

Citizen Coordinating Council Meeting

Meeting Summary Notes

January 21, 2015, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Lake City Senior Center, Coeur d'Alene

Welcome and Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair began the meeting at 4:07.

Attendees:

Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair)
Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)
Glory Carlile (BEIPC, note taker)
Jamie Brunner (IDEQ)
Ed Moreen (EPA)
Andy Helkey (Panhandle Health District)
Denna Grangaard (IDEQ)
Rene Gilbert (EPA Community Liaison)
Bob Witherow (IDEQ)
David Fortier (community member)
Rusty Shepard (community member)
Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe)
Wally McGregor (community member)

Review of the Basin Commission 2014 Annual Report – Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director

Terry Harwood presented the 2014 Annual Report listing accomplishments made in 2014. He went over the process of the Work Plans and compiling of the accomplishment reports. The cover is main street Smelterville after remediation. The report is divided into 2 sections. Part 1: Work Performed through Federal Superfund or Other Cleanup Programs and Part 2: Other BEIPC Activities and Responsibilities.

Harwood reported that there is a lot of communication and coordination going on. BEIPC hosted a tour field trip again this year and plans to have one every year showing some of the projects in the Silver Valley. We have a booth at the fair and participated in other events to provide information to the public.

Andy Helkey added to the Lead Level Report that we see higher blood leads from activities along the banks, especially in the lower basin and also in recreational sites.

Regarding Remediation, Harwood made the following additional comments:
We are depleting the Special Account (SA) pretty fast.

Remedy Protection Projects: Design for these projects considered 50 year rain on snow events which requires bigger channels to increase the channel flow.

He also said that money is being put aside in an Escrow Account for future O & M on the Superfund site.

It was determined that a lot of the paved roads have been contaminated and so strategy included upgrading and capping to fix them so as not to re-contaminate the remediated properties.

Big issue with Repository space is accommodating waste from paved road projects. Big Creek Repository is almost full. Plan is to build an annex. Harwood announced that Bruce Schuld will make a presentation about repository space needs at the next BEIPC meeting.

Regarding Lower Basin Remedies, Harwood made the following additional comments:
Agencies have hardened some sites so that it can be cleaned off easier.

It was clarified that the State of WA has funding under the 2002 ROD and some EPA funds for their work along the Spokane River.

It is important for education and outreach so that there is “ownership”.

Flood control included inventory of every drainage structure in the upper basin.

Restoration Project is working on a natural resource restoration EIS.

Big challenges include monitoring the funding.

The Annual Report will be reviewed and voted on at the next BEIPC meeting on February 18, 2015.

Report on the water quality conditions in the CDA Lake – Jamie Brunner, IDEQ

Goal is to manage metals by controlling lake nutrients to maintain oxygen levels. LMP has a series of tables to Measure Triggers as an early warning system and to get long term look at trends.

In the LMP there are triggers at open water, deep water sites and at shallow sites. The triggers are at Tubs Hill, University Point, Shallow bays of northern pool, Blue Point, and Chatcolet Lake.

Summary of Lake Status: Metals are declining. Trophic State - trending away from oligotrophic status. Bio-indicators: Reinforce observed trends in metabolic indicators.

A lot of data crunching is done to put together reports. Looking at different groups of data and make comparison of dataset. Trends analysis is like a report card and triggers are a simplified way of looking at all the data. For example, we are seeing more of an oxygen lag in the Northern Pools. Exceeding the trigger means going in the wrong direction.

Next Steps are the Synthesis and Trends Reports and getting feedback. Need to prioritize nutrients. Key questions are: How much can the lake absorb while sustaining healthy oxygen levels? What are the sources of nutrient loading in the watershed? The path forward is to complete a nutrient inventory of the watershed, establish priorities for management action, and conduct an analysis to learn what watershed loads the lake can absorb and still support management objectives.

Update on the stream bank stabilization Kahnderosa Project in Cataldo – Ed Moreen

Ed Moreen (EPA) gave an update on the stream bank stabilization Kahnderosa Project in Cataldo. After requesting ideas in 2012, they selected to pursue 2 projects. One was the Kahnderosa Project using a different technique for bank stabilization with willows. Timing is very important. They must harvest the willows before they go dormant. Monitoring of the project is still going on.

The other pilot project was a water level management project to control water level for the water fowl to use wetlands. They are reevaluating to see if they can do another larger project. A lot of work is going in the lower basin and plans are to have a meeting of the lower basin PFT. Another part of the project is that they did a lot of coring and are doing data analysis and will develop a 3D map. Model will determine where the contaminants go and the sediment transport model is expected to be very useful and completed in 2015.

Denna Grangaard asked if the homeowners could use the “burrito” technique that was used on the bank stabilization project. The reply stated that there are restrictions, and permits need to be obtained.

Discussion for election of a CCC Vice Chairperson – Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair

No one volunteered.

Meeting ended at 5:45.