

**Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 8, 2010**

CTAC meeting was held on 7/8/10 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall.

*Attendees* were Mark Thompson, Justin Gibson, Leonard Wortman, Tim Mulligan, Ann Geiger, Mary Janacaro Hensleigh, Ed Handl, Roy McBride, Paula Johnston, Tom Harrington, Tara Mastel and Nancy Wheeler. *Guests:* Greg Corr, Marty Stearns, Mark Mihelich and Karen Mattern.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Introductions were made and Tom gave a background of the CTAC process.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Ed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/10/10; Leonard seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

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

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

Mark reported 176 employees, including about 12 summer students, and 64 contractors at the mine site. A slide toward the end of April caused a slight delay in production but a mitigation plan was developed and production has increased. The mill is still on target to start up in mid-January; a lot of structure was replaced in the mill. A big crusher revamp was approved last week; it will eliminate the coarse ore pile and allow the whole system to crush in one shot instead of stockpiling it. The mine will proceed with the modification and the crusher will run in this manner throughout mine life. Barrick approval was received for the East pit expansion but still waiting for state approval.

**b. Permit Expansion Update**

The mine received the first round of deficiency questions from the State on the East area permit expansion. Mark said the mine will return the paperwork to the State next week with the questions answered and expects the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be published and out for public comment sometime in July or early August.

**c. Concentrator Feasibility Status/Permitting**

Mark said the mine continues to progress on the engineering side. The concentrator is fully permitted; now waiting on the economics.

**d. Wind Development**

Mark said Tim D. asked him to prepare a map that indicates, based on the reclamation schedule, when various areas will become available for wind towers.

**e. McLaren Tailings Project**

Mark said everything is on track for the McLaren tailings project. He attended a public meeting on the project in Cooke City and some citizens in Wyoming were concerned about haulage through Wyoming, but Mark doesn't believe that will become an issue.

**4. GSM Environmental Update**

Mark reported the mine had one incident in June. The drinking water plant is under construction to resolve the disinfection by-product rule issues and, during construction, while struggling to regulate the amount of chlorine in the system, not all of the controls were in place. As a result, there were a couple days at the entry point where the chlorine dropped a little below .2 milligrams per liter and that's a violation as the entry point has to be above .2. This didn't persist very long and, once the system is up and running, the

controls won't let it happen again. The State was understanding of the circumstances in which this happened.

The tailings lift is coming along; rain has caused some delays but the mine factored in double shifts working at the beginning of the project and will continue with the double shifts to keep on schedule. A liner crew will come in the middle of the month to start laying liner.

A lot of the reclamation equipment is being used on the dam lift and also helping the mine department with the un-weighting mining they're doing and, when those two projects are completed, will probably start resloping the south dump that's visible from the road. Mark reported 189 acres were reseeded this spring and are coming in phenomenally.

## **5. International Cyanide Code Presentation**

Marty Stearns and Mark Mihelich of Barrick Gold/GSM gave a power point presentation on the International Cyanide Code and explained the purpose for the Code. The International Cyanide Management Institute was formed by joint association of producers, transporters and consumers of cyanide to effectively manage how cyanide is produced, transported and used in the mining process. It's an effort funded by the members but handled at a third party distance to give validity to adherence to the Code that was put together. The nine elements to the Code cover everything from production of cyanide to consumption and how it is decommissioned at the facilities that use cyanide. The process to get certified under the Code is strenuous and includes a certified registrar that usually brings in an audit team of two-four people and some sites go through two weeks of auditing. The auditors look through initial certification and the entire life of the mine; how the cyanide has been used at the mine, who it was purchased from and the procedures put in place to handle it. The auditors have a strict set of 197 questions they have to answer and provide evidence for. After 90 days it is submitted to the Institute and, once accepted by the Institute, a press release, etc. is published for the site being certified under the Code. The idea behind the Code is that, until an alternative method is found for processing, there is a need to effectively produce, manage and transport cyanide and make sure it is not released into the environment. Mark said the Cyanide Code is better management; GSM has always done a good job of managing the cyanide. The community will know what's going on with the cyanide at the mine on a monthly or quarterly basis and will keep the community updated on any interruptions, all the good things, emergency responses and live scenarios with cyanide catastrophes. Mark said cyanide is a compound made up of carbon and nitrogen and readily breaks down in the environment; the mine starts the decomposition process and accelerates it. Mark recommended visiting the International Cyanide Code website, [www.cyanidecode.org](http://www.cyanidecode.org), for additional information on the Code. It's a voluntary program, developed for gold mining companies and focuses on safe and better management of all cyanide uses. Once certified, the company needs to recertify every three years. Everyone at GSM, including contractors up there for any length of time, are put through a training on the safe handling of cyanide as this is part of the training. Advanced training is also being done and everyone in the mill will be trained in self-breathing apparatuses. GSM is tentatively looking at a certification audit the first quarter of 2011. A simulated cyanide incident at the mine is being planned for in September and GSM will keep CTAC updated as to the date the event will take place. Discussed that cyanide transported to the mine use the Interstate system and not through Whitehall. Marty indicated he will look into the routes and get back with the committee. There was much discussion on this topic.

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

### **a. Phase II Funding Status**

Tara said JLDC received approval from the grant funder to begin advertising for bids. The first bid advertisement will begin July 25<sup>th</sup>, bids will be opened August 16<sup>th</sup> and will be awarded shortly after that date.

