

**TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**  
**April 2, 2009**

Kenny Hicks (Chair)  
Anne Dailey  
Mark Masarik  
Glen Rothrock  
Bill Adams

Rebecca Stevens (Vice Chair)  
Rog Hardy  
Terry Harwood  
Jeri DeLange (Note Taker)

This summary provides the salient issues. These notes are intended to capture key topics, conclusions, and next steps and not the nuances of the discussion.

**Agenda Items:** ROD Amendment, Eco-Prioritization Tool, Upper Basin PFT Updates.

**Round Table:**

**Anne Dailey** - Reported on the ROD amendment meeting held in Kellogg yesterday. Meeting materials will be posted to EPA's ROD Amendment webpage at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bh+rod+amendment> and draft documents will be posted on the FTP for as long as the comment period is open. She will provide a schedule for the Upper Basin draft ROD feasibility modeling and post the information from yesterday's meeting to EPA's website, so that people can access everything. A more comprehensive plan for Basin monitoring will also be developed and streamlined for the website. In addition, EPA will provide several presentations on the environmental monitoring data at TLG meetings.

**Bill Adams** - Brought up the simplified tool. They have data on Ninemile for low flow and riparian; and will have the working group look at doing a sensitivity analysis before moving on to the other drainages as well.

**Kenny Hicks** - Asked Adams if the BLM had provided secondary data, and whether the tool had the ability to segregate sites.

**Bill Adams** - Confirmed the BLM supplied the information, and that the tool does have the ability to sort. He noted that with bucketing, you can focus on an individual drainage like Ninemile and see where it shakes out. They want to be able to maximize efforts if funding is limited.

**Mark Masarik** - For the Recreation PFT, he sent an email last week about working on developing guidelines to address sediment deposition during high water events and making sure all equipment and resource lists are up to date. Then, after high water, he would like to do an annual review to see if the guidelines are appropriate. He is waiting to hear back from everyone.

**Kenny Hicks** - Asked Masarik if he was targeting for a 50-year or 100-year flooding event.

**Mark Masarik** - Said he thinks it may be best for all the various agencies that manage resource sites to coordinate activities (i.e. who has what equipment, etc.) through a common clearing house maintained by the PHD (Panhandle Health District). He does not feel it makes sense for the EPA to

chair when they are not involved in the day-to-day management, so he is looking for someone to come forward on an annual basis.

**Glen Rothrock** - Reported on the final LMP. He indicated it was forwarded to the EPA with a cover letter for them to consider the document as an alternative for a final Superfund ROD. For LMP funding, IDEQ presented a budget request to the State Legislature's Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC). It still needs to be voted on by the full House and Senate, and we should know in a few weeks if it's approved.

**Rebecca Stevens** - Said she is still working on the Lake audit with Rothrock as they had to put it on the back burner for the LMP process. They will be doing a full report and presentation in May. If LMP funding is approved, then IDEQ and the Tribe will work on staffing.

**Glen Rothrock** - Indicated that 200 copies of the LMP were printed as they wanted to send a copy to all the offices of people they met during the audit interview process as well as the various jurisdictions to make sure that each local, state and federal office had a copy. IDEQ is waiting for the final decision on LMP funding, but he feels fortunate that JFAC considered the request during these economic times. Rothrock also acknowledged that Holly LeBret, Phil Cerna, Rebecca Stevens, and Carrie Holtan of the CDA Tribe worked very hard on the LMP the last few years.

**Bill Adams** - Commented on the status of the LIDAR flight (i.e. since Ed Moreen was not on the call), as people were inquiring when it would move forward. He suggested that we may have to wait due to current weather conditions in the Upper Basin. LIDAR cannot be flown during high water and water levels are rising. It is also not an ideal time once vegetation comes out. He advised everyone that we may need to get an update later on where we stand.

**Kenny Hicks** - Said he understands the ideal time for LIDAR would be in July or August, but there is a lot of vegetation then. Adams agreed there is a limited window.

**Rog Hardy** - Inquired whether the LIDAR flight could be flown over the Lower Basin as well. Adams answered it could be, but explained we would need some additional funding to help do it. Hardy then asked Rothrock about the March 25 article in the St. Maries Gazette regarding the Tribal lake agreement.

**Glen Rothrock** - Replied it was mainly about work done by the Tribe and County Commissioners. They met twice and made an agreement, so an addition was put into Section 4 of the LMP. It pertains to conducting quarterly meetings at the decision making level (i.e. Tribe, State and County Commissioners) on the progress of the LMP. He confirmed the agreement made it into the final printing.

**Rog Hardy** - Asked when the quarterly LMP meetings would be held. Rothrock said they may try to coordinate them with the BEIPC meetings. Hardy inquired if there were any protocols for voting. Rothrock replied there will be no voting - only input, discussion, and consideration. Hardy questioned Dailey on why Moreen will not be making a presentation at the TLG meeting regarding the enhanced conceptual site model (ECSM). Dailey pointed out there will be a number of technical memos coming out on the ECSM, and Adams noted they are working on a schedule to get everyone up to speed. Harwood commented that Moreen will talk about the ECSM at the next Lower Basin PFT meeting.

Hardy suggested that it would be good to see Bill Rust's dissertation on stream bed and stream bank issues. Harwood said he had already talked to Rust about it. Hardy then brought up the new CCC Chair, Jerry Boyd; and the nomination process to elect the CCC Vice Chair position. Harwood indicated the CCC Vice Chair would be elected at the next CCC meeting and the CCC protocols would also need to be discussed as some of them are outdated and incorrect.

