

**Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting**

**April 23, 2019, 3:00 p.m.**

*APPROVED MINUTES*

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Grand County Public Library**

**257 East Center**

**Moab, Utah 84532**

The following individuals were present.

Committee Members

Terry Morse, Acting Committee Chair  
Zacharia Levine, Grand County Community and Economic Development  
Jerry Pruitt designee for Kelly Thornton, Department of Workforce Services  
Amy Tendick, National Park Service  
Lance Porter, Bureau of Land Management  
Rani Derasary, Moab City Council  
Phil Goble, Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control  
Joette Langianese, At-Large Stakeholder,  
Anthony Mancuso, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Staff

Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA

Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics, Senior Program Manager TAC Team), representing Federal Cleanup  
Director Russell McCallister  
Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager TAC Team)  
Barbara Michel, (S&K Logistics, Administrative Assistant TAC Team)

Citizens, Other Agency Representatives, and Media

Michael Adkison, citizen  
Evan Tyrrell, citizen  
Carter Pape, Moab Times-Independent

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair, Councilman Terry Morse, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.  
Per Resolution 3170 at least five committee members were present to constitute a quorum.

2. Introductions

The Chair asked those present to introduce themselves (see above for a list of attendees).

3. Review of Minutes from the January 22, 2019 Meeting

The Chair asked the members to review the minutes. No revisions were suggested or made to the minutes.  
Joette moved and Phil seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Citizens to Be Heard

The Chair asked if any citizens present would like to address the committee.

The Chair recognized Michael Adkinson. Michael addressed the committee regarding the decision at the January 2019 meeting to not add him as an at-large member. In support of his membership request, he described his interest in the Moab UMTRA Project since 2005 including his company's unsuccessful bid to become a Moab Project contractor. Michael expressed his disappointment about how his request had been presented by the chair in his absence, how it was addressed by the committee, and how the addition of the existing at-large member position had been accomplished in 2012 without following the procedures the committee cited for rejecting his recent request to become a member.

Michael provided the committee with a copy of an April 27, 2018 article in the Exchange Monitor that he said he couldn't vet that has falsification. Michael suggested that other data reported might also not be trustworthy.

Michael reviewed his suggestion to Mary McGann that a Site Specific Advisory be appointed for the Moab Project, questioned why the tailings were exposed for conditioning at the Moab site instead of at Crescent Junction where the work would be safer for the public, questioned the expense for the project to maintain offices in Grand Junction, expressed disappointment in the time it is taking to remove the debris from the former uranium mill, and suggested that the current remedial action contract might not be subject to normal bidding procedures in 2021 due to its acquisition by a company affiliated with a Alaskan Native American corporation.

He observed that his review of past MTPSC minutes showed that some of the committee members had been missing MTPSC meetings for long periods and that no stakeholder updates had been presented at two recent meetings. Michael concluded that he has a lot of knowledge about the Moab Project and would like to become a member of the committee.

The Chair recognized Evan Tyrrell. After noting that he was speaking for himself, Evan informed the committee that he had formerly worked as a contractor for DOE's Office of Legacy Management before moving to Moab. He mentioned that information about vicinity properties is available at the public library in Grand Junction and that tailings reports about properties are produced for Grand Junction real estate transactions. Evan also recounted that he asked about similar information for Moab and was told that it was not readily available. He suggested that the committee seek ways to provide more information about the Moab vicinity properties to the public.

#### 5. Report on Washington DC Trip

The Chair asked trip participants Rani Derasary and Joette Langianese to review the trip they made to Washington DC with Mary McGann.

Rani noted that the Moab group was in Washington February 11 to 15th and that they spoke with senate and house members and / or their staff. She passed around a booklet with photos showing some of the people they met at the various offices. They were hosted at meetings with all of the Utah Congressional delegation except Congressman Stewart's and also with lower Colorado River congressional officials from Arizona, Nevada, and California. The group also met with Anne White, the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Joette and Rani reported that the meetings went well and that the individuals they met with were collectively interested to learn about the Moab UMTRA Project, the on-going remediation work to reduce potential downstream impacts, and the community's vision for

potential future use of the site. As a potential follow up opportunity, Anne White indicated an interest in visiting the Moab UMTRA Project site in conjunction with a milestone event.

Joette reported that the Utah Congressman who represents Grand County as part of his district, John Curtis, continues to be supportive of completing the Moab UMTRA Project in a timely manner.

