

Public Meeting of Site Futures Committee
Subcommittee of Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee
February 25, 2013, 1:00 pm
APPROVED MINUTES
Board Room, Grand County Public Library
257 E. Center St.
Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Site Futures Committee (SFC) Members:

Norm Boyd, At-Large
Sabrina Henry, National Park Service
Saxon Sharpe, At-Large, Vice Chair
Russ von Koch, At-Large, Chair
Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for SFC)

UMTRA Project Team

Joe Ritchey (Program Manager, Technical Assistance Contract)

Citizens

Jason Johnson (Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands), Steve Kadel (Moab Times-Independent)

The following Committee members were absent and no designee was present on their behalf: Krissie Braun (Grand County), Donna Metzler (Moab City), Rock Smith (BLM)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Chair Russ von Koch. Russ thanked Joe for providing a tour of the Moab site this morning (attended by Saxon, Norm, Rock, Russ and Lee)
2. Discussion Items
 - A. Moab Project Site Characteristics – Joe presented a map and described the characteristics of various portions of the site, which is dominated by the 100-year flood plain and the footprint of the tailings pile with additional areas for utility easements and road rights-of-way. Significant changes since 2010 include development of the Millsite Riverside Trail (potentially opening in late-Spring), contour revisions in the floodplain north of Moab Wash and addition of a 40-acre property on the south boundary (donated by Grand Canyon Trust), which increased the site area to 485 acres. Joe explained how various areas were being remediated and their expected conditions when the project reaches completion but noted that conditions under the east end of the pile would not be well understood until tailings are removed there, i.e. probably several years from now.

Joe stated that the Moab UMTRA Project has water rights that could be transferred separately from the project site. He explained that the two primary ground water contaminants are uranium and ammonia. Also, while there is a very thin layer of fresh ground water above the briny contaminated layer, Joe said it is unlikely that any usable source of potable water would be available from wells on the site due to high salinity from the underlying Paradox Formation. Joe reminded the Committee that the ground water

remediation wells will be operated or at least monitored for several years after surface remediation is complete.

Sabrina agreed to add DOE-provided mapping information to an NPS map of the area to show locations and levels of contamination on the Moab site.

Discussion followed re-capping that the intent of Federal remediation funding is to complete mill site cleanup and tailings removal--not to provide facilities for future non-DOE uses. Russ suggested that with this in mind, a possible example benefit of completing the Community Vision might be that actions potentially cost-neutral to the DOE, such as the location of a haul road that might eventually also serve a future community use, could still be considered. Another example that could actually reduce costs to the DOE would be to not re-vegetate an area planned for future public parking.

- B. Public Involvement Process – The Committee agreed to postpone this agenda item to the next meeting.
 - C. SFC Milestones and Project Timelines - The Committee agreed to postpone this agenda item to the next meeting..
 - D. Member Updates on Assignments – Saxon briefly reviewed notes (attached) of her conversation with Mr. John Elmer from the DOE Legacy Management office in Grand Junction. Lee briefly reviewed notes (attached) of his conversation with Ms. Wendy Naugle from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
 - E. Additional Committee Member Assignments – Russ discussed the idea of committee members taking on the role of “specialist” for various aspects of SFC work, for example having Saxon focus on the DOE-LM role. Sabrina suggested she could work on map preparation. Russ said he would like to develop a template for the Community Vision document so that the committee could start filling in non-recommendation sections such as the history of mill site, the process used to develop recommendations, etc.
 - F. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – The next meeting is scheduled on March 11 from 10 AM to noon. SFC agreed to schedule another meeting on April 8 from 1-3 PM. Both will be held in the Library Board Room. Suggested upcoming agenda items include review of minutes, design of the public input process and consideration of SFC milestones.
 - G. Other Non-Action Items – no additional discussion items were identified for this meeting.
3. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison