

BEIPC/Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) Meeting

January 13, 2016, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

IDEQ “Osprey” Conference Room, 2110 Ironwood Parkway, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair) began the meeting at 3:40 and attendees introduced themselves. Boyd asked how they heard about the meeting and what their sources were. The majority said they received an e-mail.

Signed In Attendees:

Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair), Jamie Brunner (IDEQ), Glory Carlile (BEIPC), Karen Cathers (USFWS), Phillip Cernera (CDA Tribe), David Fortier (citizen), Rene Gilbert (EPA), Dain Gillen (TerraGraphics), Melissa Driskell (citizen), Denna Grangaard (IDEQ), Terry Harwood (BEIPC), Andy Helkey (PHD), Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe), Caj Matheson (Restoration Partnership), Dan McCracken (TerraGraphics), Ed Moreen (EPA), Dan Redline (IDEQ), Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe), Janet Robnett (citizen), Ed Tulloch (citizen), Kevin Yrjana (North Wind).

Report on the studies done under the Lake Management Plan (LMP):

Jamie Brunner, CDA Lake Management Coordinator, reviewed the goal of LMP which simply put is to manage nutrient input basin wide into the CDA Lake. She also provided an overview of the LMP accomplishments report submitted in the 2015 Annual Report.

She reported that the Lake Trends Report was done and after feedback was revised. The final version is planned for presentation to the Technical Leadership Group (TLG) and at the BEIPC meeting in February 2016. Essentially the conclusions have not changed but the format was revised. She noted that the Trends report data is through 2014.

They have a Nutrient Action Development Plan to see where the high nutrients loadings are. They currently have a draft Compilation Report of nutrient inventory data. They are working on relative nutrient loading study using a lot of tools available and plan to have a draft report in the spring.

Boyd commented that it looks like a lot of nutrients are coming out of the St. Joe and the CDA River. Brunner clarified that there is a lot of phosphorus coming out of the rivers but the graph represents many water years and is relative to all the other monitoring in different monitoring years.

Cernera pointed out that one needs to look upstream at every tributary to ask what is actually going on and what do you need to fix. He cautioned that everyone is looking for a report to set the stage of “now we know what to do” but it does not mean it is that cut and dried.

Brunner said that regular core monitoring every year is done in the Lake and has been done since 2007 by LMP. After the current monitoring report is presented to the TLG and BEIPC, it will be available on the LMP and BEIPC websites.

Education and Outreach

Brunner reported that efforts will basically be the same as in previous years. She announced that the 2nd Gem Symposium is going to be on March 22, 2016 at the CDA Resort.

She reported that they will continue camp counseling on the lake and the K-12 education will continue with the Confluence Project. Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe) described the Confluence Project as a project with the University of Idaho that involves students from Lake City, St Maries, Lakeside in Plummer and in Post Falls, and provides water shed education that includes hands on opportunities. The Confluence Project involved teachers are paid a stipend for training and are loaned water quality monitoring equipment and training on the use of the equipment.

Cernera suggested that Water Awareness Week should also be listed in the plans because it involves about 500 students that come through the area for a week where they go to different stations and receive a variety of information.

Other Activities:

Lake*A*Syst brochure will be revised and ready for the summer. They have begun a Local Gem Awards Program to acknowledge those in the community who are working on the protection of water shed that drains directly into the CDA Lake. Nominations are open.

Laumatia added that they are waiting on hearing about a grant from Wells Fargo Foundation that will support staff on the project.

Harwood announced that the Annual Report will also list LMP accomplishments. The report will be presented at the next Basin Commission meeting on February 25. After approval it will be published and available on www.basincommission.com.

Update on Lower Basin:

Ed Moreen (EPA) reported on the Lower Basin. He gave an overview of 2 recent documents that were published by EPA: *Report on Riverbank Characteristics, Erosion Rates, and Lead Contribution* and *Floodplain Sedimentation Rates Developed from One Dimensional Model Results*.

Moreen said understanding bank erosion is very important to EPA and to landowners. Erosion rates studies have been done since 1994 and measured by various agencies. Summary of estimated values of bank erosion have ranged from 2 to 6 inches per year.

The Riverbank Characteristics study was done in 2012 and the model was developed to give estimate of lead deposits measurements. Findings were put into a Stratigraphic Model that was developed to give estimations of lead contributions. He said that Bulk Lead Concentrations in exposed banks depends on where you are at in the Basin and the water year. 10% of lead that goes into the Lake is contributed from the river banks. The report provides estimation of both spatial and temporal distribution of sediments.

Floodplain Sedimentation Rates study general approach included:

Suspended sediment concentration data that was depicted in the curves that you can apply with various flows have been collected over the last 6 to 8 years. Results included a look at the annual estimate over a 25 year period average: 1988 through 2012. They used the completed 2D model to make comparisons and used the data to go back and tighten up the 1D model. Average 24,000 metric tons per year sediment and 68 tons per year lead are estimated to be deposited in the floodplain.

