

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)
November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes
CenterPlace Regional Event Center
2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA

Attendees:

Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director

Commissioners and Alternates present: Bill Adams, Phillip Cerner, Jim Best, Jack Buell, Curt Fransen, Dan Green, Caj Matheson, and Grant Pfeifer

Staff present: Glory Carlile (BEIPC note taker), Ed Moreen (EPA), Bruce Schuld (IDEQ), Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe), and Sandra Treccani (State of WA)

(Please note that these minutes are a summary of reports and presentations and are intended to capture key topics and issues, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of the discussions.)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Chair Jack Buell call the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Minutes from August 13, 2014 Meeting:

There was a correction that Rebecca Stevens was not at the August meeting. Cerner moved and Pfeifer seconded to accept the minutes as written. M/S/C

Update on Lake Management Plan (LMP) Implementation

Craig Cooper, Limnologist, in the Water Quality department of IDEQ, presented status updates on LMP implementation reporting that they are doing a five year assessment of status vs. history of data of the Northern CDA Lake. The purpose of the report is to summarize progress in the LMP's status assessment providing background of what LMP does and how they do it, and what their next steps will be.

Cooper explained that there are 4 Key Observations: 1. Dissolved zinc levels are declining, 2. Lead levels are variable, higher than they were in 2003-07 but still generally lower than in the 1990's, 3. Phosphorus, chlorophyll levels are rising in the lake, and 4. Appear to impact dissolved oxygen and bio-indicators.

Primary Objective of the 2009 LMP is to help control nutrient loading in order to keep high oxygen levels in the near-bottom waters - which helps to keep metals in the sediments. They monitor, assess, communicate, advise, coordinate with management authorities, and help advance nutrient reduction projects. Technical process includes 5 general steps, and some can be concurrent.

He explained the LMP Scientific process:

1. Collect samples 2. Evaluate 3. Analyze causes and 4. Provide options

He explained that this is where the Technical Data Evaluation using 2009 LMP Plan comes in as their overall objective is to help inform decision making processes. They focused on a subset of zinc, phosphorus, and oxygen data using Tubbs Hill (Northern Pool) and University Point (Central Pool) as examples to show trends from detailed data. Across all the data their preliminary Assessment (Northern Lake) overall is that it appears to be trending away from some desired conditions.

The next steps include that they will present the 5 year status report of lake conditions at the Symposium on November 18, they will initiate "Trigger Analysis" that will assess cause, implications of trends, and will update Science Planning with a 1 year and 5 year Science Plans.

Rebecca Stevens gave an overview of what will be presented at the Symposium on November 18. She announced that they have reached their maximum capacity with over 175 registrations. They will be trying to explain in layman's terms on the special dynamics of nutrients in the Lake and will be using a QuickTime program as a visual. They hope to provide a better understanding of in the Lake nutrient cycling and not just what is coming in, and how we as a community at large plan to move forward.

Questions/Comments:

There was a comment to encourage LMP to get busy on nutrient source inventories and get the information to people who do the actual management. Craig Cooper said they are working on that and are also waiting on USGS to release their report.

Cernera added that one of his concerns is that they (CDA Tribe) count heavily on the LMP data to guide us on what we need to do in the future. A rising concern is that there are complex issues, and the trends are showing negative changes in the nutrient levels in the Lake which may result in "finger pointing". No one seems to want to regulate the Lake and there is a need for asking what the next management steps will be.

Fransen commented that they are doing exactly what they are supposed to be doing. Water years seem to matter and sampling of some substances need more understanding. More monitoring, more assessment, trying to understand what is going on and what is needed.

Buell asked if we are losing ground. Harwood said no, that we are dealing with environmental impact now. Buell said that the CDA River looks a lot better but it seems that the report indicates that we are failing, but Harwood disagree saying that we are doing a good job of gathering data and have exceeded some triggers. Cernera suggested that the Superfund remedy is doing a lot of good in the Basin reflected in the reduction of zinc in the lake. LMP is to monitor the lake and to inform the community to do things better with education and outreach. A major component of the LMP is not funded so a concern is that the State and the Tribe need to get together as well as the public to rally around the next years of data and what it means and take action.

Green commented that data message needs to be made clearer and asked that reports submitted to Kootenai County be in a timelier manner.

Other comments added a caution to not jump to conclusions and that if you read the literature from USGS - numbers from old data are different from technological capability of current data so that old data may be questionable.

