

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
February 21, 2008

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Terry Harwood
Nick Zilka
Rebecca Stevens (Vice Chair)

Rusty Sheppard
Dave George
Rog Hardy
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

For informational purposes, it was noted that there would be no EPA participants on the call as Anne Dailey was on vacation and Bill Adams was traveling.

Round Table:

Harwood: Mentioned that the BEIPC board packets had been sent out for the BEIPC meeting on February 27; and that he will meet with Kenny Hicks next Monday to discuss the presentation of the one and five-year work plans. Yesterday, he met with an individual from the Spokane River Forum and they had a good discussion. He also met with a Georgia Tech professor/scientist sometime ago regarding a sludge proposal. The proposal was sent to him recently from a tech group consortium (i.e. at Georgia Tech) and he will review the draft document about a process to deal with the sludge and discharge from the Bunker Hill mine.

Harwood added that the INL (Idaho National Laboratory) called him this week as they were looking for work and he referred them to Bill Adams. He then gave an update on the status of the appropriations request for the flood analysis and flood control work in the Upper Basin. Harwood is working with U.S. Senator Craig's office concerning the request and is also coordinating it with Congressman Simpson and Governor Otter's office. He explained that Senator Craig is a member of the Superfund subcommittee that is within the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee; and that Senator Barbara Boxer is the Chair of the full committee. He commented that it would be good if the request is approved and that it would also include funding for the COE (Corps of Engineers).

Hicks: Asked Harwood if the Georgia Tech issue was strictly for the CIA (central impoundment area) and the Bunker Hill.

Harwood: Answered that it was strictly for the sludge from the CTP (central treatment plant) and that he believed the proposal would further treat the sludge. Harwood said that he will share the information with the EPA.

Zilka: Requested a copy of the draft proposal and pointed out that he reviewed a proposal a few years ago from a University of Idaho student and that he will see how it compares.

Hicks: Suggested that with the economic efforts going on in the Silver Valley, it would be good to get a long-term operations and maintenance (O & M) plan to convert the CIA to light uses. He feels that this may be done without doing any harm to the cap on the impoundment area. Hicks also suggested that the developers may be seeking other shareholders or partners to help take this on. He asked Harwood for additional information about the appropriations request.

Harwood: Responded that Senator Craig wanted to help us with a project during his last year in office and that the appropriations request is an earmark for \$360,000 to start out with (as seed money) to do an analysis to identify potential flooding problems to the remedy. Then additional funding would need to be requested for project work such as levees, dikes, dredging, etc. He commented that Shoshone County had agreed to sponsor the request. Harwood also commented that some of the Silver Valley people are concerned about the snow melt this year. Hicks pointed out that at least it is a controlled snow melt for now.

Zilka: Nothing to report.

DeLange: Nothing to report.

Stevens: Brought up the sampling issue in Harrison along the CDA River and Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes that Rog Hardy asked about on a previous call. She stated that it was not conducted by the State or Tribe; and that she is not sure who conducted it as usually the railroad notifies people of when it does sampling.

Hardy: Emphasized that he feels people should have permission to do sampling along the Trail.

Other Discussion: TLG members discussed the ICP (institutional controls program) and other issues such as:

- ICP training – conducted through the PHD (Panhandle Health District);
- List of certified ICP contractors – contact Jerry Cobb of the PHD; and
- ICP requirements – people must contact the PHD to deal with for now.

Stevens: Reported that the Tribe had hired a new environmental specialist, Carrie Holtan. Stevens said that Holtan will be at the upcoming BEIPC meeting and has a good understanding of Superfund law.

George: Nothing to report.

Sheppard: Nothing to report.

Hardy: Asked if Mark Masarik was still setting up the format for the Recreation PFT sub-group inventory. Zilka replied that Masarik was working on the spreadsheet, but had not entered any data. Hardy then asked about new IDEQ repository person. Harwood said that he gave the Repository PFT list to Andy Mork, the new IDEQ Mine Waste Program Scientist, and that Mork would be calling a meeting soon. Zilka commented that he took Mork on a tour of the Page and Big Creek repositories.

Hicks: Asked TLG members if they had any specific items to discuss on the work plans. Hearing none, he brought up page 2 of the five-year plan in regards to the ecological actions in the Upper Basin and asked where the IRP (infrastructure revitalization plan) would fall. Harwood explained that the IRP is not funded by Superfund funding. However, he suggested that Toni Hardesty (IDEQ Director) may be willing to help as she has been very helpful with work as long as the work is tied to the remedy. Hicks brought up how funding sources would be structured and pointed out that rural development funding had dried up for now, but hopefully will come back in the future.

Harwood: Reported that the drainage reports are completed; and that the appropriations request had been sent to Congress. He said that he will now contract with TerraGraphics to do the infrastructure needs analysis and then meet with the cities and counties to prioritize the work for the final plan. Next year, he will budget and fund the final plan itself through the BEIPC. He also pointed out that all potential funding sources will be identified such as grants, etc. Then he will support who ever wants to go after the funding, but suggested that it would be good for all of the cities, counties, utilities, sewer and water districts, communities, etc. to work together as a team. He commented that Governor Otter's office is very supportive of a team approach.

Hicks: Mentioned that he was working on projects in the Silver Valley for private developers that include a substantial amount of off-site improvements. He asked whether there was some way in dealing with the private sector to combine the work with the overall approach for infrastructure and flood control.

Harwood: Emphasized that it is important to keep track of the work done to have the required match. He offered to help out and said that he suggested to Commissioner Jon Cantamessa that the local cities and counties may help with funding.

Hicks: Inquired what was needed to team up with the cities and counties as well as the South Fork Sewer District.

Harwood: Responded that it is important to keep track of every dollar of funding for the match.

Hicks: Recapped that the efforts will help to contribute to the environmental cleanup. He also stressed that the two year moratorium on building needs to be addressed, so that the Silver Valley can grow again. Regarding the TLG meeting on February 11, he apologized for not being able to be there due to an accident. Hicks thanked Stevens for leading the meeting and expressed his appreciation.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 3/6/08.

Thank you for your participation.