

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting
January 22, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
APPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
Council Chambers, Grand County Courthouse
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Committee Chair, Grand County Council
Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Zacharia Levine, Grand County Community and Economic Development
Marcia Lea, Department of Workforce Services (alternate for Kelly Thornton)
Rani Derasary, Moab City
Dana van Horn, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
Scott Hacking, Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Joette Langianese, At-Large Stakeholder

Staff

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

Moab UMTRA Project:

Patrick Swann, Department of Energy, (representing Federal Cleanup Director Russell McCallister)
Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics, Senior Program Manager, TAC)
Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager)

Citizens, Other Agency Representatives, and Media:

Anthony Mancuso, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Lee Shenton
Doug McMurdo, Moab Times-Independent

1. Call to Order

Chair Mary McGann called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.
Per Resolution 2992 at least five committee members were present to constitute a quorum.

2. Introductions

The Chair asked those present to introduce themselves.

3. Review of Minutes from the October 23, 2018 Meeting

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

4. Citizens to Be Heard

The Chair asked if there were any citizens present who desired to speak to the committee. No citizens requested to speak.

5. Moab UMTRA Project Update

Following a request from the chair, Patrick Swann provided an overview of work and progress at the Moab Site. He noted that the DOE's budget had been approved and the project was working normally. Patrick informed the committee that the Moab project's budget increase for FY 19 has already enabled them to hire 19 new employees.

Patrick reported that on December 6, 2018, Moab staff reported an odor in the tailings section of the Moab site. Five days later, the odor was reported at Crescent Junction where it was associated with tailings moved from the Moab site. In both instances, work in the area was paused and physical controls were installed. Five employees reported irritation with one of these reporting nausea, another, loss of taste and the other three headaches. The project initiated an investigation to determine if the reported odor posed a health or safety issue. Laboratory analysis of soil and air samples showed low levels of aromatic hydrocarbon substances that may be associated with diesel fuel. The hydrocarbons present were determined to be well below established OSHA guidelines. In response to a question, Patrick clarified that the odor came from soil in the tailings pile and was of unknown origin. In response to a question, Joe noted that it was likely the substances came from past mill operations. The project resumed normal shipments on January 7. The period when shipments were curtailed included the planned extended holiday break. Finishing this part of his presentation, Patrick stated that employee health and safety is paramount.

In response to questions, Patrick noted that the project is preparing procedures for dealing with suspect tailings material if detected again. He also stated that project staff have been advised that respirators are available for their use and that between the pause for the odor investigation and the normal holiday break, about three trains of tailings were not shipped.

Patrick also reported that about 9.4 million tons or 59 percent of the estimated tailings have been shipped to Crescent Junction. This amount includes 123,238 tons reported as shipped to Crescent Junction for the current federal fiscal year from October 1 through January 18. He also noted that the project is working with DOE Office of Legacy Management subject matter experts to assess the potential for application of an alternative long term cover for use at the Crescent Junction disposal cell. The alternative cover might be an evapotranspiration type that could be more effective and less costly. Patrick concluded his remarks by stating that it appeared the flow of the Colorado River may again be in the normal range for 2019 and that DOE was still working toward hiring a deputy cleanup director for the Moab project.

6. Discussion of Moab UMTRA Project progress and Project's FY 19 budget

The Chair opened this topic for general discussion.

Patrick was asked if the current partial shutdown of the Federal government might impact future project work. He responded that he did not think that it would.

Asked if some of the 19 newly hired employees were local residents, Patrick responded that he believed that was the case. Joe mentioned that some recently hired staff were former employees who have returned to work at the project. Honora volunteered to provide the MTPSC with specific numbers. *[Liaison note: As of February 6, 2019, the project has hired 23 new employees with 12 being Grand County residents and 6 from other Utah locations.]*

In response to a question, Patrick explained that the project was working on modifying the existing contract to increase shipments from two trains per week to four trains per week and that the modifications involved multiple considerations such as rail shipment rates and scheduling. *[Liaison note: The project began shipping four trains per week on February 4, 2019]*

Committee members subsequently discussed potential local government strategies for maintaining or increasing funding for the project to help move it faster towards completion. It was generally agreed that a strategy that sought to sustain future tailings shipments at four trains per week would be cost effective given the number of trains that Union Pacific can provide and other factors such as scheduling efficiencies. It was pointed out that Congress passed legislation that directed removal of the tailings by September 2019 and that the ups and downs of past appropriations have been disruptive and inefficient.

