

**Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2010**

CTAC meeting was held on 11/04/10 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall. *Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Mark Thompson, Leonard Wortman, Roy McBride, Ann Geiger, Tara Mastel, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guests*: Greg Corr, Tammy Johnson, Ken Eurick, Bill Bieber, Mary Sattler, Kurt Parkan, Margaret Pohjola, Bobby Hoffman, Myron Naneng, Annie Lou Williams, Loreen Steeves, Billy Alexie and David Dorris, Sr.

1. Tom called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and welcomed everyone.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

**3. Sustainability Presentation**

Tom showed a sustainability power point presentation that recognized the partnership between Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM), Jefferson County and the community of Whitehall. Tom gave the group a history and background of GSM stating that the mine started operations in 1982 and, at one time, employed over 300 people. In 2006, a major transition of the organization occurred when Barrick Gold Corporation purchased GSM from Placer Dome. The mine's pit operation is being expanded in order to obtain more ore and will extend mining operations through 2015 with the mill reopening in January, 2011.

Tom gave an overview of CTAC, informing the group that CTAC was formed in 2001 when the mine was looking at closure and the mine manager and community were concerned with what the impact would be. CTAC was also formed in part for information flow between the community and the mine and is comprised of key community people who are very visible and in contact with a lot of people in the community to help keep the communication flowing. CTAC's first priority is to sustain mine operations as there is mutual benefit in continued operations and CTAC's second priority is to mitigate mine closure as when the mine closes, the area will lose a lot of good jobs and tax base. CTAC meetings are held monthly.

Barrick GSM is committed to making a positive difference and bringing long term benefits to the community, sharing the benefits of GSM's mining activity and contributing to the economic and social development of the community. Tim said the safety aspect is a huge part of the culture at Barrick. Because of this, the mine has upgraded a number of their systems and there has not been a loss of time injury in three years at the mine site. Barrick is very safety conscious and that safety mentality is brought back into the community. Each year the mine sponsors a community Safety Fair where the mine's safety people go through various aspects of safety that help make the community more safety conscious. Tom explained each of Barrick GSM's sustainability core values the mine operates under; environment, social impacts and economic impacts. Tom said the GSM has an environmental commitment to taking care of the land and doing reclamation. The mine is committed to conservation enhancement of wildlife and has been involved with turkey stocking on their ranch property and now have a hunting season there. The ranch property also has a great trout stream going through it and the ranch has open access for people to hunt, fish and hike. Tim said the mine's long term plan is to keep the ranch, currently being used for ranching, and keep it open to the public. Putting the land into conservation easement could be an option. The mine is actively involved with trout habitat, financially supported Trout Unlimited to build fish ladders on the Jefferson River improving trout spawning to improve fisheries.

The mine is one of Jefferson County's major tax payers and Montana has a metal mines tax where a portion of the mine's state taxes come back to Jefferson County and the community. These funds have helped with community projects such as upgrades to the rodeo grounds, baseball fields, soccer field, swimming pool, skateboard park, playground equipment at the school, addition to the library and other

infrastructure things to benefit the local citizens. The mine is involved with many of the community's annual events and is very good at coming to the needs of the community. A few years back, the mine helped replace one of the school's roofs. Other obvious community benefits Whitehall and area have gained from the mine include employment opportunities, family fish pond outside town stocked with trout, 200 acres for a business park and a potential wind farm. A Community Foundation was formed a few years ago and the mine made a sizable initial donation to get the Foundation started and, just recently, made a commitment to give an additional \$10,000 per year to that organization. The Foundation gives back quite a few thousand dollars to community projects annually. Whitehall suffered a major fire that burned a good portion of the downtown area; nine businesses were destroyed that affected about 40 individuals. The community stepped up to the plate through the Chamber and formed the Whitehall Relief Fund to help the businesses and employees affected and the mine was one of the first to step forward and donated generously to the fund. An ambulance barn is being built to expand our medical services and the mine has been a contributor there. A periodic survey is conducted by a professional firm to be sure what the mine does is in concert with what the community wants.

The guests from Alaska had some questions and concerns for the group and said they would like a video of Tom's presentation as it would be valuable to show to other people in the villages. Tom went to Alaska in 2006 and gave this presentation at Bethel. Tom is a community member and the Assistant Manager of the Jefferson Local Development Corporation and a MSU Extension Agent; he is not an employee of Barrick, and said the community is supportive of the mine because they are doing things with and for the community and sustainability. Tom said the Dow Jones Sustainability Index is a list of worldwide companies who have met the social, environmental and economic conditions rating criteria. Only seven mining companies in the world are included on this list and Barrick is one of them.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday for a business park near the entrance of the mine that has been in the works for about ten years; this represents part of the sustainability. The business park will bring in additional jobs to help replace mine jobs when the mine closes. The first phase of the park is a \$1.1 million infrastructure and will have 13 lots on about 50 acres.

