

## BEIPC MEETING MINUTES

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission  
February 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Wallace Inn (Gold Room)  
100 Front Street, Wallace, ID

### Attendees:

Mr. Terry Harwood (Executive Director)

### Commissioners Present:

Mr. Jon Cantamessa (Chair)

Mr. Phillip Cerna

Mr. Dan Green

Mr. Grant Pfeifer

### Alternates Present:

Mr. Curt Fransen

Mr. Dan Olpalski

### Staff Present:

Ms. Jeri DeLange

Mr. Dave George

Mr. Rob Hanson

Mr. Ed Moreen

Ms. Rebecca Stevens

1) Call to Order/Welcome: The BEIPC Chair, Commissioner Jon Cantamessa (Shoshone County) called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and then led everyone in the flag salute.

2) Approval of BEIPC Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2011: Commissioner Cantamessa asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. He noted a correction on page 3 (first paragraph, third sentence) to change the word perceived to "*presented*." Commissioner Phillip Cerna (CDA Tribe) made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Commissioner Fransen (State of Idaho) seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3) Update on IDEQ Staff Changes: Mr. Rob Hanson (IDEQ) introduced two new staff members of the IDEQ/Bunker Hill team. They are: 1) Mr. Bruce Schuld, Kellogg Office Remediation Program Manager; and 2) Mr. Dale Snyder, On-Site Coordinator. Commissioner Curt Fransen announced that IDEQ's Director, Ms. Toni Hardesty, has taken a new position as the Idaho State Director of the Nature Conservancy, and that he will be serving as IDEQ's Interim Director.

4) Special Presentation: On behalf of the BEIPC, Mr. Terry Harwood and Commissioner Cantamessa presented a certificate and plaque to Commissioner Fransen to give to Ms. Hardesty

in recognition and appreciation for her service as a Commissioner to the BEIPC from 2004 to 2012.

5) Update on EPA Staff Changes: Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) gave a brief update on EPA staff changes. He indicated that Mr. Bill Ryan was moving on to another project and that Ms. Carol Young took another position. After expressing appreciation for their work in the CDA Basin, he introduced new team members: Ms. Tracy Chellis; Ms. Kim Presbo; and Mr. Craig Cameron (EPA Remedial Project Managers).

6) Upper Basin ROD Amendment Update and Summary of Work Planned: Mr. Adams presented an update on the Upper Basin ROD Amendment and summary of work planned. Some of the changes to the proposed plan that have been discussed to-date include:

- Elimination of the liner system in the South Fork of the CDA River;
- Site characterization work and the elimination of 42 sites with little or no history of production based on a pilot site investigation process;
- Development of aquatic standards (other than water quality) as another measure to show progress in terms of cleanup incorporated into the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP); and
- Adjustments to certain types of actions in some riparian areas.

He noted that the scope and timeframe for the ROD Amendment implementation will now be adjusted as this will be an interim remedy, rather than the final remedy. Further changes will be discussed at the next Upper Basin PFT meeting. After revisions are made by EPA, there will be an extensive review by EPA headquarters. The new schedule for approval is estimated to be June or July 2012. Mr. Adams also presented information about the CDA Work Trust and various funding scenarios for how to manage the Trust funding.

Commissioner Cantamessa inquired about some of the design projects and funding. He said that Shoshone County had no objections about investing some of the settlement funding at the beginning, but suggested that EPA may be going too far as investing is concerned because the funding was established for remedies in the community. With the general economy, he thinks that it's much better for work to occur in the next few years as there are people who need work. Commissioner Dan Green (Kootenai County) commented that he supports the acceleration of spending for cleanup activities. Commissioner Cernera mentioned that he thinks investing and funding is a balancing act and requested a copy of EPA's funding scenarios for the Basin Commissioners. Commissioner Dan Opalski (EPA) said that the CDA Trust is one component where resources are coming from, but indicated that there will be a lot of other funding spent from other areas.

Mr. Adams then announced that EPA received approval from EPA headquarters for the Superfund Job Training Initiative (Super JTI). This is an environmental remediation readiness program that provides free job training for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites. The program works with communities, contractors, federal agencies, local agencies and anyone who has the potential to hire people. It will be tailored made for the site and the key will be to have people eligible for jobs after they complete this program. He conveyed that the people who do this have great success stories and are good at finding out what type of hiring and

training is needed, so they can help match this to jobs. Benefits to a community include increasing understanding of site conditions and cleanup efforts, providing individuals with marketable skills, enabling community members to play active roles in the cleanup, and providing assistance with job placement. However, he cautioned that there is no guarantee of a job since EPA cannot tell the contractors who to hire.

Mr. Adams added that JTI combines free classroom instruction and hands-on training. They start with a 40-hour health and safety course and then add all the other things the local labor force has identified it needs. The program is about a 30-day training period, so they cannot train people to be backhoe operators, etc. Typically, the program trains people who do not have any skills or may be unemployed. The CERCLA participants learn a number of key skills that may make them viable for jobs here and at other Superfund sites in the area.

EPA is starting to work with the folks who organize the job training and will also be working to establish partnerships for the coordination of the training needs, identification of the contractors, identifying a training facility, hiring local training providers, doing public outreach/recruitment, and then conducting the training. The plan is to get the training done before the summer field season. Mr. Adams relayed that it's hard to say how many people may be interested in the training. Generally, there are about 30 people who go through a class on a typical basis, but it will depend upon the number of jobs, the interest of the local people, and the contractors who do the hiring. For more information: [www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti) or contact EPA Program Manager Viola Cooper, PH: 415- 972-3243, [cooper.viola@epa.gov](mailto:cooper.viola@epa.gov)

Commissioner Cantamessa commented that JTI was good news to him and for the community. Commissioner Green said that he was sorry to disagree, but if EPA is about cleanup, he does not understand why EPA does not give the money to the Idaho Dept. of Labor who has job training programs already in place and facilitate it that way instead of creating another task for EPA to do instead of focusing on cleanup. Commissioner Cantamessa said that he agrees philosophically, but that it sounded like a program that is already set. Mr. Adams replied that it is set, but the program has been done successfully at a number of Superfund sites.

In response to a question about the cost for the training program, Mr. Adams said that he does not have specific knowledge of the actual cost, but that the program will provide free training for 30 or more people for 30 days. Commissioner Green indicated that nothing is free. Mr. Adams answered that the training will be free to the participants, but the cost of the training itself is not free. Commissioner Opalski responded that the cost for the JTI program at a site is typically around \$100,000 to \$200,000.

7) BEIPC Executive Director Update: Mr. Terry Harwood provided an update on BEIPC activities. He has been working on a completion plan for the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP). After issues in the completion plan are resolved, they will inventory all the work completed in the designated geographical areas and the work remaining to be done. However, he noted that once the residential areas are done, there may not be completion of all CERCLA work in those areas as there may also be mine sites that need to be remediated.

For the Roads Program (unpaved and paved roads that may have contaminated surfaces or were constructed out of contaminated material), Mr. Harwood indicated that they have an inventory of the unpaved roads in the Basin and will complete sampling this field season. The unpaved roads in the Box are done. Unpaved road work will be included in the property remediation program. A pilot project for unpaved road remediation has been developed for this year's work. The paved road program in the Box and Basin will deal with replacing the asphalt surface over the top of contaminated subgrade. To qualify paved roads, they will have reviewed and inventoried the current surface life of the pavement. The plan is to work with the local roads jurisdictions that will be responsible for the proposal and specifications to get the work done for paved roads.

In addition, they have been working on remedy protection projects in the Basin for the urban areas and side drainages. There is about \$34 million designated for this work in the ROD Amendment, but they may need to make some adjustments to the ROD Amendment selected remedies after they determine the priorities for the side drainages. For remedy protection projects in the Box, they will need to figure out a way to fund this work as the Trust cannot provide funding for the Box. Mr. Harwood indicated that he would like to make an effort to get some work done this year as it should be done at low flow this fall season, rather than high flow next year.

Break

Mr. Harwood mentioned that the U.S. Forest Service has released its draft Forest Plan. If anyone is interested, he made comments on the abandoned mine cleanup section, etc., and will provide a copy upon request.

8) 2011 BEIPC Annual Accomplishment Report: Mr. Harwood presented the 2011 annual accomplishment report to the BEIPC. After review and discussion, it was suggested that some language changes be made to the last paragraph of the report regarding funding. Commissioner Fransen will work on the draft language for the changes and send the revisions to Mr. Harwood. Then it will be emailed to the Basin Commissioners.

Commissioner Fransen moved to approve the 2011 annual report now (i.e. tentative upon the BEIPC's review of the proposed revisions). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer (State of Washington), and approved unanimously.

