

# GOLD KING MINE (GKM) CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING

San Juan College Student Center – SUNS Room (Room 1019)

## Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2016

**CAC Attendees:** Rich Dembowski (RD), Evan Tyrrell (ET), Norman Norvelle (NN), Rick Nez (RN), Aaron Chavez (AC), Paul Montoia (PM), Bill Palko-Schraa (BPS), Susan Palko-Schraa (SPS)

**Other Attendees:** Allison Scott Majure (ASM), Michaelene Kyrala (MK), Dennis McQuillan (DM)

---

- **RD called meeting to order at 5:30pm**
- **Introductions**
  - New CAC member Rick Nez to represent Navajo Nation
- **CAC By-Laws**
  - RD opened the discussion regarding the draft CAC By-Laws. Several CAC members in Ad Hoc committee had offered input to drafted By-Laws via email communications. RD sent out final draft to all CAC members for comment
  - Vote
    - 6 yay (RD, ET, NN, RN, AC, PM)
    - 2 nay (BPS, SPS)
  - By-Laws passed and effective immediately
- **Secretary Position**
  - RD inquired about the vacant CAC Secretary Position and asked if anyone was interested. No immediate interest was expressed.
- **PRESENTATION: GKM spill: *LTIRT update and the Spring Runoff Preparedness Plan***  
(Dennis McQuillan – NMED Chief Scientist)
  - Presentation to be posted on CAC website
  - Emphasis on discrepancy between EPA screening standards
    - Specific EPA screening levels (SLs) developed for GKM much higher than residential/commercial SLs
      - EPA Residential Soil SL = 400 mg/kg for lead
      - EPA GKM Spill SL = 20,000 mg/kg for lead
  - High correlation between turbidity and total lead concentrations in Animas and San Juan Rivers
- Discussion
  - How has State of Colorado worked with State of New Mexico to share information regarding spill and cleanup efforts
    - DM stated that the State of Colorado had not been very comprehensive or forthcoming to date
  - Spring Runoff



## Meeting Minutes (continued)

April 25, 2016

- Not at full runoff/max flow for season quite yet
- Some people still worried about turning on irrigation ditch water
- Question if tributaries dilute incoming water (yes)
- Top three metals of concerns regarding GKM Spill and Animas/San Juan Rivers
  - Lead (Pb) = #1
  - Arsenic (As) = #2
  - Others = #3
- **Public comments**
  - Derek Garcia
    - Representing law firm in Albuquerque
      - Free water testing to all supply wells
  - Beth Souleret
    - Had a hard time hearing DM's presentation and felt that he was only presenting to CAC as opposed to entire public based on set-up (back to public)
    - Farmer in Fruitland
      - Several sample sets were collected from property, but no correspondence or results were provided
    - Question regarding toxicity of manganese (Mn)
    - RD reemphasized that all data made available to State of New Mexico is posted on GKM website and that the primary function of GKM CAC is to serve as liaison between public and LTIRT and to make sure their concerns are addressed
      - SPS provided AG Alert Number to receive Animas/San Juan River alerts based on sonde and other data (505) 444-5807
  - JC Begay
    - Shiprock Farmers and Ranchers
      - Asked where the data for Shiprock was and asked that the data be brought to Shiprock (i.e., CAC meeting held in Shiprock)
  - Sam Gonzales
    - Chairman of Ranchman's Ditch Association
      - Noted large decline of water fowl and less eagles
        - Question whether this may be related to river waters
  - Unknown Member of Public
    - Environmental consultant in Albuquerque
      - Questioned why cyanide was taken on sampling parameter list



## Meeting Minutes (continued)

**April 25, 2016**

- DM said concentrations were very low, so it was taken off the sampling list
- Should this potential contaminant be reassessed?
- **Meeting adjourned approximately 7:15pm**

