

**Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 9, 2010**

CTAC meeting was held on 12/9/10 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall. *Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Dave Donnelly, Bob Brock, Roy McBride, Ann Geiger, Tim Mulligan, Gerry Keogh, Ed Handl, Paula Johnston, Paul Shaw, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guests:* Greg Corr and Jared Brown.

**1.** Tom called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. with introductions and welcomed Gerry Keogh, a Town Councilman who will replace the mayor as the town representative on CTAC. Today is Bob Brock's last official day with CTAC as he will be concentrating more fully on the Nevada mining operations. Dave Donnelly will be the new representative on CTAC. Bob said he appreciates all the help the community has given to the mine and to himself over the past five years and wishes us all the best.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Tim D. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/4/10; Paula seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

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

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

Tim reported about 190 employees currently at the mine; however, the employee count will be 204 by the end of the year. The contractor is also hiring additional employees. The 5B Optimized project is on track and going well.

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

The mine is doing the development work necessary for mining the East Area but can't officially start mining until the mine posts a bond. Mark Thompson is giving a presentation on GSM's role in sustainability at the Northwest Mining Association meeting in Spokane.

The crusher modifications and the mill refurbishment are going well and the mine will achieve their goal to start processing gold in the mill January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**c. Exploration Update**

The mine made an offer to a new senior exploration geologist to manage the Exploration program and is hoping to get drills turning the first quarter of next year.

**d. Concentrator Status**

The mine is drilling on the old tailings dam in hopes the gold content estimates can be upgraded as it would help the economics of the program.

**e. Wind Development Update**

Tim D. reports nothing new to report on wind development except the developer did pay their 2010 lease. The mine is expecting more information on the wind project in the future.

**f. GSM Christmas Party**

The first of the two planned GSM Christmas parties was held last Friday at Fairmont Hot Springs. Tim D. said it was a nice venue with good food, a live band and door prizes; over 200 people were in attendance. The second GSM Christmas party will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> and all CTAC was emailed invitations. Rooms at Fairmont for GSM Christmas party guests are available at a reduced rate.

#### **4. GSM Environmental Update**

Tim D. said the mine has no incidents to report. Part of the Environmental Management System process is a regular internal audit. The mine had a telephone audit. The auditor chose one of the mine's aspects they manage, the dust blowing off the tailings facility, and audited eight of the sixteen elements. Debbie Johnson, Environmental Engineer at GSM, had everything well documented and was able to demonstrate the mine was meeting all eight aspects when it came to the risk of tails blowing on the tailings dam.

Mark Thompson is involved with Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA), which represents all natural resource industries in the state to help develop some legislation for this next year's session. GSM is also looking at some legislative help in the mining industry through the Montana Mining Association.

Tom said there was an extensive campaign to support the permit modification and Tom credited the Department of Quality (DEQ) on their fast turnaround. Tim D. thanked everyone who provided comments in support of the East Area project.

Tim M. asked the status of the backfill. Tim D. said the venue is in Jefferson County with Judge Tucker and explained the particulars to the group. The next hearing is scheduled for early next year.

Tom gave a brief review on the Alaska contingent that visited CTAC last month for those who were unable to attend last month's CTAC meeting.

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

##### **a. Construction Timeline**

The contractor is on shut down status for winter at the business park and will plan to start up again approximately the end of February. The roads are laid out and the contractor has until the end of June, 2011 to complete the infrastructure.

##### **b. Subdivision Update**

JLDC received preliminary plat for the subdivision a couple years ago and are on extension with Jefferson County. Staff recently received the survey plat maps from the engineer and surveyor and will get the documents to Dave and meet with him to finalize the layouts, etc. Staff will then go back to the Jefferson County Commission and do the final plat. Before the final plat is approved, the roads and infrastructure need to be in the park.

##### **c. Billboard Update**

Tom said a large billboard sign located on phase 4 (far east side) of the business park was destroyed by a wind storm. The sign site has been through the permit process and presents an opportunity for JLDC to advertise the business park at a less expensive rate. Staff presented the idea to the JLDC board and they were in agreement; staff will proceed on the permit process with the Department of Transportation. If the sign is double sided, there may be an opportunity for Whitehall businesses to advertise there also. The billboard will be part of the business park's Marketing Advertising Plan.

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

Tom said he's been working on a natural resource concept plan for the Interpretive Center and would like to meet with Tim D. JLDC is in the process of seeking funding for the center and Tom feels the center would provide education on natural resources in the area and is also an opportunity for the Business Assistance Center to promote local businesses and help provide tools to help businesses develop and grow. The center is in the development stage and ideas are welcomed.

## **6. Other Items of Discussion**

**a.** Ann Geiger thanked the mine for their support at the annual Festival of Trees fundraiser for Liberty Place.

**b.** The Christmas Stroll will be held Friday and Saturday in Whitehall. On Friday, some of the activities include the Rocky Mountain Bank's open house from 11:00-2:00 and BB's Sports Arena's Pig Barbecue from 11:00-2:00 with all proceeds going to the Whitehall Food Pantry. On Saturday, different vendors will be at the Community Center, the American Legion & VFW will have a Chili Feed at the Senior Center, Selina Memorial will have a Pig Roast Fundraiser at the Park Pavilion and there are a lot of other planned activities. The Tree Lighting will be at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Parade of Lights & Tour at 5:15. The Wreath Auction that benefits the food pantry and numerous non-profits will be held Saturday night at Roper's. A Community Appreciation Dinner potluck will be held Sunday at the Community Center from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wheeler