

TLG Meeting Minutes
Technical Leadership Group Meeting
April 16, 2009
Spokesman Review Building (1st Floor Conference Room)
608 Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Call to Order and Introductions: The TLG Chair, Mr. Kenny Hicks (Shoshone County TLG rep.), welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Then he asked people to introduce themselves.

2008 Water Quality Sampling: Mr. Greg Clark (USGS) made a presentation on water quality sampling for water year (WY) 2008. He indicated that surface water monitoring is a component of the BEMP (Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan). The objectives are to: 1) determine site specific concentrations and loads of selected metals in the Basin; 2) evaluate presence or absence of trends in concentrations and/or loads at selected sites with long term data; and 3) discuss interferences about metal transport and storage processes indicated by concentrations and load results. There are 6 benchmark stations they monitor every five years and they recently added a new station on the South Fork of the CDA River for 7. There are also 9 sentinel stations they sample annually. He discussed the monitoring results for total lead and dissolved zinc concentrations for 2008 sampling events along with graphs of comparisons for previous years. The highest loading occurs during high flow events as shown in the example below.

Largest Annual Lead Loads at Cataldo since WY 1995

- WY 1996 – 263 metric tons
- WY 1997 – 204 metric tons
- WY 2008 – 180 metric tons
- WY 2002 – 159 metric tons

Mr. Clark then displayed photographs of past high flow events and explained peak flows, recurrence intervals, and metals transport. Mr. Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair) commented on the amount of loading during high flow events and suggested that armoring the banks may help to stop some of it. If funding is possible, he also recommended flying over the area and taking photographs to document the amount of bank erosion and sediment transport occurring. Mr. Clark agreed these were good ideas.

Biological Resource Monitoring in the CDA Box and Basin: Mr. Brian Spears (USFWS) gave a presentation on the 2008 biological resource monitoring in the CDA Box (OU-1&2) and (OU-3) Basin. He mentioned the different sampling methods used to determine the most

effective areas to remediate and get the most “bang for their buck.” Monitoring activities included:

OU-2 (Box)

- Soil, sediment and water concentrations;
- Small mammal diversity and abundance;
- Small mammal metals concentrations; and
- Waterfowl blood and fecal metals.

OU-3 (Basin)

- Waterfowl densities and area use;
- Waterfowl blood and fecal metals; and
- ***MAPS - Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship** (i.e. riparian songbird survey program where mist nets are set out at different locations in order to collect, band, and inventory songbird species. One session is conducted at each location during specific 10-day periods June 10-August 6. Mist nets are opened at sunrise and checked every 45 minutes for six hours).

First, Mr. Spears presented information on the soil, sediment and water sampling conducted in the Box. As part of the biological monitoring, he explained that small mammals are used to evaluate the bioavailability of metals contamination as they are easy to capture, have short life spans and close association with the soil. Then he reported on the results of the waterfowl surveys including the number of waterfowl per species by wetland (i.e. including the number feeding), a swan mortality index, and spring migration numbers. He noted that Harrison Slough and the Thompson/Canyon/Lane/Strobl Marshes were the highest use areas for spring migration. At the Schlepp wetland project (which was created as the first clean habitat for waterfowl to feed), he indicated that ducks are staying a long time to feed at the marsh which helps to reduce their exposure to lead from other contaminated wetland areas. Regarding tundra swan mortalities and lead exposure, Mr. Spears said it is difficult to determine where or when the swans get sick. He discussed the results of the swan mortality index, and concluded his presentation with information from MAPS (***see above**) on riparian songbird species at Pine Creek and Springston.

Sediment Sampling Update: Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA) gave an update on the sediment sampling for the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP). Annual sampling is conducted at key Basin locations to detect changes in the contaminants of concern (i.e. arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, silver and zinc). She provided handouts of the sediment analytical results for 2004-2008 and will also put the information on EPA’s website. The highest lead concentrations collected were in Canyon Creek and Ninemile; while the highest zinc concentrations were

collected in Canyon Creek, Ninemile and the Rose Lake stations. Overall, the mouth of Canyon Creek has the highest concentrations.

