

Citizen Coordinating Council Meeting

Summary Notes

July 17, 2014, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Red Light Garage, 302 5th, Wallace, Idaho

Introductions:

The following attendees introduced themselves sharing their affiliations and/or their interests for being at this meeting:

Bill Adams (EPA)
Robert Benfit - (Community member)
Jerry Boyd - (CCC Chair)
Craig Cameron - (EPA)
Glory Carlile - (BEIPC, note taker)
Rene Gilbert - (EPA, Community Liaison)
Denna Grangaard – (IDEQ Kellogg)
Terry Harwood - (BEIPC Executive Director)
Andy Helkey - (Panhandle Health District)
Linda Martin - (Community member)
Carol Young - (Shoshone County, Public Works)

Meeting Overview:

The July 17, 2014 meeting of the Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Basin Commission or BEIPC) covered the following topics:

- Introductions of Attendees
- Open discussion and comments from the public
- Lower Burke Canyon Repository
- Big Creek Repository Annex (Expansion)
- Paved Road Program Activities in 2014
- Waste Consolidation in Ninemile Canyon

Questions/Comments

Linda Martin and Robert Benfit are community members that live up Burke Canyon near Woodland Park near the proposed Lower Burke Canyon Repository. They shared that they attended this meeting because they are concerned about issues in the old mining group repository area such as of shooting of firearms, motor bikes, vandalism, noise, and lack of maintenance. They are also worried about what will it be like in 20 and 30 years for the new repository.

Bill Adams (EPA) addressed the property issue and said that Hecla is the owner of the old repository property. But, at the new repository, the government is responsible and will maintain it in perpetuity. He added that the other property was privately owned and not the government's responsibility.

Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair) asked about possibly using Institutional Controls for addressing the issues. (*The Institutional Controls Program (ICP) is a locally-enforced set of rules and regulations designed to ensure the integrity of clean soil and other protective barriers placed over contaminants left throughout the Bunker Hill Superfund site.*) Adams responded that right now we do not have specific kind of action identified. Terry Harwood (BEIPC) noted that we may not be able to go back to the companies and Boyd agreed that he understands that we cannot have Hecla do more because the court settlement is complete.

Adams said that the issue is that it is on their property but they did not put it there. EPA acknowledged that we have resources to address the issues and it is a matter of the right fix. However, Boyd suggested that community members call the local authorities regarding the safety issues and trespassing, dust,

noise etc. Rene Gilbert (EPA) commented that she knows others that are concerned about these things and also about erosion. She believes that it is a neighborhood problem and the county should address it.

Linda Martin commented that shooting in the area is a big problem. Also that it is a concern that there is a huge pile of waste that no one is doing anything about now. She said that she was at a meeting a couple of years ago when it was asked would you be concerned if you had a family there downstream and stated of course she would.

The conversation included concerns about bringing in contaminated soil and spraying in the area as they have honey bees that may be affected. Adams voiced that the immediate health concern is the piles of material and do not want children playing around them. He emphasized that the main issue is the ground water quality. Adams offered to provide them with a drawing of what the new repository will look like. He explained that they will be excavating contaminated material and bringing the waste down to the repository there and that their goal is to reach water quality standards. They will cap the repository with a barrier on top that reduces infiltration.

Linda Martin asked about plans to address wildlife there walking through the area. Harwood answered that there will be a fence and some wildlife will go around. When asked if there will be a barbed wire fence, Adams said that it has not been determined yet. Right now want to keep people out during construction. Harwood assured them that it will not be a problem because the animals can walk all over it after the work is done because then it will be safe. Adams confirmed once it is all done, then they have eliminated all risk.

Harwood commented that it is a good way to fix it and used the repository as an example. That if you put a repository on a site that was already contaminated then you are killing 2 birds with 1 stone. Adams added that it will be at a low level of operation for a few years. The community members said that they were glad to hear that there were private repositories that were not properly dealt with and now this issue is being addressed and being taken care of now for the future.

Communication Comments:

Denna Grangaard (IDEQ) asked what their opinion was regarding public outreach and getting information out to the community. She asked if they had suggestions for a format to get the word out for better attendance of these meetings. Linda Martin said she was surprised about the low attendance because she saw the meeting notice on a flyer at the bank and also at the post office. Harwood commented that a lot of people are happy with the remediation work so are not interested in meetings. Gilbert said a lot of people get information from other neighbors. But she has also found that a lot of people do not want to change their lifestyle and the things they are doing, so disregard anything that may do that.

The community members are interested in receiving the EPA Bulletin by mail and Harwood informed them of the upcoming BEIPC meeting on August 13 with a tour where they can see what is going on. He shared they are in process of recapping roads in Burke Canyon that originally had mine tailings. Although Martin acknowledged that their personal driveway has been done, Harwood noted that this is work on the public roads.

Boyd expressed how glad he was that they came to the meeting and Adams emphasized that we really need people to come to the meetings for the information.

Waste Consolidation in Ninemile Canyon

Adams reported on the Big Creek Annex to the Big Creek Repository, the schedule and what they are doing in the East Fork of Ninemile Creek. He stated that he CDA Trust has purchased land and will construct a new Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) with capping.

Linda Martin asked about the Ninemile drainage area and taking their dogs through there. Adams said that an occasional walk is OK and informed them that the Ninemile area will be clean after the work is completed. He also showed the WCA South buttress and announced that the Interstate Callahan (IC) Rock Dump area work has begun.

