

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

February 22, 2007

Participants:

Brian Spears (Chair)
Terry Harwood
Mark Masarik
Bill Adams
Kenny Hicks
Anne Dailey
Rog Hardy
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

Brian Spears announced that he was planning to have a TLG meeting during the first week of May. He will send an email to everyone after the arrangements are confirmed.

Round Table:

Harwood: Indicated that he held a Contaminant Management PFT meeting yesterday. He said that there was good discussion on various issues such as the migration of contaminants in the Lake and downstream; and the question of “who” has the legal authority to manage. Harwood requested recommendations from everyone so that he could develop a consensus paper to present to the BEIPC at the next meeting. He indicated that he would let people review the paper before it is presented to the BEIPC and stressed that a legal entity needs to be decided upon.

Spears agreed that contaminant management is a problem in the Lower Basin as material that is potentially contaminated is being moved along the Lake and River into terrestrial environment with no regulation. He pointed out that some people doing it may not know that they could be a PRP; or that a problem even exists because it has not been defined. Spears asked who the management authority would be as some of the agencies have said they are not responsible. Harwood replied that a recommendation could not be made until it is determined who is responsible. Rog Hardy commented that we need to let the lawyers iron out this issue.

Spears reiterated that the oversight is confusing, but suggested that the congressional delegation could possibly help. Hardy responded that it would be a funding issue if private landowners or developers were required to pay. He suggested that sampling should be based on what you want to do on your property and remediation should be based on what contaminants you find. Spears noted that everyone feels that “who deals with it” is a legal problem that needs to be figured out and asked TLG members to send emails to Harwood. Hardy suggested that the emails to Harwood identify the problems and what steps need to be taken. He mentioned that if anyone was not on the PFT or TLG list, to call Harwood.

Spears remarked that even though there is no CERCLA remedy for the Lake, the institutional controls program does address management. In regards to sampling and removal of contaminated material, Hardy commented that there is some confusion about education in regards to signage with the Trail and publication of the rule (i.e. call before you dispose, etc.) Dailey asked what the burden would be for sampling. Hardy pointed out that some contamination may be four feet deep. Spears brought up the Blackwell marina and the lack of delineation for sampling. He suggested that the developers need guidelines to help them.

Spears: Commented that the Basin Information Forum (BIF) on February 14 was good. He mentioned that the BIF was held at the CDA Tribal Casino in Worley; and that John Lawson (IDEQ) was unable to attend as his flight was fogged in. Spears said that he would ask Lawson to present an update on the East Mission Flats repository at the next meeting. He reported that Steve James (JUB Engineering) gave three presentations which included the: 1) Mullan Inflow and Groundwater Infiltration project; 2) Page Wastewater Treatment Plant Metals and Nutrient Removal project; and 3) CDA Basin Community Wastewater Toxicity Control Evaluation. Other presenters included: Angelo Vitale (CDA Tribe) on Benewah Creek Restoration; Annette Duerock (PHD) Stormwater Erosion Education Program or SEEP; and Geoff Harvey (IDEQ) on the Alluvium Tailings Removal project at the Monarch Mine/Mill site.

Adams: Indicated that there will be a Water Treatment PFT meeting on March 13 (the day before the BEIPC meeting). The meeting will be held in Kellogg at the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, and he will email information to the PFT members.

Dailey: Mentioned that some people from USGS were collecting surface water samples for the basin environmental monitoring plan and that the project was moving forward. She asked Spears if he was working on the waterfowl survey. Spears answered that he was, but that some areas were still frozen. He mentioned that a waterfowl mortality survey would also be conducted this year and they would try to survey the whole wetland. Spears indicated that surveying was done mostly near shore in the past, but when swans are sick they tend to walk upland and die. Kenny Hicks asked where the surveying would be done. Spears replied that they would be doing sampling from the Page ponds all the way down the river.

Dailey said that she would send a copy of the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) to Hicks. The BEMP has stations at various locations from Mullan all the way downstream to State line. She indicated that they sample a subset of the water quality (WQ) stations multiple times per year and all WQ stations in October during low flows. Every five years, all of the WQ stations are sampled multiple times per year. She said that the BEMP also includes sediment and biological monitoring.

Masarik: Nothing to report.

Hicks: Inquired about an area in the Silver Valley that had not been cleaned up yet and asked who to contact. Dailey suggested that he contact Mark Stromberg (IDEQ) as he is the project manager.

Rog Hardy asked Hicks if Jon Cantamessa (Shoshone County Commissioner and BEIPC alternate) had been confirmed by the Governor as the replacement for Commissioner Sherry Krulitz on the BEIPC; and who the alternate would be. Hicks indicated that a letter would be coming from the Governor designating Jon Cantamessa as the BEIPC Commissioner and Sherry Krulitz as the alternate.

Hicks then reported on the moratorium on building in unincorporated areas in Shoshone County. He remarked that the county had not worked on zoning, or the comp plan, etc. in a consistent manner. He felt that it was important to do so now because of all the economic development that is going on. Otherwise; it may damage growth. Hicks indicated that he would continue to help with the process. He also discussed various zoning and other issues as well as problems with inflow and infiltration for water/sewer. Hicks concluded by saying that there are a lot of challenges for Shoshone County and stressed the need to deal with infrastructure. Dailey thanked Hicks for the information and said that it was interesting to get an update.

Hardy inquired when the next LMP meeting was scheduled. Masarik said that he was not involved, but that he believed it was February 28. Mike Beckwith emphasized that other stakeholders would be involved in the LMP discussion after the State and Tribe decide if they are going to proceed with Phase 2. Beckwith indicated that February 26 would be the first substantive discussion by the Tribe and State. Hardy then asked about the status of the work on the Schlepp property (conservation easement). Dailey responded that nothing would be done until summer.

Spafford: Nothing to report.

Beckwith: Mentioned that work on the monitoring plan for the Lake started last week with the State and Tribe using former USGS and other CWA sites. Sampling will consist of testing water chemistry and dissolved oxygen. The EPA will be providing lab support and a draft quality assurance plan was recently sent to them. Beckwith reiterated that from a lake management aspect, he believed that everyone could agree that continued lake monitoring is the first step for moving forward on the LMP.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 3/8/07.

Thank you for your participation.