For the ROD amendment meeting, Ms. Dailey said they will be looking at doing some revisions on the BEMP for adaptive management as well as opportunities to improve the plan such as re-evaluating sampling locations and conducting sampling immediately after the recession of peak run-off events. She indicated there will be a full analysis of sediment and other BEMP data in the next five year review report.

Update on Environmental Data Management Modifications: Ms. Dailey informed everyone that EPA will be making changes to convert from their existing database system (storet.org) to a new national system called WQX (Water Quality Exchange). EPA headquarters will be providing training for WQX and maintaining storet.org until mid-summer. WQX will make it easier for people to access data from one spot as other agencies such as the USGS will be converting to WQX. Ms. Dailey will provide additional details in the future and let people know when training is available.

CWA Financial Report Update: Mr. Terry Harwood (BEIPC) gave an update on the CWA financial report. The first grant year is done, but he made some changes to the second year to move funding around as it closes on June 30. (Any remaining funding will need to be returned to the federal government). The BLM revegetation project needs to be done by June 30. He is letting the US Forest Service have additional time on Moon Gulch to evaluate how the project is doing to do the final report. The Plummer Creek nutrient project is also still ongoing as well as the South Fork Sewer District water quality work for the sewer treatment plant. There will be a powerpoint presentation on the CDA Lake audit at the BEIPC meeting in May and a written report will be completed sometime this summer. For the Pinecreek project, there is still some work that needs to be completed on the bridges. Mr. Harwood pointed out that most of the CWA projects will be done by the end of this calendar year. He will look at the savings for the third grant year to see where funding may be moved.

Levee Work Update: Mr. Harwood indicated the project he funded for a procedure and action study for levee certification is done. He provided copies to the Shoshone County Commissioners and also offered to give a presentation to the County leaders. The report cost about \$15,000 to produce; and he will not be able to fund any more work next year as his funding is tapped out. To get the levee work done, Mr. Harwood noted it will need to go through the Corps of Engineers (COE) and requires an engineering evaluation that will cost \$350,000. U.S. Senator Crapo's office has asked for an earmark for the COE, but he has not heard back yet.

Regarding the levee issue, Mr. Hicks commented he feels the implications for local people are huge if there is a major high flow event. Mr. Harwood agreed and said it could wipe out a large part of the remedy.

Stimulus Package Update: Mr. Harwood mentioned there will be \$10-\$25 million to do additional yard remediation due to the stimulus funding. He does not know how it will be implemented and indicated that Mr. Mark Stromberg (IDEQ) is not sure how much stimulus funding will come for sure. The additional stimulus funding may speed up the yard remediation program by a few years. Mr. Stromberg is trying to prepare to do more property cleanup this work season and has gone ahead with two contractors from last year, but may need a third.

Mr. Hicks brought up there are about 1300 yards left and inquired if there is any plan in place for sampling for stormwater drainage issues. Mr. Harwood answered not in the stimulus package, and reported the Upper Basin received nothing. He explained the communities were not prepared for submitting some of the stimulus funding proposals as there was no engineering done and the projects needed to be shovel ready. Mr. Hicks remarked that it was frustrating. Mr. Harwood noted all the drainage projects are on remedy protection and that it was suggested they should be turned in as one project, but the cost would have been \$17 million. He said the Central Shoshone County Water District (CSCWD) received a \$6 million grant and a \$6 million loan. However, the project was already awarded and had already passed a bond.

Mr. Bill Rust (Shoshone County TLG rep.) commented that for remedy protection, Ms. Anne McCauley of the EPA said they are going to do it. Ms. Dailey replied she is taking a look at that in the ROD amendment. Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) said they met with their consultant and his recommendation was to think more on a level of “where” you are protecting and identify the types of projects. Mr. Harwood stated you do not need to do a lot of work on analysis to determine that stormwater coming down from Silver Valley drainages can cause a lot of damage. Especially as a thunderstorm (that was not a 25-year flood event) did a lot of damage a few years ago, so we know heavy rainfall will damage the remedy. Mr. Adams emphasized the need to know the damage resulting from a 25-year, 50-year event, etc.

Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) said they are looking at adaptive management and incorporating some surface drainage for the remedy. However, it’s a challenge if the town does not have a method to deal with stormwater. He posed the question - does EPA build infrastructure? Mr. Hicks suggested that with a little change in how the remedy is finished such as grading and armoring; then they may achieve more control. Mr. Harwood added they could increase particle size and gradation; and with swales and paving, the remedy may be adapted in lots of places. He stressed the local communities are tapped out and do not have funding for infrastructure. He also asked

who will be responsible for maintenance, and who will be responsible if a homeowner follows the institutional control program (ICP) and there is damage from stormwater?

Additional TLG discussion included the following:

- Possible effects of delisting Mullan (or partial delisting) and recontamination;
- Stormwater sampling;
- No institutional controls program (ICP) requirement to sample property (to change rule, it will need to go back to the Legislature).

Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update: Mr. Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) and Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) gave an update on the LMP. Ms. Stevens said the State and Tribe have finalized the LMP and it has been posted on the IDEQ and Tribe's websites. Mr. Rothrock mentioned the LMP will need to go next to the Governor's office; and the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC), made a recommendation with some cuts in funding. The LMP has gone through the House and now goes through the Senate.

Mr. Boyd asked if the LMP will affect development on the Lake shore. Mr. Rothrock mentioned there are 50+ agencies listed in the LMP they are working with regarding management actions and protecting Lake water quality. He hopes the County will have people comply with the site disturbance ordinance. He and Ms. Stevens showed some photos from the Lake audit survey of examples of non-compliance with the site disturbance ordinance. Another priority issue is bank stabilization on the CDA and St. Joe Rivers to control riverbank erosion (Table C7).

Ms. Stevens said the Tribe and State (IDEQ) plan on meeting with the Counties (page 36 of the final LMP) on a quarterly basis. The quarterly meetings will provide an opportunity to coordinate with the Counties during work plan development. She also mentioned that LMP coordinators will continue to work throughout the Basin communities. Mr. Boyd inquired if Lake monitoring will try to establish a relationship between development and whether nutrients are going into the Lake. Mr. Rothrock replied they are working on a nutrient inventory, but do not have a full handle on phosphorus and nitrogen.

The TLG also discussed the following related issues: 1) TMDL watersheds; 2) nutrient and sediment loading; 3) watershed monitoring; 4) streambank stabilization; and 5) contaminant management.

Lunch

BEIPC One Year and Five Year Work Plan Sections on Lake Management Activities: Mr. Harwood explained the BEIPC one year and five year work plans were previously approved by

the Basin Commissioners with the exclusion of the Lake management activities section. However, in the final LMP, he pointed out that 4.5.1 talks about how the BEIPC is going to be involved and 4.5.4 about how other agencies will be involved as well, such as participate in BEIPC forums. This requires the BEIPC work plans to also have a Lake management activities section. Mr. Harwood provided background information on how he developed a strawman on Lake management activities for the BEIPC to vote upon. He then presented the draft to the TLG for review and discussion. (*Note: Mr. Harwood loaded the draft section 3.2 on his laptop, so changes to the language could be made during the TLG's discussion*).

After the TLG agreed to the revisions made on Section 3.2, Mr. Nick Zilka (IDEQ) made a motion for Mr. Harwood to carry forward the revised draft to the BEIPC without a minority position. Mr. Dave LePard (IDWR) seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

Other Announcements: Mr. Harwood mentioned that if anyone would like a copy of the levee report, to send him an email. He also informed everyone the State is trying to raise the incentive for blood lead testing of children in the Basin to \$40.

Communications PFT Update: Ms. Jeri DeLange (BEIPC) gave an update on the Communications PFT. In February, the PFT held its first meeting of the year and discussed the following items:

- Increasing participation in the ROD amendment process;
- Revitalizing the Citizen's Coordinating Council (CCC);
- Improving BEIPC communications;
- Continuing work on public outreach and education;
- Forming a subcommittee to conduct an audience analysis to target new communication pieces; and
- Providing additional training opportunities.