### **b. Tax Increment Finance Industrial District (TIFID) Update**

Tara reported the request for TIFID was approved so the TIF districts have been set up and established. In conjunction with the TIFID, a TIFID Advisory Board was established that advises the Commission on administration of the TIFID. The board is working on infrastructure for the North TIFID.

## **7. Boulder River Ground Water Study**

Tom said a grant was submitted to USDA/NRCS for a Boulder River groundwater study. The project wasn't totally in criteria with the grant so will reapply next cycle. Tom attended the State Interim Water Assessment Committee meeting a few weeks ago and they will go back and assess the key areas they want ground studies on and will re-look at criteria and do some re-ranking; Boulder River Valley ranks number 11 or 12 out of 32 potential watershed group areas. With the Legislature having budget challenges, some funds will be cut, so looking at awarding the top four or five groups this cycle.

## **8. High School Roof Discussion and Input**

Paula Johnston, Whitehall School District Superintendent, distributed an Environmental Checklist for the Whitehall High School re-roof project and reviewed the list with the group. The current roof needs to be replaced as there is leakage and soft spots on the roof and very little insulation to contain heat. The project also benefits the school in fire protection. Paula reported the maintenance supervisor has attended a lead-based paint workshop and asbestos training. Core samples were taken to verify if any asbestos will be encountered on the project. If asbestos is found, a mitigation plan and proper handling and disposal plan will be developed to take care of the asbestos which would be an additional cost to the project. Paula said the goal was to re-roof and put new heaters in the school as there are some heaters that don't work; however, the grant is for only one project at a time and the roof needs to be done first.

## **9. Mining Photography Project**

An Art Institute college student who will soon be taking some Photo Journalism classes attended today's meeting. Through her career at college, she does a biography every class and, when others find out she lives in Montana, they are excited. When they find out there is a gold mine in her back yard basically, immediately red flags come up for destroying the environment. One of the projects she would like to start that may turn into a thesis project is the *Social Economical Impact the Golden Sunlight Mine has on the Community*. The project will be a photo essay besides the journalism. She plans on visiting with various community members as the project progresses and would also like the opportunity to visit with the GSM. The school project will be positive as she believes GSM is a huge asset to the town and wants to express the impact mining has on all our lives. Mark T. said he thought this was excellent and is excited to work with her. Marty suggested Tim and Mark for her mine contacts.

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

Tom said the pavilion is moving forward and it should be up before Frontier Days. Sam and Tim are working on a Barrick sign for the pavilion and hope to have the sign done before the picnic.

## **11. Frontier Days Update**

Ann reported the Chamber is encouraging businesses to get teams together to participate in Frontier Day games. Sam said GSM has not received a request to sponsor the barbeque from the Chamber; Ann has that letter to present to the mine today. The barbeque GSM sponsors every year is held on Saturday and is one of the major Chamber fundraisers that helps with their operations. The Chamber is expecting increased attendance at Frontier Days and the barbeque with the NRA Rodeo in town this year. Cow Pie Raffle Tickets are available from Chamber members to help fund the NRA Rodeo. A youth rodeo will also be held on Friday at the Davis arena. There will be a street dance again this year in the Division Street area and youth will have a separate area and dance that should alleviate issues with underage drinking, etc.

## **12. Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Update**

Commissioner Leonard Wortman gave an update on MSTI. Jefferson County has a resolution that requires any transmission line or energy line going through Jefferson County be put on public land if at all possible. The Jefferson County Commission received a draft of the EIS showing the preferred route for the

line coming across the lower Boulder Valley north of the interstate highway, into the south portion of Jefferson County, crossing over to Pipestone and dropping straight south toward Silver Star. The only route that complies with Jefferson County's resolution is the Federal energy corridor already designated that runs over the Boulder Hill in the north part of Jefferson County and is mainly on public land. The south route is eighty percent on private land. Jefferson County is suing DEQ in District Court. There was a hearing in Virginia City a couple weeks ago. The hearing was recessed and a continuation of that hearing was held yesterday in Boulder for most of the day and was again recessed. Another date will be scheduled to finish the testimony. In the lawsuit, Jefferson County is asking DEQ to stop the release of the draft public EIS until Jefferson County has a chance to comment and to give Jefferson County at least six months to study and propose different routes and ideas. Jefferson County is asking DEQ to provide access to all DEQ's experts and contractors that helped develop the EIS so Jefferson County doesn't have to hire special consultants to basically re-invent the wheel. Jefferson County would like to be able to look at the information DEQ's decisions were based on for the EIS. Leonard said the Commission's position, in general, is if the DEQ is not willing to locate the line on public land in Jefferson County, they prefer it be moved out of Jefferson County entirely, mainly due to personal property rights. There was much discussion on MSTI. At next Monday night's Whitehall Town Council meeting, The Town of Whitehall will be asked to join Jefferson County in the lawsuit.

### **13. Other Items of Discussion**

Mark said the Golden Sunlight Mine Summer Picnic is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cardwell soccer fields/pavilion. Festivities begin at 2:00; food will be served from 3:30 to 5:30. CTAC members are invited to attend the picnic.

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

Next meeting is **Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010** at the Extension Office Conference Room in Whitehall at **8:00 a.m.** Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wheeler