

## **ARSG MEETING Summary For 10/21/10**

**Attendees:** Peter Butler, Steve Fearn, Bill Simon, Kirstin Brown, Tom Schillaci, Bob Boeder, Chris Peltz, Craig Gander, Sabrina Forrest.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The new ARSG website is up and more items have been added to it. [www.animasriverstakeholders.org](http://www.animasriverstakeholders.org)  
We hope to pull it up and look at it for the next meeting. Please take a look and give us feedback on it.

The September site tour went well. About 23 people participated including folks from ARSG, EPA, BLM, Trout Unlimited, Trust for Land Restoration, Uncompahgre Watershed, DRMS, and local citizens. Peter has already received requests for additional tours in the future.

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Division of CDPHE responded to a letter from the San Juan Historical Society that they would work with the Historical Society to preserve historical sites in the Silver Lake area if any work is done there under the ASARCO settlement.

Every five years, DOW does a fish survey of the Animas Canyon. They did a survey this fall and found no fish at Elk Park (there were many brook trout in 2005) and only brook trout near Cascade Creek where there were four species of trout five years ago. There were more trout than five years ago in the Animas above Cement Creek. We are still awaiting a formal write up to be shared. Given the preliminary results Bill has asked BUGS consulting to add a couple additional Animas Canyon sites to their macroinvertebrate survey this year so we can compare results to surveys from years past.

The Healthy Rivers Fund which is supported by a tax checkoff on state income taxes again just barely collected enough funds to stay on the tax form. Don't forget to give to this worthy cause next tax year; the ARSG has used funds made available through this program in the past.

BLM has funded work by Northwind Construction to cleanup its portion of the town dump next to the Animas River. Northwind removed about 60 cubic yards of scrap metal, brought in almost 4,000 cubic yards of soil for soil cover, seeded the area and added 157 tons of rip rap along the Animas to stabilize the riverbank. They also tested existing soils for hydrocarbons and PCP's and found none. Finally the old town dump cleanup, started years ago by volunteers helping ARSG, may be complete!  
Perseverance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Koehler Update: The portal rehabilitation is complete. There were some challenges because the contractor appeared to have a lot of experience with coal mines but not as much as with hardrock mines. Bill and Steve spent some time advising the contractor on the work. In the next couple weeks, there will be a pre-bid meeting for the grouting part of the project to be done next spring.

Silver Ledge update: The project has been completed, including some stabilization of the historic headframe. Tom Schillaci showed the group some rough cut video footage he took of the work in progress. He is going to develop it as a potential short clip we may want to add to the website.

Eveline update: This BLM project is almost complete. A large retaining wall was constructed enabling access to the site. The treatment cell will contain 15% Zero Valent Iron mixed with sand. Kay sent a list

of concepts for sampling and analysis of the system to the group for some comments. Bill thought that conductivity and dissolved oxygen should be parameters that should be taken along with the samples.

Red and Bonita drilling results: EPA drilled back about 40 feet from the surface into the Red & Bonita working and found that there is really no water pressure behind the collapsed adit. No other information was provided. Bill hoped dissolved oxygen in the water behind the collapse and at the discharge were taken.

WQCC Basin Rulemaking Hearing, June 2012: This item was pushed back to Nov. agenda.

EPA Sampling: There was some discussion of EPA's intensive water and soil sampling slated for the next two weeks in Cement Creek. Bill reviewed the sample and analysis plan and made a few suggestions. There were some questions as to how this sampling effort would help with the overall analysis of what is going on in Cement Creek and some questions about how the samples were to be taken and if that created some type of bias. This sampling effort is tied to scoring upper Cement Creek to see if it might potentially qualify for an NPL listing under CERCLA.

Maintenance Issues: San Antonio/Congress site: ARSG, CDPHE & CDOT met on site to discuss erosion problems caused by CDOT opening of the road in the spring. Since the meeting Bill has worked with CDPHE and CDOT in drafting a letter documenting the issues and outlining what the different groups will do to reduce the problems. Bill also created a power point presentation documenting damages to be sent along as accompaniment to the letter. Also this fall DRMS sprayed for invasive weeds that were inhabiting the San Antonio remediation site.

Other Maintenance Issues: There was discussion of erosion problems at the Lark and Hercules mine remediation sites. Kirstin and Bill were going to see if BLM could pay San Juan County to do some work at the Lark this fall. Kirstin is going to look into what can be done at the Hercules. Also, Kay had sent a note that BLM would remove the sediment fence at Upper Browns

Good Samaritan developments – This item was pushed back to Nov. agenda.

## **New Business**

Coordinator's report: Bill told the group that he needs to cut back on the work he is doing for ARSG. It was decided that Bill, Steve, and Peter would meet to discuss some options to bring back to the group as a whole at the next meeting. Bill briefly reported on ARSG's finances. Now that a number of NPS grants have been consolidated, tracking finances is much easier. There is enough money available for current projects over the next couple of years. Funding would have to be sought for any new projects. There are enough funds for a part time coordinator's position for another year or so. The Energy Assistance grant is set to expire at the end of the year, and it is unknown if it can be extended; not much funding remains.

Revegetation of mine wastes demonstration project: Bill outlined a potential revegetation project in the Carbon Lakes area. There may be opportunities to work with MSI on this potential demonstration project using BioChar and other soil amendments.