

Meeting Summary
Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group
April 27, 2023, 6:30—8:30 PM
Via Computer Conferencing and In Person
at Durango Reclamation Facility
Santa Rita Park

CAG members in attendance: Peter Butler, Helen Mary Johnson, Susan Livenick, Parker Newby, Brian Devine, Charlie Smith, Emily Thorn, Dave Palmer, Jason Fast, Sara Burch, Russ Anderson, Chara Ragland, and Ty Churchwell.

Also in attendance: Tom Schillaci, Meg Broughton, Joy Jenkins, Athena Jones, Mark Rudolph, Kirstin Brown, Scott Roberts, Lisa Merrell, Melissa Smeins, Mandy Eskelson, Kirstin Brown, and others.

Introductions and Announcements

Peter introduced our newest CAG member, Jason Fast, who will now be representing the City of Durango. Jason operates the drinking water treatment plant for the city. He takes Justin Elkins' place on the CAG. Peter also thanked Justin for his time with the CAG. He has been very helpful. Peter also welcomed back Dave Palmer from Farmington who was appointed to the CAG several months ago, but has been in New Zealand since his appointment.

The CAG has been sampling Mineral Creek at Burro Bridge monthly for almost three and half years. Peter noted that the April sample had really high lead and zinc concentrations. Total lead was 75 ug/l, dissolved lead was 8 ug/l, and dissolved zinc was 893 ug/l. The drinking water supply standard for total lead is 50 ug/l. Both the dissolved lead and zinc were way above the aquatic life standards for that segment of stream. The Silver Ledge Mine is a likely source for a lot of the lead.

Mayflower #4 Repository Construction

Athena Jones with EPA discussed this summer's plans for the sitewide repository to be constructed upon the remediated Mayflower Tailings Pond #4. Phase one construction will begin early summer. Eventually there will be a phase two and three. Phase one will include grading the site, constructing a road, and constructing a lined impoundment cell for sludge from the Gladstone treatment plant. EPA is installing a number of geotechnical monitors around the pond because of the potential for uneven settling as weight is placed on the tailings. The impoundment cell will have a double liner with a detection system for leaks. It will also capture leachate and collect it into a pond. Periodically, the leachate water will be trucked up to the Gladstone treatment

plant for processing. There is currently about 20,000 cubic yards of sludge at Gladstone which is 90% water.

People asked questions about construction timing and about trucking material through Silverton. Currently, about 31,000 cubic yards of material will be needed for the site, but about half may be sourced locally. The rest will have to be trucked in over the passes on Hwy 550. There needs to be a lot of dirt work done on site first to regrade it for drainage and to remove any hard objects that may tear the liner. Construction should begin in June.

Table Value Standards for Metals and Determining How They are Met

Peter made a presentation on Table Value Standards (TVS). Two topics were covered: what are TVS for metals to protect aquatic life and how is data assessed to see if standards are being met.

TVS are default, site specific standards that are protective of different uses. Metal TVS are developed to be protective of 95% of the aquatic species that are that thought to exist or should exist in a water body. While some metal TVS are specific numbers, most of them are hardness-based equations for the dissolved fraction of the metal. For iron and aluminum, TVS are applied to total concentrations.

Data Assessment: Sample data that has been collected within seven days of each other is averaged and treated as one sample to reduce the potential bias of having a number of samples collected over a short timeframe. If an acute, aquatic-life metal TVS is exceeded more than once every three years, the standard is out of attainment. Attainment of the chronic, aquatic-life metal TVS is more complicated. The chronic TVS is compared to the 85th percentile of the data for dissolved metals and the 50th percentile for total metals to determine attainment. This can be done two different ways.

For one method, the 85th percentile of the data for a certain metal is compared to the TVS based upon the average hardness of that dataset. In the second method, the hardness of each sample is plugged into the TVS equation to compute a value. That value is compared to the metal concentration of that sample. To meet the standard, the metal concentration should not exceed TVS calculated for each sample for more than 85 percent of the samples. Peter also showed that zinc greatly exceeds TVS at the Cascade sample site and how much of a load reduction in pounds per day would be needed to attain TVS at this site (approximately 100 lbs/day reduction).

Administrative Items

- ✓ Meeting Summary – ? moved to approve the meeting summary from March and ? seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- ✓ May Meeting – Peter suggested that the CAG skips a regular meeting in May.

- ✓ CAG Discussion Time – The CAG will have a discussion session in early May.
- ✓ Long-Range Schedule – The main topic for June will likely be the Howardsville Mill Site.
- ✓ Future Agenda Items? *Macroinvertebrate Data, Prioritization of Mine Sites for Goals 2 & 3, Remedial Actions for Gladstone, Howardsville Mill, etc.*

8:15 PM

Adjourn