

# RSAPOA Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Minutes

Saturday, October 22, 2016

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

**Roll Call: Directors:**

Wendy Magras (President): Present  
Glen Ballard (Vice President): Present  
Jerry Hain (Treasurer): Present  
Ken Spaulding (Secretary): Not Present  
Pete Stogsdill (At Large): Not Present  
*Quorum met.*

**Association Members:** Mike Magras, Carl Taylor, Sandy and Fran DiFazio

***A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called for the sole purpose of discussing the proposed mine expansion of Freeport McMoRan. No formal motions were carried. The following presents, in letter format, the topics discussed and associated calls for action to Association Members and other affected parties as written by Wendy Magras, President.***

We have an opportunity to affect the outcome of the mine expansion project. This is important if we want to preserve the beautiful area in which Ruby Star is located and preserve our investments, as well. I hope that every property owner will participate.

**Proposed Expansion:**

This proposed expansion was first announced by Freeport in April of 2015. It involves relocating a wash to the south side of the airpark by blasting and excavating. This will allow room for the mine to expand north up to this relocated wash. The rock dumps will expand toward the airpark and may appear to be about twice as tall as they do now. Impacts may include dust, lights, noise, chemical odor, and contamination of ground water.

The approving authority for the project is the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**Board Efforts:**

The board met with Freeport to better understand their plans. They are wanting to come north because it is shorter for their trucks to haul the rock and makes the operation cheaper for them. The board submitted comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers during the 30-day period (Sept. 2015). We also encouraged everyone to submit letters. The board and members of the community have met with Sharon Bronson and Raul Grijalva to discuss the issue and understand ways to move forward. The USACE has not responded to our requests for information.

We recently discovered that State and Federal EPA provided input to USACE (Sept. 2015). They basically stated that sufficient study has not been done and that other alternatives should be

# RSAPOA Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Minutes

Saturday, October 22, 2016

considered. They stated that they felt the permit should be denied. This is very helpful information for us. But, the USACE is not bound by what the EPA says. The EPA believes that an Environment Impact Statement should be done. This is a much more substantial study of the impacts of the project than USACE has requested of Freeport.

### **Where to go from here?**

WE NEED TO TRIGGER AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY/STATEMENT (EIS) and AN ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES.

We need to bring light to the fact that the Army Corps is ignoring the EPA and that this expansion may have significant issues for generations in this entire area. We need large numbers of people questioning the USACE approach to this project.

First, it is important to note that EPA believes this is a large project. It may have impact to the communities of Sahuarita and Green Valley. The mine has and continues to pollute Green Valley water. This project may make this impact worse.

The board is also reaching out to local govt's of Sahuarita and Green Valley, to news agencies, and will send a letter from our attorney demanding an EIS.

### **This is what we need from you:**

- Write letters! Talking points and contacts are listed below.
- Talk to people: other HOA's, Flying Diamond, friends, anyone who you think might be impacted or who might have a way to influence the USACE. Use social media. Create a buzz.

### **Talking Points:**

- Demand an EIS and an alternatives study
- Cite potential environmental issues:
  - o Pollution of ground water
  - o Increase of the long documented chemical odors
  - o there are many others, but it may be best to limit to these two
- We understand the Freeport is a member of the community and a good source of jobs, but it is important to understand what the result will be of this project and ensure that there are no other less damaging approaches. Moving a wash can have many repercussions.

Please address your letter to Col. Gibbs, but with CC's to all the other folks below. Letters that are sent by US mail are best. In your letter, do not CC Ruby Star. We want the USACE to hear

# RSAPOA Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Minutes

Saturday, October 22, 2016

from as many individuals as possible. But, we are creating a folder of responses, so please email to Wendy Magras at wendymagras@gmail.com.

I hope that you will all participate in the opposition to this project as soon as possible! There is urgency needed if we are to affect the outcome. I have attached the letter from the EPA and the response from the USACE. Below you will find the contacts.

Regards, Wendy

**Contacts: Please reference the Corps case file in your letters: SPL-2011-00160-MWL**

Address letter to:

**At US Army Corps of Engineers:**

Col. Kirk E. Gibbs  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
3636 N Central Avenue, Suite 900  
Phoenix, AZ 85012-1939

**At EPA:**

Jeanne Geselbracht  
Environmental Review Section (ENF-4-2)  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: (415) 972-3853  
Geselbracht.Jeanne@epa.gov

**US Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva:**

NOTE: Make sure to use your Ruby Star parcel address or refer to it in your correspondence otherwise he will not know you are in his district!!!

Suggest may have better results sending to him via his Washington address:

1511 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
ph (202) 225-2435

Here is his Tucson address:

738 N 5th Ave. Suite 110  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
ph (520) 622-6788

# RSAPOA Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Minutes

Saturday, October 22, 2016

email of his assistant in Tucson:

Cassandra.Becerra@mail.house.gov

### **Representative Martha McSally**

(For those RSA owners who live or own property in Green Valley, Sahuarita or Tucson):

4400 E. Broadway Blvd

Suite 510

Tucson, AZ 85711

Phone: (520) 881-3588

### **Senator John McCain:**

407 West Congress Street

Suite 103

Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone: (520) 670-6334

### **Senator Jeff Flake:**

6840 North Oracle Road

Suite 150

Tucson, AZ 85704

P: 520-575-8633

### **At Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ):**

Laurie (Rosi) Sherrill

ADEQ Water Quality Division

CWA401 Project Manager

602-771-4409

ls7@azdeq.gov

### **Pima County Supervisor:**

Sharon Bronson, Chair

Pima County Board of Supervisors

District 3

130 W. Congress, 11th Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

(520) 724-8051

[District.3@pima.gov](mailto:District.3@pima.gov)

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.