

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

November 1, 2007

Participants:

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Anne Dailey
Rog Hardy
Terry Harwood
Nick Zilka
Rebecca Stevens
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

Before going into a round table discussion, the TLG Chair (Kenny Hicks) asked if anyone had additional comments on the draft 2008 work plan.

Round Table:

Dailey: Reported that there was a Water Quality PFT meeting on October 30 and that several presentations were made on water treatment for Canyon Creek. She mentioned that she and Nick Zilka gave a report on the OU-2 Phase 1 assessment and that they will make the same presentation at the BEIPC meeting on November 14. Dailey indicated that the report is too large to download, so the water PFT members were given a copy on CD. In addition, an executive summary will be posted to the web in the next few days.

Hardy: Nothing to report.

Zilka: Reminded everyone about the open house this evening (in Wallace) on the Wallace Yard & Spur Line. He indicated that: 1) the open house begins at 4:30 p.m. and will be held for two hours; 2) the public meeting starts at 6:30 and that he and Ed Moreen (EPA) will be doing a presentation; and 3) a public comment period will follow at 7:30.

Harwood: Mentioned that the Mullan drainage report has been completed and that he is working on the draft drainage reports for Burke, Nine Mile and Silverton. He is also working on negotiating a contract with TerraGraphics to put the IRP (infrastructure revitalization project) plan together. Harwood indicated that after meeting with the communities, project priority lists will be completed. He commented that TerraGraphics did a good job evaluating surface water runoff in the drainage reports. He also expressed his appreciation to the EPA and thanked them for providing funding for the drainage assessment projects.

Regarding the Recreation PFT, Harwood reported that they had a successful meeting on October 25 and that Mark Masarik is coming up with a plan for the next steps. This will include taking

an inventory of existing sites to make sure that everything is included from Mullan to Harrison. Then, the PFT will work with all the agencies that have management authority for recreational activities.

Harwood also mentioned that the Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG) made a presentation at the Recreation PFT meeting on creating a fishery near a wetland pond in the Upper Basin; and that another idea that was brought up was to create clean oases (i.e. recreational areas) in Smeltonville and Kellogg for bicyclists to camp, as well as looking to see if there may be any sites near Medimont. He indicated that Masarik is working on scheduling a PFT meeting for early next year. In the meantime, the PFT sub-committees will be working on trying to educate the public to know what's going on. He suggested that the PFT is not sure how to notify people as there was extensive advertising in the newspaper with the East Mission Flats issues, but that some people still did not know about it.

For the BEIPC workshop on November 14, Harwood noted that he made a minor change to the agenda; and that he is waiting to receive a letter from Governor Otter designating Commissioner Rich Piazza (Kootenai County) as the alternate for Commissioner Rick Currie.

Dailey: Asked Harwood if anyone had asked to speak at the BEIPC workshop during the discussion of the BEIPC's future.

Harwood: Replied that he had received a number of suggestions and concerns, but that people had expressed them in writing. He indicated that he did not know how many people would want to speak. However, he said that if there are a lot of people, he may have to drop some presentations in the afternoon. He emphasized the need to be flexible and that he hopes everyone will understand.

Hardy: Brought up that there was lots of geographic scope at the Recreation PFT meeting and that contaminant management issues do not stop at Harrison. Harwood agreed and said that it goes clear around the Lake to the Post Falls dam. Hardy also commented that it was good to see Idaho Fish & Game at the PFT meeting and Dave Fortier from the BLM. He mentioned that the PFT will be working on guidelines and recommendations for people with management authority and noted that the document would usually be called a management plan. However, he emphasized that it's just guidelines and not binding. He stated that the facilitator for the PFT meeting was Julie Bowen from EPA, and that EPA created an executive sponsor (Commissioner Rick Currie). He questioned why Currie was selected and feels that it should have gone through the TLG process, not just EPA.

