

**Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 19, 2010**

CTAC meeting was held on 8/19/10 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall.

*Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Tim Mulligan, Ann Geiger, Mary Janacaro Hensleigh, Ed Handl, Roy McBride, Paula Johnston, John Brower, Tom Harrington, Tara Mastel and Nancy Wheeler.

*Guests:* Bob Brock, Greg Corr and Jared Brown.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Tim D. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/8/10; Paula seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

**3. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations**

**a. Current Operations Update / Pit Lay Back Progress / Mill Status / Concentrator Status**

Tim D. reported 182 employees, including nine summer students and interns, and 75 contractors at the mine site. GSM is now mining in three different areas and the refurbishment of the mill remains on schedule. MSHA has been doing an inspection at the mine site the past two and one-half weeks. East area mining will start the end of November and the tailings dam lift construction is near completion. Tim D. reports the Concentrator feasibility project is going fine and is still on track. Mine personnel has been busy the past month updating the mine plan and getting approval of the plan into next year's budget. The plan includes starting the mill up in January with the East area deposits and getting into the ore in the main Mineral Hill pit during the middle of next year, to continue exploration efforts at about the same level as this year and about \$10 million more for improvements to the mill and some mobile equipment replacement.

A Barrick land person who is responsible for the management of a number of ranches met with a local rancher, BLM and the State to make sure GSM has a comprehensive management plan for the ranch. Discussed changing how the ranch is managed to improve the recreational use of the ranch to control hunting and ways to provide habitat there. As a result of the meeting, the mine plans to put together a comprehensive, 10-year management plan for the ranch. Also discussed the non-maintained county road that runs north along the river and across the bridge. The road comes to a "T" and discussed blocking the road that goes along the river as it dead ends in the river because the bridge is washed out and making the area walk-in, rather than drive-in, for hunting.

**b. Wind Development**

Tim D. said GSM has about one-half year left on the lease with Sea Wind and he has not heard back from Gamesa since sending them their requested information. Tim D. will contact both parties for an update.

**c. McLaren Tailings Project**

Tim said the McLaren tailings will be hauled from Cooke City next summer.

**4. GSM Environmental Update**

Tim D. reported there were no incidents since last meeting. The mine received notification this week from DEQ that the application for the East area permit has been deemed complete and the mine is hoping it goes out for public notice next week. The Backfill Summary Judgment Hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> in Virginia City at 1:00 p.m.

## **5. Sunlight Business Park Overview**

### **a. Construction Bid Process / Subdivision Update**

Tara said the bids for the infrastructure are due on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and, once the bids are certified, the winning bidder will need to be cleared through EDA and then the bid would be awarded. There is a pending issue on the lease for the land that's being worked on. The EDA representative will be on site Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. JLDC plans to have a groundbreaking for the business park probably in September or October. Final plat cannot be completed until at least the roads are constructed.

### **b. Business Assistance Center / Interpretive Center**

Tara said JLDC would like a combination office/warehouse building at the business park that local businesses could move into. Staff received a call from Senator Baucus' office in D.C. informing them that one of JLDC's Appropriations request made it through committee and will get \$150,000 for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for downtown Whitehall businesses. Looking on the website, Tom noticed it looks like there is still some life to JLDC's Appropriations request for the Business Assistance Center at the business park.

Bob Brock said GSM was contacted recently by someone who would like to put a billboard along the highway, as there used to be one there. As it would be located on or near Phase 4 of the business park, Bob asked if there were any objections from CTAC or JLDC. Discussion followed.

## **6. Pavilion Status – GSM Assistance**

Tom said the pavilion was up just before Frontier Days and a Barrick sign was put on one side of the building and, once another sign is completed, it will be put on the other side. Tom said GSM's financial assistance to the project is greatly appreciated. The other part of the pavilion was paid for from Horizons funds (Town of Whitehall). The pavilion is being used daily and is a positive addition to Whitehall.

## **7. Frontier Days Update**

Ann gave an update on Frontier Days. She reported a wrap up meeting was held following the event and the rodeo was successful enough that there is some seed money for next year. Ann said it was a well attended event and received a lot of positive responses. It was labor intensive and Ann thanked the mine for helping in a number of ways. Roy said the annual Rocky Mountain Bank's picnic held Friday afternoon of Frontier Days was attended by a little over 600 people. The Chamber ran out of food, etc. at their barbeque on Saturday before running out of people. The GSM supports the food bill for the Chamber's barbeque making it a good fundraiser for the Chamber.

## **8. Other Items of Discussion**

**a.** Ed said he's working on a large energy project in Utah and is at the front end of the project doing some environmental baseline work. One of Ed's tasks is to put together a Social Economic Mitigation Plan and said he wants to replicate the successful CTAC process as a vital part of the plan and posed a question. He asked the mine personnel and CTAC members when they believed the time was appropriate (at what stage) to start the CTAC process. Much discussion followed. The main response to Ed's question was the earlier, the better. Ed thanked the group for all their good input and comments.

**b.** Tom talked about the Boulder River Groundwater Study discussed in previous meetings. He said Jefferson County obligated about \$32,000 toward the groundwater study. An application was submitted to USDA/NRCS; however, the project wasn't totally in criteria with the grant so was told to reapply next cycle. An application was resubmitted to do the groundwater assessment for the entire North Boulder Valley and there will be a Committee Meeting September 1<sup>st</sup> in Helena to reassess the 22 areas in the state for groundwater study. There is only enough funding for the top four or five areas and Jefferson County currently ranks about number 11. Tom will attend the meeting in Helena on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

c. Tom said there was discussion on water flow, sprinkler irrigating and impacts on the downstream users on the slough at a recent Whitehall Town Council meeting. There was a public comment that there was some discussion with the mine because it had some impact on them and their mine water in the slough. Tim D. asked if the impetus behind all this is a change in the way the town does their water treatment facility. Mary said the town has two existing lagoons and the plan is to build three more lagoons and phase out the two existing ones. The current engineering firm is not listening to the Town of Whitehall and the adjacent land owners and has been talking about pumping water to a rancher's property to discharge it on, using a pivot system. The Town has hired another engineer to come in and talk with the Jefferson and Slaughterhouse Slough Association and the mayor and take a second look to see what different options are available. Mary said the Jefferson and Slaughterhouse Slough Creek Association has wonderful ideas that need to be heard and haven't been listened to. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. More to follow.

#### **9. Next Meeting Date/Time**

Next meeting is **Thursday, September 9th, 2010** at the Extension Office Conference Room in Whitehall at **8:00 a.m.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wheeler