Cooper responded that they are using the data that USGS used so that there are nuances but no bias. He cautioned about over interpretation. Hydrology is a factor. Also, factors that impact metals, erosion, and sediments are different than what impacts phosphorus.

Cernera noted that we must agree on how to monitor and evaluate etc. to fix the lake and he hopes that in 10 years people are not fighting about the data. Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair, suggested that he mention that there are some issues and questions that need to be addressed. Julie Dalsaso (CCC member) asked that someone make a motion for the next steps for the LMP but Cernera said that procedure is that if there is a motion to be made it should be a recommendation to go to the State and Tribe – not a directive motion. No such motion was made.

2014 Blood Lead Report

Andy Helkey, Panhandle Health District, presented Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) Annual Blood Lead Surveys – 2014 Blood Lead Levels Report with annual screening results. He explained that the LHIP is a Public health service offered by the State, not a study or experiment; in the Box since 1974/1985 and in the Basin and doing lead screening since 1996.

Panhandle Health District LHIP Procedures:

Public health service offered to those that live within the Box and between 6 months and 9 years of age. \$30.00 cash incentive for participants that live within the CDA River Basin and between 6 months of age and 6 years of age. Prior to blood draws, the parent/legal guardian or adult participant must sign a Consent Form and complete the appropriate Questionnaire.

Procedure for screening and follow up:

- Screening blood test is done by skin puncture (capillary or finger stick - FS)
- Results of capillary test are provided to the participant or parent immediately after analysis
- All FS results over 5 µg/dL are followed up with a venous draw conformation test
- Offer consultations and follow-up with all children who test over 5 µg/dL

Health Effects on the system and route of exposure.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the health effects associated with lead are the same whether it enters the body through breathing or swallowing. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body, especially the nervous system. No safe level of lead exposure has been identified. Ingestion is the most common exposure route. With inhalation almost all inhaled lead is absorbed into the body. Blood serves as the initial receptacle of absorbed lead and essentially distributes throughout the body making it available to all soft tissue organs.

At Risk Populations:

- Children - more affected by lead due to behavior and physiology.
- Pregnant women - affects the fetus
- Adults with cumulative exposure generally occupational or hobby related
- Genetically pre-disposed individuals.

Health effects for children and adults show that children suffer effects from lead exposure at much lower levels. 2014 Blood Level Summary Statistics indicates decreasing “elevated” blood lead levels. The number of children tested in 2014 was slightly lower than the previous 2 years.

Basin Remedial Action Objectives are to reduce exposures to soils with concentrations greater than risk based levels, reduce exposures to lead in house dust, and to see that cumulative exposures do not exceed USEPA’s health risk goals. They plan on increasing recreation outreach with cooperative effort between EPA, DEQ, and Panhandle Health District.

Challenges include numerous undeveloped, dispersed sites throughout the Basin, vast amount of area within a flood plain creates challenges for clean up, and multiple forms of recreational opportunities that draw people to this area.

Education about the risks on both public and private land is the best way to protect your health. They are increasing distribution of materials and working with partnering agencies to expand message. BEIPC will put this report on their website under the “News” tab.

Presentation and Discussion of 2015 Annual Work Plan.

Terry Harwood reviewed the work plan process. Receives input from the various agencies and puts together a draft. A final draft is reviewed at a TLG meeting where they make a recommendation to the Basin Commission. The Work Plan is divided into 2 parts: Part 1 – Environmental Cleanup Work and

Part 2 – Other Activities and Responsibilities. He presented the 2015 Annual Work Plan going over each section.

Comments:

Regarding the recreational sites, Jim Best (Shoshone County Commissioner) asked about who is responsible for continuing cleanup after flooding events and Harwood stated that it is the homeowner or business owner.

Harwood listed the repository development and management and Upper Basin Remedies. Bill Adams announced that they are starting their 5 year evaluation review and will be looking for input from the public looking for what people would like them to focus on.

Harwood noted that part of the roadwork is completed and made the reminder that there is an EPA Implementation Plan Roadway Surface Remediation Strategy) that was developed.

Ed Moreen talked about the process for the Central Treatment Plant upgrades. Solicitation limit for bids is at \$48 million that will also cover upgrades and multi years running of the plant.

No questions or other comments were made.

