

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
February 5, 2009

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Dave George
Nick Zilka
Terry Harwood
Glen Rothrock

Rebecca Stevens (Vice Chair)
Carrie Holtan
Randy Connolly
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 Meetings and ROD Amendment

The TLG Chair, Kenny Hicks, reminded everyone of the upcoming BEIPC meeting on February 25 at the Wallace Inn. Rebecca Stevens also mentioned the Repository PFT meeting on February 10 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Idaho Fish & Game office in CDA.

Hicks brought up the eco-prioritization process or ROD amendment. He said that Shoshone County is requesting to see anything in draft form relating to the County that is part of the ROD amendment. EPA's target date for the ROD amendment was updated and they are now anticipating completion in spring 2010.

Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update - Glen Rothrock said the LMP Response to Comments package was released about three weeks ago. At last night's CCC (Citizens Coordinating Council) meeting, he made a presentation to the CCC about the plan. The State and Tribe are looking at finalizing the LMP and are in the second day of a two-day work session. Rothrock noted there were more questions on total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) than on the LMP. Hicks mentioned that some people recognize the LMP as a TMDL for the Lake. Stevens pointed out the LMP Response to Comments documents are posted on the Tribe and State's websites.

Communications PFT Update – Jeri DeLange reported that she scheduled a Communications PFT meeting on Friday, February 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Idaho Dept. of Transportation (basement conference room) in CDA. There will be a Communications PFT conference call on Friday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss items for the draft agenda.

Lower Basin PFT Update – Rebecca Stevens mentioned that she will be sending out the Lower Basin PFT meeting minutes, and will also send them to the BEIPC to be posted on the web. She received an email from Bill Rust about a Lower Basin perspective that he wants to send out, but she has not rescheduled a meeting as yet. For the Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM), she noted that technical memo A was distributed to the PFT for information sharing and to start filling in data gaps.

Repositories – Hicks brought up that Shoshone County Commissioner Jon Cantamessa was surprised on the description for repository site criteria in the County. He indicated that Shoshone County is looking at this issue for development, but needs to find some middle ground. Although the County understands the need for repository areas to be close to I-90; they do not want to be taking up I-90 interchanges and stressed the need to work on finding other creative

approaches for waste storage. Randy Connolly mentioned that when the Bureau of Mines looked at developing waste sites for something useful, they mainly focused in terms of structural strength for the material. Nick Zilka noted the contractor does have information about the published results.

Hicks said they are looking at additional sites now for 2011-2012. Connolly asked about the Bureau of Mines site in Osburn next to the South Fork of the CDA River. Hicks responded that the County recognizes the repository issue is important, especially on where to put contaminated soil and waste. However, the County would like to try and find a solution for another Upper Basin location that would not leave the local area without developable ground, so they can continue with economic growth. Shoshone County will work with the IDEQ and EPA on this issue.

Zilka brought up that EPA put a stipulation in about locating repository sites in contaminated areas. Hicks replied that it's going to force us to look at flood plains. He indicated the eco-prioritization tool takes socio-economic impacts (both positive and negative) in the decision making process. Stevens said it will benefit the group to have Shoshone County's participation as much as possible.

Round Table:

Dave George - Inquired how soon before the final version of the LMP is released, as there were a number of Washington comments and the State is interested in the timeframe.

Glen Rothrock – Replied that some groups thought the LMP was weak on time schedules. They have worked on it, but maybe not to the satisfaction of all. Currently, the plan is to go forward and publish the final. He believes the target will be the end of February. He noted it's the desire of the Tribe and IDEQ to have a signature cover page, and that some sections in particular may not meet all the expectations of comments.

Nick Zilka – Indicated that he is fairly close to a statement of work for this summer.

Kenny Hicks – Suggested that with the economic stimulus coming from the Federal government for work, there may be a funding opportunity for infrastructure projects.

Rebecca Stevens - Informed everyone about a conference on the local Lake community that will be held at the Spokane Community College Student Union building. The conference is free and includes lunch. She will be attending as well as someone from IDEQ.

Glen Rothrock – Working on the final LMP.

Carrie Holtan - Nothing to report.

Jeri DeLange - Nothing to report.

Randy Connolly - Nothing to report.

Terry Harwood – Reported that the 2008 annual accomplishment report will be published next week and will also be posted to the BEIPC website. He has a Homeland Security meeting today and will present the whole package to the communities. All of the cities will be required to pass an ordinance adopting the Hazardous Mitigation Plan once it is approved. It will be presented this afternoon for the cities of Kellogg, Pinehurst, Wardner, and Smeltonville. Then a second meeting will be held in Wallace tonight for the cities of Osburn, Silverton, Mullan, Burke, Canyon Creek and Woodland Park. He suggested that Hicks attend the meeting in Wallace. Harwood will also be meeting with the COE, EPA, and Anne McCauley about the drainage control infrastructure revitalization projects for remedy protection and to also try and incorporate it into the ROD amendment.

On February 24, EPA will make a ROD amendment presentation to the Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SRNC). Harwood will give an update on the stimulus package, but has not heard anything from D.C. He noted the stimulus package is loaded with earmarks and that Congressman Minnick wrote a newspaper article about it. Although Minnick is discouraged about the added “pork,” Harwood hopes that good will come out of it and suggested that we’ll have to see what happens. He talked to Karen Roetter from U.S. Senator Crapo’s local office and she mentioned that stimulus funding will go to projects that are ready to “dig dirt” in 90 days. When Harwood sent in the stimulus package request, he had to tell how many months, how many jobs, and how many workers the proposal would fund. His main concern for the stimulus funding request was to try and do projects fast. He suggested, for instance, that if IDEQ has a long approval process for drainage projects, then it may kill the whole stimulus package if we cannot turn dirt within 90 days.

Kenny Hicks – Attended the watershed advisory group (WAG) meeting on January 29. He will continue participation in the process, but mentioned that he found a problem in the TMDL process. For federal standards, Columbia Basin criteria is required above 3,500 feet. He is not sure what effects this may have on our process.

Glen Rothrock - Responded that it’s very complex and all depends on the specific strain listed. Federal standards are strictly bull trout criteria and the State is going with cutthroat. Standards for high areas generally rule.

Kenny Hicks - Said standards cannot exceed 3 degrees in temperature of the water and that most areas are logged in the Upper North Fork. Even though the area is as pristine as possible, he suggested that the temperature process is difficult to adjust.

Glen Rothrock - Explained that if the stream designation is for bull trout, then no stream in Idaho can meet that temperature standard. After further discussion, Hicks and Rothrock agreed to talk about this issue later.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 2/19/09.

Thank you for your participation.