

TLG Meeting Minutes
Technical Leadership Group Meeting
April 21, 2008
U.S. Forest Service Office (Grizzly Room)
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Call to Order and Introductions: The TLG Chair, Mr. Kenny Hicks (Shoshone County), welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe and TLG Vice Chair) introduced the Tribe's new environmental specialist, Ms. Carrie Holtan, and announced that she would also be one of the TLG reps for the Tribe. TLG members then introduced themselves.

Approval of TLG Minutes from February 11, 2008: Mr. Hicks asked if there were any changes or corrections to the TLG minutes. Mr. David Fortier (BLM) noted that on page 2, last paragraph, last sentence, it stated, "... that work will be done on Denver Creek, Highland Creek, Nevada Stewart and Highland Surprise." Mr. Fortier clarified that it should read, "... *that work had been done.*" Mr. Nick Zilka (IDEQ) made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Dave LePard (IDWR); and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Communications PFT Update: The Communications PFT Chair, Ms. Jeri DeLange (BEIPC), gave an update and powerpoint presentation on the new PFT. She mentioned that the BEIPC voted to form a Communications PFT at their last meeting on February 27 to address issues for strengthening public involvement in BEIPC activities and communication between the Basin community and the BEIPC and CERCLA cleanup and natural resource restoration implementing institutions. Ms. DeLange said that the Communications PFT held its first meeting on April 9. Issues discussed included: 1) email communication; 2) improving web page interface; 3) identifying public outreach opportunities; 4) using new and different tools for communicating with the public and within the organization; 5) identifying a list of action items from public input and specific interest areas such as LMP drafting and repositories; and 6) the possibility of Community Involvement Training for PFT members through EPA's national headquarters. She noted that the Citizen's Coordinating Council (CCC) will be the focus organization to assist in implementing the Communications PFT process.

In addition, Ms. DeLange said that the PFT developed a mission statement and set of goals, but may add some additional language in the future. **Mission Statement** - "*The Communications PFT is a diverse group formed to strengthen public involvement and address communication-related opportunities within the CDA watershed.*" The PFT's goals are to:

- Create an over-arching communications strategy that can be individualized and tailored for particular groups, projects, etc.
- Work within the Commission staff on updating and improving the content and interface of the existing web site;
- Expand the existing network and work with entities that have existing communications avenues;
- Generate new communication and information dispersal techniques; and

- Organize, identify, and establish sub-teams for specific implementation of goals.

Ms. DeLange suggested that she would be scheduling the next PFT meeting (in late May or early June) after she makes a progress report to the BEIPC on May 14. She then asked TLG members for their feedback.

TLG Discussion on Communications PFT: Mr. David Fortier (BLM) inquired how the Communications PFT and CCC would network, and suggested that it needed to be added into the plan. Mr. Hicks brought up the PFT’s mission statement and asked how the majority of the PFT members felt about adding “*Superfund*” to the language as he thought it may help to associate issues such as ICP boundaries. Mr. Brian Spears (USFWS) asked about the BEIPC charter and whether the new Communications PFT planned to open the BEIPC process forum. Mr. Harwood replied that under the MOA, the BEIPC protocols would need to be re-written if the Communications PFT were to make any changes to the process. Regarding revisions to the language of the new PFT’s mission statement, Mr. Fortier suggested that “*Superfund*” may be considered negatively by the public. Mr. Moreen recommended that the PFT go with the more inclusive language of “*watershed*,” but balance it with the need to be clear of the scope of work.

The CCC Chair, Mr. John Snider, brought up funding and pointed out that the Communications PFT has no budget, so it would be difficult for the group to do much. He then brought up that public involvement in the CCC process was good at the beginning, but that it’s a natural progression for attendance to decrease over the years as issues are discussed or resolved. He noted that attendance increases when new issues of concern develop, or that it may be due to new members getting involved. Mr. Snider commented that EPA funds the CCC’s process in providing administrative support through Mr. Tom Beierle of Ross & Associates. He added that Mr. Beierle has done an excellent job for the CCC.

