

Meeting Summary
Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group
May 27, 2021, 6:30—8:15 PM
Via Computer Conferencing

CAG Members in Attendance: Peter Butler, John Ott, Ty Churchwell, Russ Anderson, Chara Ragland, Anthony Edwards, Brian Devine, Melissa May, Marcel Gaztambide, Charlie Smith, Parker Newby, Levi Lloyd, and Susan Livenick. Not in attendance: Teal Lehto, and Terry Morris

Also in attendance were about 25 other people.

6:30—6:35 PM Introductions and Announcements

EPA announced that DRMS had recently done an inspection of the Pride of the West Mill (Howardsville Mill) site including investigating what was in the buildings. A number of drums of chemicals including cyanide were found. EPA is planning on taking the lead in inventorying and probably removing and disposing the drums.

6:35—7:00 PM Questions and Discussion about EPA Plans Regarding Mayflower Repository

Rob Parker with EPA discussed additional work that had been done on the preliminary design of the repository on Mayflower Tailings Pond #4 (TP4). He noted that the sludge generation at the Gladstone treatment plant was initially about 6,000 cubic yards per year. Since the flow of the Gold King has diminished, current sludge generation was about 4,000 cubic yards per year. There is around 11,400 cubic yards of sludge on site in Gladstone now.

The discussion and questions raised about the repository were very similar to the issues that came during the April meeting. There is concern about making a large portion of the repository an impoundment as opposed to “stackable” type of landfill because decades of repository capacity will be lost. The CAG pointed out a number of sources of tailings that could possibly be mixed with the Gladstone sludge as was done at the Kittimac interim repository. There was question and no answer to what did EPA learn by mixing tailings at the Kittimac with the sludge and wouldn’t an adaptive management approach be to apply what was learned to this new repository receiving the same sludge? The CAG also suggested using cement kiln dust as a solidifying agent from the cement manufacturing plant south off Pueblo. Coal trucks from the King Coal Mine outside of Hesperus haul coal to this plant and come back to the Durango area empty.

There were several other questions that received vague answers: how would the leachate be treated or managed? What is in the polymers used at the Gladstone treatment plant and are they toxic? Have stormwater scenarios been modelled to represent several large events in a short time frame? The CAG indicated that they would develop some written comments regarding the preliminary design.

7:00—7:40 PM EPA Response to CAG Comments on the Five-Year Plan and This Year's Task List. Discussion on Five Year Plan, Task List and Adaptive Management Plan

EPA has not yet finalized a formal response to the CAG's comments on the Five-Year plan and this year's task list. Joy Jenkins did discuss some of the comments.

First, the Five-Year Plan was meant to be quite general. While there are no specific actions listed that will substantially improve water quality, an IROD may be issued relative to the Gladstone area that could make a significant difference. The plan doesn't state when drilling into the Sunnyside Mine Pool for monitoring purposes may occur, but EPA is hopeful they will drill in 2022. EPA has adopted new contracting procedures that they are still working through and that has slowed down some of their larger activities. Work on the Bandora mine may move forward more slowly than initially anticipated.

Peter mentioned that SGC had just sent comments about metal loading in the vicinity of the Eureka fluvial tailings to EPA and copied to the CAG. SGC claimed that according to EPA's data, both zinc concentrations and zinc load decreases in the Animas River between Eureka and the Kittimac tailings. They questioned why this stretch of river needed more investigation. EPA had not had time to review the comments and declined to discuss them.

7:40—8:00 PM Observations from Winter Sampling below Confluence with Elk Creek.

Because of the time taken with the previous items, this topic was put off until a later date.

8:00—8:10 PM Administrative Items

Chara made a motion to approve the 4/22/21 Meeting Summary. Marcel seconded. All attending CAG members responded affirmatively.

There was discussion about meeting in person or at least some people in person and some on Zoom in July. Anthony said that Silverton Town Hall is set up to accommodate this style of meeting. The main proposed topic for the June meeting is a presentation on types of EPA funding for the BPMD - where does it come from, what constraints are

upon it, when are budget requests needed, *etc.* In July, there will likely be a discussion about the data collected during the Red & Bonita bulkhead test and what it shows. Also, David Heinze from Ramboll said he would like to present on work on the Amy and Legal Tender mines sometime this summer.

8:15 PM

Adjourn