

# **Gold King Mine Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**San Juan College Student Center Suns Room, Room 9010**

**July 24, 2017**

**CAC Members Present:** Aaron Chavez, Rich Dembowski, Paul Montoia, Rick Nez, Norman Norvelle, Absent were George Baloo, Bill Palko-Schraa, Susan Palko-Schraa and Jim Spence.

**NMED Staff:** Allison Scott Majure.

**Presentation Speakers:** Melissa May, San Juan Watershed and District Coordinator, San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District.

## **Handouts from Meeting:**

**The Colorado Data Sharing Network: A useful tool for visualizing water quality data in the Animas watershed.**

**Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Richard Dembowski.**

**NMED Updates:** Allison provided recent updates and discussed the relationship of NMED and the GKM CAC.

Flora Vista Water Users Association will sponsor a septic system maintenance workshop on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at their office in Flora Vista.

**Old Business:** None

## **New Business:**

Motion was made and accepted to approve the May 22, 2017 minutes. Motion Carried.

Chairman Rich Dembowski discussed the group letter that is going to be sent to Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. There was a lot of input from the Committee and others about suggested changes. Rich will incorporate some of these changes and send out another draft of the letter after he makes revisions.

**Presentation by Melissa May - The Colorado Data Sharing Network: A useful tool for visualizing water quality data in the Animas watershed.**

The Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) is a publicly accessible website, [coloradowaterdata.org](http://coloradowaterdata.org), which has been set up to “enhance Colorado’s watersheds and water quality by providing CDSN’s data partners and Colorado’s citizens with an accessible and affordable tool kit for data management, data analysis, and data sharing.” The CDSN is set up via the nationwide Ambient Water Quality Management System (AWQMS), and also includes additional Web GIS functions. As an organization that works in the interstate-watershed of the Animas River, the San Juan Watershed Group (via the San Juan Soil & Water Conservation

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District) got permission to be added as the CDSN's first data partner in New Mexico. SJWG has since uploaded E. coli, nutrient, and ambient water quality data from two of its most recent water quality studies in New Mexico. Data added by the Animas Watershed Partnership on the Colorado side of the Animas gives an even more complete picture of nutrient and bacteria trends in the Animas River. This interactive presentation will demonstrate several of the many useful tools in the CDSN that can be used to explore the nutrient and bacteria data, as well as many other parameters collected by diverse entities. The presentation will focus on ways the general public can search and filter data of interest via the "CDSN Google-Map." A parameter of interest, like lead, can be selected and highlighted based on water quality benchmarks or concentrations of concern. The user can then see at which sites this water quality parameter was measured, when the measurements took place, and whether any exceedances occurred. It will also touch on the more complicated analyses available for data partners via AWQMS. Quality data is critical for decision making and research in all fields, and when freely shared can improve the work of others. Access to data can make the difference in determining if a single measurement is an outlier or part of a long-term trend, and can help to identify "known unknowns" and thus free up resources to ask new questions. **We will try to get a copy of the handout posted on our website.**

**Before the River Turned Orange: Microbial Source Tracking on the San Juan and Animas River**, was a poster presentation given at the recent WRRI conference in Farmington at San Juan College. The presentation was given based on the research and sampling performed by the San Juan Watershed Group. The information revealed that the Animas and San Juan Rivers had a very high number of fecal contamination in the rivers. **We will try to get a copy of the poster for our website.**

**Public Comments:** A discussion followed the presentations, otherwise there were no public comments. There were 23 people in the audience.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:15 PM. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** Monday September 25, 2017 from 5:30-7:30 PM at San Juan College Suns Room (Room 9010). **The Committee Secretary, Norman Norvelle will be out of town and will not attend the meeting. Arrangements will need to be made for taking and writing the minutes.**

**All handout materials and minutes can be found at:**

<https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm> .

**Norman R. Norvelle, GKM CAC Secretary**