

Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2009

CTAC meeting was held on 7/9/09 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall. *Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Mark Thompson, Liz Kidwell, Ed Handl, Ken Weber, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guests*: Bob Brock.

1. Tom called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Tim D. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/18/09; Ed seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

3. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations

a. Current Operations Update

Tim D. reported the mine has 151 employees and 34 contractors.

b. Open Pit Lay Back Progress

Tim D. said the layback is still going well and are mining about 15 percent ahead of plan; however, the mine did experience a small high wall failure in the Southwest portion of the pit. Tim reported it's a very small impact and will not cause delays. The mill is shut down and five mill maintenance people are working on the refurbishment and will be working on structural, steel and tank repairs. The mine also has a group coming in to help with the assessment of ring gears. The mine is upgrading their cyanide handling system to meet the new, higher level international cyanide code that all other Barrick operations meet. The code is not mandatory to comply with but Barrick has made a commitment that all their operations will meet the new code. The mine is in the process of budgeting for next year and is also looking at potential ways to start the mill in 2011 instead of 2012.

c. Wind Development Update

Tim D. said topo maps and design plans are being sent back and forth to the wind developer for use with their modeling. The wind developer is collecting additional wind data from the monitoring stations they have installed at the mine. Tom said staff received the feasibility analysis report from Northwest SEED and will email a copy to Tim D. Tom said staff would like to meet with the wind developer when they are at the mine to discuss their plans.

4. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Environmental Update

Mark said there were no incidents since last meeting. He reported the rain is fantastic for the reclamation efforts and they're experimenting with different growth media for pine trees for better success in diversifying the habitat in the reclamation. The mine had damage on some slopes due to the big thunder storms that will need to be repaired. Barrick is issuing a Climate Change Policy and part of that policy is educating employees, communities and stakeholders both as to what their plans are to address climate change or man-induced climate change, greenhouse gas emission reductions and also general education of the impacts. Mark said the mine has a pre-application for review into the State for an amendment to the mine's permit for reorientation of some dumps that includes minor adjustments to some permit boundaries. When the mine has a formal application submitted, it will probably be an Environment Assessment and will go out for public notice and comment.

5. Sunlight Business Park Overview

a. Master Plan Status

A final product is expected from the contractor in a couple of weeks.

b. Phase II Grant Status

Tom said the EDA grant for \$1.2 million for infrastructure build-out was reviewed by the Denver board last week and JLDC staff is waiting to hear back from them. Tom said regarding the special Congressional appropriation through Senator Tester's office for \$142,500; even though an Environmental Assessment (EA) was done previously for EDA, this money comes from a different federal agency with their own process so another EA is required that needs to be approved by the Denver Environmental Officer before the funds can be released from Washington D.C. JLDC staff is in conversation currently with an environmental organization that is doing the evaluation for JLDC. The \$142,500 additional funds will be used for infrastructure at the business park.

c. Subdivision Approval Update

Tom reported JLDC has preliminary plat with an extension through August. Will probably need to do another extension and will do the final plat after infrastructure is done. Ken said another alternative is to bond for the infrastructure and go into final plat; would need to talk with the County Planner. Bob said JLDC and GSM will need to work closely together when closing the mine's access road.

d. Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD) Update

Tom said staff has been in discussion with the contractors. JLDC received a letter from the final landowner contacted who has decided not to be included in the TIFD. Bob will redo the boundaries on the map so it can be finalized. Tom said the completed application will be presented to the County Commission, a public hearing is held and the Commission then decides on the approval of the TIFD. Bob said before the final is given to the Commission, he would like to review the document again to make sure there are no changes.

e. Interpretive Center

Tom said JLDC is looking at the Interpretive Center as being one of the first buildings at the business park. Staff has not yet finalized the concept plan.

6. Whitehall Fire Relief Fund Update

Tom said the committee has not met for two-three weeks as there have been no requests. The fund received almost \$40,000 in donations and a little over \$24,000 has been expended. The committee realized consolidation under one owner is probably the best course to get things accomplished and tried unsuccessfully to get a commercial appraisal for the lots. The appraiser suggested the committee meet with the local realtors to establish a fair market price per square foot. This was done about a week ago and lot owners were then contacted with the market price arrived at. Next week the committee will again contact the owners with the intent being trying to consolidate all the lots. A special JLDC meeting was held recently to discuss the situation.

7. Frontier Days – July 24 & 25

Tom said Frontier Days will be July 24 & 25. Tom will talk with Sam and Rick (GSM) at the Chamber meeting today and will meet tomorrow with Chad (Jefferson IGA owner) to discuss details of the BBQ. Liz will reserve a booth space for GSM at Frontier Days.

8. Pavilion Construction – GSM Assistance

Tom said due to lack of members and time, the Town's Parks, Trees and Cemetery Board gave the project back to the Community Development Board and, after a decision is made as to location, will move forward with the pavilion.

9. Other Items of Discussion

a. Tom said the 4-H exchange people who stayed at his home recently were very impressed with the mine tour they took while in Whitehall.

b. Tom said he read a copy of a response letter sent from Selina Animal Rescue to Tim D. (GSM) regarding land for an animal shelter. Tom said there are two different organizations working on attaining an animal shelter. The county also has a committee that is actively working on getting a shelter with their preferred location being in Boulder.

c. Tom inquired if the Montana Mining Association was going to address the negative mining article in the Montana Outdoors magazine that was discussed at the May CTAC meeting. Tim D. said the magazine is allowing them to submit a “letter to the editor” telling the other side of the story and they also will do an article about the mining industry and what they’ve done right and said it may even be about the GSM.

10. Next Meeting Date/Time

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 13th, 2009**, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Nancy Wheeler, Notetaker