Hardy then brought up the comprehensive plan rewrite for Kootenai County and mentioned that there is a lot of citizen involvement. He said that KEA (Kootenai Environmental Alliance) underwrote sub-areas and some citizens wrote a white paper. He also indicated that there are lots of businesses and foundations outside of the area saying let's create more facilities along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. He suggested that maybe this has the support of some citizens, but maybe not. Hardy emphasized that he wants to see what happens along the railroad right-of-way. Regarding his perspective on the PFT meeting, he feels that Masarik is working hard on it. Dailey remarked that she appreciated Hardy's comments. Hardy also mentioned that part of the

package of comments that he and his wife submitted to the commissioners centered on the EMF repository. He feels that some of the information is correct about notifying landowners, but that he hopes more information gets out.

Hicks: Stated that many people here do not follow the issues until a project is on the ground. He feels that people want to be involved, but do not have time and that it's frustrating when they come out later. Dailey indicated that the EPA would welcome ways to get the word out.

Hardy: Brought up that over 400 citizens signed a petition against the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, but that he feels the railroad and other people involved in the project went underground. Hicks suggested that if people recognize there is going to be conflict, they need to compromise. Hardy added that he believed there was no compromise at the table on the Trail, that only the "do nothing" or "build a trail" alternatives were considered.

Stevens: Commented that one reason for having protocols is that the lead for the Recreation PFT chose an executive sponsor without going through the TLG process and did not ask all the members about a sponsor. Harwood pointed out that the TLG may invite technical people as advisors who are not members of the TLG. Stevens stated that she feels the selection of an executive sponsor needs to come through the group first, rather than be hand selected. Hicks asked about reviewing the protocols for the PFTs (project focus teams). Stevens replied that the protocols are posted on the web.

Hicks: Inquired about the status of the infrastructure project, how to get additional funding, and if there was a way to budget for this work. He commended Harwood for doing well with funding some of this project by using remaining funding left over from his budget. However, he feels that the infrastructure revitalization plan and flood control should both have their own line item budget.

Harwood: Responded that the big question for EPA from the study of drainage is if runoff from snow melt and rain will damage the remedy. He emphasized that we may lose 40-50% of the remedy if there is a major flood. Harwood also explained that Superfund Appropriation funds cannot be augmented and that the State has to come up with a 10% match. Dailey added that the Superfund funding deals with cleanup which means the EPA does the remedy, but that it is the community's responsibility to address infrastructure.

Hicks: Commented that communities need to understand bond indebtedness. He also mentioned that Shoshone County has a committee to set up impact fees, but sometimes fees may push development away. He suggested that communities work together cooperatively to coordinate grant funding, remedial work, flood issues, etc., in order to get more "bang for the buck." Dailey indicated that she appreciates Hick's efforts.

Harwood: Indicated that he and Hicks need support. He said that he talked to Jon Cantamessa (Shoshone County Commissioner and BEIPC Chair) and Elin Miller (EPA Director, Region 10 and BEIPC Commissioner) about the importance of the BEIPC workshop/meeting to discuss where the BEIPC is headed in the future. He pointed out that after the CWA projects are completed, there will only be funding for human health work and that the EPA will not get any

funding for ecological work in the near future. He suggested that remaining Superfund work may end up unfunded.

Harwood then commented about the yard cleanup program and said that Mark Stromberg (IDEQ) has done a good job. However, he brought up some other issues that need to be taken care of such as tailings piles in creeks because the drinking water source in Mullan runs through a mine/mill site. He stressed that funding for Superfund may end in 4-5 years and that the work may be shut down. Harwood suggested that we need to recognize the need to help EPA with funding human health and to work on funding for ecological work. Dailey explained that more of the cleanup projects are for human health which need funding, so the eco-work will not have funding.

Dailey: Mentioned that she had an opportunity to give the deputy of EPA's Office of Solid Waste a tour of Superfund throughout the Box and Basin. She indicated that Rob Hanson (IDEQ) also participated and that the tour went very well. Dailey commented that the deputy had a better appreciation of the magnitude of the work. She also pointed out that there are more needs than funding and emphasized that the funding needs to be focused on human health.

Harwood: Brought up that the State of Washington sent a letter to the BEIPC which focuses on getting funding. He mentioned that he and Hicks are meeting on November 7 to go over the work plan.

Hicks: Reminded the TLG that there will be no need for a call on November 15 as it is the day after the BEIPC workshop/meeting.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 11/29/07.

Thank you for your participation.