

**Meeting Summary**  
**Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group**  
**July 22, 2021, 6:30—8:30 PM**  
**Via Computer Conferencing**

CAG Members in Attendance: Peter Butler, John Ott, Ty Churchwell, Russ Anderson, Parker Newby, Anthony Edwards, Marcel Gaztambide, Terry Morris, and Susan Livenick. Not in attendance: Chara Ragland, Brian Devine, Melissa May, Charlie Smith, and Levi Lloyd. Some of the CAG members met in person at Town Hall in Silverton and participated in the Zoom meeting from there.

Also in attendance: Beth Archer, Bill Simon, Linda Figueroa, Tom Schillaci, Melissa Smeins, Jon Kaminsky, Ben Martinez, Athena Jones, Joy Jenkins, Pat Maley, Rachel Vaughn, Rob Parker, David Heinze, Ryan Bennett, Selena Saur, Larry Perino, Kirstin Brown, Lee Josselyn, Jim Gusek, James Evangelisti, Helen Mary Johnson, Briant Offman, Jerry Jacka, Paul Montoia, plus a few others.

**6:30—6:35 PM      Introductions and Announcements**

Peter announced that Tom Schillaci has an episode 5 video out regarding the Gold King release, Acid Mine Nation, and that registration is open for the annual San Juan Mining and Reclamation Conference in Telluride. He also noted that Teal Lehto has resigned from the CAG, so the CAG will need to discuss filling that position.

Ty announced that he will be taking an employer-provided three-month sabbatical starting the middle of August. While generally, he will not be working, he can be reached on his cell phone if something particular comes up that he needs to respond to.

**6:35—6:50 PM      Update on Current On-the-Ground Activities in the Watershed**

Joy Jenkins with EPA led the discussion of EPA activity in the basin. She noted that her time is up as project manager for the site, and that Rob Parker will be stepping in as project manager at least until October. Rob has been involved with the site since its Superfund designation.

EPA Activities: They are finishing a sampling plan for sampling alluvial tailings between Eureka and Howardsville in September. Currently, they are drilling into the Terry Tunnel behind the dirt and rock fill at the portal to determine if water is backed up before opening the entrance. They are starting to drill a horizontal bore hole next to the Gold King portal to determine the competency of the rock. There is geophysical work being done at the Bandora in preparation to drilling behind the blockage to determine water levels. (It was mentioned that the Army Corps of Engineers has some funding for mine remediation and may do some of the geophysical work.) EPA is continuing to

muck out the pond in front of the Koehler Tunnel to increase capacity for settling out precipitates. Design work on the Mayflower Repository is continuing.

CDPHE and DRMS are preparing to cover up soils at the campground #7 (a trespass campground) below Animas Forks that has high lead levels. That work should be completed soon. The cover material is coming from onsite. Kirstin will be conducting mine survey work at a number of sites during the first and third weeks of August. This effort is related to goals two and three for the BPMD – stabilizing sites and preventing unplanned releases. These sites are part of the original 46 designated, but haven't received a lot of attention yet.

**6:50—7:50 PM      Remediation Testing for the Amy and Legal Tender Mines**

David Heinze with Ramboll Environmental began the presentation. Work done on these mines is funded by the ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust. There are two areas in the state where the Trust is active, Globeville in Commerce City and San Juan County.

Linda Figueroa, Professor at Colorado School of Mines, presented on work at the Legal Tender Mine. The waste rock pile on site does not have high acid producing potential and likely does not have substantial water quality impacts. However, it does have high levels of lead which could be an airborne hazard. They are looking into amendments that could prevent the mobilization of lead. They have been testing amendments in the lab and have determined that some types of covers with high organic material could actually increase mobilization of metals by water by increasing acidity in the waste rock. This is not a well-recognized potential issue that can occur when amendments for plant growth are used in cover material. It is something to bear in mind at neutral pH sites.

Jim Gusek with Linkan Engineering discussed their similar work with the waste rock pile at the Amy Tunnel. (The Legal Tender and Amy mine workings are connected.) They are also looking at the consequences of applying different amendments or cover material to the waste rock. They found that an organic copolymer sealant used for a number of purposes, including hardening soils for runways by the military, did a good job cementing and isolating the waste rock. Presentations by David, Linda and Jim will put on the CAG website.

**7:50—8:10 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.

**8:10—8:30 PM      Administrative Items**

Only nine CAG members were present and a quorum of ten is need to conduct official business. Thus, the June meeting summary will be taken up at the next CAG meeting.

There has been some discussion about a tour of various sites in September. EPA said that a tour of the Gladstone treatment plant for the public would require the property owner's permission. It is possible that he would not provide it. The CAG decided to discuss a tour further at a later date.

The CAG decided to have a CAG discussion session on Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

**8:30 PM**

**Adjourn**