

Meeting Summary
Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group
March 25, 2021, 6:30—8:30 PM
Via Computer Conferencing

CAG Members in Attendance: Peter Butler, John Ott, Ty Churchwell, Levi Lloyd, Russ Anderson, Chara Ragland, Anthony Edwards, Brian Devine, Melissa May, Terry Morris, Marcel Gaztambide, Charlie Smith, Parker Newby, Susan Livenick, Teal Lehto.

Also in attendance (not a complete list): Paul Montoia, Christina Progress, Marsha Porter-Norton, Ben Martinez, Kirstin Brown, Helen Mary Johnson, Laura Dixon, Tom Schillaci, Pat Maley, Melissa Smeins, James Hou, Neal Westesen, Chris Stonebeck, Karen Suchomel, Ryan Bennet, Athena Jones, Joy Jenkins, Katherine Jenkins, Christin Kapatayes, Rachel Vaughn, Annie Maxfield, Beth Archer, Rob Parker, Tanner Banks, Selena Sauer, Linnea Spears-Leh, Michelle Furi.

6:30—6:45 PM Introductions and Announcements

Peter said that all of the data the CAG has been collecting has put into SCRIBE, which EPA uses for its database. It is housed under a different database name than EPA's data. He has also been updating the ARSG database with data up through 2016.

Peter also displayed some graphs of hazard quotients in the Animas Canyon using the CAG data. A hazard quotient is the concentration of a metal in a single sample divided by an appropriate water quality standard or water quality criteria given different parameters for that sample (*i.e.* pH, hardness, DOC). The lowest hazard quotients for dissolved zinc are in late summer, early fall and the highest are generally in spring during the rising limb of the hydrograph. The lowest hazard quotients for iron and aluminum are during high flows in early summer and the highest are late winter as the ice starts to melt off the river banks.

6:45—7:35 PM Five-Year Strategic Plan for the BMPD

Christina Progress and Katherine Jenkins are going on assignment for about four months, so Joy Jenkins and Beth Archer will be taking over their duties during that timeframe. Christina discussed EPA's plan for the next five years. Five-year planning periods are required under the adoption of last year's Site Management Plan. This five-year plan does not have a lot specific detail and is pretty high level.

There were a number of comments and questions centering on costs and when would major work on the ground actually commence. The first comment was that from the 2015 Gold King release through the end of the five-year plan, somewhere around \$100 million will have been spent in the basin and the only project that will significantly improve water quality during that time period is the treatment of the Gold King discharge. There were several questions regarding where does the adaptive

management strategy fit in. The process in the five-year plan looks very similar to the linear process utilized at other Superfund sites. Additional questions centered on why the Gladstone treatment plant is so expensive to run compared to other treatment plants and when will the Mayflower repository be constructed. EPA's response was that the Superfund process takes time, and they are trying to bite off small chunks which will inform them for future decisions.

Melissa Smeins with BLM lost her connection but indicated through chat that BLM will continue supporting EPA efforts and 2019 IROD work. Ben Martinez with the Forest Service says they are continuing to do 2019 IROD work and that they are focusing on studying the overall ecological integrity of the Mineral Creek Basin. CDPHE will continue to test remediation measures at the Amy-Legal Tender site leading towards a final plan.

7:35—8:20 PM 2021 Field Season Tasks by Different Agencies

Because of time constraints, Peter asks that the agencies run through just the highlights of the Task List. Joy starts the discussion. There are a number of contracting issues being worked on including contracts with DRMS and CDPHE to do 2019 IROD work and shifting the Gladstone treatment plant operation to the Army Corps of Engineers to manage. EPA is also working on contracting with a firm to do quite a bit of drilling this summer and in the future.

There are questions again as to why EPA wants to use resources to drill behind the bulkhead at the Gold Prince. What do they hope to learn? There are also questions about why EPA wants to open up the collapsed entrances to several different mines. Concerns are raised that opening up mines might actually increase the likelihood of unplanned releases instead of decreasing them.

Additional questions are asked about when the repository feasibility studies and seeps and springs data in OU3 will be shared. Answer is very shortly. Other questions revolve around the differences between the Removal and Remedial programs and why is there work on the Legal Tender and Amy since the water quality coming from the site is not very bad. Work on these last two mines is funded by a trust set up during the sale of ASARCO assets. Four million dollars was set aside to mitigate environmental impacts of ASARCO properties in San Juan County, and this site is the one needing the most work. The project work is funded by the trust and overseen by CDPHE.

Both the Five-Year Plan and the Task list will go up on the Bonita Peak CAG website.

8:20—8:30 PM Administrative Items

John moves to approve the meeting summary and Melissa seconds. The motion passes unanimously although Brian abstained since he hasn't yet been reappointed by the county yet.

The CAG decides to have a CAG only discussion session via Zoom for about an hour the next Thursday at 6:00.

In April, the EPA will present on either plans for the Mayflower repository or on the funding mechanisms for the BPMD. One topic will be done in April and the other in May. Anthony would also like to talk about WIIN Act funding in April.

8:30 PM

Adjourn