

Summary of notes from the Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) meeting 3/10/10
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Notes taken by: Rebecca Stevens- Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Introductions started the meeting and presentations/discussions followed. There was one minor change to the agenda. Bob Flagor (NRCS) provided an update on bank stabilization projects along the Coeur d'Alene River.

Review of the Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM)

-Ed Moreen (EPA) provided a lively introduction to where EPA is at with the ECSM and that in the coming weeks they would have a CD of the entire document available. EPA is involved in the Feasibility Study phase of the process in the Upper Basin and in the coming months/years the same step wise process will be followed in the Lower Basin. EPA will continue to have open dialogue with the Lower Basin PFT.

-Paul Burnet (CH2MHill) provided an update outline Power Point presentation which covered the following items: 1) ECSM Progress Report, 2) Summary of Key Findings, 3) Key Questions for Model Selection & Data Gaps, 4) Modeling overview including a model recommendation , and 5) Priority Data Gaps.

-Progress Report update- 64 comments from > 9 stakeholders were received from the Lower Basin PFT and BEIPC and responses were documented and handed out to the PFT and posted on the BEIPC website.

-The following is a brief synopsis of the Power Point presentation:

- Summary of key findings on water, sediment, and lead budgets.
- Key questions for model selection and data gaps considered 1) whether use is modeling vs. data collection, 2) working list of 70 key questions to guide decisions, and 3) 4 general categories of questions: watershed/basin scale, river channel, river banks, floodplain exchange and inundation.
- Modeling is also intended to help *simulate water flow, sediment transport, and channel/floodplain evolution due to erosion and deposition, over a range of flow conditions, spatial resolutions, and temporal scales.*
- Modeling is also intended to help assess effectiveness of alternative remedial actions, and guide the design, and implementation strategies by: 1) prioritizing sites, 2) identifying sites potentially susceptible of recontamination, 3) identifying the impact of remedies on basin dynamics, and 4) capture fatal flaws, optimization design.
- An overview of model types (e.g., 1-D, 2-D, 3-D) capabilities (e.g., hydraulic, sediment transport, etc.)and selection process was provided.
- CH2MHill is recommending (at this time) to utilize the MIKE Software Package developed by DHI Inc.
- Priority data gaps include, 1) completion of the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) using LIDAR flown in 2009 and bathymetry data from 2004 which CH2 will be comparing, 2) suspended and deposited sediment, 3) water levels, 4) bank erosion rates.

- Potential additional data collection includes additional sediment coring to be timed with remedial design needs.
- All data collection will be using an adaptive management approach.

-Discussion among the PFT followed regarding how agencies feel it is important to collaborate more on projects whether they be demonstration projects or not. Unanimous consensus among attendees that we should move forward with projects in the Lower Basin and that there should be some type of process for submitting and prioritizing project ideas. In the past, Rebecca has sent out emails to the PFT members calling for project ideas however, only verbal discussions have resulted. Rebecca suggested that she discuss this more with PFT members and try to come up with some type of forum or process.

Lower Basin riverbank stabilization update

-Bob Flagor (NRCS) provided an overview of the USDA Farm Bill cost-share programs that are available to farmers and ranchers. There have been several voluntary landowners in the Lower Basin that have participated in these programs over the years. He then addressed the bank erosion that is occurring along the lower portion of the Coeur d'Alene River. Bob showed pictures and talked about designs that have been installed and discussed whether they were successful or not. He suggested that if you want to stabilize the riverbank, look at designs that have worked in the past and consider the saturation points. As of today, approximately 17 miles of riverbank were stabilized in 2009 and approximately 3 miles will be stabilized in the 2010 field season.

Communications PFT/Recreation Mgt. subcommittee

-Jeri Delange (BEIPC), Communications PFT Chair provided a PowerPoint presentation on what the Communications PFT has been doing lately. They are in the process of developing a survey to determine what information citizens would like to receive. The PFT has also been sponsoring open houses, creating education outreach materials for the Kootenai County Fair booth, and updating the BEIPC brochure. They are also working with the Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) to address needs and participation.

-Jeri then provided an update on the Recreation Education Subcommittee and stated their goal which is: *To strengthen communication and education about taking precautions and playing safe when visiting recreational areas where contamination may be a concern within the Coeur d'Alene Basin.* The subcommittee is in the process of creating recreation questions to be posted on a website. They are also identifying events where their mascot "Riley Raccoon" can provide safe recreation information. One of the publications they plan on utilizing will be the "Protect Your Health While Enjoying the Coeur d'Alene River System" brochure.

-The subcommittee will act as a clearing house for recreation education and they plan to have an ftp site where they will have a spreadsheet of rec. sites posted. The subcommittee is also planning a boat trip down the river in order to assess recreation areas that are undeveloped.

Sediment Deposition Workgroup Update

-Rebecca gave a brief overview of the basic agreement that was reached by agency representatives at a Sept. 24th 2008 meeting regarding post flood event coordination. Folks agreed to draft a set of guidelines to provide a consistent and efficient approach in responding to sediment deposition resulting from high-water events at recreation sites. Mark Masarik (EPA) worked with the group to put together draft strategies and guidelines document however, it is still in draft form as the group has not met since.

-Discussion followed in that even though it is looking like a low run-off year, it would still be nice to have a coordinated effort in the event that agencies need to assess recreation sites that have resulted in post event deposition. Ed Moreen (EPA) kindly offered to be the point person to coordinate sampling efforts since EPA anticipates having sampling crews in the field to avoid redundancy.

Proposed project application

-Sandra Raskell (Coeur d'Alene Tribe) provided a brief presentation on a project that has been proposed at the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River. This site has been known to flood and result in contaminated sediment deposition. The group discussed the project proposal (that was submitted to the City of Harrison Public Works) and those agencies with jurisdiction will be providing comment.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Meeting attendees: Bill Rust (Shoshone Co.), Denna Grangaard (DEQ), Nick Zilka (DEQ), Ed Moreen (EPA), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Sandra Raskell (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Bob Flagor (NRCS), Steve Clayton (CH2MHill), Jim Stefanoff (CH2M Hill), Paul Burnet (CH2M Hill), Steve Hicks (CH2M Hill), Ryan Mitchel (CH2M Hill), Randy Connelly (Spokane Tribe), Glen Rothrock (DEQ), Bryan Helmich (IDFG), David Fortier (BLM), Don Carpenter (DEQ), Bonnie Douglas (CCC), Jeri Delange (BEIPC), and Julie VanMiddlesworth (KEA)