

BEIPC/Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) Meeting

Meeting Summary Notes

October 18, 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

IDEQ Osprey Room, 2110 Ironwood Parkway, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Jerry Boyd, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Introductions of Attendees:

Each attendee introduced themselves:

Pat Behm (citizen), Jerry Boyd (citizen), Jamie Brunner (IDEQ), Glory Carlile (BEIPC, note taker), Julie Dalsaso (citizen), David Fortier (citizen), Rene Gilbert (EPA), Terry Harwood (BEIPC E.D.) Rusty Shepard (citizen), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Ray Miller (citizen), Matt Nykiel (citizen), Justin Rice (citizen)

Meeting Agenda Topics for Discussion:

- Concerns or issues from the public
- The 2018 Annual BEIPC Work Plan
- 2018 – 2022 BEIPC Five Year Work Plan
- An evaluation of a compilation of the recommendations and comments received from a number of sources concerning the operation of the BEIPC and CCC

Citizen Discussion of Issues and Concerns dealing with the cleanup

Julie Dalsaso referred to the BEIPC/CCC Brochure noting the comment about the Lake with the goal to improve the water quality. She feels that it is not working and wonders then what is plan B. Terry Harwood answered that it is not true that it is not working. He explained that there is a concern that the metals will be released, that we must keep the nutrient level down even if the biggest nutrient loading is coming from the CDA and St. Joe rivers.

Rusty Shepard added that the way they write the documents and reports does not tell the whole story and is only very few places in the bays that have gone anaerobic. Harwood added that we must get on with the cleanup and also control the nutrients. Shepard said generally speaking that in the southern lake where it goes anaerobic every year and up to the north at Cougar Bay where it is the worse.

Jamie Brunner reported more on the situation regarding the trends and the impact from the oxygen levels in the lakes and said that it depends on the site area. Jerry Boyd recollected that there used to be log booms in every bay and there was a tremendous amount of bark on the bottom.

Dan McCracken brought up that the rest of the question from Delsaso was about the trends and what the next steps will be. Jamie Brunner said that Craig Cooper will make a presentation with the most updated trends report at the Our Gem Symposium on November 14 and that he will provide the nutrient inventory, give more information and discuss next steps. He said that next steps will include input from the public to policy makers who then make the decisions.

Brunner also said that they are reporting on what has been done in the BEIPC accomplishments annual report as they have been doing for some years. She added a brief summary of what information will be shared at the Spokane River Forum commenting that the first day on November 14 will be the “Our Gem” Symposium which is about the CDA Lake.

David Fortier commented that his biggest concern is trying to track future work and explained that he is trying to track what the CDA Trust will be doing, their findings, and what will be done schedule wise in the next few years.

Terry Harwood explained more about the role of the CDA Trust in their operations and noted that EPA does the oversight and oversees the work projects. Dan McCracken added that the EPA directs the Trust to do the work on an annual basis. Rene Gilbert further explained the process including project managers and shared that there is plenty of documentation on what is being done. She also said directly to David Fortier and so that everyone else knows that she can provide more information when requested. Fortier added that he wants to know the future of Nine Mile and the status of what is going on and Gilbert said that Bill Adams is still the best resource right now.

Terry Harwood presented the Draft 2018 Annual BEIPC Work Plan. He shared the process of compiling the information with updates from the various organizations regarding their sections in the 2 parts of the work plan.

Julie Delsaso commented on her concern regarding the Brownfields Law that she feels should be used in the expanded CDA Basin and wonders what the Basin Commission can do about it. (*In 2002, the “Brownfields Law” amended the CERCLA or Superfund by providing funds to assess and cleanup brownfields. . .*) Terry Harwood answered that the Brownfields Law does not apply because although it is in the Superfund site there is no remedy established and there is no institutional controls regarding the area she is concerned about.

Terry Harwood reviewed each section of the cleanup part – remedy and remediation and the natural resource restoration work. He announced that the paved road program should be done in 2 or 3 years and that the remedy protection program includes funds for flood storm water control.

David Fortier asked for clarification about the Star parking gravel area and Dan McCracken answered that the project is basically doing some ditch drainage and some capping across from the Star Mine.

Matt Nykiel asked about the role of the Basin Commission in regards to the work plans after they are approved. Harwood said that each agency is independently in charge of implementing their submitted plans. He confirmed that each agency, including EPA, created their updated section of the plan and the Basin Commission compiles all the sections in the work plans.

Julie Dalsaso asked about the previously announced Fish Advisory update and Harwood said that when it is updated it will be reflected on the updated “Our Gem” brochure map published by the Tribe.

David Fortier wondered about the timeline regarding the Canyon Complex Repository and Harwood said they anticipated 3 years. They will have 30, 60, and 90%/final design. The 30% design has already been shared with the public.

David Fortier asked for an updated list of Upper Basin remedy and what they will work on and Harwood said that if he sends in an email request, he will get the list to him. Rene Gilbert added that Dana Swift is the contact person at IDEQ. Fortier also asked for detail about the Trust/EPA actual work being done in a report regarding Ninemile stating that he really wants to know what the status is and what they are doing and planning on doing in the next few years. He would like to get a better idea on the sequence of what they are doing. Rene Gilbert offered to look into this concern with the EPA team and get back to Fortier with information.

Matt Nykiel suggested that those doing outreach keep statistics of web site visits and attendance at meetings and events in order to track public involvement to see what is working or not working.

Harwood quickly reviewed the Five Year Work Plan which has the scope and objectives.

Julie Dalsaso voiced her frustration about repository development and dredging lake and river and no management of this material in Kootenai County to deposit contaminated waste. Rusty Shepard said that Kootenai County uses the repository in Spokane at Airway Heights. Terry Harwood explained that the issue is not something under the purview of the Basin Commission and cannot be put into the work plans as Dalsaso asked. Dan McCracken added that it is a policy making issue for Kootenai County.

Matt Nykiel asked if the names and detail of changes made by the individuals providing input or edits to the Work Plans be shared with the public. Harwood responded that it would not be done as changes are made up to the last minute. He noted that the draft plans will be shared at the BEIPC meeting.

Terry Harwood reviewed the process of the evaluation of the operations of the BEIPC/CCC and his evaluation of a compilation of the recommendations and comments received from a number of sources. It has been nearly two years now since the assessment was put in place in a contract with the EPA and a consultant. In the last year many things have already been implemented and the ongoing discussions about the report and additional input have added more opinions on how to improve things for better communication and public participation.

Ray Miller commented that he thinks the CCC meetings are doing a good job.

There was discussion about providing feedback to those who voice their concerns or issues and the request for reporting at meetings the outcome, and/or referral or what was done.

A motion was made by David Fortier and seconded by Matt Nykiel that the CCC will formalize a process to provide a feedback loop to individuals who present questions or comments to the CCC.

M/S/C

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm