

Meeting Summary
Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group
Sept, 27, 2020, 7:00—8:15 PM
Via Computer Conferencing

Introductions and Announcements

CAG Members: Peter Butler, Levi Lloyd, Terry Morris, Charlie Smith, Melissa May, Russ Anderson, Anthony Edwards, John Ott, Marcel Gaztambide, and Chara Ragland.

There were about thirty 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.

Peter said that around ten CAG members and two La Plata County Commissioners had met with EPA Regional Administrator Greg Sopkin and his staff at James Ranch. Sopkin met with the Silverton-San Juan County Planning Group the day before.

Several CAG members met with Pat Maley with SGC and toured the area around the Mayflower tailings to better understand SGC's investigations.

Dennis McQuillen, Chief Scientist for the New Mexico Environmental Dept., is retiring. He's been very active regarding activities in the Animas River Basin since the Gold King spill.

EPA Updates

Christina Progress had several of her project managers summarize recent EPA activities. First, the BPMD is going to continue to remain on the EPA Administrator's Emphasis List which the CAG had encouraged. The BPMD could have been removed with the adoption of the Site Strategy Management Plan. The Emphasis List is reviewed quarterly.

Drain down of the mine pool behind the Red & Bonita bulkhead has begun. The water elevation behind the bulkhead reached 187 feet, lower than the targeted 200 feet. EPA started the drain down because they want to have enough time to lower and treat the water before winter sets in. Currently 450-500 gpm is being released through the bulkhead and piped for treatment to the Gladstone treatment plant. A few seeps and springs appeared during the test that were not previously flowing, but the flows were not substantial, just a couple of gpm. Most new seep and spring locations appeared to have flowed at some previous point in time.

EPA will provide the final draft of the Site Strategy Management Plan in the coming weeks. They are hoping to finalize the plan by the end of October.

EPA is reading twenty-one sets of comments sent in on the IROD for the Mayflower Repository. They hope to have the IROD finalized by the end of the year. Conceptual design plans should be developed early in 2021.

The Terrestrial Baseline Risk Assessment is almost complete, and EPA would like to present its findings to the CAG later this fall.

Administrative Items

The August Meeting Summary was approved by the CAG. We did not get any applications for vacant CAG opening despite advertising in local papers and announcements through our email list. This is in contrast to when the CAG was first initiated when there were over 33 applications. Since the end of the application deadline, we have identified several people who may be good candidates, and we will reach out to them.

Peter would like to schedule a technical sub-group meeting and will reach out to members of the sub-group. At the October CAG meeting he plans to do a presentation on the data the CAG has been collecting in the Animas Canyon.

8:10 PM

Adjourn