After additional discussion, Ms. DeLange thanked the TLG for their input. She indicated that she would incorporate the TLG’s comments for the presentation at the CCC meeting on April 23.

Lower Basin PFT Update: Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) provided an update on the Lower Basin PFT. She indicated that it recently had been revitalized and combined with other related PFTs such as streambank stabilization, Lake monitoring, etc. On March 27, the PFT held a meeting with presentations made on the following ongoing projects:

- Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) – Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA);
- CDA River Bank Stabilization – Mr. Nick Zilka (IDEQ) and Mr. Mark Addy (NRCS);
- CDA Lake Sampling – Mr. Glen Rothrock (IDEQ);
- ELCOM/CAEDYM Lake Modeling – Mr. Scott Fields and Mr. Dale Chess (CDA Tribe);
- Fish Response to Bank Stabilization – Mr. Brian Spears (USFWS); and
- Lane Marsh – Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA).

Ms. Stevens also mentioned that the PFT was working on a mission statement and that Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) had drafted the proposed language: “*The Lower Basin PFT is a team composed of highly trained agency representatives of varied expertise. The group will focus primarily on the lower CDA River Basin which is defined as the main stem river downstream of Cataldo to the*

outlet of the River at CDA Lake and will dedicate itself to collaborate and coordinate its efforts with the LMP implementation and related monitoring, and other monitoring, studies and actions affecting the watershed with a eye towards a Comprehensive Watershed Approach in the implementation of projects in the Lower Basin.”

Ms. Stevens indicated that future tasks of the Lower Basin PFT include:

- The group agreed that there appeared to be a lack of interagency coordination and believed that it would benefit the BEIPC as a whole to have past completed CWA reports (i.e. executive summaries or short notes) posted to the website. Ms. Stevens volunteered to work with the BEIPC Executive Director, Mr. Terry Harwood, on compiling a list of Lower Basin project reports specifically for the CDA River from Cataldo downstream to Harrison;
- The next Lower Basin PFT meeting will be held on June 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Idaho Fish & Game in CDA; and
- Work on ideas for funding issues to suggest to the Funding PFT.

Update on Lake Management Plan (LMP): Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) gave a brief update on the status of the LMP and reported that the State and Tribe will unveil the schedule at the BEIPC meeting on May 14.

Update on Drainage Reports and IRP: Mr. Terry Harwood (BEIPC) reported that all of the stormwater drainage reports have been completed for Osburn, Silverton, Wallace, Mullan, Ninemile, Burke and Canyon Creek. He emphasized that drainage problems from stormwater runoff may cause potential damage to the remedy and possible recontamination; and that you can't keep spending money to redo the remedy. He said that the next phase will be to sit down with the communities to prioritize infrastructure needs and seek project funding. Drainage issues include:

- Ineffective stormwater collection systems caused by improper surface grading or placement of stormwater inlets;
- Erosion in gravel road shoulders along paved streets;
- Drainage from the public right-of-way draining into private property;
- Possible mine waste impacts on the public drinking water sources;
- Erosion of contaminated material affecting surface water quality;
- Stormwater (heavy metal) inflow to sanitary sewer; and
- Deteriorated roads from uncontrolled drainage.

Mr. Harwood also gave a brief update on the appropriations earmark for the flood control analysis in the Upper Basin and stated that the request had been submitted. In addition, he has submitted a budget request to the EPA for 2009 funding of the fourth phase of the IRP for drainage problems.

Mr. Mark Stromberg (IDEQ) commented that he had to redo some of the remedy due to erosion problems. He mentioned that there are no curbs and gutters in the City of Mullan and that heavier rock was required on the shoulder because of stormwater runoff. Mr. Stromberg said that he submitted a request for funding to do the work.