Carol Young (Shoshone County, Public Works) asked about the option of not bringing everything to that site and building a new one instead. Adams answered that it is better to bring it to an engineered facility and best to cap it and contain it. Adams said that they had looked at the question to consolidate at each location or not but it was too costly. Harwood added that the Ninemile is one of the greatest sources of contamination in the area noting that with developing the waste consolidation new site none of the material will be hauled through the community.

Adams reported on the planning for future work and looking at new sites. He listed the following additional work:

- Repositories in Upper Basin:
- Expand Big Creek Repository (Annex)
- Develop Lower Burke Canyon Repository
- Within 3-5 years to restart Osburn Repository project. Martin then asked why the restart and Adams replied it had been put on hold due to bigger need in Canyon Creek.
- Big Creek Annex: Trust has acquired the property and this year will be starting access bridge construction.
- Complete design
- Lower Burke Canyon Repository: Location for ICP waste. Design is completed and work probably will start in the upper end in August or September.

Jerry Boyd had also explained about the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) mentioned earlier. Adams used example of digging a bigger hole to plant a big tree explaining that when doing things like this, that you must follow the controls. Boyd added that it does not cost anything to put the contaminated soil into the repository. Harwood shared that all this information is on the BEIPC website under ICP Node.

Linda Martin asked if all the existing sludge in the tailings pond will be covered and Adams confirmed it will be. Adams pointed out there are 2 tailing impoundments still owned and used by Hecla.

Boyd asked if eventually will they do more work in the creek bottom and Adams said yes – will be along the creek. They will put the creek area in a more natural configuration with natural resource restoration.

Paved Road Program Activities in 2014

Craig Cameron talked about the paved roads program including what led to the development of the program, what the program is, how it got started, how it is being implemented, and the progression of the program. Part of development of the program was the realization that people's property had been cleaned up but the roads were contaminated and could cause recontamination in areas such as their driveways. He also stated that heavy equipment traffic from years of cleanup had contributed to the degradation of roadways. Some of the roadways received additional wear and tear especially in the concentrated urban areas in the cities.

He described the program as where cleanup dollars are disbursed to the local cities and counties (jurisdictions). They are doing the work but it is really also a remedial action and coming out of remediation funds. The local jurisdictions actually implement it.

They put together information and worked with the Basin Commission, EPA, and IDEQ for a list combining roads with less than 10 years of life in them and roads that service contaminated areas that have been or will be remediated. They came up with a strategy called Roadway Surface Remediation

Strategy and worked with EPA to get funds for the Box and the Basin, and worked with local jurisdictions to update the list and condition of the roadways and allocated the money. They have some funds set aside for planning and a certain amount for engineering. He noted that the jurisdictions are responsible for maintaining the roads.

Cameron also works with Bruce Schuld and Jon Harwood and shared that the process includes bids for the contract. Harwood reviews the bids and makes sure all the criteria is met. When approved the invoices are paid with the funds to the contractors doing the work. Road expert, Jon Harwood, reviews the amount of work needed for each road. They also make sure they coordinate with the cities and the road work and with the utilities.

Many 2014 bids are in and all the awarded bids for last 2 years have been lower than the engineering estimates. Terry Harwood shared that they made sure the jurisdictions sign an agreement before they receive any money that they must take on operations and maintenance (O & M).

Robert Benfit asked what will be done in 30 years when the road has to be redone. The reply was that the local jurisdictions have the responsibility to take care of their own roads. It will no longer be an EPA issue and Boyd stated that it was really worth it for the jurisdictions to get EPA funds to do their roads.

Terry Harwood announced that he will show some of the paved roads accomplishments in Osburn on the tour at the next BEIPC meeting on August 13. He also shared that after the list was compiled; he also went back out and re-walked the streets for verification of what was on the list. Young agreed that it was a good partnership and very helpful.

Terry Harwood added comments regarding the flooding issues. They came up in the ROD amendment for dealing with side drainage potential flooding. They came up with a list and started the drainage projects last year. In the Box, IDEQ is managing them. This year the Trust finished the Shields Gulch project in Osburn using a 50 year rain on snow event design. Now the creek goes around the school no longer flooding the parking lot and coming into the front door of the school. The other project in Osburn, Meyer Creek, will construct a culvert with drainage pipe with the intent to control the water in Meyer Creek through the city.

Other projects are Portland Avenue in Kellogg, and Little Pine Creek in Pinehurst. He shared that they still have other projects: Mullan still has 5 more drainage projects and one in Wallace as well as another in Osburn and in Page.

Harwood explained that Remedy Protection actually pertains to drainage. Also he noted that the jurisdictions have to sign agreements that they will be responsible for O & M. The contractors must be licensed in Idaho and 95% of work must be performed by residents of Idaho.

After Benfit shared that he is retired, Boyd asked if he would be interested in joining CCC as Vice-Chair or even Chair or any other capacity. For now, they are just interested in receiving information, including the EPA Bulletin, by mail.

Since Martin is a teacher, Boyd inquired about what the kids are learning in school about these issues. As a retired educator, Benfit shared that it is difficult to add these kinds of things to the expectations in the school system. Grangaard agreed and said that the teachers appreciate the support from IDEQ providing what may seem like overwhelming information. Boyd added that they keep in mind that there is also a resource available here through the CCC.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20