

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY November 16, 2006

Participants:

Brian Spears (Chair)
Bob Flagor
Rog Hardy
Anne Dailey
Mike Beckwith (Vice Chair)
Terry Harwood
Randy Connolly
David Fortier
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: Upcoming BEIPC Meeting

The TLG Chair, Brian Spears, thanked Terry Harwood and Jeri Delange for sending out the BEIPC board packet information. He then asked Harwood for clarification regarding a change in the directions for the location of the BEIPC meeting on November 29. Harwood explained that the address of the location was correct, but that the map internet directions were wrong. He indicated that the directions had been corrected on the BEIPC web site.

Spears commented that the TLG was in agreement with the revised section (ICP 1.3.1) of the 2006-2010 five-year work plan. He pointed out that the Basin Commission would need to vote upon this section at the BEIPC meeting. Harwood brought up that there may an issue regarding the 2007 one-year work plan as there was some concern that there may not be community involvement on the LMP.

Spears inquired about the Mica Bay amendment agreement in the board packet. Harwood explained that he received agreement for the amendment from the EPA.

Rog Hardy asked Harwood about the vote on the revised section of the five-year work plan and whether institutional controls would be required only for the administrative area; or whether it would also include the outside area (i.e. Coeur d'Alene Lake and Spokane River). Harwood replied that the work plan section did not say anything about an ICP for the lake or river. Hardy indicated that this was mentioned in the 2007 one-year work plan. Harwood said that there was nothing approved for institutional controls on the lake or river yet, but that he believed it would be better to document the activities of the PFT in the section.

Anne Dailey mentioned that EPA's new Region 10 Administrator, Elin Miller, would be at the BEIPC meeting along with Ron Kreizenbeck.

Hardy commented that he had talked with Commissioner Jack Buell about the amended Mica Bay project and that they believed it was the pragmatic thing to do. However, he wanted to suggest that detailed studies be made of the entire Mica Creek drainage before any additional funding was spent on work. He said that he planned to bring this issue up at the BEIPC meeting. Harwood pointed out that he could discuss it during the public comment period for the work plan and other issues at 3:00 p.m.

Hardy emphasized that this issue needed to be prefaced that it was not general public comment; and asked Harwood and Spears to mention the concern that was brought up over this issue. Harwood remarked that there was concern regarding the water quality for all the drainages in the lake, and that there would be a lot of items to cover during the public comment period.

Harwood then informed everyone that the revised agenda and board packet information for the BEIPC meeting had been posted to the web.

Round Table:

Harwood: Said that he was in the process of finishing the Basin infrastructure maps and would start on the next phase of the work. This would include meeting with the counties, commissioners, community leaders, etc. to set priorities for the infrastructure work. He indicated that he probably would not be starting this until early next year due to the holidays. Harwood also mentioned that EPA has provided funding for the flooding study work. Harwood reminded everyone that flooding concerns and recontamination issues were expressed in the NAS report.

Regarding the Plummer wastewater treatment pilot, Harwood reported that the project was successful for treating the effluent in the wetland. However, he said that the pilot was based upon a flow of 1,000 gallons of effluent per day and that the wastewater treatment plant created over 40,000 gallons per day. Harwood explained that the cost for treating all the flow would be prohibitive as 200 acres would be required for the wetland; and that the estimated cost to build the system would be almost five million dollars. He remarked that Plummer has problems dealing with wastewater discharge, but added that the city has little funding to do anything. Randy Connolly asked what the city was doing now. Harwood responded that they were looking at a number of alternatives.

Harwood pointed out that two public hearings were held recently by the PHD on the Basin ICP. The first meeting was held on November 6 in Kellogg, and the second one was held in Coeur d'Alene on November 8. He indicated that no one from the general public attended either hearing. However, he reported that he attended the PHD board meeting in Hayden on November 13, and that the PHD board approved sending the proposed rule to the Legislature. He said that he also attended the November 8 CCC meeting.

Dailey: Mentioned that she attended the recent CCC meeting and that the EPA renewed its support to the CCC until February 2008. She indicated that Kathy Zanetti had resigned as CCC Vice Chair due to family issues. Dailey noted that there were more people making presentations at the CCC meeting than there were members.

Harwood pointed out that the CCC needed someone to cover for John Snider during the winter months because he goes out of town. Dailey mentioned that Brian Walker (Lands Council) had been volunteered by Jim Hollingsworth. Harwood responded that Snider wanted to also check with some of the other CCC members. He indicated that a new Vice Chair would be elected at the CCC meeting in May.

Hardy: Inquired who the ICP hearing was held for. Harwood answered that it was for the general public and that it included all of the PHD rule changes, not just the Basin ICP. Hardy commented that public attendance was usually lean during work hours. Harwood replied that the public hearings were held in the evening and that they had also been advertised in the local newspapers. He noted that the PHD takes both written and oral public comment. Harwood indicated that he could not attend the hearing in Coeur d'Alene as it was the same night as the CCC meeting; and that Jerry Cobb told him that no one from the public had shown up for the hearing. Harwood also remarked that with all of the development going on in the Basin, some people were having difficulties refinancing loans due to property located in the flood plain.

Hardy then asked if the date was set for the next BEIPC meeting in February 2007. Harwood replied that he was looking at February 21st or possibly the 14th, and that the meeting would be held in Wallace or Kellogg. Dailey inquired whether all of the 2007 BEIPC meeting dates would be set by the November 29 meeting. Harwood said that he had sent emails to the commissioners and alternates with the proposed dates for 2007. He would like to have them set before the February meeting and suggested that people start thinking about a location in Spokane again as the BEIPC approved to schedule a meeting there every 7th time.

Connolly: Asked if the new EPA regional administrator (Elin Miller) would be attending the BEIPC meeting. Dailey answered that both Elin and Ron Kreizenbeck would be there. Harwood mentioned that he had sent an information packet to the new administrator. Dailey thanked Harwood and said that the information was very helpful.

Harwood: Remarked that some residents of Burke Canyon had stopped in the BEIPC office to discuss issues regarding the lack of a sewer system and that sewage was going into the creek.

Beckwith: Commented that the Tribe was involved with the Avista relicensing for the Post Falls dam, and that the interim restoration plan for the Hepton Lake project (that is tied with Superfund) was proceeding. He mentioned that Rebecca Stevens was out for the week, but added that she was still working on collecting information for the lake audit. Beckwith commented that the information should be interesting with all of the development that is occurring around the lake.

Flagor: Reported that he had been looking at watershed assessments with "RAPID" Watershed Assessment and that he would send a link to anyone interested in looking at it.

Fortier: Gave an update on work the BLM was doing at various mine/mill projects. At the Rex site, he mentioned that the buttress was completed on the face and that the last of the rock was hauled before the rain started. Fortier indicated that the work looked good and that it would be interesting to see how things make it through the winter. He reported that the work was done at

the Constitution site, but that some 4-wheel drive pickups had turned part of a remediated area into a mud pit. Other than that, he pointed out that everything had turned out well. Fortier commented that he appreciated the efforts by EPA and COE, especially at the Constitution site.

Harwood asked about the Phase II work at the Golconda. Fortier answered that they are continuing to work on the project, but that things are starting to shut down now due to wetness. He mentioned that the bridge was supposed to be removed this winter.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 12/14/06.

Thank you for your participation.