Joette also mentioned that she spoke with Nathan Anderson of the Union Pacific Railroad about potential future use of the existing rail line for passenger service. Mr. Anderson indicated that another rail line would likely be needed as passenger service is not conducted on freight lines. Zacharia commented that the Utah Department of Transportation is interested in studying passenger service to Moab and that while it might be difficult, there is precedent for such use on freight lines. Joette suggested that having Nathan Anderson address the committee is a possible future agenda item and that she would contact him about the July or October meetings. *Liaison Update: Joette will be contacting Mr. Anderson about the possibility of coming to Moab for the October meeting.*

#### 6. Update on adding Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) as a committee member

The Chair asked Russ to report the result of the Grand County Council vote to include Forestry, Fire and State Lands as a committee stakeholder member.

Russ welcomed FF&SL as a formal member of the committee. He recounted that the MTPSC voted at its January 22, 2019 meeting to recommend that the Grand County amend resolution 2992 to add the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands as a member of the MTPSC. He also reported that the County Council supported the committee's recommendation at its regular meeting on February 5, 2019 by approving Resolution 3170. Russ noted that FF&SL, a land management agency with adjacent property, has stakeholder interests like the BLM and the NPS. He mentioned that while FFSL had likely been overlooked when the committee was formed, that they had actively partnered in both the 2013/14 and 2018 Site Futures Committee community vision efforts, and have continued to attend MTPSC meetings.

#### 7. Moab UMTRA Project Update

The Chair recognized Joe Ritchey to update the committee about activity at the Moab UMTRA site.

Joe, representing Federal Cleanup Director, Russell McCallister provided an overview of work and progress at the Moab Site. He began by informing the group that Russell McCallister has hired a deputy director from FEMA who will begin work on May 28th and be based in Moab. *Liaison update: The new Federal Deputy Cleanup Director is Sasha Robertson.*

Joe reported that the project was sending four trains of tailings per week to the Crescent Junction disposal site and that approximately 9.6 million tons of tailings have been transported to Crescent Junction. He observed that the project had attained 950 days without a "lost work time" accident and that it is expected that the milestone of 10,000,000 tons moved to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell should be attained sometime this coming September. Joe also reported that the groundwater extraction part of the remediation work has resumed after the normal winter shutdown and that while some flooding of site property may occur that the runoff may be lower than recently projected as the percent snowpack has decreased from 140% to 120%. Joe further explained that normal peak flow of the Colorado River at Moab was about 28,000 CFS and that this year's peak might only be somewhere in the range of the 30,000's. In preparation for high water, the project has posted its flood mitigation plan on the project's website and also added a drought conditions section.

Joe also reminded the group, that the project has of this month been shipping tailings to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell for 10 years. He further reported that the project was also celebrating Earth Day this week with a series of sustainability events and that Congressman Curtis had toured the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell and viewed the trains at the Moab UMTRA Project in conjunction with his recent town hall visit to Grand County.

#### 8. Discussion of Moab UMTRA Project progress and Project FY 19 budget

The Chair asked committee members if they had questions or comments about the Project's report.

Joette informed the group that the International Dark Sky designation for Arches National Park was at the Governor's Office and that a ceremony was being planned for September 20th. She observed that the event might be coordinated with observance of the 10,000,000 ton milestone, possibly with Congressman Curtis.

#### 9. Update by Fire, Forestry and State Lands on their Green and Colorado Rivers Comprehensive Management Plan

The Chair asked Forestry, Fire and State Lands representative, Tony Mancuso, to update the committee about his office's planning efforts along the Colorado River.

Tony reviewed FF&SL's planning progress for the Green and Colorado Rivers using a PowerPoint presentation. He informed the committee that Utah Department of Natural Resources agencies are required to complete land use plans for all of their properties and that FF&SL is required to address habitat, navigation, water quality, recreation and aquatic beauty. The current effort is the first comprehensive plan for the state lands encompassing the Green and Colorado Rivers. Portions of the plan are now undergoing internal review and FF&SL is hoping to host a public review period in May which will include public meetings. Tony explained that the plan will support completion of the UMTRA Project's remediation work as FF&SL recognizes the importance of minimizing pollutant loads to the river and that his agency will work with the project to help assure the success of the groundwater remediation work.

#### 10. Stakeholder Updates

The Chair asked the members to present any stakeholder updates to the committee.