The Alaska region is comprised of 57 villages spread out over the size of Montana. The guests said the villages have different concerns, travel distances and time involved than Whitehall's situation. All the villages want their comments included and Whitehall doesn't have the communication problem Alaska has. Barrick is committed to establishing these CTAC type of relationships wherever they operate and realizes there is no "one size fits all" group and the groups need to be tailored to the community values of the people around their operations. CTAC has been meeting for about 10 years and has evolved to the relationship it now has. Alaska faces different and unique situations and will not have an exact template to follow. Part of the reason for the tours is to give the Alaskans an opportunity to meet with CTAC and take this concept back to Alaska and think how it can be applied to incorporate all the villages into a process such as this. Every tour brought to Whitehall is given this presentation with the hope it will help them understand what Alaska needs to do. Discussion on various differences in Alaska and their people followed. CTAC provides members with monthly information from the mine which helps keep the important communication flow to the community. Alaska will be challenging with its geography and lack of infrastructure and may need to have electronic communication or videos and float meeting locations. The tailings pond is also a huge concern for the Alaskans. The tailings pond in Alaska will be much larger than GSM's and will flow to the river and ocean and the villages are in fear that they will be impacted if something goes wrong at the tailings pond and the fish will be harmed. Fishing is their livelihood and they want to know what Barrick will do for the people and the community if something should go wrong with the tailings pond. Much discussion followed on this concern.

#### **4. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations**

##### **a. Current Operations Update / Pit Lay Back Progress**

Tim reported 171 employees and 55 contractors at the mine. The mining for the 5B Optimized project is tracking well.

## **b. Mill Status / East Area Permit Status**

The mill refurbishment and modifications to the crusher construction is on schedule as two contractors were brought in to help with the work; 59 days before mill startup. The critical path for startup is now getting the permit for the East area project and the mine is hoping the DEQ puts the Environmental Assessment (EA) out for public comment yet today. The mine would appreciate the stakeholders putting their comments forward when the EA goes out for public comment. The project will help bring an additional 26 employees on at the mine and will keep about 20 contractor employees working. The mine had a number of visitors this past month and a lot of interest in the mine site from a corporate and regional perspective. After the business park groundbreaking on Monday, the television station visited the mine and did an interview on gold prices. Tim told the person several times the mine would not be producing gold until January but she reported the mine was producing 200-500 ounces of gold per day now.

## **c. Exploration Update / Concentrator Status / Wind Development Update**

Tim said almost all the assays are back and the mine is developing geology models for exploration targets. The mine will initiate some drilling of the old tailings dam before the end of the year to determine how much gold is there. Tim has nothing new to report on the wind project since last month's meeting.

## **5. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Environmental Update**

Mark said there were no reportable incidents since last month's meeting. An application for a permit for the East area pit was submitted to the DEQ in May and the process has been delayed much longer than was expected. The mine is hoping the EA goes out today or this week for public comment. Tammy Johnson, who is a guest today, will talk with CTAC members individually and will also attend the Chamber meeting at noon today regarding people expressing their opinions to DEQ on the EA when it goes out for public comment. There will also be a public meeting scheduled and Tammy has added it to the Town Council agenda. Mark said a dust control product has been applied on the tailings impoundment; it's the same product as used last year but applied with a higher application rate. Mark said reclamation has started on the south dump and estimates more than a year for completion as it's a big, long dump. There will be two cats running on the project full time before the end of the year.

## **6. Sunlight Business Park Overview**

### **a. Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Tara said the business park has been in the works for almost ten years and is located near the entrance to GSM. There will be 13 lots in the first phase of the park with all infrastructure needed for businesses. The idea behind the business park is it's a place where businesses can start and grow so, when the mine eventually closes, the economic impact isn't so great. Ground was broken on Monday at the business park and the contractors are working there now. The mine leased the ground to Jefferson Local Development Corporation (JLDC). JLDC will receive \$655,000 grant money from EDA and Jefferson County will loan JLDC the matching \$655,000 funds required for the grant that will be repaid. JLDC will receive an Appropriation from Senator Tester's office for \$142,500 to augment some of the other funding. JLDC will also put in some funds as there are some overages in costs. The groundbreaking was well attended with a turnout of about 50 people. Most of the construction work will be done in November with completion in the spring. Tara said there are people interested in locating in the park and now expect even more interest as the infrastructure proceeds. JLDC plans to build a Business Assistance Center / Interpretive Center where small businesses can lease space to help them grow their business. JLDC will continue to apply for Appropriations and are looking for grant money for the Business Assistance Center.

## **7. Other Items of Discussion**

**a.** Tom said he received a letter from Tim from an individual in Bozeman that asked about the possibility of building a golf course on mine property.

**b.** The Alaska visitors thanked the group for inviting and giving them the opportunity to attend the meeting as it was very informative and they received useful information. Bill Bieber informed CTAC of the activity in Alaska this year regarding infrastructure. Bill said an extensive study was just completed with the

underground engineer of the proposed 320 mile gas line. Power has always been an issue and field crews started in early May drilling about 480 holes along the route through the Alaskan range. Will have numbers in early next year but, so far, things look positive. Submitting for a permit has been delayed until late third quarter of next year to include the gas line project as a potential and are working with communication companies to put a fiber optic line through the ditch with the pipe should the project go forward; also looking at oversizing the capacity to supply the region with the gas as well.

c. Tim distributed Barrick GSM hats to CTAC and visitors.

**8. Next Meeting Date/Time**

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wheeler