

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
October 4, 2007

Participants:

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Anne Dailey
Terry Harwood
Rebecca Stevens

Dave George
Randy Connolly
Lloyd Brewer
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, the TLG Chair, Kenny Hicks, asked if there was any other discussion before proceeding into a round table discussion.

Other Discussion:

Stevens: Asked if anyone had heard anything on the recreational PFT. Terry Harwood indicated that Mark Masarik would be gone for two weeks and provided an update. He said that Masarik was trying to keep the issues alive for recreational area opportunities along the River corridor as there were people still digging around in the river banks and going off the Trail. Harwood noted that it is trespassing when people go off the Trail onto private property.

Harwood: Added that he was trying to get things going on recreational issues as well. He commented that Masarik took a bike ride on the Trail after he talked to him about his concerns of people going off the Trail for other activities; and that Masarik found there were a lot of people camping, fishing, etc., off the Trail which may pose human health risks. Harwood indicated that he had been reviewing the plan for the Lower Basin and would like to work on an inventory of the existing rec. areas, but that some public landowners do not want the BEIPC involved. He brought up that Julie Dalsaso (CCC member) had talked about this issue in the past and that the previous director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterways for Kootenai County had also expressed interest. However, the county lost that person when he resigned. Harwood remarked that he thought the recreational PFT needed a sponsorship. In addition, he mentioned that the Mayor of Wallace was interested in recreational opportunities along the upper river such as kayak rentals, etc.

Stevens: Brought up that an executive sponsorship for the recreational PFT was not in the protocols. Harwood indicated that Masarik and Dalsaso discussed that this may help to get emphasis back into the PFT. He said that Masarik asked Kootenai County Commissioner, Rick Currie, to be an executive sponsor and he agreed.

Hicks: Suggested that the focus for recreational opportunities seems to be on the portions of the South Fork of the CDA River, chain lakes and Lower Basin. He asked the reason for this and why there were not more opportunities up the North Fork. Harwood answered that the reason is

because the North Fork is not in the Superfund area. Hicks pointed out that more work is going on in the Upper Basin. Harwood replied that people in the Silver Valley did not seem interested before in addressing recreational issues while waiting on the cleanup work, but are interested now. He said that some are thinking about a fishing pond and the possibility of Smeltonville and Kellogg as places to camp. He also mentioned that Masarik and Dalsaso both feel there is a need for this. Hicks asked if the focus of the rec. PFT was environmental health. Harwood explained that the action level for cleanup of recreational areas was 700 ppm lead which is lower than the human health action level of 1,000 ppm lead for other areas.

Harwood: Commented that the problem with Superfund funding is that it cannot be spent on federal lands, so that is why the Forest Service and BLM are working together on some of the rec. sites and why Medimont is under consideration.

Dailey: Made some suggestions for the criteria to use on rec. sites that may need work. They include:

- Try to build on existing rec. areas and doable areas;
- Focus on the ROD in the Lower Basin;
- At mine/mill sites – look at ATV and other rec. use; and
- Address formal action at boat launches, etc.

Hicks: Said that Masarik had called to ask him to participate on the rec. PFT, but that he declined because he was working on some big issues in Shoshone County. He suggested that if the rec. PFT was looking for human health recreational issues, he wanted to bring one up. In Shoshone County during the summer, he said that there are approx. 6,000-8,000 people on the North Fork of the CDA River on a hot weekend. He stressed that there are no restrooms, etc. for people floating down the river. Hicks indicated that this is a huge issue even though it's not metals focused. He said that he first talked about this problem twelve years ago and that it keeps getting worse each year. Issues include: 1) riparian vegetation being destroyed or removed; 2) erosion; 3) nutrient and sediment loading; 4) disposal of sewage and waste; and 5) water quality. Dailey told Hicks that it was good to hear the details of problems affecting recreational areas. She mentioned that the BEIPC provides a unique opportunity to try and address some of these issues. Hicks asked whether he should write a letter to the BEIPC.

Harwood: Responded that the BEIPC originally focused on the ROD, but that it voted upon its own discretion to get involved in the North Fork mine site cleanups. He said that subsequently infrastructure and stormwater issues were also expanded, but that the BEIPC is still mainly associated with the impact from metals. In regards to recreational issues, Harwood explained that the rec. PFT was working on developing sites while the EPA focused on cleaning existing sites. He suggested that new rec. sites may need to be built and existing areas dispersed because some people in the Lower Basin are still digging in the mud (on the CDA River) which is heavily metals contaminated. Harwood indicated that the rec. PFT was not sure what to work on yet. He suggested that having the workshop at the next BEIPC meeting may get some creative ideas that could be discussed further by the PFT. Then the PFT could develop a work plan as the next part of the process.

