

## **ARSG MEETING SUMMARY**

### **July 22, 2014**

**ATTENDEES:** John Ferguson, Steve Fearn, Dan Wall, Ray Ferguson, Peter Butler, Bill Simon, Larry Perino, Kay Zillich, Ty Churchwell, Darlene Marcus, Kirstin Brown, Cynthia Peterson, Ton Schillaci, Willy Tookey, David Heinze, Buck Skillen, Lisa Richardson, Ron Borrego, Mary Blanchard, Paula Schmittiel, Bruce Stover

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- EPA Conference on Treating Mining-Influenced Waters, Albuquerque, Aug. 12-14. Some people from ARSG are planning to attend.
- InnoCentive Awards Made and Contact Info Received. The recipients are in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, South America, and India. Bill will be contacting them with follow-up questions.
- Henrietta Funding – Decisions as to whether or not funding is available should be made this fall.
- Bagley (aka Frisco) Tunnel blowout. The Tunnel, near Animas Forks, apparently blew out some time before mid-May. We hope that the sippers in the Animas may have caught the surge of metals as they headed down river. We know the tunnel blew out before in the mid 1990's. This site is on our priority list. The group asked Bruce Stover if DRMS might be able to explore the mine this fall since it is presumably safer now that the blow out recently occurred.
- River Watch looking for sampling volunteers on Animas – For a number of years, Buck Skillen has been collecting monthly River Watch data at about 7 downstream stations and four stations in Silverton. He's ready for someone else to take over. Lisa Richardson may take over the Silverton stations. River Watch is looking for someone to handle the downstream stations. Ray Ferguson said he was interested.

#### **Topics**

1. Update on Activities Regarding Bullion King – We are hoping to dig some holes this summer with a small excavator at the Bullion King to better characterize the dump pile for next summer's remediation project. Unfortunately, while the land owner seems interested and cooperative, we have still been unable to get their consent in a written form. We will keep trying, but an early snowstorm could make that high elevation site inaccessible as early as mid-September.
2. Update on Characterization of Arrastra – David Heinze with Environcorp which represents the ASARCO Trust came to the meeting. The day after the meeting David, Kirstin, Lisa and Peter went up above Silver Lake to sample the Royal Tiger to better characterize this draining adit. The Trust has about \$4 million for mitigation of environmental issues on its properties around Silver Lake. What we are trying to

determine is if those funds can and should be spent at other locations in the upper Animas Basin.

3. Update on Activities Regarding Red & Bonita and Gold King. – Brent Lewis with BLM reported on EPA activities regarding these sites. EPA plans to packer test at proposed bulkhead locations in the Red and Bonita early this fall to help determine hydraulic conductivity of surrounding rock for engineering purposes. EPA is also planning to open up the Gold King #7 level to explore the underground workings this fall.
4. BLM Activities – BLM is interested in potentially funding some bioreactor testing at Gladstone, however, the lack of settlement agreement between Sunnyside Gold and BLM and EPA is keeping them from providing the monies. BLM would also like ARSG to provide advice on what other properties outside of Upper Cement Creek should be on their long-term priority list.
5. Timeline of Activities in the Upper Animas Basin. – Peter handed out a draft outline of a timeline of activities in the Upper Animas Basin. There were two potential additions: language from Green Energy Metals (owner of the Gold King) suggesting that it would be beneficial if Sunnyside Gold would commit to funding a water treatment plant for the American Tunnel and Gold King without preconditions and the other addition were appendices in a letter from Sunnyside Gold providing further explanation of some of the timeline items.

While it would be beneficial if any entity offered to build and operate a treatment facility at Gladstone without preconditions, the timeline simply lists what activities we believe will occur, not those for which a party may want to advocate. There are other venues for advocating that certain entities take certain actions, and so the group decided not to add the Green Energy Metals language.

The group thought it best to provide an explanatory paragraph for all items not just some that Sunnyside Gold had done. It was also suggest that all activities related to water quality in the upper Animas Basin should be put in the timeline, not just some related to Cement Creek.

6. Sipper data and data base. The group decided to put the sipper data that EPA is collecting into our general database with a notation that it was collected by the sipper. The sippers are placed in the river and collect data every day, so the amount of data we will have will grow exponentially.
7. ARSG Office Cleanup. Bill and Peter talked some about getting rid of some of the old information from the office. Ty Churchwell with TU suggested we might use some people who need to do community service projects to help with scanning some of the information so we don't need keep so many hard copies.
8. Summary of InnoCentive and Related Technology Work. – Peter said he had a draft summary of the process under the InnoCentive Initiative but wants to pull together a

summary of all the ideas that came out of it as an appendix. That will take some time and he needs the help of the all the different reviewers of the solutions submitted.

Topics for Aug:

Arrastra Gulch

Bullion King