Mary asked Patrick about the status of relocating the powerlines to facilitate moving more tailings per train at the rail bench. He responded that the easement for the powerlines is being renewed and that relocation may be considered as part of the renewal process. He noted that it would be at least a year before the powerlines could be moved to allow the loading of longer trains with more tailings.

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

Tony Mancuso informed the committee about FF&SL's on-going update of their Green and Colorado River Comprehensive Management Plan. He explained that the first two chapters of the CMP covering the history of the planning area and current conditions were being reviewed internally. Following this review, FF&SF will prepare a third chapter to address future management of the planning area. He noted that the recommendations for the area along the Colorado River adjacent to the Moab project site will be based upon those made by the MTPSC's Site Futures Committee. Tony noted that he expected the Division's Colorado River lands adjacent to the project site to be classified as a Category Three area under their planning system which would allow the greatest range of management actions.

Joette asked Tony to present their planning work to the MTPSC as it becomes available. Members agreed that it would be appropriate to have FF&SL present a progress update at the April 2019 meeting.

8. Stakeholder Updates

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

Scott Hacking from the State of Utah's Department of Environmental Quality Price Office further introduced himself as the Southeastern District Engineer. He described his interest in the Moab project, informed the committee that he hoped to be able to attend future meetings, and noted that he had formerly worked for the state's Division of Radiation Control.

9. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities

Russ presented the liaison's status update as a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the long term annual progress towards transporting the tailings from the Moab Site to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell. He also compared the data from the third quarter air quality report to the second quarter report. Overall the results were fairly similar except that several of air quality stations near the Moab site showed some increase in radon and gamma radiation. He noted that the readings were still well below the allowable limits and could change when the 2018 fourth quarter data is available. Russ also noted that two Crescent Junction stations continued to report readings well below the established limits.

10. Consideration of adding the Utah Division of Fire, Forestry and State Lands as a MTPSC Stakeholder

The Chair initiated discussion of adding the Utah Division of Fire, Forestry and State Lands (FF&SL) as a stakeholder.

Russ explained that Grand County Resolution 2992 approved in 2012 did not include FF&SL as a stakeholder and that the resolution specifies that alteration of the membership requires the approval of the county council.

Russ noted that the Utah Division FF&SL qualifies as a stakeholder because of its status as the manager of adjacent lands through its state-delegated management of the Colorado River along the project's southern border. Russ further described how division staff members began their association with the MTPSC in 2013 through participation in the Site Futures sub-committee's development of the Initial Community Vision for future use of the Moab Project Site. He also pointed out that division representatives had continued to attend SFC and MTPSC meetings. Russ concluded that the committee could begin the process of adding FF&SL as a member by recommending such action to the county council through amendment of resolution 2992.

Following additional concurring discussion, the Chair asked for a motion. Zacharia moved that the MTPSC recommend to the county council that Resolution 2992 be amended by the addition of the Utah Division of Fire, Forestry and State Lands to the current list of stakeholders. Marcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ suggested that Mary direct him to prepare an amendment to Resolution 2992 that would add FF&SL to the list of MTPSC stakeholders. She authorized him to prepare the amendment for presentation to the Grand County Council for its consideration.

11. Future Agenda Items

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

Mary reported that a local resident, Michael Adkison, approached her about becoming a stakeholder member. Discussion followed with members noting that lots of thought had gone into the makeup of the committee, that MTPSC meetings were open to the public, and that individuals with specific concerns could address the committee during the Citizens to Be Heard portion of the agenda. It was also noted that the county's process of adding individuals to a committee or board normally involved an advertising process so that multiple individuals could be considered.

No additional future agenda items, beyond the previous request for FF&SL to present a status update to its planning for the Green and Colorado rivers, were proposed.

12. Future Meeting Dates

The Chair reviewed the remaining 2019 meeting dates. Meetings are scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tues April 23, Tues July 23, and Tues October 29. *[Liaison note: The April 23rd meeting will be held at the Grand County Public Library. The other 2019 meetings are scheduled for the council chambers in the courthouse.]*

13. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Russell W von Koch/, Grand County UMTRA Liaison