On March 26, the BEIPC and Communications PFT helped to sponsor a second training session on "Building Trust and Resolving Differences." The free training was provided by the EPA and was well attended and received. She thanked the EPA for providing the opportunity for people within the Basin community along with special thanks to Ms. Andrea Lindsay and Ms. Debra Sherbina (EPA).

Ms. DeLange said training on risk communications will be provided to the Communications PFT members tomorrow (April 17) by Ms. Cathy Cochran (Washington Dept. of Ecology) in Liberty Lake. This will be followed with a discussion on CCC revitalization with the CCC Chair, Mr. Jerry Boyd.

TLG Nominations for Officers: The TLG Chair, Mr. Kenny Hicks, asked if anyone would like to make a nomination for the TLG Chair. He indicated he would not be seeking re-election due to other commitments. The TLG Vice Chair, Ms. Rebecca Stevens, said she would be interested in volunteering to serve. Ms. Dailey made a motion to nominate Ms. Stevens as the TLG Chair. As there were no further nominations, Mr. Dean Gentry (Benewah TLG rep.) moved the nominations cease and the TLG vote Ms. Stevens in unanimously. The motion was approved. *(Note: For TLG officer positions, only one TLG representative from each of the seven governmental entities in the BEIPC may vote. TLG officer positions are for a one-year term).*

Mr. Hicks then called for nominations for the position of TLG Vice Chair. Ms. Stevens nominated Mr. Brian Spears (USFWS), but he declined the nomination. Mr. Hicks made a motion to nominate Mr. Moreen as Vice Chair; however, Ms. Dailey said that EPA should not be in an officer position because they already have a leadership role. As there were no other nominations or volunteers, Mr. Hicks said he would be willing to serve as an interim Vice Chair depending upon his job commitments in the future. Mr. Greg Clark (USGS) made a motion to nominate Mr. Hicks as the temporary Vice Chair and Mr. Bill Rust seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ms. Stevens thanked everyone. TLG members thanked her for stepping forward and also thanked her and Mr. Hicks for their past service during the year as TLG officers.

Other Announcements: Ms. Stevens informed everyone the Tribe is close to hiring a new engineer for their office in CDA. She also mentioned that Ms. Carrie Holtan (environmental specialist) has accepted a job with the City of Spokane as a city attorney and will no longer work for the Tribe. Ms. Stevens will continue to work as Restoration Coordinator for the natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) as well as assist with LMP coordination.

Mr. Hicks brought up the Stormwater Erosion Education Program (SEEP). He would like everyone to take a look at this program again as TLG members talk a lot about sediment and erosion. If the program is successful in the construction industry with compliance for stormwater control, slope sloughing, etc., then every little bit will help over time. He noted it also pertains to work being done here and affects many of the agencies dealing with CWA projects, etc. Since SEEP is a non-profit, they need a certain number of participants in order to put on the classes. He encouraged people to attend as there are still some slots open and they can use all the support possible. He also asked if he could make a presentation on SEEP at a BEIPC meeting in the future. A suggestion was offered by one of the TLG members to also submit an article to EPA's Basin Bulletin about SEEP.

Lower Basin Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM) Update: Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) provided a brief update on the ECSM for the Lower Basin of the CDA River. He mentioned they are going to generate 11 technical memos to describe the ECSM such as geochemistry, hydrology, GIS mapping, hydraulics and sediment transport, etc. These will be shared around the latter part of May (maybe at a Lower Basin PFT meeting) and then other memos will follow quickly.

Other Discussion: Mr. Harwood brought up that some of the local political people have been asking him if he will be doing another field trip this summer. He suggested discussing this further on the next TLG conference call. If anyone has ideas, he will need to know by the first of June. Ms. Stevens asked about the natural resource restoration work going on at Sherlock Creek, or whether it needed to be Superfund work. Mr. Harwood answered that it does not have to be Superfund work and could include everything going on in the Basin. Other suggestions provided by TLG members include the East Mission Flats (EMF) repository site, bank stabilization, and Schlepp wetland. The August BEIPC meeting will be August 19.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.