

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
April 27, 2006

Participants:

Brian Spears (Chair)	Rebecca Stevens
Nick Zilka	Dave Fortier
Bill Adams	Greg Clark
Randy Connolly	Doug Ott
Rusty Sheppard	Jeri DeLange (Note Taker)
Anne Dailey	
Terry Harwood	
Mike Beckwith	

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: ICP Discussion

Brian Spears introduced Greg Clark and Doug Ott from the USGS who are taking over some of the lake model work previously done by Dr. Paul Woods who retired on April 1. He mentioned that they would be discussing information on 2005 water quality data.

Clark and Ott reported that benchmark sampling is continuing and they are waiting for a large flow event (at least 25,000 cfs) to sample this year. Clark pointed out that the flow at Cataldo had recently gone up to 22,000 cfs, but then went back down. They are hoping that it will rise again with the spring runoff. In case it occurs, they are ready to mobilize and will keep everyone up-to-date.

Terry Harwood informed everyone that the 2005 water quality monitoring information is posted to the BEIPC website at: www.basincommission.com under Tech Group/Project Focus Teams/Basin-wide and Lake Monitoring/2005 Monitoring. Anne Dailey mentioned that the data is also listed on the EPA web page and 'Storet' as well.

Mike Beckwith said that he would be interested in the long term trends and loading concentrations as the annual data does not reveal a lot. Clark indicated that the long term trends will be able to be determined after the model is developed and the data is collected continuously for 5-10 years. He also mentioned that they are waiting for equipment to install which will help to establish a baseline gauge for mass balance of true lake flow and chemistry.

Anne Dailey commented that it is the intent of the EPA to coordinate sampling of the ground water in the Basin with the IDEQ. Beckwith suggested continuing the sampling for the length of the ROD and LMP monitoring in order to establish a basin-wide system over time.

Rusty Sheppard brought up that the Hayden sewer district has a permit for outfall all year instead of the winter. He suggested that this may put additional loading into the river. Beckwith indicated that good environmental monitoring will discern conditions. Dailey indicated that this

falls under the NPDES permit program and that the EPA plans to monitor Superfund and not sewer in regards to Basin monitoring.

Dailey mentioned that Clark will look at the TLG notes in order to participate on future calls when appropriate, but that he would not be able to do it on a regular basis as Woods did. She pointed out that Clark and Ott have full time jobs although they will both be partly involved in the lake model process.

Dailey reported that she had some good news regarding a conservation easement in the Medimont area. She said that EPA, USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, and a willing private property owner have developed a partnership agreement to address contaminated wildlife feeding areas in the Lower Basin. Dailey indicated that historical mining has contaminated the sediment of the Coeur d'Alene River, nearby lakes, and wetlands with high levels of metals. Many of the waterfowl ingest the contaminated sediment and perish. She mentioned that it is an exciting project and that she is looking forward to it.

Spears mentioned that the conservation project was part of the remedy for the ROD and not typical in the country. He commented that it is a monumental project, especially for the EPA. Spears also explained that his involvement was cursory and not usually done. He indicated that there is a lot of work needed, but getting it done will be a huge success. He believes it sets a good precedent for other agencies to coordinate similar work as this type of partnership has not been done before.

Spears asked if anyone had comments on the ICP. Harwood said that Rob Hanson (IDEQ) sent out another draft version to the PFT members. He indicated that some changes (displayed in italics and underlined) were made in regards to legal issues and some to address the concerns of the PFT. Harwood informed everyone that there would be a PFT meeting next Monday, May 1.

Round Table:

Zilka: Mentioned that the Phase I work is done at the Golconda.

Adams: Reported that the mine/mill conference call would be at 1:30 today. He indicated that construction would be starting in the next few weeks for the work at the Constitution. In regards to the Golconda, he said that the bridge would be blocked off until July or August to keep people from traveling on the property until the Phase II work starts. They are working through the final design details.

Adams said that he will give an update at the TLG meeting on May 8 regarding the design and road issues for the Rex. For Canyon Creek, he reported that the monitoring wells are in place for the hydrological investigation and are now reporting data. He believes this data will be extremely useful in determining what impacts there may be to adjoining ground water after the major snow melt.

Sheppard: Indicated that Commissioner Currie has a meeting tomorrow and that he may have the information for the county next week on the ICP.

Connolly: Nothing to report.

Dailey: Mentioned that she and Zilka have been going out to look for sites to install new monitoring wells for OU-2 in the Box.

Beckwith: Nothing to report.

Stevens: Nothing to report.

Fortier: Reported that he is working on spring maintenance.

Harwood: Mentioned that he received a final report for the Page Waste Water Treatment Facility and that he mailed a copy of it to Tamara Langton (EPA). He reported that he has been meeting with the local communities regarding the ICP and they have been very supportive. He said that they are also extremely interested in getting Canyon Creek cleaned up and in what can be done. However, they are not as interested with Burke Canyon in regards to sewer and water. Harwood also indicated that he and Jeri DeLange will be doing an audit on the CWA projects by checking the records with the State's financial database (GOFR).

Beckwith asked if a copy of the Page report was available electronically. Harwood said that it was not because the document was too large to download and that it also contained proprietary information. He reported on the results which indicated that it may not be economically feasible to modify the Page plant with one of the pilot approaches. Dailey asked if the remaining CWA funding would be re-allocated if it was not going to be used for this project. Harwood replied that it would be, but not until the remaining work was completely finished. He indicated that he would bring copies of the report to the TLG meeting on May 8. Beckwith asked if there was an executive summary. Harwood said that he would check into it.

Spears: Indicated that this is the last day for the waterfowl study. He brought up that a frog survey was done previously on the Smeltonville flats, but that the results were disappointing. He said that it may be done again in July. Spears reminded everyone to send him agenda items for the upcoming TLG meeting on May 8.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 5/4/06.

Thank you for your participation.