

**COMMUNITY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)  
MINUTES**

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Meeting was a combination Zoom and in person at the Borden conference room. Attendees: Chuck Buss, Nick Hensleigh, Leonard Wortman, Tim Blake, Alison Richardson, Bruce Binkowski, Marta Bertoglio, John Kries, Tom Harrington, Eric Seidensticker, Hanna Nieskens, Erin Carbajal, Kristi Wilson, Paul Babb, Liz Pullman, Melody Evans, and Tim Blake.

1. Tom H. called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made. August minutes were approved.
2. **GSM Operations** – Chuck B. presented.
  - a. **Safety Report** – 1630 days with no lost time accidents. This is a milestone of over four years without a lost time accident and was celebrated. 1300 days without a medical lost time.
  - b. **Operations Update** – Continuing working on the mill remodel. Tanks and pumps are completed, with work on the side walls of the tank beginning soon. Filter press being installed. Piping is being fused. Concrete pour almost complete with a few remaining pads. Covid protocols are in place at the mine to ensure employee safety, currently 77% of employees are vaccinated.
  - c. **Employment Status** – 17 full time workers with one pending offer and 62 contractors. Looking to hire 12 new positions that are currently being advertised.
3. **GSM Environmental Update** –
  - a. **Permit Updates** – EIS was published August 27th and a Record of Decision is expect by September 13<sup>th</sup> with full approval by the 15th. Bond is being accepted by GSM.
  - b. **Reclamation Update** – Seeding will continue with an estimated 45-50 acres left this fall, expect everything to be completely seeded by mid-October before the snow falls.
4. **Jefferson Local Development Corporation Update** – Discussed ongoing projects. Western Legacy Center progressing, and a public announcement will be made at a special event on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the USDA Building. Whitehall Master Plan is in progress and there will be an open house on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> with Stahly Engineering. Working on county Recovery Act funding, Boulder South Campus Master Plan progressing. Working on EDA application for WLC. Working on a new warehouse building in the business park New ARPA Admin position will be a JLDC employee and advertised this week. Adding a Childcare Coordinator that will be advertised soon. South Campus demo project progressing. North county survey complete.
5. **American Recovery Act** – Commission approved funding plan. \$115K going to the Western Legacy Center. \$40K expended to start a childcare facility in Boulder.
6. **Whitehall Town Update** – Public Works has been doing a lot of cleanup due to the windstorm last month. They've hired two new office staff for a total of three people in the office. They recently had the largest participation at their town meeting. Annexation requests and building permits on the rise.
7. **Whitehall Schools Update** – Enrollment is at 465 students. 98% of students are attending in class learning with only 11 total students learning from home. There has been 5 covid cases in the elementary school which comes to about 1% of the student population of grades K-3. There is currently only 1 staff covid case. School sports are in full swing and busy, and this is Homecoming week. Activity bus is having mechanical problems. Discussed the need for an offsite playground for use during school hours.
8. **Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Update** – Still recovering from Frontier Days, planning has begun for the Fall Festival Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> which will be from 1pm-7pm with the haunted house opening at 6pm. There are a lot of interested vendors who would like to attend.
9. **Jefferson County Commission/Events** – Road Department has been busy with repairs, including a total rebuild of Daly Road. The Boulder rodeo had the largest crowd to date. Preliminary Budget is approved. Working on upgrading Daly Road. Recovery Act funding budget is approved.
10. **Pipestone Creek Sedimentation/Jefferson Slough Project Update** – Drought management plan has been implemented and water flows have increased. Haven't had to do user meetings due to the improvement.
11. **Fish Wildlife Parks Update** – No report.
12. **Other Items** – Jefferson Valley Community Foundation grants are open. Representative Bertoglio mention she is doing committee work and current working on the VA committee and looking at DPHHS procurement procedures. She encouraged contacting her if there are questions or need for assistance.

Adjourn 9 a.m. Next meeting will be 8:00 am October 14, 2021 at the USDA Building in Whitehall.