

**Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2010**

CTAC meeting was held on 3/11/10 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall. *Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Mark Thompson, Bob Brock, Paula Johnston, Liz Kidwell, Ed Handl, Roy McBride, Tim Mulligan, Mary Hensleigh, Paul Shaw, Leonard Wortman, Justin Gibson, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. He introduced new committee member, Justin Gibson, and introductions were made.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Paula made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2/11/10; Tim D. seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

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

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

Tim D. said the mine currently has 149 employees and 65 contractors. The stripping is going well and the mine is fully resourced with both equipment and people needed to achieve targets. The mine continues on track for mill start up next January and will continue the soil back haul for reclamation on the west slope through the month. The pace of the mill refurbishment has picked up this past month and a lot of structural work in the mill is being done due to the corrosion that occurs over time.

The mine's backfill litigation judgment hearing is rescheduled for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, in Boulder at 1:30 p.m. There will be no testimony at the hearing; however, the hearing is open to the public.

**b. Concentrator Feasibility Status**

Tim D. reported detailed engineering has started and had a drill out there and geotechnical consultants working on the plant site geotechnical work this past month. A construction decision is needed by May. Gold Strike Mine has had some success this past month testing sulfur as an efficiency option and GSM is still in competition for being the supplier of that product.

Tom asked if the mine had a specific date for the decision to be made on the concentrator. Tim D. said if GSM is to supply the concentrate in January, the mine needs to start building the concentrator no later than May and that is when the final decision is expected. Tom said he asked this question because, in the TIFID meeting held yesterday, one of the topics included an extension for phase 1 and 2 of services for sewer, water, power and roads in the business park that TIFID dollars could help supplement. The TIFID board is developing a plan to present to the Commission on spending resources; however, a decision on the concentrator project plays an integral factor in the plan.

**c. Wind Development Update**

GSM sent Navitas information they requested to do an evaluation and Tim D. is waiting to hear back from them. The mine is hopeful they will work with the lease holder, Sea Wind, to forward wind development.

**4. GSM Environmental Update**

Mark said the mine received approval on Amendment 12, the reconfiguration of the buttress dump and posted bond so the amendment is in effect. Two permits, one for the east area pit and one for the concentrator, will be submitted to the State soon. An application to modify the air permit for the concentrator has already been submitted to the DEQ Air Quality Bureau and will qualify for an exemption from permit modification. Mark said the mine operating permit will also need to be changed. An

application for a 3/10 permit to do stream bank stabilization on the Boulder River at the Candlestick Ranch has been submitted. Mark and Darrell attended the Jefferson River Watershed Council meeting looking for an opportunity to help with some conservation or habitat projects. Mark said the soil back haul is the bulk of present reclamation efforts and have hauled roughly 500,000 tons from the east side to the west side of the mine to close the west dumps being worked on presently. The remaining reclamation time has been spent stripping from under the buttress dump. Tim D. and Mark met with DEQ to work out a contract for GSM to process possibly 80,000 tons from the McLaren tailings in Cooke City next summer.

Tim M. said the Watershed Council is finishing up a fact sheet on the initiative that the Watershed is looking at pursuing on the sediment issues and deposition on the whole system from the uplands down through Pipestone Creek to the Jefferson Slough and the channel flow problems in the slough and have met with the BLM, Forest Service and NRCS trying to build a consortium for a commitment to look at that on a fairly large scale. Tim M. will email Mark the fact sheet.

## **5. Safety Fair – April 23 & 24**

Tom said John Stratton will spearhead the Safety Fair again this year and it will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Jefferson River Rally that will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. There will also be wind sculptures in the park. Mary said the town will start out on a small scale with school students designing some wind sculptures and will work toward something much larger, similar to the sculptures on the MSU Campus. Mary said the event is open to anyone wanting to design a wind sculpture. Tom said there will also be a 6K run.

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

### **a. Phase II Grant Status**

Staff met with the engineer yesterday for an update on the lot rewrite. The engineer expects to receive final paperwork back from DEQ soon. The lot rewrite involves redesign to scale down the original 200 acre park to the initial Phase 1 of 58 acres.

JLDC was awarded the EDA grant for \$655,000 and that amount will be matched by a loan from the county. The bid documents will go out in late April or early May, after JLDC receives DEQ approval. JLDC also received a special Congressional appropriation through Senator Tester's office and that money will be used on the water tank system for park infrastructure. The engineer is doing final design on the tank and will be part of the construction bid that goes out for infrastructure.

### **b. Subdivision Update**

Tom said JLDC has preliminary plat and will go for final plat once infrastructure is in.

### **c. TIFD Update**

A meeting was held yesterday with the TIFID Advisory Board. There are two TIFID's, one in the northern end of the county and one in the southern end of the county. Tax incremental dollars go back into the infrastructure within the two districts and the TIFID board oversees the funds and provides the Commission with a plan. The TIFID is a way to self-fund the infrastructure and a business incentive to bring businesses in. A draft plan was presented by a contractor yesterday and is in the process of being reworked and the committee will then present it to the Commission. The county TIFID board is comprised of five members and there is a vacancy for an at-large member as one member resigned due to time commitments.

Bob said when working on the water tank, ground breaking, etc., need to make sure that when the GSM access road is crossed, everything in the deed is adhered to including tonnage limits, etc. so water lines aren't crushed.

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

Tom said a business assistance center/incubator was part of the package submitted to EDA for funding. The business assistance center will provide a space for a startup business without the ability to

grow their business to move into and share services to help them grow their business operation; the idea being as their growth is facilitated, they would expand their business operation and make a bigger business facility in the park.

## **7. Pavilion Status – GSM Assistance**

Tom said the location west of the Fire Hall was decided on for the pavilion. Mary is working with the Department of Transportation and Montana RailLink on regulations and requirements. The Community Development Board will work on a RFP ad for a local contractor to construct the 24'x35' shelter with a concrete pad. The picnic tables will be locked down in the pavilion. Mary said the pavilion, including electricity, will be completed before Frontier Days this summer and said electricity will be installed in the park from east of the Fire Hall down to Division Street and will include plug-ins on the south side of the park for Farmer's Market and Frontier Days vendors. The park section from the Fish Pond to the Fire Hall will have five plug-ins with additional wattage for larger vehicles such as RV's and for Christmas decorations. Mary said NorthWestern Energy will move the utility pole located by the Fish Pond.

## **8. Other Items of Discussion**

**a.** Liz informed Tim D. there may be additional people attending the BBQ due to the rodeo being held in town during Frontier Days this year.

**b.** John asked if CTAC needed to visit with MSTI project representatives. The mine does not oppose the line and, after discussion, it was decided to add the item to the monthly agenda for updates on the project.

**c.** Mary said medical marijuana was the hottest topic at the Mayor Academy she attended last week in Bozeman and asked if the business park would be a place where medical marijuana facilities could be located at. Tom said MSHA would probably prohibit drugs on the mine site.

**d.** Mark said GSM tendered a bid for dam construction tailings/dam construction and said bids will be submitted to the mine by Monday and should be awarded by the next CTAC meeting. Mark said it's a 750,000 yard compacted fill project and some local contractors will bid on it.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Next meeting is **Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010** at the Extension Office Conference Room in Whitehall at **8:00 a.m.** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wheeler