Zacharia informed the group about the joint city/county moratorium on new overnight lodging. He also mentioned that several potential developments are near the Moab UMTRA site and that the planning effort associated with the moratorium may result in some policy changes. Zacharia also mentioned that the county had approved a new dark sky ordinance which included recognition that industrial type sites require adequate lighting for safety purposes. He explained that the intent of the ordinance was to reduce unnecessary spill-over type lighting. Joe Ritchey requested a copy of the ordinance. *Liaison update: Zacharia Levine sent the ordinance to Joe on April 24.*

Lance Porter informed the group that the Moab BLM had sent a letter to the DOE in response to the Department's request for a decision about whether or not to remediate BLM-administered lands along State Route 279 near the Moab site. Lance reported that the BLM had decided that the lands should be remediated to reduce the possibility of potential effects upon future users.

## 11. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities Update

The Chair asked Russ to present the liaison's status update.

During Russ's presentation, he reviewed the long term progress of the project to move tailings to the Crescent Junction Disposal Site. Russ also discussed the data for the four quarter moving average which now includes the data for the fourth quarter of 2018. Key points were that:

Since February, with the advent of loading four trains per week, the Project nearly doubled the number of tons of tailings moved to Crescent Junction in March.

For radon, gamma, and particulate radiation, all reported levels remain well within the safety guidelines for exposure. Overall the data was fairly similar except that with the deletion of the 4th quarter 2017 data from the moving one year average, radiation levels at multiple monitoring stations showed decreases. Radon levels decreased at 5 of the 10 monitored sites with the remaining 5 sites continuing to report at 0 percent of the allowable limits. Gamma radiation decreased at 5 of the 10 stations, increased slightly at 3 of the stations, remained the same at 1 station, and was unreported at the Moab Wastewater Treatment facility as the station was removed during construction on the new treatment plant. Particulate radiation decreased at 4 of the 7 monitored sites and remained the same at the 3 other sites.

## 12. Request for questions to be addressed by the Moab Project as part of its July 201 Annual CUP Compliance Report to Grand County

As an introduction to this agenda item, the chair asked Russ to review Grand County Resolution 2741 approved in 2006 that established the conditional use permit (CUP) for the Moab UMTRA Project.

Russ distributed copies of resolution 2741 and also provided members with a set of example questions relating to the requirements of the CUP.

Following discussion, committee members agreed to submit all six sample questions to the project during its annual statement of compliance and to include an additional question to learn about the project's response to any impacts from the anticipated spring flooding of the Colorado River.

The questions for the project thus include:

### CUP Condition 1 -- Project Longevity

Please briefly list significant actions taken in the past year to advance the completion date of the Moab UMTRA Project.

### CUP Condition 3 -- Water Supply / Water Rights

Please concisely describe significant actions taken in the past year to assure a continuing water supply for operations at the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

### CUP Condition 5 -- Outdoor Lighting

Condition 5 limits outdoor lighting to the minimum needed for security and safety purposes and requires the use of "full cut-off" light fixtures to reduce light pollution. Grand County recently affirmed its support for reduction of light pollution by approving a "night sky" outdoor lighting ordinance. Adjacent Arches National Park emphasizes night sky viewing for visitors. Please succinctly portray any plans to replace some of the existing outdoor lighting at the site with full cut-off fixtures in accordance with CUP Condition 5.

CUP Condition 6 -- Landscaping and Aesthetics

Condition 6 requires screening for the mobile trailer staging and parking area portion of the Moab Project by planting trees. Please provide an update on compliance with this condition.

CUP Condition 10 -- Local Employees

Condition 10 specifies that the Project use best efforts to utilize qualified local workers. Please summarize the result of the recent workforce expansion to recruit local workers when the Project expanded its operation in February 2019 to double the number of tailings trains per week to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

CUP Condition 12 -- Final Mill Site Reclamation

Condition 12 requires site restoration work. Please briefly describe the Project's present concept for restoration of the site and any recent successes or challenges related to site restoration.

The committee also requested that the project address its response to the anticipated spring flooding of the Colorado River and any related impacts to the Moab Project Site.

13. Future Agenda Items

The Chair asked the members if they had any additional items to add to the committee's normal agenda for the July 23, 2019 meeting.

After discussion, the committee re-affirmed its intent to invite Nathan Anderson from Union Pacific Railroad to address the group.

14. Future Meeting Dates

The Chair reviewed the remaining 2019 meeting dates approved at the October 2018 steering committee meeting. The meetings are scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday July 23, and Tuesday October 29. Both meetings will be at the Council Chambers in the courthouse.

No changes were made to the previously approved meeting schedule.

15. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Zacharia moved and Tony seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Russ von Koch/, Grand County UMTRA Liaison