

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
December 14, 2006

Participants:

Brian Spears (Chair)
Mark Masarik
Rog Hardy
Mike Beckwith (Vice Chair)
Kenny Hicks
Rebecca Stevens
Terry Harwood
Rob Spafford
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

The TLG Chair, Brian Spears, welcomed Kenny Hicks to the TLG as the new Shoshone County representative. He then suggested a round table discussion as there were no agenda items to discuss.

Round Table:

Masarik: Mentioned that few opportunities were available for recreational areas, but that some things were surfacing that may be worth discussing.

Spears: Asked Mike Beckwith about the status of the LMP process. Beckwith answered that the assessment report should be forthcoming, but that he had not seen anything yet.

Hardy: Inquired about the status of the Avista dam relicensing project at Post Falls. Beckwith explained the procedures for relicensing and indicated that the Department of the Interior (DOI) through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has the authority to approve operating conditions for the renewal of the dam license. Because the proposed operating conditions have effects on a federally recognized tribal reservation, the CDA Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) have been working with Avista on its relicensing efforts. Beckwith commented that there should be some news on the relicensing before the end of January 2007.

Beckwith: Said that he was working with Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) to develop a future monitoring plan for the lake. He also informed everyone that the report Paul Woods had previously been working on (before his retirement), was still in draft form and not readily available. Beckwith commented that he was being asked to keep the information confidential until it was reviewed. He pointed out that the final report would not be ready (in useable form) for some time. Terry Harwood asked for clarification when the final report would be completed because the contract

time for the work was running out. He suggested that the report should be ready the first part of January 2007. Beckwith responded that he was not sure who was running the modeling report since Paul Woods retired; but that he thought it may have ties into the limnology report.

Harwood said that Kathy Peters (USGS) was personally working on the project and that she had told him she would contact the person working on the peer review. He suggested that Beckwith also contact Ms. Peters. Beckwith answered that he had been trying to reach her and had a call scheduled for later. He confirmed that all of the work had been done for the project and that the report would be forthcoming.

Stevens: Nothing to report.

Spafford: Nothing to report.

Hardy: Asked Rob Spafford if he was following Kootenai County's comprehensive plan revision. Hardy said that he was interested in this issue because there was a major push for density on the rim. Spafford responded that the consultants are providing the final report based on survey results they received from residents of the communities.

Hardy also brought up the proposed development for Powderhorn Bay and said that it had been approved for the next step. However, some of the local citizens hired an attorney to file a motion in regards to a zoning issue. He then mentioned another proposed development across from Hwy. 3 that is in the path for migratory animals. He said that the land used to be farmland and that he believed it would grossly impact animals from the Fish & Game reserve. He mentioned that a public hearing had been scheduled, but that the item had been pulled off the agenda. Spafford indicated that he would talk to the county commissioners about the issue as it does affect the lake. Rebecca Stevens remarked that having two new county commissioners next year may change the dynamics. Hardy asked Spears if he was doing any work on this issue.

Spears answered that his work was related to animals and biology, but that new developments do contribute to nutrient loading in the lake and eutrophication. He said that he was not sure whether people understand how their decisions may affect the lake. Spears hopes that people have this issue on their radar screen as there may be impacts on salmon if the lake were to become eutrophic. Stevens mentioned that some groups of people are showing up in a grassroots effort to oppose the large developments going on around the lake.

Hardy inquired whether anything was happening on Mica Creek. Harwood replied that based upon the vote that was taken at the BEIPC meeting; Glen Rothrock may be moving forward on the project, but that it had only been two weeks. Stevens mentioned that the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District (KSSCWD) also approved to sponsor the project at its meeting last night.

Regarding the Hangman Creek project, Hardy asked if anyone knew what agency was handling it. Harwood said that he had not heard anything, but pointed out that the creek goes into Washington.

Hardy reported that he attended the Carney Pole public hearing last night; and that the revised preferred alternative was submitted on December 6 for a thirty-day comment period. Mike Beckwith indicated that Rob Spafford also attended the hearing.

Beckwith brought up that the preferred alternative for Carney Pole included excavation and on-site thermal treatment of soils and sediment, and in-situ stabilization below areas in groundwater zones. He commented that the big issue concerns what to do with the contaminated sediments in the river. Removal or capping as opposed to natural attenuation. Hardy suggested that the proposal required more sampling. Beckwith agreed and commented that the alternative sounded quite positive overall. Hardy mentioned that the preferred alternative added about \$1 million more in cost than the previous alternative and would require more work on the ground.

Hicks: Commented that he appreciated being involved in the TLG and thanked Harwood for the information that he sent him.

Dailey: Reported that the EPA hopes to have the report on the OU-2 water quality evaluation and assessment of water quality activity ready early next year.

Harwood: Said that he would appreciate receiving information from everyone on the annual accomplishment report sections. He also gave an update on the project that EPA funded for flood control for the remediated areas in the Basin. He said that TerraGraphics had completed the flood control structure inventory; and that he would be meeting with them to determine how to protect the remedy. The next step will be to meet with the communities and cities to establish their priorities on the infrastructure and to figure out funding such as grants.

He also mentioned that he and Jeri DeLange reviewed the BEIPC budget to see if there would be any available funding to complete the second phase of the infrastructure project. As there was not quite enough, Harwood reported that Toni Hardesty of IDEQ said that they would provide the rest. He also informed everyone that Hardesty had been re-appointed by the Governor as the Director of IDEQ.

Harwood brought up that the Contaminant Management PFT recently met with EPA and IDEQ; and that he met with the Kootenai County representatives yesterday. He asked whether the TLG should try to deal with anything on the lake and river, and if so, what should it be. He added that he spoke to the Corps of Army Engineers (COE) and that they do not regulate dredging for disposal of excavated materials off site. The COE regulates excavation to some degree in regards to Blackwell Island, but that it leaves where to place the contaminated material to the developer.

Harwood mentioned that the date for the next Contaminant Management PFT had not been set yet, but that he was thinking about having a meeting around January 22 – 26 because he wanted to check with the PFT members first to get their ideas and concerns. Harwood said that he had already talked to June Bergquist (IDEQ), but that he was still trying to get in touch with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL).

Harwood indicated that he was working on scheduling the next BEIPC meeting in February

2007, but that he was having difficulties with everyone's schedules. As soon as he confirms the dates with the BEIPC commissioners, he will notify everyone of next year's schedule. Harwood added that John Snider would be gone for the rest of the winter and that the issue of a replacement for him at the BEIPC and CCC meetings had not been resolved.

Other Discussion: The TLG members discussed whether to have a TLG call on December 28. It was decided that it would be cancelled due to the possibility of low participation during the holidays.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 1/11/06.

Thank you for your participation.