Grant moved and Cerner 2nd to approve the 2015 Annual Work Plan. **M/S/C.**

Fransen moved to go into Executive Session during lunch period according to Idaho Code 67-2345. Pfeifer 2nd. **M/S/C**

After lunch session, Fransen moved and Pfeifer 2nd to come out of Executive Session. **M/S/C**

Presentation and Discussion on 2015-2019 Five Year Work Plan

Harwood reviewed the draft 5 Year Work Plan that listed the proposed activity, scope, objectives, and lead agency involved.

Boyd reported that he did not receive any comments on the Work Plans that were distributed to CCC members. However, he said that CCC will continue to forward by mail and e-mail notices and information to CCC members hoping to obtain more public input and which also serves the purpose of educating the public.

Grant moved and Fransen 2nd to approve the 5 Year Work Plan. **M/S/C**
(The approved Work Plans will be posted on the Basin Commission website.)

Water Quality Management in the Silver Valley

Kajsa Van de Riet, (IDEQ) shared that the purpose of her report is to share information about IDEQ's water quality responsibilities and plans that are outside of and complementary to the Superfund cleanup. They are planning on a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) to get started in 2015. This group will be comprised of groups of citizens that provide IDEQ with local public input and guidance during Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) development. They also plan to solicit feedback and recommendations.

Work has to do with monitoring and assessment of the South Fork CDA River Sub-basin watershed of approximately 300 miles, all land and waters draining downstream from Lookout Pass, Montana, to confluence with CDA River, 330 miles of streams and rivers that they are tracking, and the lake. They will be working with all the jurisdictions and addressing issues such as sediment and temperatures noting the impairments in the South Fork CDA Subbasin and TMDLs for metals, sediments, and "unknown" causes.

IDEQ Water Quality management includes beneficial uses - Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP), water quality standards, monitoring, assessment, water quality protection and improvement, total maximum daily loads, and review. The 2014 Integrated Report is in development.

Projects will include river cleanups, riparian restoration, stormwater management, partnerships with dischargers, coordination with cleanup, and restoration with natural resource trustees. Next steps will be the Watershed Advisory Group forming in 2015 and meeting every other month, developing temperature TMDLs, reviewing sediment TMDLs, monitoring, assessments, and planning and implementing projects.

Questions/Comments:

Cernera asked about funding for this project. Van de Riet replied that they have a 319 sub grant program with allocation of funds capped at \$250,000. Harwood noted that they will have to meet all cleanup requirements in those designated areas and work with IDEQ and EPA.

Stevens is curious how DEQ will write TMDLs in the Superfund site when there are already cleanup targets in the RODs. Bill Rust recommends that they have someone from IDEQ and EPA sitting on the WAG. Schuld responded that Van de Riet has done her homework on this and has started the process of contacting appropriate members.

Jerry Boyd asked who is doing the selection for the WAG and offered CCC to help with solicitation and sending out applications. Van de Riet said it will happen about February for solicitations and appreciates the offer to help get really dedicated people on the WAG.

It was asked if they will talk to the dischargers and Van de Riet said all the dischargers will be invited to participate and she thinks they will be interested in the assessment status. Cernera asked if currently do all the dischargers permits fall below that criteria and are they in compliance. Van de Riet said that the way the permits are written are to ensure they are within the standards to meet water quality standards and support beneficial uses in regards to that discharge. Cernera asked what are the beneficial uses in those areas that there is a site specific standard for zinc? Van de Riet said cold water and wildlife. Rust added that there are only 2 that do not meet the criteria standards and the problems they have is regarding water rights.

Public Comment on BEIPC activities:

Comments included: Rusty Shepard reported that the CDA office will meet with the LMP quarterly. Julie Dalsaso (CCC) shared that Hecla made a business report on Oct. 21 stating that they made their final payment to the Superfund site. Jim Best noted that economics in Shoshone County is not bliss so not to believe everything you read.

Jerry Boyd suggested that there be discussion about whether or not to hold CCC meetings. However, Terry Harwood commented that it is important to continue the public discussions and Bill Rust agreed that he thinks that sending out documents for review works. Rebecca Stevens said that it is OK to have the public go to the TLG meetings but they must be called upon by the Chair before speaking. Leslee Stanley shared that the yard program has kept the valley going because most local people typically have had to go out of the valley to get work.

Adjourn:

Best moved and Pfeifer 2nd to adjourn the meeting at 2:20. M/S/C