Other Discussion – TLG Funding: Mr. Rusty Sheppard (Kootenai County TLG rep.) asked about the remaining \$40,000 funding for the county TLG reps. Mr. Harwood explained that he helped write the contract for the counties, but that he is not involved with the funding process. He suggested to the county reps that they need to check into this before the State’s fiscal year-end on June 30, or they may lose the remaining funding.

CWA Financial Report Update: Mr. Terry Harwood (BEIPC) gave a financial report update on the CWA funding. He noted that the first year’s grant for 2002 was completed; and that there was about \$600,000 in remaining funding for the other two grant years (2003 and 2004). Mr. Harwood said that there may be some remaining funding available for the second year grant and that it would need to be used before June 30, 2009. He asked TLG members to be thinking of ideas to use the funding, but pointed out that it could not be used for a project in another grant year.

Break

Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) Surface Water Update: Mr. Greg Clark (USGS) gave an update on the BEMP surface water monitoring and presented a powerpoint presentation with graphs of the monitoring results. He said that sampling was conducted for site specific concentrations and loads of selected trace metals from various benchmark and sentinel stations within the CDA-Spokane River Basin. The results will be used to update the surface water monitoring plan and determine future plans. Mr. Clark noted that they are currently waiting for a high flow event to sample flush. Mr. Harwood brought up that he took samples of high flow last year at the Rose Lake boat launch and that the results were over 3,500 ppm lead and 3,200 ppm zinc. TLG members then discussed various water quality issues; and Mr. Clark suggested that they are looking at the potential for a new stream gage location. .

BEMP Sediment Monitoring Update: Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA) made a presentation on the BEMP sediment monitoring. She indicated that sampling is conducted annually at 14 locations in the Upper to Lower Basin and that they also monitor the inflow/outflow of the Lake. The goals of the monitoring are: 1) to detect changes in the content of contaminants of environmental concern (lead, zinc, cadmium, arsenic, mercury, copper and silver) in stream bed sediments through time that may result from remedial actions in the CDA-Spokane River Basin; and 2) to provide data for comparison with similar analyses of samples of suspended sediment collected annually at nearby USGS stream gauging stations. Ms. Dailey noted that the highest lead concentrations are collected from Canyon Creek and Ninemile; while the highest zinc concentrations are from the Canyon Creek, Ninemile and Rose Lake stations. The data collected will be used to adaptively manage the sites, and a link to the 2007 report will be posted to EPA’s website.

Nominations for TLG Officers: Mr. Kenny Hicks asked TLG members for nominations for the positions of TLG Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. DeLange informed everyone that Mr. Dave George (WA Dept. of Ecology) was not able to be at the TLG meeting until later in the afternoon, but that he had sent an email to nominate Mr. Hicks as the TLG Chair and Ms. Stevens as the TLG

Vice Chair. Mr. Hicks asked if there were any other nominations. Ms. Holtan said that she would like to nominate Ms. Stevens for the position of TLG Chair. Mr. Fortier then asked Mr. Hicks if he would also be interested in the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Hicks agreed; and Mr. Fortier made the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Mr. Hicks indicated that the election of officers would take place later in the afternoon.

Lunch

OU-2 Activities Update: Mr. Nick Zilka (IDEQ) and Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA) made a presentation on the Bunker Hill OU-2 activities and provided information handouts. Ms. Dailey reported on the OU-2 conceptual site model and environmental monitoring plan as well as Phase I remedial action characterization and assessments. She said that they also have a new report on OU-2 source areas of concern which includes: 1) materials beneath populated areas and infrastructure; 2) historical South Fork of the CDA River channel; 3) Bunker Creek; 4) A-4 Gypsum Pond; 5) Milo Creek; and 6) Government Gulch/Government Creek. Ms. Dailey mentioned that the 2008 field work will focus on two key areas:

- Eastern OU-2 and Bunker Creek; and
- Page Ponds area.

Mr. Zilka pointed out that the field work will be conducted in two stages starting in mid-June for approximately 3-6 weeks and will also include some work in the Osburn area. Ms. Dailey added that they will provide an OU-2 update at the BEIPC meeting in May.

