

Dewey-Humboldt Community Environmental Board Meeting

June 12, 2019 at the Dewey-Humboldt Town Library Meeting Room - Start time at 12:35 PM

In-person Attendees: Dale Bennett (President of Big Bug Mine District and Mayer Resident), Margaret Dewey (Project Harvest), Ashley Preston (Dewey-Humboldt resident), Cecil Newell (Yavapai County Community Health Services), Sue Tone (Daily Courier Reporter), Dylan Perreira (Real Estate Agent), Trish Miller (Real Estate Agent), Sandy Geiger (Dewey-Humboldt resident), Ron Thibodeau (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), Frank Sherwood (Dewey-Humboldt Resident and graduate of ASU), Glen Blomgren (Dewey-Humboldt Resident), and Denise Moreno Ramírez (UA Superfund Research Program).

Attending by phone: Yolanda Sánchez (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Involvement) and Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta (University of Arizona Project Harvest)

Agenda Item: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Updates – Yolanda Sánchez

- EPA hosted a community meeting on May 15, 2019 to hear about community member's interest on land reuse for the smelter property. About 30 community members attended, as well as representatives from ADEQ, Yavapai Supervisor, EPA, and EPA contractor. EPA does not decide or pay for future land use of a property. But it is important to learn what the community what to see as a future land use in order to address the contamination for that land use. Ideas that came up were open space, bike trails, RV and camping, nature preserve, frisbee disc golf, and other economic development opportunities (sewer waste water and solar panels). A final report is being writing and will be presented to the Town Council in the Fall 2019.
- Ashley Preston brought up a potential coal power plant that existed at the smelter site. She would like for this to be considered by U.S. EPA before the reuse moves forward. Yolanda stated if there is evidence of additional contamination it is important to consider. Next steps would be to discuss these concerns with the EPA Superfund project manager, Jeff Dhont, after additional information is provided to EPA. Yolanda offered to discuss evidence over a phone conversation. Brian Beck has the evidence and was presented at a community meeting last night.
- Ron Thibodeau suggested if there was evidence it should be discussed sooner rather than later. And there is a lot of new research that needs to be discussed.
- Yolanda S. stated that Superfund site investigations are never closed, and it is an ongoing process. So, if there is new evidence that was considered in the original studies then is should be looked at and considered. Jeff and Yolanda are willing to have a conversation with Ashley and Brian (Ron, Sandy, Sue, and Trish are also interested).

- Ashley P. stated that they are working on a non-profit and are working to find support to start health studies and other projects. She also stated that Brian Beck is heading the research, he has tried to provide the information in the past, and he is looking at the Arizona Corporation Commission information to put together the evidence. She also mentioned that there is a dust issue (2010 she submitted pictures). She understands now that the Gorilla Snot needs to be reapplied since it is evidence from the dust that is seen around town.

Agenda Item: History and Health Community Meeting – Ashley Preston

- Ashley has been involved at the site for about 11 years on and off. With the new evidence, she is beginning to become involved. Brian B. offered to present the information he has, and they organized a community meeting. About 40 people showed up to this meeting including Mayor Nolan.
- A lot of information was provided. Brian B. advised to start a non-profit that can collect grant money to start health investigations. He also suggested that they should skim death certificates.
- She contacted ATSDR and Martha McSally Office (did not show up).
- Cecil N. asked if the University of Arizona has assigned an epidemiologist that has done a statistical analysis of cancer or health. Monica R-A stated that she would have to look back to find out if it has been done. She stated that they are termed health assessments or community health mapping (to understand the incidences of disease). The UA has not done but they did have an investigation called the Metal Exposure Study in Homes (Beamer and Lohl) where they collected toenail, blood, and urine from children in area (biomonitoring). Yolanda S. stated that the state health agency has completed a public health assessment a couple of years ago and she will provide a link. It was also suggested to invite ADHS or ATSDR to present about these assessments. Steven Evert is the epidemiologist for the county.
- Ashley P. brought up that a new risk assessment would have to be conducted due to the new contaminants that they are considering. Monica R-A stated that the state study took different data sets and the water sampling results – arsenic, lead, magnesium, manganese, nitrates, and sulfates and particulate – 2.5 microns or less. She will find that report and send out to group (skimmed document).
- Cecil N. stated that there should be a mortality and morbidity study being conducted at the state level. Monica R-A stated that the statistics and the significance are at times limited due to the population (modifications in the process for small populations). And it would be important to have ADHS discuss what they did regarding their studies.
- Denise MR reminded people about the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund site repository.
- Ron T. recalled from the meeting that Brian discussed the explosion that occurred at the smelter. He found 14 headstones at the cemetery that might be connected to this explosion. They were not reported because they were “illegals”.
- Cecil N. stated that if the non-profit begins a study, they should consider the people that have moved out of the area.

