be invited to the upcoming Centennial Celebration to share their histories.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

6:00pm (MST)

In-person at Superior Chamber of Commerce and online via Zoom

RSVP needed in order to prepare meals for in-person attendees.

The next CWG meeting is expected to discuss copper markets and pricing