

**Meeting Summary**  
**Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group**  
**July 23, 2020, 6:30—8:30 PM**  
**Via Computer Conferencing**

**Introductions and Announcements**

CAG: Peter Butler, Chara Ragland, Parker Newby, Ty Churchwell, Marcel Gaztambide, Anthony Edwards, Larry Perino, Charles Smith, Terry Morris, Russ Anderson, Levi Lloyd (not present: John Ott, Melissa May, Brian Devine)

Other Attendees: Linda Figueroa, Clay Self, Pat Maley, Willy and Chris Tookey, Jim Morris, Scott Roberts, Mike Rawitch, David Heinze, Katherine Jenkins, Christina Progress, Rebecca Metzker, Neil Wester, C Stoneback, Lisa Merrill, Ryan Bennet, Brian Loffman, Kirstin Brown, Sarah Doyle, Marcy Bidwell, James Hou, Melissa Smein, Athena Jones, Walt Brown, Haley Farwell, Ralph Gruebel, Sara Copp Franz, Karen Barger, Forrest Vaughan, Dennis McQuillan, Mark Rudolph, Walt Brown, Samantha Wright, Jim Gusek,

Currently have 14 CAG members. Trevor Downing has stepped down.

We have received some new reports from Sunnyside Gold Corp (SGC) and EPA which will go up shortly on the website.

Several CAG members toured the Mayflower tailings pond #4 with Pat Maley of SGC on Tuesday morning. Pat says he's happy to answer questions and provide information on SGC's work to the CAG. Peter will send out the contact information. Pat will also be available to do similar tours with others when he is in town.

**EPA Updates**

Christina Progress:

EPA received comments from CAG and others on Chapters 2 and 4 of the Site Strategy Management Report. Based upon comments, they are making changes to chapter 4. They will release the rest of the document with updated chapters 2 and 4 by end of August to get feedback.

EPA hopes to have repository feasibility study out for public review by next week with comment starting next Wednesday and running for 30 days. There will be a public comment meeting using AdobeConnect on August 11 at 6 pm.

James Hou:

The valve on the pipe through the Red & Bonita bulkhead was shut. The head on the pipe reached 50 feet in about 3 days (as of Saturday). Initially the water rose at about 13 feet of head per day and then there was an obvious change where it started to increase at 20 feet a day. They are treating excess flow at water treatment plant. Next Monday they will start increasing the head to 200 feet. Once 200 feet has been reached, they plan to hold it there for as long as possible while leaving time for a drawdown before winter. The amount of seepage near the bulkhead has so far been very little. Using an inflection point in the curve showing the rate of the increase in head, they calculated that it had taken about 600,000 gallons to fill the mine workings which was very close to EPA's early estimate of the mine volume.

**Activities in and Around Arrastra Gulch**

David Heinze a Ramboll consultant working for the ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust updated the CAG on its activities. The Trust was set up during bankruptcy proceedings for ASARCO to manage environmental liabilities with regard to properties around the country. Two sites are in

Colorado, the smelting operation at Globe, near Commerce City (outside of Denver) and San Juan County, Colorado.

Four million dollars was allocated for the 81 mine claims in the county, most of which are in the Silver Lake area. Two of the mines in EPA's list of 46 were owned by ASARCO – the Amy Tunnel and the Legal Tender Tunnel (also known as the Aspen Tunnel). These two mines are not near Silver Lake but instead are south of and across the river from the Mayflower Tailings.

The Trust has funded assessments of the properties. Sub-contractors are doing treatability studies of the drainage from the Amy. The Legal Tender has no drainage. Colo. School of Mines is working with the Trust on stabilization techniques to reduce metal loading from the Legal Tender dump pile. The Trust has also funded a biological assessment of these two mines and conducted wetland delineation. They continue to do more sampling and characterization which will lead to a Remedial Investigation/Focused Feasibility Study (RI/FFS) to determine what remedies will be put in place.

Mike Rawitch, working with Ramboll showed some other work funded by the Trust regarding mapping and historical surveys of the Silver Lake area. They are characterizing the area with drones to put on a digital platform. They showed pictures demonstrating the inaccessibility of the Lake. Eventually they would like to role out an interactive educational tool that can be used by the San Juan Historical Society.

### **BLM Activities in the Basin this Year**

Melissa Smeins with BLM discussed the agencies projects this summer. The main focus has been shoring up the retention wall at the May Day. The May Day retention wall was originally constructed in 1998 to contain mine waste at the site. In 2000, tailings from Lackawanna Mill were added were added. In 2017 there was a Geotech survey that indicated additional stabilization was needed. They are installing steel metal sheets along the wall and will fill in behind the sheets and stabilize.