Update on Central Treatment Plant (CTP) Project:

Ed Moreen (EPA) reported on the Central Treatment Plant/Groundwater Collection System (CTP/GCS) Procurement: Contract to be made for upgrade of CTP and contractors submitted proposals to include design, build, and operate for one year. Moreen explained that the project will treat the water from the Bunker Hill Mine and the groundwater system is designed to treat that as well. Melissa Driskell (citizen) asked if there is documentation online of the proposal process and what you are after for what will be done. And she also voiced concerns about leaking of the sludge pond due to it not being lined and what happens when there is a flood. There was discussion about the process and what the CTP and GCS will do to contribute to nutrient reduction to the lake. Cap cost is \$48M for the project and is limited by funding. It will be operated by the State after the first year of operation by the contractor.

Comments/Questions:

Cernera commented that when we see reduction in zinc, we will see significant changes in the CDA Lake. With the concept of nutrient management in the Lake and reduction we will see a whole different water quality system. It will be interesting to see what 5 years of data post CTP will look like. David Fortier (citizen) asked if there was data about the reduction in groundwater, but it is not in the 5 year review. Grangaard (IDEQ) asked if there are areas in the Lake that we find lower zinc levels and Cernera said that it is in the very southern part. Brunner said that the Limnologist is working on just reporting on the trends of the triggers in the Lake. Cernera added that there has also been work done by the Tribe and the State on the biota (the flora or fauna of the region). Fortier asked if the 2 documents that Moreen reported on will be made available online. Harwood said they can be loaded on the Basin Commission website under the News node.

Update from BEIPC Executive Director on 2016 Project Work:

Terry Harwood reported that the residential property cleanup has been turned over to the Trust. All the properties in the Box have been remediated except for about 14. All the gravel roads are done. Trust will do about another 70 properties in 2016 in the Basin. He shared that there are more refusals for property cleanup in the lower basin than in the upper basin. The Property Remediation Program is winding down but there are still a number of properties that may come on board.

Probably by end of 2017 the Remedy Protection Projects will be close to being done except for a few side drainage smaller projects. One of our concerns is that although some developed recreation sites have been remediated there are so many dispersed places that we do not have control over. There are also some who ignore the placed warning signs. He announced that there will be a fish tissue sampling testing project to be done in 2016 in the Lower Basin.

Repositories:

Driskell (citizen) commented that she is concerned about repositories being developed in wetlands areas that are not lined and prone to erosion and contaminants are mobilized with the flows. Harwood reassured her that they are doing everything scientifically possible to control the flows and noted that the repositories were constructed on already contaminated areas.

Boyd commented that there is a lot of monitoring done at East Mission Flats Repository. A lot of objections were made in 2007 so revisions were made. He said that the banks are monitored and they have monitoring wells with testing and there have not been leaks.

Harwood reported on the Upper Basin remedies with cleanup work by Trust and EPA in the East Fork on Ninemile. Next year will be picking up more mine tailings and mine waste and taking to Waste Consolidation Area (WCA).

Boyd noted that some members of the public are suggesting an annual BEMP summary report be done. Moreen said that they are pulling together a report but it is not an annual one. Harwood added that summary reporting is in the BEIPC Annual Report.

In 2009 the Basin Commission inventoried the infrastructure in the Silver Valley and developed projects requests for funding. The list created Superfund actions to protect the remedy and to have a barrier on the roads that also coordinate with other agencies. For example, the Paved Roads Program work with the local jurisdictions is being coordinated with sewer replacement.

Announcements:

Harwood announced that the Work Plans will be on the BEIPC website www@basincommission.com on the Work Plans node. Also the Annual Reports are on the site on the Accomplishments node.

Boyd announced the BEIPC meeting on February 25, 2016 and said that he will bring any questions or concerns to the Basin Commission from the CCC at that meeting. Please e-mail or call him or Terry Harwood.

Comments/Questions:

David Fortier (citizen) commented that there should be more detailed summarized monitoring data because there may be people interested in what they are doing in the studies and results of what is found from the monitoring. He suggested that at least a summarizing report be available to the general public including a BEMP report in a timely manner with generalized summaries. Moreen responded that they were reporting on the Basin Commission website with periodic reports on East Mission Flats both quarterly and annually.

Melissa Driskell (citizen) also asked about reporting and where to get information. It was noted that there are also reports in the Basin Bulletin published by EPA. Trends can also be seen on the USGS site in their 2014 report. Lake Management Plan and Restoration Partnership also have websites.

Rene Gilbert (EPA) shared that any requests for information on projects can be made to her or Denna Grangaard with IDEQ to get ahold of project managers and/or be directed to the right place. Sandra Raskell (TLG Chair) added that just because there is not a public data report, it does not mean reports are not being done. They just need to know who to contact to get the information.

Commissioner Cernera commented that although we've been at this for 30 years that we should still go positively and enthusiastically forward.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30