

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
May 31, 2007 (Revised)

Participants:

Mike Beckwith (Chair)
Rebecca Stevens
Nick Zilka
Bill Adams
Anne Dailey
Rog Hardy

Lloyd Brewer
Randy Connolly
Brian Spears
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: None.

As there were no agenda items, Mike Beckwith (TLG Chair) led the group into a round table discussion.

Round Table:

Beckwith: Mentioned that the day after the BEIPC meeting last week, he and Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) met with the USGS and other individuals (Australians) from the Water Research Centre on the reports for the Lake model. For the peer review on the Lake model that was prepared by Scott Wells, he indicated that it was standard academic practice to go back with comments.

Regarding the status of the Lake, he mentioned that he and Rothrock were proceeding with the immediate focus of sampling. The first sampling will begin on June 18 and then monthly sampling will be conducted until mid-October.

Zilka: Said that he believed that Terry Harwood was working together with Beckwith to provide surplus funding for training on the Lake model. Beckwith concurred and noted that he was working on a cost proposal for the Australians to come and spend a week here in order to train people (State and CDA Tribe) on using the model.

Connolly: Asked whether the Australians will use their fancy sampler. Beckwith answered no and explained that it was the USGS who took samples off the sediment interface and that it will not continue. Beckwith pointed out that the key ingredient for Lake monitoring is dissolved oxygen at the bottom of the lake because that is the trigger for benthic flux (metals release).

Stevens: Nothing to report.

Zilka: Nothing to report.

Adams: Reported on mine/mill updates. He said that work is underway at the Golconda to put a cap on site. It should take a few weeks and will wrap up in mid-June; then the temporary bridge will be pulled out. At the Rex, he mentioned that they have a notice to proceed and the Corps of

Engineers will be starting construction work in July. In regards to water quality monitoring at Canyon Creek, he commented that quarterly sampling would be ongoing for at least two years.

Stevens: Brought up the CDA Basin Bulletin and reminded everyone about the opportunity to submit articles for use in the bulletin. (Note - EPA subsequently indicated that there is no change in submitting articles and that they should be submitted directly to them. The call for articles will be coming out at the end of June).

Dailey: Mentioned that the USGS will be conducting water quality sampling soon. She suggested that she was going to ask Greg Clark (USGS) to participate on the TLG conference call for June 14.

Hardy: Nothing to report.

Connolly: Nothing to report.

Brewer: Nothing to report.

Spears: Nothing to report.

Other Discussion: Beckwith asked Spears if he was going to be doing field work this summer. Spears responded that he was busy this year with songbird monitoring work under the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP). He also mentioned that he would be catching and banding birds at Springston and Pinecreek. In the Box, he will be working on blood lead sampling of songbirds at Smelterville.

Dailey: Indicated that she had to scale back some of the OU-2 biological resource monitoring work this year due to the work on the Galena Ridge golf course.

Connolly: Inquired if there were any further Spokane River issues in Idaho and whether the EPA was going to sample two sites along the beaches. Beckwith indicated that the Blackwell Island dredging issue was just going through the permitting process. He believed that the position of most people was that it would be handled accordingly. Connolly pointed out that there were no options for where to put the contaminated material. Beckwith agreed that there are currently no options, but that Harwood was trying to address these issues through the contaminant management PFT. He mentioned that Harwood was also working on writing a white paper from the information gathered by the PFT.

Beckwith: Informed everyone that he may not be available for the next TLG call on June 14, but that he would let people know so someone else could lead the call.

Before the call concluded, TLG members participating on the call inquired about Rob Spafford. Everyone expressed their concern for Rob and wished him well during his recovery from illness.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 6/14/07. Thank you for your participation.