

**Meeting Summary**  
**Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group**  
**Oct. 22, 2020, 6:30—8:15 PM**  
**Via Computer Conferencing**

**Introductions and Announcements**

**CAG Members Attending:** Ty Churchwell, Terry Morris, John Ott, Peter Butler, Brian Devine, Marcel Gaztambide, Melissa May, Anthony Edwards, Parker Newby, and Russ Anderson.

There were about twenty other people in attendance including EPA and other agency personal, representatives of SGC, representatives of the Silverton-San Juan County Planning Group, and members of the public.

Earlier in the month, a number of CAG members and several other local people toured the Mayflower Tailings area with Pat Maley with SGC. This was a larger group than on previous tours and a quite a few people had not toured previously.

**EPA Updates**

The Red & Bonita Bulkhead Test has been completed. The mine pool was drained and treated. The discharge has just been turned back into Cement Creek. EPA did several sampling events throughout the test. They will do one more sampling event next week now that the test is over.

EPA has received some comments on the Site Strategic Management Plan and is finalizing the document. The Mayflower IROD will hopefully be completed by the end of the year. Based upon comments received, the IROD will be changed so that Mayflower Pond #4 will be the site of the main repository for the BPMD. An earlier draft specified that Ponds #1 and #2 were to be the initial repository sites and Pond #4 would be utilized after the first two Ponds were used to capacity.

A presentation on the Terrestrial Baseline Risk Assessment will be given to the CAG at the next meeting.

**Presentation of CAG Data Collected in the Animas Canyon**

Peter made a presentation on the water quality data the CAG has been collecting over the past year in the Animas River Canyon below Silverton. The CAG has collected monthly samples in three locations in the canyon when snow allows. Samples were collected every month from the Animas River below the confluence with Cascade Creek by riding the train in the winter months.

The only metal that doesn't meet water quality standards protective of most aquatic life (Colorado Table Value Standards) below Cascade is zinc. Peter estimated that it would take zinc load reduction of about a 90 – 100 pound per day to meet standards at that location. The highest zinc concentrations occur in late winter, but the standard, which varies with hardness, is most greatly exceeded in May.

Aluminum concentrations exceed EPA's chronic aluminum criteria most months, sometimes by a very large margin. However, Colorado has not adopted the criteria and overall, the Colorado aluminum standard is not exceeded.

Peter also discussed data collected from the Animas River below the confluence with Elk Creek. These metal concentrations are higher than downstream and zinc, aluminum, iron, and cadmium all exceed Table Value Standards (TVS). Cadmium only barely exceeds standards. Because of snow, the CAG was unable to collect samples between November 2019 and May 2020 when concentrations would be expected to be their highest. Much of the zinc and cadmium loading in the basin occurs at mine sites, whereas most of the iron and aluminum does not – it comes from natural sources. Peter estimated that it would take a zinc reduction of about 110 pounds per day to meet TVS at this location.

### **San Juan Co. Environmental Ordinance to Protect Remediated Sites**

Anthony Edwards briefly described a new ordinance San Juan County is drafting to ensure any new development doesn't undue the benefits of mine remediation conducted around the county.

### **Administrative Items**

Peter said that the August meeting summary states that all CAG members approved comments the CAG sent to EPA regarding the Mayflower Tailings IROD. He neglected to note that Larry Perino had abstained from any discussion on the comments and had abstained from the vote since he owns land adjacent to the tailings. Peter asked the CAG for permission to correct that discrepancy in the meeting summary. CAG members voted unanimously to authorize him to make the correction.

Ty described new updates to the website. It should be current now.

Peter asked for any comments regarding a draft letter to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for the upcoming Issues Scoping Hearing in November regarding possible proposals in the Reg. 34 San Juan Basin Water Quality Standards rulemaking hearing in June 2022. After some discussion, the group voted to send the letter to the commission.

Because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Peter suggested the CAG meet one more time in 2020 in early December. It was agreed to schedule a meeting on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**8:10 PM**

**Adjourn**