

# Dewey-Humboldt Community Environmental Board Meeting

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**December 12, 2018 at the Dewey-Humboldt Town Library Meeting Room - Start time at 12:40 PM**

In-person Attendees: Sue Shimer (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), Margaret Dewey (Project Harvest), Dale Bennett (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), Brian Beck (Brian Beck Consulting, LLC.), Sandy Geiger (Humboldt Resident), Ron Thibodeau (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), Terry Nolan (Mayor Dewey-Humboldt), Garry Rogers (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), Sue Tone (Daily Courier Reporter), Dr. Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta (UA Superfund Research Program), Denise Moreno Ramírez (UA Superfund Research Program).

Attending by phone: Yolanda Sanchez (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Involvement), Alisa Hefner (SKEO Solutions, EPA Consultant), Miranda Maupin (SKEO Solutions, EPA Consultant), and Jeff Dhont (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Project Manager)

*Agenda Item: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Updates – Yolanda Sánchez and Jeff Dhont*

- After the meeting with Dewey-Humboldt Town representatives, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) are putting together a community workshop (flyer sent via listserv) for January 29, 2019.
- Continuing feasibility study, the information gathered will be used to compare options to address Superfund site contamination. Whatever is identified will be up for public comment in a forthcoming Proposed Plan.
- Sampling was completed in November 2018 and potential early 2019 sampling (?). Information gathered will be used in feasibility study.
- Sue Shimer requested a field trip to both the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter properties. She would like a “boots on the ground” experience. Several members agreed
- Sandy Geiger mentioned that the local Sierra Club assisted in organizing a past tour of the sites. This tour was open to the public and it was advertised locally. Dewey-Humboldt Town representatives were present.
- US EPA will look into the possibility of a tour of the sites.
- US EPA clarified that they do not choose how a Superfund site is redeveloped nor do they pay for the redevelopment of it.
- There are different remedial (or cleanup) alternatives that are being discussed and will be developed for the smelter site.
- Sue Shimer brought up that if an extensive study has been completed of site, especially since she has heard material is buried in the tailings. She mentioned that Denise Moreno Ramirez had captured that in her oral history interviews. Denise Moreno Ramirez concurred.
- Jeff Dhont discussed the potential reengineering that would have to occur at the tailing site. The studies they have completed have not concluded with other

material than tailing buried there. But in theory they have not tested all of tailings and can potentially happen. Yet, a main concern is acid mine drainage (not much), which is mostly seen on the Iron King tailings as a crust.

- Ron Thibodeau asked regarding the cover possibility and suggested if a mesh and cementing agent would be a solution. Jeff talked about the need to engineer the tailing before a cover option to prevent failure.
- Discussion of US EPA reuse presentation. SKEO Solutions representatives (EPA consultants) provided run down of presentation (refer to presentation).
- SKEO Solutions discussed the important of the January 2019 Community Workshop. They want public input. They will be having breakout groups to facilitate discussion as well as they will be able to summarize comments and report back.
- Sandy Geiger asked what groups have been engaged.
- The groups that were engaged included: Dewey-Humboldt Historic Society and the Dewey-Humboldt Open Space & Trails Committee.
- Ron Thibodeau suggested that they use the radio to spread the word.
- Ron Thibodeau asked if a solar farm would be a possibility? They can use the money that is made to help pay for the reuse cost. He was encouraged to attend the January Community Workshop to provide input.

*Agenda Item: Project Harvest – Margret Dewey and Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta*

- They have been presenting results to participants.
- Have been incorporating focus groups in order to obtain more rich input from participants.
- They have over 1,000 samples from all over the state of Arizona (locations Hayden Winkleman, Globe-Miami, Tucson, and Dewey-Humboldt).
- Mayor Nolan wanted to know the results from Dewey-Humboldt area. He would like to know the local findings.
- Mayor Nolan asked about the children study, if there was a follow-up. When will there be a new study? He would like to find out how the contamination is affect the community children now. Children are a concern for the community and there was no follow-up by the past-MESH study.
- Monica R-A stated that she would follow up with team. She also explained that in order for a study to materialized they need to find funding for it. She also explain the competitive nature of the grant process.

*Agenda Item: Voices Unheard: Arizona's Environmental History Project – Denise Moreno Ramírez*

- Summary of the different community experiences – geological tour by Brian Beck, recruitment article by Sue Tone, interviews such as Dale Bennet.
- Provided more information about the Mexican-American experience in the area. Jobs that they worked, restaurants, pioneering families.
- Provided names of the interviews that have been completed.
- Stated that she had not been able to obtain an interview by someone associated with the Ironite Company.
- Mayor Nolan suggested Jim Richards.

- Sandy Geiger stated that the women pioneer book at Sharlot Hall would be a good idea to review. Dale's ancestor is in this book.

*Agenda Item: CEB Business*

- It was discussed the possibility of forming a Community Advisory Group as those that exist at other Superfund sites.
- Sandy Geiger stated that the time commitment required (5-10 hours). This was a sharp contrast to the current experience.
- Sand Geiger mentioned that this was something that would be needed in the future since the University of Arizona counterparts will be moving on at some point.
- Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta clarified that this time commitment will decrease with time.
- Yolanda Sánchez followed up by stated that the upfront time commitment required goes into the identification of members, development of rules / charter, and other organization items.
- Sandy Geiger pointed out that the current board has a more broad perspective on local environmental issues and that a Community Advisory Board is more focused in the Superfund site.
- This item will be tabled until the future.
- Yolanda Sánchez mentioned that she is willing to present again regarding the possibilities as well as work through future ideas / discussion.
- Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta mentioned that via Voices Unheard, the community co-chair and another long-time member of the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site are interested in engaging with the Dewey-Humboldt Community Environmental Board. They could share experiences of participating in a Superfund site Community Advisory Group.

*NEXT MEETING March 13, 2018*