

**Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting**

**July 28, 2015, 3:00pm**

*APPROVED MINUTES*

***PUBLIC MEETING***

*County Council Chambers*

*125 E. Center St.*

*Moab, Utah 84532*

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Lynn Jackson, Chair and Grand County Council Member

Sue Bellagamba, Nature Conservancy

Marian Delay, Moab Area Travel Council

Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council

Zacharia Levine, Grand County Community Development

Kelly Thornton, Division of Workforce Services

Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

Don Metzler (Federal Project Director), Joe Ritchey (TAC Program Manager)

Citizens:

Jaylynn Hawks (Grand County Council)

Per Resolution 2992, sufficient voting members were present to constitute a quorum.

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Lynn Jackson.

Lynn introduced Elaine Gizler, who will replace Marian as Director of the Moab Area Travel Council and thus become a Stakeholder on this committee on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Lynn and Don thanked Marian for her years of outstanding service on this committee and to the public.

2. Review of Minutes of April 28, 2015 Meeting – Moved by Sue, seconded by Lynn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Project Status and Funding – Don reported that the Project team was continuing to operate safely and that they were still working to mitigate risks revealed by the November 18<sup>th</sup> rock slide. Don expects the Project team to resume 136-container (currently 104) trains in the near future.

Don noted that discovery of water in a bore near the disposal cell has led them to investigate possible leakage from the cell but so far it does not appear to be. DOE has provided an additional \$2 million to cover extra expenses incurred due to the rock slide, and thus he now believes the Project will avoid another work suspension this year. Don stated that of the 138 Project employees, about 90 are in Moab, about 25 in CJ and 20 in Grand Junction. He expects significant shipments of mill debris to begin in FY16, perhaps yet this calendar year, to be completed in FY17 or FY18. Responding to a question from Sue, Don commented that while the recent increase in radon levels is a concern, the Project team will assure guidelines are not exceeded for public exposure. Lynn noted that Congressman Chaffetz is committed to providing adequate funding to keep Moab UMTRA on track.

4. Review of 2015 Annual Statement – Lee reviewed key points, including timing of disposal cell expansion to accommodate the upcoming increased rate of shipments (136 vs 104 containers per train), de-commissioning of the evaporation pond atop the pile (likely October or November this year) and the concurrent reduction in extraction of contaminated groundwater. Don noted that he has also communicated these plans with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Don discussed the Project responses to Stakeholder comments on air monitoring frequency and mitigation of flooding impacts, with Lee explaining why he concurred with the responses. Marian moved, Sue second, to recommend that Council formally accept the 2015 Annual Statement. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Stakeholder Updates – Zacharia reported that Grand County was in preliminary plat review for continuing development of the Canyonlands By Night property on the south side of Courthouse Wash, near the east boundary of the mill site, and that no additional buildings would be added to the existing water treatment facility.
6. Air Monitoring and Activities – First Lee explained a new chart showing how the rate of tailings removal was related to the level of funding and then described a partial correlation with radon and particulate levels. Lee discussed the air monitoring results up through Second Quarter 2015, noting that gamma and radon levels at the most sensitive offsite locations continued trends of recent years, well below their respective guidelines. He pointed out however that radon levels at Crescent Junction were still noticeably higher than past years but declining from the winter peak of about 60% of the guideline.

Lee invited Stakeholders to accompany him during the upcoming monitoring visit to the Crescent Junction disposal cell site.

7. Future Agenda Items – The next quarterly meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Funding, mill debris removal and air monitoring reviews are intended for the October agenda.
8. Zacharia moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison