

**TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**  
**December 1, 2011**

Rebecca Stevens (Chair)  
Don Carpenter  
Terry Harwood  
Randy Connolly

Dave George  
Aubrey Woodcock  
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:** None.

**Round Table:**

**Rebecca Stevens:** Mentioned that a presentation on tailings dam construction will be presented at the next TLG meeting by an engineering firm.

**Jeri DeLange:** Said that she is working on TLG notes and meeting minutes.

**Randy Connolly:** Provided an update on the status of the Midnite Mine Superfund settlement with Newmont Mining Company. The site was a former uranium open pit mine. Estimated cleanup costs are \$200 million. A 30-day comment period was held, but there were no public comments. The consent decree now needs to be signed by the judge. Preference for some of the cleanup work will be provided to Tribal members (i.e. if they are qualified) as the Spokane Tribe has a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO). Newmont has agreed to help train Tribal members onsite. The project will be a 7 to 8 year cleanup activity and approximately 33 million cubic yards of contaminated material will need to be moved.

**Dave George:** Gave a brief update on the Spokane River cleanup. Ecology's contractor, GeoEngineers, is in the process of preparing 30% remedial designs for the remaining recreation beach cleanup sites. The draft 30% designs will be shared with other stakeholders prior to finalization. The designs will go out for formal public comment once they are developed to 90%. Implementation of the remedial actions are planned for summer 2012. He will keep everyone posted. Stevens added that Spokane County has a new NPDES permit for dischargers on the Spokane River. The permit requires Spokane County to participate in a regional toxic task force looking at PCBs specifically as well as other contaminants.

**Aubrey Woodcock:** Nothing to report.

**Don Carpenter:** Indicated that the 30% design report for the Osburn repository was sent out for review. Due to a change in priority remedies in the Upper Basin ROD Amendment, IDEQ and EPA have decided to shelve the former plan and focus on the Star repository in Canyon Creek. No additional work will be done on the Osburn site at this time. They will document the comments and responses; and there will be a key summary to describe the shelving process. It will be posted to the Basin Commission website for public review. (There will be no open houses for the Osburn 30% design). The Star design process is moving forward and they are

looking at possibly changing the name of the repository site to the Canyon Creek repository to avoid any confusion with Hecla's work.

Stevens suggested that this may cause confusion as there is already a Canyon Creek repository. Harwood said that the Canyon Creek repository was constructed by a consortium of folks in the Silver Valley. The site has numerous groundwater issues and is one of the biggest loaders in Canyon Creek. There will be an item for remediation work included in the ROD Amendment. The existing repository will need to be capped, or the discharge will need to be captured and piped to the CTP (central treatment plant) as the groundwater has a very high level of contamination.

**Terry Harwood:** Noted that the final draft of the ROD Amendment is being circulated among a few folks. Upon review, he still has a few concerns such as lining the repositories and stream bank stabilization, but he is pleased with the ROD Amendment. Overall, it looks like a good job. EPA has also said that it will work with the Basin Commission (i.e. PFTs, TLG, etc.) and the Natural Resource Restoration Trustees on the plans for work.

Harwood will be sending requests for information to the various groups and agencies for the annual BEIPC accomplishment report. The 2011 annual report will be presented at the Basin Commission meeting in February 2012. The roads program is moving forward. He has been working with Bill Ryan (EPA) and Rob Hanson (IDEQ). There will be two types of projects for roads (i.e. paved and unpaved). For paved roads, they are getting close to agreeing on the condition of the pavement. The tentative approach will be to work with the local road jurisdictions for work and funding. For unpaved roads, the CDA Work Trust can do some of the work, but not in the Box. There also needs to be a way to ensure that the work is completed and is protective of the barrier. Bill Ryan is writing a paper on the proposed program. The local jurisdictions will need to have some kind of agreement for the O & M. Harwood has prepared a strawman agreement for roads and remedy protection regarding O & M and who is responsible.

The new head gate for the Rose Lake culvert has been installed. He and DeLange turned the key over to the Rose Lake Water District. It was good to get this project done as there was a lot of flooding earlier this spring. Regarding remedy protection, the IDEQ contractor is working on some projects in side drainages. EPA will put together an ESD (Explanation of Significant Differences) after the ROD Amendment is approved. About \$34 million is being set aside for remedy protection work for urban areas and side drainages.

Harwood recently participated in a two-hour conference call with the Idaho Silver Jackets. Bill Adams and Anne McCauley (EPA) made a presentation about the history of the remedial work and potential coordination with flood control agencies, and he was asked to provide information on the FEMA flood inundation maps, Drainage Control Infrastructure Revitalization Plan (DCRIP), and LIDAR. Jerry Cobb (PHD) and the Shoshone County Commissioners were also on the call. He thought it was a good discussion session. Shoshone County had some misinformation about some of the hydraulic connectivity needs in the Silver Valley that required dredging that they did not think were being proposed in the ROD Amendment, but there will be some dredging in the Upper Basin. Harwood would also like a discussion on repository liners to look at what makes good sense and what science and engineering dictates for stream bank stabilization work.

Stevens asked Harwood about the conceptual stream bank design memo. Harwood advised people not to react too heavily as the original was a rough draft and to wait for another version. He indicated that EPA made a huge effort to run everything (i.e. work plans, Trust work, etc.) through the Basin Commission work planning process. That is where discussion will be made with the Upper Basin PFT, and people will need to be engaged strongly once the ROD Amendment is released.

**Rebecca Stevens:** Asked Harwood if the residents at Rose Lake worried about contamination during the spring flooding. Harwood replied that he and DeLange talked to one of the concerned property owners. There was no question that some properties were flooded as the water level was seven feet high from the culvert pipe. Stevens said that Kootenai County had concerns about this issue. Harwood remarked that there should be some way to help these folks, so he talked to Toni Hardesty and IDEQ stepped forward with the funding. Stevens thanked Harwood and IDEQ for helping them out.

Stevens reported that: 1) she sent the State and Tribe's draft Coeur d'Alene Lake monitoring plan out to the TLG for review. Comments are due by January 12<sup>th</sup>; 2) she and Ed Moreen are planning to schedule a Lower Basin PFT meeting sometime in February; 3) the Tribe and State have some concerns about Kootenai County's Unified Land Use Code revisions regarding the language as it pertains to the Lake. They will be meeting with the County to discuss land use and adding Lake Management language to the Code; 4) Sandra Raskell is in St. Maries conducting oversight on the creosote site sampling. There will be an update published in EPA's Basin Bulletin; and 5) Jeff Johnson (BLM) and Stevens are making presentations about the Natural Resource Restoration Trustees plan for restoration planning in the CDA Basin.

**Announcements:** The date for the next TLG meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There will be a press release about the installation of the gate for the Rose Lake culvert sent out December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Schedule:** The next TLG conference call will be 1/5/12.