They have also finishing up work at the Lewis Lake site is near Animas Forks. Last year BLM consolidated tailings out of a waterway and isolated them on site. This year they are working on hydrologic controls above the site.

BLM is also planning to clean out and renovate the concrete testing structure at the Wynona mine and is doing some minor maintenance at the Forest Queen located south of Eureka. They are making sure the water is staying on BLM land.

Lisa Merrill with BLM has been working with Colo Parks and Wildlife to capture beavers at the North Star. They have been damming the adit and capturing a lot of water. The goal is to relocate the beavers to stream where they will be helpful and not potentially destabilize a mine site. Currently they are going to Minnie Gulch.

Both Jim Gusek and Peter asked about water quality data on the Elk Tunnel for which a passive treatment system was recently installed. Lisa says they are still working on the validation of that data.

### **DRMS Activities in the Basin this Year**

Kirsten Brown with DRMS provided an update of activities:

Cunningham Mine Safety Closure Project. DRMS will be doing safety closures in this area. There are some open shafts in the area that may be 200 feet plus deep.

Ben Butler Safety Closure Project. DRMS will backfill the open workings with mine waste left from the mine mixed with limestone. The site is on EPA's 46 mine site list because of the mineralized, reactive

mine waste. This is a cooperative project with BLM who is working on the NEPA clearance and delivering limestone to the site. We'd like to see this mine taken off the list.

Goals 2 and 3 Data Collection (Minimize unplanned releases and stabilize source areas): Kirsten is putting together a list of questions in a 6-page data form including comprehensive information about drainage, pond characterization, waste rock, pipes, mine working, environmental conditions, and history. The idea is to provide information for EPA to make decisions on projects about preventing releases and stabilizing.

IROD Sites 2021: DRMS is helping characterize Campgrounds 4 and 7 to mitigate human health hazards of mine waste present in these areas in preparation for dirt moving work.

Walt Brown from the US Forest Service offers to give an update about actions planned for the Brooklyn mine this year and next.

### **Administrative Items**

- ✓ Meeting Summary – not available as yet for people to vote on
- ✓ CAG Membership Size – We started with target size of 15 but ended up with 17 for a variety of reasons. Since the CAG lost 2 people, we have discussed going to 15 members. In addition, Trevor Downing left the CAG last week. Chara moves to change the CAG size to 15. Larry seconds. All in favor. Eleven members are present so the motion passes.
- ✓ Minor changes to the bylaws. In changing the number of CAG to 15, there are several changes that need to be made in the CAG's operating procedures. Marcel makes a motion to change the operating procedures as proposed in a draft sent out by Peter. Parker seconds. All in favor. None opposed.
- ✓ CAG Vacancy. Currently there are only 14 members of the CAG. In a discussion session last week, the CAG decided to form a sub-committee to review applications. The CAG will send out a notice to the email list to let people know of the vacancy and post ads in local papers. CAG is focused on CO but there have been people from NM previously. The sub-committee is Peter, Levi, Ty, Chara, and Marcel. Ty says he can place the ads.
- ✓ Website Updates. Ty reports that we are up to date.
- ✓ Increasing Outreach Efforts. The CAG plans to improve its outreach efforts, primarily by making the website be more readable and useable. EPA is also interested in working with the CAG on outreach through development of a story board. There was also discussion about utilizing Marcel's Animas map work which is similar to google earth but with mines, trails, and watershed features. It might be a good tool for EPA to use as well. The Animas River Community Forum has also developed a nice example of a story board. Marcel and Chara are working with the Forum to update that effort and would like to have a chapter on the BPMD work.

✓

Marcel shared the link in the chat.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1JgklH5tSLGUg3Wc6QjD8XGY1kZM&usp=sharing>

Chara and Peter would like to get together with Ty to do a facelift on the website. Ty remarks that some of the information is past tense and needs to be updated.

- ✓ Long-Range Schedule. The Terrestrial Baseline Risk Assessment has been delayed, so the presentation has been put off. There will be plenty of the agenda items for the next few months.
- ✓ Future Agenda Items? *BPMD Site Strategies Updates, Macroinvertebrate Data, Tour of Gladstone Treatment Plant, Site Specific plans for interim remedial actions, Terrestrial Baseline Risk Assessment, Sampling and data analysis, Little Dora and North Star Remediation, etc.*
- ✓ Next meeting is August 27.

**8:14 PM Adjourn**