**CAC Members Present:** George Baloo, Rich Dembowski, Paul Montoia, Norman Norvelle, Bill Palko -Schraa, Susan Palko-Schraa, and Jim Spence. Aaron Chavez and Rick Nez were absent. Evan Tyrrell moved and there is an open position to replace him.

**NMED Staff:** Dennis McQuillan, Michaelene Kyrala and Allison Scott Majure.

**Presentation Speaker:** Paula Sunner, Farmington Growers Market – Discussion of the Impact of the Animas River Spill.

**Handouts:** Meeting Agenda, NMED Discussion Bullets for 2017 Gold King Mine Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meetings and NMDOH Questions and Answers about Lead and Lead Testing in New Mexico. Handouts can also be found at the NMED website: <https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm>

**Meeting was called to order** at 5:34 PM by Chairman Richard Dembowski. Introductions were made by GKM CAC members and NMED Staff.

**Old Business:** None

**NMED Updates:**

A quick review was given by Allison Scott Majure concerning the lawsuits as related to the spill. There are three major lawsuits in process:

* Navajo Nation Versus USEPA
* State of NM Versus USEPA
* State of NM Versus State of Colorado

Other lawsuits include the individual claims sent into the USEPA on EPA Form 95 and the reimbursement for emergency response expenditures by the 14 entities, such as Cities, County, Irrigation districts, etc.

Dennis McQuillan gave a brief discussion concerning the transport of metals in the river water.

NM Fish and Game has found that the fish and game are safe for human consumption.

**New Business:**

Motion was made by Paul Montoia and seconded by Bill Palko-Schraa to approve the January 17, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

Nomination and election of new officers were opened for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Three different motions were made and seconded to retain Rick Dembowski as Chair, appoint Susan Palko-Schraa as Vice-Chair and retain Norman Norvelle as Secretary.

The Committee requested for volunteers to fill the vacancy created by Evan Tyrell due to his resignation. Interested individuals should contact Allison Scott Majure.

Stephen Austin, Senior Hydrologist with the NNEPA gave a brief update of their activities concerning the GKM spill.

Dr. Kevin Lombard, NMSU Ag. Science Center at Farmington, gave a brief update of their current and planned activities by NMSU. There is a considerable amount of data (overwhelming) and they are looking for a way to summarize the data and make it more meaningful to the general public. NMSU will be doing a lot more testing on crops.

Rich Dembowski went individually over the Discussion Bullets handout that were available at the meeting. Additional copies can be found at the website.

Many needs, as related to communication, were found concerning the effects of the spill on local agriculture, plants and animals. Susan Palko-Schraa suggested that a sub-committee be formed to address these issues. It was suggested the sub-committee consist of four people. A motion was made by Rich Dembowski and seconded by George Baloo to for the sub-committee. Motion carried. The four members of the committee will be: Susan Palko-Schraa, Paula Sunner, Dennis McQuillan, and Bonnie Hopkins.

**Tonight’s Presentation**

 **By Paula Sunner, Farmington Growers Market – Discussion of the Impact of the Animas River Spill**

Paula has been in San Juan County for over 15 years. She has a small garden and works to connect local people with local agriculture by helping to develop village markets. Paula came from much wetter climates and had to adjust to the local growing seasons and drier climate. People are continually asking local producers if the vegetables are safe to eat and for some type of proof that it is OK to eat. They do not understand all of the scientific information available. This is producing a lot of difficulties for producers as people always have a doubt in their mind about the safety of the local produce. Village markets are very important as they give the public an alternative to commercial retailers. Producers are also concerned about possible future spills and being notified in advance of the spill so precautions can be used to prevent the contamination of the crops.

A discussion followed the presentation. Susan Palko-Schraa would like to see a single sheet or brochure saying the water and crops are safe. Paul Montoia asked if there was a possibility of the EPA providing money for marketing the local village markets. Allison Scott Majure thinks we need to get the science completed first and then look at the marketing. Rich Dembowski is concerned about there being is central agency being in charge to get the word out to all about if the water is safe or not to use. This did not happen in the last spill. In other words, who will coordinate and communicate this to all the others.

**Public Comments:** A discussion followed the presentation, otherwise there was no public comments. There were 21 people in the audience.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:20 pm. A motion was made by Paul Montoia and seconded by Susan Palko-Schraa to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** Monday May 22, 2017 from 5:30-7:30 pm at San Juan College Suns Room (Rm 9010)

**All materials can be found at** [**https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm**](https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm) **.**

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