

Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2009

CTAC meeting was held on 12/10/09 at Golden Sunlight Mine. *Attendees* were Tim Dimock, Mark Thompson, Paula Johnston, Liz Kidwell, Ed Handl, Tara Mastel, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guest:* Bill Inabnit, GSM's Safety Technician

1. Preceding the CTAC meeting Bill Inadnit, Safety Technician for the GSM, gave a half-hour safety training presentation in preparation for a mine tour the group has scheduled following today's meeting. Tom called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Paula made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/19/09; Ed seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

3. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations

a. Current Operations Update / Concentrator Feasibility Status

Tim said the mine received approval for three new trucks. The first truck is expected to be up and running before Christmas and the other two trucks by the new year. The mine has about 150 employees and the contractor count is 35, which includes the five temporary employees hired. Another ten temporary employees will be hired in the new year. The electric shovel that lost the house rollers was finished being repaired the same day another shovel's stick broke. The shovel shouldn't be down too long as the mine has a spare stick. Tim said he has asked John Childs, consulting geologist to the mine, to help look for third party ore processing business and said the mine is open to other similar options and opportunities.

The concentrator project is still ongoing. The gold sulfide concentrator feasibility study will be completed by the end of the year. It's a big commitment for Barrick; however, if GSM is successful in obtaining the concentrator project, the mine will need to start building the facility about May. GSM would concentrate the gold sulfide and ship it to Nevada via trucking and rail haulage as their operation can recover gold from the tailings that GSM is unable to recover and the sulfide in the tails will also help reduce their processing costs. Tim said the target startup date is January, 2011 as opposed to March, 2012 if the east area project is approved, else will not start the mill until August, 2011.

b. Wind Development Update

Tim has nothing new to report on wind development since last meeting.

4. GSM Environmental Update

Mark reported there were no incidents since last meeting. GSM received approval to expand the south inner dump on the west side to 26 million ton. The State sent deficiency comments on the mine's application for the amendment for the buttress dump reconfiguration; the mine responded and sent the comments back to the State. The State has 60 days to either deem the application complete or send the mine more deficiency comments. Once the application is deemed complete, the State will do a checklist E.A. for public comment for 30 days and, after that, based on the comments, the amendment will either be approved or changes made based on the comments. The State will determine a bond that the mine will post. The buttress dump was originally permitted in 1998. GSM decided to build out part of the pit that would use the buttress dump for waste rock in the 5-B Optimized Plan. The geotechnical engineers looked at the configuration and determined they could do some improvements and that is what the mine is in the process of permitting. Mark shared an artist's rendering with the group of preliminary drawings of present, what was permitted in 1998 and what the mine is proposing. The mine expects the amendment to be completed the end of February. When the amendment is complete, GSM will submit an application for the east pit. Data is still being collected for the application. The permit is needed by October/November in order to get the mill started up in January. Mark said controlling the dust on the tailings continues to be a chore. The mine has

spoken with Mr. Warmoth regarding trying a different dust control product than they are currently using. The product worked good last year but, for some reason, is not working as good this year.

5. Sunlight Business Park Overview

a. Phase II Grant Status

Tara said EDA continues working on finalizing the grant; staff has given them additional requested information and expects to receive written notice regarding the grant status in about two weeks.

b. HUD Special Grant – Recovery Dollars

Tara said the E.A. and the HUD application for the HUD special grant appropriation of \$142,500 through Senator Tester's office were completed and sent to Washington D.C. for approval to release the funds. The proposed use of the money is to finish the water tank portion of the infrastructure that wasn't included in the initial EDA request. Staff expects to hear back from HUD shortly and to be able to break ground at the business park in 2010.

c. Subdivision Update

Tara said there is no update on the subdivision.

d. TIFD Update

Tara reported the TIFD is progressing and the final hearing will happen December 15th at the County Commission meeting. The paperwork will then be assembled and sent to the Department of Revenue for final review and, if approved, the TIFDs in both the northern end of the county and the south end of the county are established.

e. Interpretive Center

The Interpretive Center/Business Incubator is one of the first buildings JLDC is looking at for the business park. The Interpretive Center/Business Incubator would include a small business area to combine services for start-up businesses such as accounting, business consultations, etc. and JLDC would support the businesses, helping them to grow and expand. JLDC would build the building with TIFD funds and businesses would lease from JLDC.

6. Pavilion Status – GSM Assistance

Tom said the Community Development Board (CDB) continues working on that and are looking at the site location to be near the Fire Hall.

7. Fire Relief Update/Community Revitalization Forums

Tom said the Fire Relief Fund will be closed out by the end of the year. Approximately \$1,000 in the fund is allocated to the Star Theater to put gutters for water mitigation and there is a \$3,000 commitment to another business for website and visibility development. Any remaining funds will be transferred to the Chamber of Commerce for advertising and promotion of the town.

8. Whitehall Growth Policy Update

Tom said the Town has been working on the Growth Policy with the contractor for about a year and a public meeting for the policy was held last Monday evening. Tom updated the group on some of the items updated on the policy. Impacts the GSM has on the Town were added and there were comments on future possibilities for the wetlands at Piedmont. CTEP money and private donations will allow development of 1.5 miles of walking trails to be developed around the fish pond and the plan is to eventually expand the trails. The Growth Policy will be presented next week to the Town Council for approval.

9. Other Items of Discussion

a. Tom said staff met with a group that has some investors looking at potential sites for a co-gen facility and toured the future business park. The group is looking at a 20-25 megawatt project and the business park is one of three top potential sites for their plant.

b. Ed said in line with the Growth Policy, he heard a lot about Whitehall beautification. The Rotarians spent a lot of money and effort putting memorial tiles around the fish pond and someone backed into them with a truck and did a lot of damage. They are looking at rebuilding and part of the rebuild is to make sure this doesn't happen again. Their proposal is to block the street off on both sides of the fish pond and grass it in to make one continuous park all the way from Division Street to the fire hall. The fish pond would then be in a grass setting. The Rotarians feel this would increase the level of safety for people, especially the youth, and it would also beautify that part of town. They received approval through the Parks Department; however, when it went to the Town Council, they indicated they did not want it blocked off. One of the reasons was the town wants two accesses to the fire hall and Ed said there is an easement that would allow the two accesses to the fire hall. Ed would appreciate all that believe in this project to speak up to Town Council members or come forward when there is an opportunity for further comment.

c. Liz reminded the group the Tour of Homes, Christmas Stroll and Beef Breeder's Show will be held this weekend in Whitehall. Rocky Mountain Bank is having their Open House Friday from 11:00-2:00. There is also a Chamber Appreciation Potluck and other entertainment Sunday from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting is **Thursday, January 21st, 2010** at the Extension Office Conference Room in Whitehall at **8:00 a.m.** Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. A tour of the mine commenced after the meeting.

Note taker,

Nancy Wheeler