- Yolanda S. stated if there is new evidence it would be important to have a conversation. Ashley P. stated that it would be great especially since they live there and are seeing first-hand the issues (e.g., trespassing on the sites, dust, etc.)
- Sandy G. stated that Brian B. made available his presentation and Ashley P. can provide. She asked if the Voices Unheard has captured illnesses in the community. Denise MR stated that she has captured some stories of illness.
- Many participants reported issues with dust coming from the tailings pile and smelter property.
- Yolanda S. wanted to hear more about the dust issues in the area. Ashley P. stated that she would e-mail the latest pictures she has from May 19th when she got home. Ron T. also said he could take some videos since his home is located in an area that has a clear shot of both sites. Ashley mentioned that she has some pictures printed out that she presented at the Town Council meeting on May 21st which the Mayor stated that he would forward to U.S. EPA. Ashley P. would send directly to U.S. EPA. She also mentioned that various area in Dewey-Humboldt get hit by the dust.
- Ron T. asked if the area at the smelter could be secured with fencing and place gorilla snot. It was discussed that the smelter site only has fencing on Main Street, but the other side is not secured. The tailings pile was also discussed that it is not secured since people still can access. Yolanda S. would discuss with Jeff D. U.S. EPA discussed signage, but community members at the meeting are wanting fencing. Ashley P. will send U.S. EPA picture of a trail by the creek coming out of the smelter stack, showing that people are walking into the property.

Agenda Item: Project Harvest – Margret Dewey and Dr. Monica Ramirez-Andreotta

- Monica R-A talked about the University of Arizona research in the area and the importance of the Superfund site repository at the Town Library.
- Monica R-A provided an overview Project Harvest, the kits, and the analysis. Mentioned that they are working under the assumption that people are not drinking the harvested water. The advisories and standards are based on what users are doing with their water (e.g., agriculture, surface water quality standards, U.S. EPA standard on in home water quality, swimming pool, drinking water for emerging contaminants, and livestock and poultry).
- Total coliform test 53% were quantifiable, 26% were below detection, and 21% were above the upper limit of detection. *E. coli* 80% were below detection, 18% were quantifiable, 2% were above the upper limit.
- Total coliform by location and season (September 2017- quantifiable 2018). Majority of locations had slightly higher level.
- Dewey-Humboldt samples were at and below the levels of detection for *E. coli*. Globe Miami was above the agricultural water and indoor use.
- Roofing materials and cistern can contribute to the contaminants that show up in the data.
- Dewey-Humboldt for the first year is not represented. Zero exceedance for agriculture, 11 for livestock drinking, 3 exceedances for full body contact of

arsenic. Cadmium: no sample exceeded standards. Copper 16 exceedances for use in irrigation. Lead there was a large range.

- Median concentrations - Dewey-Humboldt was second in arsenic, zinc, and aluminum.
- Ashley P. asked if beryllium was tested. Monica R-A stated that it was tested and the deidentified data can be shown. Margaret D. can help out.

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

- Denise RM gave an overview of the Voice Unheard project.
- Denise RM demonstrated the website and the archive of Mr. Charlie Reyes as an example of how it will look. A section of his oral history was played that narrated an accident at the Iron King Mine. She stated that this demonstrated the that the safety of the mine declined through time.
- Denise RM asked the participants of the oral history project how they would like to receive the archive. She will be proving the interviewees the archive first before the public. The choices were a project website with password protected site, Google drive, and YouTube Channel. Ashley P. stated that the USB might not be good because it can be lost, and she also stated that whatever is easiest. Denise MR stated that the easiest was the project website link.
- Margaret D. brought up the fact that some of the participants are older and that should be considered. The Google drive is not practical for them. DVD should also be considered. She suggested a link to the site or a written copy.

Agenda Item: CEB Business

- The next presenters that should be considered are: ATSDR, DHS, ADEQ. Denise MR would try all of them and see who is available. ADEQ could potentially provide information about general information on state Superfund sites. Meanwhile, ATSDR and ADHS can talk about the health studies they have conducted and how community members could collaborate with them.
- Ashley P. asked if it is decided in the future that these and other entities need to participate can they be requested to be present at future meeting. Denise MR stated that we can help with that as well as add people to the listserv.
- Margaret D. asked when U.S. EPA is coming in the fall. Yolanda S. stated that she does not know but probably in September and she will communicate via the group listserv. She also mentioned that every so often they come to present to the Town Council detailed presentation of the U.S. EPA updates.

NEXT MEETING September 11, 2019