**Terry Harwood** – Gave an update about the stimulus package for the Upper Basin (i.e. sewer inflow and infiltration, drainage control, protection of the remedy, etc.). He said the funding requests made it into the top tier for the State, but the State will probably want the communities to pay with a CWA revolving loan and the communities have no money. Harwood met with local officials to fill out the required forms and will have his consultant review everything and get signatures. The paperwork for about \$33 million in work will be sent to the State by next Tuesday, April 7. Harwood mentioned there is loan forgiveness in certain cases, and suggested that maybe the State will forgive the required match and award the request. He feels that they were very good projects as the lowest rating received on one was about 45 in a total of 80 stimulus requests.

Regarding the LMP, Harwood mentioned that it now includes the slack water portion of the Spokane River above the Post Falls dam. He also noted that on page 35, Section 4.5.1, the LMP includes involvement by the BEIPC, TLG, and CCC. On page 37, (first paragraph), a reference is made to implementation of the plan by the various agencies indicating they will work through the BEIPC forum. On page 41, Mr. Harwood pointed out (especially for the counties), that actions will include the following: coordinate and implement management action table (MAT) activities with Basin partners including an initial focus on Table C-7 regarding river bank erosion and stabilization. He indicated this would include the St. Joe River and maybe the St. Maries River.

**Glen Rothrock** – Added that it also includes streams and tributaries. He mentioned the MATs were originally developed in the 1990's; and that if you follow history, there are only minor changes made to the MATs for wording and concepts. They interviewed various jurisdictions and made an agreement with the County Commissioners. For the initial C-7 MAT, they hope to put in staff for both the St. Maries and St. Joe Rivers. Lead agencies responsible to EPA for implementation of TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) for sediment have also been listed on the initial C-7 table. Harwood brought up that the St. Maries River has major impacts to the whole system. Rothrock suggested that they not wait on riverbank coordination and start right now as different jurisdictions have different opinions about approaches.

**Terry Harwood** – Informed everyone he will be scheduling a Funding PFT meeting in the next few months. He also brought up some additional references to the LMP for information. On page 109, he noted another commitment by the State and Tribe - that initial implementation of the LMP will include working with the jurisdictional agencies listed in Table C-7 to coordinate the development of an ecologically responsible plan for the stabilization of banks. On page 110, Harwood indicated the agencies have incorporated the contaminant management section into the LMP. On page 138, he said it talks about developing action plan tables for contaminant management. Mr. Harwood suggested that everyone read the LMP first before making opinions as the BEIPC needs to develop a section in the one and five year work plans to accommodate the BEIPC's involvement. The BEIPC Commissioners have requested a section for their review and approval at the May meeting, so he will draft a strawman by next Monday and send it out to the TLG for discussion at the TLG meeting on April 16.

**Kenny Hicks** - Provided an update about visiting repository sites last Friday with Andy Mork

(IDEQ). He said the desire of the Shoshone County Commissioners is to look at possible repository sites in more creative ways. He thinks that Government Gulch would be the best location for a large repository site and has some other creative ideas for smaller sites. Hicks reminded everyone about the TLG meeting on April 16 and elections for TLG officers. He indicated that he will not be seeking a nomination for several reasons, but will try to stay on the TLG depending upon his availability.

**Jeri DeLange** - Gave an update about the Communications PFT and the recent EPA training held on March 26 on "Building Trust and Resolving Differences." She said the BEIPC and Communications PFT helped to sponsor the free training opportunity provided by the EPA and its Community Involvement University. About 32 people attended the session. DeLange reported that it was very successful and received positive feedback from the participants. She also mentioned that Cathy Cochrane of the Washington Dept. of Ecology will be providing risk communications training at the next Communications PFT meeting on April 17 in Liberty Lake.

**Terry Harwood** – Said he met with the Counties, visited with Bill Rust, and talked to the EPA about the final LMP. He emphasized that he does not want any misunderstanding about the document's acceptance. The LMP is final and does not need to be reviewed or approved by the EPA. Harwood did provide a letter to the Commissioners and will provide a copy to anyone who wants one. He confirmed the LMP is a done deal. Hicks asked if the EPA was satisfied. Harwood said the EPA did not make any comments on the revised LMP that was developed. However, if the plan is not funded, then EPA may need to make a decision on the Lake. He explained that EPA is saying there is a plan now, but they will hold a decision in abeyance until they are sure actions taken on the LMP are implemented. Hicks said he heard the goal was to get to partial delisting of the Lake. Harwood indicated they have to guarantee through Lake management activities that no further actions are needed. He advised people they need to understand the LMP now needs to be implemented. If the Tribe or State refuses to fund the LMP, then it will not be implemented.

**Glen Rothrock** - Mentioned there will be two new positions for a science team assigned to the CDA Basin for the Lake, CDA River, and streams such as Mica Creek. He noted that it's unique for IDEQ to have two positions assigned. Harwood commented that it passed JFAC unanimously. Rothrock clarified that it's only for one year of funding at a time.

**Kenny Hicks** – For informational purposes, he indicated that this month's erosion control magazine had some good information on stream bank stabilization for rivers and streams.

**Schedule:** The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 4/30/09.

Thank you for your participation.