BEMP Biological Monitoring Update: Mr. Brian Spears (USWFS) gave an update on the BEMP biological resource monitoring for OU-2 and OU-3. He said that they have been counting waterfowl over the last few years in OU-2, and have seen a wide diversity of birds on the hillsides. With the data they have collected, they will have more information to report on possible trends in the five-year review. For OU-3 monitoring, Mr. Spears discussed habitat, production and return rates, and that habitat quality drives uses. He brought up that wildlife mortalities exist in areas where the birds eat, so wetland feeding is guiding the eco-remediation. Waterfowl are being used as receptor representatives (i.e. swans, etc.) Mr. Spears commented that documented mortalities were down last year from other years, but suggested that it may be due to the fact that there were not as many birds last year.

Ecological Planning Efforts and Mine/Mill Update: Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) reported on ecological planning efforts and mine/mill work. He also brought up some issues related to the Asarco settlement. Mr. Adams then pointed out that EPA's priority is human health, but that they are trying to blend work in the Upper Basin and Box (where the greatest loading is coming from) to get the most "bang for the buck." For ecological planning, they will continue to develop decision tools to move forward with the Canyon Creek analysis and preferred alternative. Regarding mine/mill work, he mentioned that they have developed an inventory of mine and mill sites. This summer, they will be working on construction at the Jack Waite mine in the North Fork of the CDA River. They will also continue to do monitoring (for another year, or year and a half), at mine and mill sites that were remediated in order to assess the effectiveness of the past remedial actions.

2008 Yard Program Update: Mr. Mark Stromberg presented a powerpoint presentation and gave an update on the 2008 yard remediation program. He mentioned that the work in the Box was finished last year; and that over 4,000 properties in the Box and Basin have been remediated in the last 20 years. For the 2008 work, he pointed out that the cost of fuel has increased 10%, but that there has been a 10% production reduction. He also noted that the actual production is dependent upon the length of the field season, weather, and fuel prices. Mr. Stromberg indicated that approximately 50,000 to 60,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil is excavated and taken to the Big Creek repository each year for the yard program. He emphasized the need for more repositories as the Big Creek repository will reach capacity in about five years.

Open Discussion on TLG Issues: Mr. Terry Harwood mentioned that he received a call from an individual about spending money for bank stabilization in Medimont. The individual inquired whether it would be a conflict with EPA's authority and asked if they would need to coordinate the work with EPA. Mr. Dave Fortier replied that they would need to coordinate the work with EPA if it was under a COE 404 permit. The TLG also discussed soil removal for land development along the CDA River and that it would fall under the ICP (institutional controls program). Mr. Harwood clarified that he would talk to Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) about this issue.

Mr. Randy Connolly (Spokane Tribe) asked about the remaining CWA funding for the second year grant and whether the PFTs could put together proposals. Ms. Rebecca Stevens suggested that the PFTs put together project ideas and then bring them to the TLG. Mr. Terry Harwood reiterated that any remaining funding for the second grant year would need to be used by June 30, 2009.

Mr. Harwood informed the TLG that he was thinking of having a field trip in August for the BEIPC if there was enough interest. He said that he will discuss it with the Basin Commissioners at the May meeting.

TLG Election of Officers: Mr. Kenny Hicks announced the slate of nominations for TLG officers.

- Nominees for Chair – Kenny Hicks, Rebecca Stevens
- Nominees for Vice Chair – Rebecca Stevens, Kenny Hicks

(Note: For TLG officer positions, only one vote is allowed for each of the seven (7) governmental entities within the BEIPC, even if there are two TLG reps).

The voting was done by ballot. Ms. Jeri DeLange reported that Mr. Kenny Hicks was re-elected as TLG Chair and Ms. Rebecca Stevens as TLG Vice Chair.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned after TLG members extended congratulations to the new officers.