9) 2011 Blood Lead Testing Report and Discussion: Mr. Jerry Cobb (Panhandle Health District) made a presentation on the results of the 2011 blood lead testing. He indicated that the Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) is a public health service run by the State. It was designed to be a service, rather than a study. In the Box, screening is provided to children from ages 6 months to 9 years. In the Basin, children from ages 6 months to 6 years are screened and there is also a \$20 cash incentive. The 2011 report information is posted on the BEIPC's website.

10) Communications PFT Update: Ms. Jeri DeLange gave an update on the Communications PFT.

Lunch

11) Repository Update: Mr. Don Carpenter (IDEQ) provided an update on the repository program. For the Osburn repository, review of the 30% design report has been completed and it's currently undergoing revisions. However, the design process for this repository site will be put on hold based on the prioritization of work in Canyon Creek. More focus is being placed on the design work for the Lower Burke Canyon repository (formerly named the Star). They will be doing geotechnical investigation work and modeling for the design. An open house will be held this coming spring on both repository site locations.

12) Update on Lake Management Plan (LMP) Implementation: Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) introduced Ms. Laura Lamautia, the CDA Tribe's new Environmental Specialist. Ms. Lamautia provided the LMP update and relayed that the Tribe and State are continuing to participate in the Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) for the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) River, Lake Tributaries, St. Joe River and St. Maries River, and monitoring of CDA Lake. They have finalized the 2009 water quality monitoring report and will be extending the nutrient inventory to collect data and find out what is happening in the watersheds. They have also developed a Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/cda.lmp](http://www.facebook.com/cda.lmp).

13) Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) Presentation: Mr. Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair) gave an update of the CCC meeting on January 18. He noted that there were some concerns expressed about the Trust funding and whether sufficient funds would be spent out of the Trust each year, or whether Trust funds would be kept back to be invested and then remediation would be slowed down. He suggested that it would be good for folks to know about how the funding will be spent. *(Note: The CCC meeting information summary and citizen comments are posted on the BEIPC website).*

Ms. Susan Mitchell then provided a brief update on the Lower Basin Collaborative (LBC). She informed everyone that on March 6, there will be two meetings in Medimont and Harrison. Mr. Boyd said that the next CCC meeting is scheduled for April 18 in the Upper Basin. The other quarterly meeting dates are July 11 and October 17.

14) Public Comment and Discussion: Mr. Jerry Boyd said that a CCC member had raised concerns about settlement funding being left for cleanup of the Lower Basin.

Ms. Susan Mitchell asked about the Trust funding over the long term. After cleanup is completed and the State becomes responsible for maintenance, where does that money come from? If Trust funding is still available, could that funding go to maintenance?

Commissioner Opalski responded that EPA is talking to the State about funding. The range of options include that they move forward with the Trust and assign responsibility to the Trust with figuring out how to set aside funding for maintenance. There are other options for funding if the Trust money is used up such as falling back on appropriated funds (i.e. this would include a State match for O & M). He indicated that if the money being invested grows and we manage it well, then we may not have to face these issues.

Ms. Mitchell said that she was in favor of making the money grow to ensure funding is available for perpetuity and we know all of the work will be maintained.

Commissioner Fransen said that the property remediation work done will be maintained in the Institutional Controls Program (ICP). Monies for the Box are in good shape. There are also ongoing State appropriations that have been set aside for the last ten years. He noted that they are working on these issues as there is a lot of work to come and a lot of O & M obligations remaining that will need to be figured out.

Commissioner Cantamessa commented that the East Fork of Ninemile Creek and Canyon Creek projects are priorities that need to be cleaned up as soon as possible or they will continue to add to the problem. It's a balancing act on where we need to spend the money and how much money we can carry forward.

Mr. David Fortier said that he has differing views than Ms. Mitchell. He believes that we need to move forward and get the cleanup work done now as human health issues need to be addressed first along the river and stream corridors, so that the natural resource restoration work can be done. There was a lot of settlement money gained for the Basin and we should use the funding as soon as we can to get a flow of stable work to get the cleanup done. He does not necessarily believe that putting the money aside to grow will be beneficial as the costs will grow in the future and we may end up with less cleanup work. He thinks that it's better to get the bulk of the human health work done now to reduce toxic sediments and risk, rather than waiting 30 years.

Commissioner Cantamessa asked Mr. Adams about the progress of the community fill program. He knows that EPA has been working on it and he hoped to see the program implemented this field season. Mr. Adams responded that they are still working towards that goal.

15) Adjourn: As there was no further business, Commissioner Cantamessa adjourned the meeting early at 2:08 p.m.