

ARSG MEETING Summary For 8/19/10

ATTENDEES: Peter Butler, Bill Simon, Steve Fearn, Kirstin Brown, Kay Zillich, Brian Lloyd, Doug Jamison, Craig Gander, Brad Dodd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please check out the new ARSG website at www.animasriverstakeholders.org. Bill Simon in particular spent a lot of time with it. We plan to make the website a future agenda item so we can get some input as to what tweaking it may need. [The site contains our updated data for the watershed and bibliographies of all reports among other things.](#)

The NPS program consolidation & expansion has all been approved so that money can now be used from this account.

The San Juan Historical Society sent ARSG a letter expressing their strong concerns that any remediation on ASARCO lands in and around Silver Lake not disturb any historical sites or the character of the area. ARSG agrees with the Historical Society and in general, doesn't see a need for remediation in the Silver Lakes area because the settlement money could be used to accomplish much bigger metal load reductions elsewhere in the basin. Bill said he would draft a response to the Historical Society and the Historical Society letter was forwarded to the Hazardous Waste and Materials Division which is working with the ASARCO settlement trustee. Another note on Silver Lake, DRMS is identifying adits and open stopes that might need to be closed up for safety reasons under its mine closure program in the Silver Lake Basin. So far, they have found about [open 60 featuresholes](#). Closures would not occur until 2012.

Peter mentioned that the WQCC was given a powerpoint presentation on CERCLA and water quality standards at the last Commission meeting by Dan Scheppers at CDPHE and that he had a copy he could share later at another ARSG meeting. Doug Jamison mentioned he was the initial author of the presentation.

Kay Zillich had a couple of corrections to last month's meeting summary. EPA was the entity in charge of getting a ditch dug to see [ifs](#) water was coming out of the collapsed Grand Mogul portal, not BLM. And, the idea for remediation of the Grand Mogul mine waste pile was not to put it in a burrito rap, but to contour and cap it in place.

OLD BUSINESS

Koehler Update: The Koehler project was separated into two phase. The first is to rehabilitate the portal. That contract has been awarded and this phase should proceed shortly. The second phase, installing the grout curtain, will occur next year although the pre-bid meeting will probably occur this fall. The Silver Ledge project is moving forward with [construction](#) crews arriving next week.

Ross Basin: We learned secondhand from BLM that EPA had a trench dug at the collapsed portal of the Grand Mogul to see if it was the source of the heavily metal loaded drainage at the toe of the main dump. EPA did not find the drainage, but several people at the meeting had questions as to where the trench was dug and if it reached bedrock.

Eveline: A contractor has been chosen by BLM for the project and it should move forward shortly. Essentially, a concrete box will be installed near the adit and be filled with some type of medium

perhaps zero valent iron, to capture metals. A question was asked as to if a sample plan had been devised yet to see how well different mediums worked and the answer was no.

Gladstone Demonstration Facility: Peter passed out a one page summary of some of the main objectives and options related to reducing metal loading around Gladstone. This spurred a long discussion on the options including potential CERCLA action. Doug Jamison from the Hazardous Waste and Materials Division said that if a treatment plant were built under CERCLA, the state would probably try to hang on to some of the ASARCO settlement funds to offset some of the state's potential future operating expenses associated with a treatment facility.

WQCC Basin Rulemaking Hearing, June 2012: Peter met with the Water Quality Control Division, with Bill Simon, Steve Fearn, and Meghan Maloney joining by phone, to talk about the June 2012 hearing. The Division's perspective was that aggressive goals were set in 2000 and clearly haven't been met yet. At this time, there is no reason to revisit the appropriateness of those standards unless something in the regulations was hindering additional remediation. The hearing could be used as an opportunity to "check in" and see where we are .in meeting water quality standards and what more needs to be accomplished.

New Business

Because the meeting was running long, discussion on the issue below was abbreviated.

Erosion at the Lark: There are a number of bad erosion issues around the Lark Mine in Prospect Gulch and the containment cell for the mine waste is settling and may compromise the integrity of the cell. BLM will look into the issue further. Higher up the drainage, a diversion ditch above the Hercules blew out and is causing a lot of erosional damage to the road but not to the Hercules or Galena Queen sites. DRMS will look at this site.

Noxious Weeds at the San Antonio: Bill identified noxious weeds moving into the San Antonio site. DRMS will contract to get the site sprayed.

CDOT damages to drainage at the Congress site: There is frequently damage done to the drainage of the road through the Congress and San Antonio sites by CDOT each spring when they plow snow to open up the road. WQCD is setting up an on site meeting ~~on-site~~ between ARSG and CDOT to see what can be done to prevent future damage and to correct current damages.

Sediment fence at Upper Browns: There is ~~an~~ sediment control fence at the Upper Browns site that isshould no longer be needed and should be removed.

Revegetation of mine wastes demonstration project and ARRA project possibilities: These issues were not discussed.

Sept. site tour: The group thought a Sept. site tour would be a good idea. The tour will happen on Sept. 16th, our regular meeting day, but no evening meeting is planned.