Stevens: Asked Harwood if he would be able to send out the draft work plan before the TLG

call. Harwood answered that he would try to finish the strawman and email it by October 15.

Dailey: Brought up that she scheduled the October 18 conference call for two and a half hours (from 8:00-10:30 a.m.) rather than only two hours in case additional time was needed for discussion.

Hicks: Mentioned that he had been going through the process to find out how the ROD is structured so that he can associate items for work to qualify them. He said that he is struggling to identify things to follow under the ROD. Harwood suggested that he bring the items to the BEIPC and let them make the decision. If some of them feel we should not be involved, then they can say. He added that the BEIPC is an organization that helps to represent all of the agencies and that it is up to the Commissioners to make the decisions. Harwood mentioned that he sent a letter previously to all of the BEIPC Commissioners to ask for direction. Hicks responded that he would make comments at the workshop. Harwood suggested that he would like ideas ahead of time to make a list and put the information into the BEIPC board packets.

Stevens: Made a suggestion to Hicks that if he wanted the support of the TLG, then to send his comments to the TLG first. Hicks said that he would have his ideas ready by Oct. 18, but that he may have a difficult time trying to fit everything under the ROD.

Harwood: Indicated that Masarik would be back on October 22.

Round Table:

Dailey: Reported that the OU-2 groundwater and surface water sampling was going on and that they also wanted to do interchange sampling, but could not with the rain effect. She indicated that OU-3 surface water sampling was being done this week and sediment sampling next week. Dailey also reported that the agriculture-to-wetland project was moving along and provided a brief update. Harwood asked if she would give an update at the BEIPC meeting and she agreed.

Stevens: Said that she had been busy sending out information to stakeholders about the LMP meetings planned for October 9-11 as well as working on scheduling people for the various sessions. For informational purposes, she mentioned that there was an upcoming conference on "*Land, Water and Fire Issues in the Inland Northwest*" being presented by the University of Idaho on November 7-8 at the Coeur d'Alene Inn. The link for more information is: www.cnr.uidaho.edu. Dailey asked Stevens if the Tribe had filled Mike Beckwith's former position as the Natural Resource Restoration Coordinator. Stevens replied that it was not filled yet.

Adams: Mentioned that he sent an email to the Water PFT about the meeting on October 30 at the U.S. Forest Service office in CDA. He said that he would be making a presentation on work in Canyon Creek as well as providing an OU-2 update with the RA (remedial assessment) wrap-up for Success, Rex, Constitution, Canyon Creek and Golconda mine/mill work. Adams indicated that they are finishing up the hydro-seeding at the Rex and Constitution.

Harwood: Brought up that he had stopped by to see the Lake model training and that it was very

interesting. He indicated that this closes out the project after the USGS completes the final report. Harwood then informed everyone about the upcoming CCC meeting at the Canyon School on October 16. He said that the meeting will begin at 6:30 and there will be some CWA updates and discussion of the draft work plan. From 7:30-9:30, the CCC is sponsoring a presentation by EPA and IDEQ on the latest design for the EMF repository.

Harwood mentioned that he prepared an Op-Ed for the press on the BEIPC as some people do not even realize that Superfund is going on. In addition, he pointed out that there has been a lot of misinformation. One letter from the general public suggested that the EMF repository was being built for the Blackwell Island dredging material, but he clarified that this suggestion was not true. Harwood also mentioned that he is making comments on the new mining reform bill to send into Congress.

Connolly: Inquired about the EMF design and why some people are opposed. Harwood replied that one of the concerns people have is water contamination and that they do not know that the sediment is already contaminated on the dike road. He said that some other people would like to see the location moved to the west side of Mission Flats on Asarco's property, but that is not available due to Asarco's bankruptcy. The TLG members then briefly discussed the bankruptcy process.

DeLange: Informed everyone that the November 14 BEIPC workshop/meeting would be held at the Coeur d'Alene Inn. Harwood added that the reason the location was changed to CDA from Spokane was because it's a more central location for the public to attend the workshop.

George: Nothing to report.

Connolly: Nothing to report.

Brewer: Nothing to report.

Hicks: Reminded everyone that the next call on October 18 would be a long call (2-2½ hours) rather than a face-to-face TLG meeting. He also suggested that members be prepared to discuss the points of the draft work plan.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 10/18/07.

Thank you for your participation.