

## TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

August 24, 2006

**Participants:**

Brian Spears (Chair)  
Mike Beckwith  
Lloyd Brewer  
Anne Dailey  
Nick Zilka  
Rog Hardy  
Rusty Sheppard  
Bill Ryan  
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:** Status of CWA grants and remaining funding.

The TLG Chair, Brian Spears, thanked Mike Beckwith for leading the conference calls during his absence the past few months (due to his work out in the field this summer). He also thanked the TLG members for their participation and continued support.

**Announcements:** Lloyd Brewer informed everyone that there would be a WCAC meeting in September, but that no date had been set yet. He mentioned that they are planning to have a speaker from the Washington Department of Ecology make a presentation on PCB cleanup for the Spokane River. They are also hoping to have an update presented on the LMP if the negotiator's report is completed by then.

In regards to the Spokane River cleanup, Beckwith commented that high levels of PCBs have been known to be present in river bed sediments behind the Upriver Dam for some time, and that PCBs have also been found in fish tissue. He will provide Brian Spears with citations to USGS reports.

Spears reported that dioxin levels were up in Lake Chelan, but that no sources could be found. He indicated that only low levels had been found in fish so far. Spears added that there had been speculation that it may have been caused by some of the combustibles burning from forest fires this summer. If this is found to be the case, then TMDL's would need to be developed with this in mind. However, he remarked that he was skeptical of this. Beckwith commented that there were lots of orchards around the southern Lake Chelan area and that possibly the source was pesticide residues.

**Discussion on CWA Grants:** Spears mentioned that it had been brought to his attention that some of the CWA grants may be getting close to their contract deadlines and that there may be funding left over that could be used on other projects. Anne Dailey remarked that she could not recall specific ones, but that there were several getting close. She indicated that if the funding

was not used in the timeframe allotted, then any remaining funds would have to be returned. She said that Terry Harwood usually provided an update of the CWA project funding at the Basin meetings. However, one was not provided at the last meeting because it was a field trip. Dailey suggested that she would like to get an update and have some discussion.

As Harwood was not available for the TLG call, Nick Zilka emphasized that Harwood keeps a tight watch on all of the CWA projects and funding. He also brought up that Harwood's big concerns were with Mica Creek and Pinehurst.

Spears mentioned that an upstream Mica Creek property owner had called him to discuss some erosion work he had done on his property and that he was looking for partners. After viewing the property, Spears said that he was really surprised about the amount of erosion upstream and flooding issues. He reported that the property owner had to keep moving his fences back because the creek cuts into the banks. Hardy stated that some of the sedimentation in Mica Bay may have come from upstream of the highway project.

Spears said that he talked with Harwood and Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) about the issue to tell them that he believed the major erosion was occurring uphill. In addition, he arranged a field trip so that they could take a look at it along with a few other interested parties next Monday. Spears suggested to Harwood that as the TLG Chair he supported moving the Mica Creek funding for a partnership with the property owner as it would still fit the grant requirements very well and also improve sedimentation issues. He said that Harwood agreed to look at it in order to bring back recommendations to the TLG. Spears noted that the project was originally written for the Hanson property.

Beckwith brought up that Rebecca Stevens had worked with the uphill property owner when she worked for the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District (KSSWCD). He said that she would accompany Terry Harwood and Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) on a tour of the property next Monday. He stated that he was uncomfortable about the direction the Mica Creek project was taking. He felt that it had been forced upon everyone from the start. He also felt that it took the focus away from metals contamination; that it was now straying far from its original intent; that there was little new or demonstrative in it becoming a routine stream stabilization exercise; and that more discussion is needed regarding its future direction. Spears clarified that the project had been discussed and approved by the BEIPC.

Lloyd Brewer commented that the BEIPC looked at the Mica Creek project more as lake management rather than a metals study. He added that some funding was appropriated to do an engineering study. Spears responded that TerraGraphics performed the study on the lower property to develop recommendations for a demonstration and training project for use by wetland landowners to reduce sediment and nutrient loading. Brewer pointed out that the information came back to the BEIPC for discussion.

Spears said that some people wanted the Mica Creek project to be re-addressed and that he plans to bring it up. Hardy expressed his opinion that it was more of a lake management issue and that the LMP negotiation will help to focus it. Beckwith agreed. Spears then brought up that the Mica Creek project has available funding to do some work under two conditions: 1) if the

landowner agrees to the project; and 2) if the project addresses major erosion issues. He indicated that he would talk with Harwood to see if people want to cancel the project or bring it back to the TLG. Beckwith suggested that anything brought back should be made in a deliberative process. Spears stressed that it was an important issue as there were dump loads of sediment going downstream.

Brewer acknowledged that the only concern is significant erosion. He suggested that before anything is done, to make sure that: 1) the TLG endorses the plan; 2) it does not create more problems; and 3) we end up with something that works. Spears suggested that if one problem is fixed, then there may be a possibility of starting another problem because the whole creek is in the same condition. Beckwith recommended that the TLG may be able to get some good information from the work that Stevens is doing on the lake audit project as she is taking a good look at methods, timeframe, and cost.

Hardy made a suggestion to Beckwith that he look at the local (e.g. weathered granitic) geological conditions in regards to the sedimentation and erosion in Mica Creek. Beckwith agreed and said that he would be keeping an eye on it and taking pictures.

Spears asked if anyone had other CWA projects to discuss. Zilka mentioned that Harwood went out to Pinehurst with TerraGraphics to meet with the city's representatives to discuss the flood impact study. He reported that a stream runs through the middle of the golf course in Pinehurst and that a small wetland was being proposed to permit sediments to flow through. The owners originally said no to the proposal, but were willing to look at other options.

Spears then brought up the one-year and five-year work plans and commented that problems keep occurring with voting on the final plans. He referenced the 2006 work plan and said that it would not be approved until November. He expressed his view that he was not sure if quarterly meetings were the best way to conduct this process and suggested that it may be better to do something else. Dailey said that it would be good to know the timeframe.

Jeri DeLange pointed out that the only part of the 2006-2010 five-year work plan that was not approved was Section 1.3.1 on the ICP and that the BEIPC requested the language be revised and brought back at the next meeting. She indicated that Harwood could inform everyone of the deadline for the board packet information on the next TLG call. Spears said that he would talk with Harwood in regards to the process for the work plans. The 2006 annual work plan was approved in February.

### **Round Table:**

**Spears:** Reported that this was the last week for biological monitoring. He mentioned that fish had been sampled from four different regions and that he would be sending some to test for metals.

**Dailey:** Thanked Spears for sending her the 2005 Biological Resources Annual Report for the Basin environmental monitoring plan. She indicated that it would be posted to the web site.

**Beckwith:** Mentioned that considerable fish sampling including tissue analysis had been done on the Spokane River by USGS in the late 1990's and early 2000's as part of the Northern Rockies - Intermontane Basins National Water Quality Assessment and that information could be of value for comparison with recent and ongoing sampling. He then reported that Rothrock and Stevens had been busy working on the LMP audit and were conducting interviews on BMP effectiveness. He said that both Stevens and Rothrock would be at the WCAC meeting. Brewer indicated that he had not received Rothrock's confirmation yet.

Beckwith also informed everyone that the CDA Tribe had hired Rob Spafford as an environmental engineer and that he would be starting work on August 30. In regards to the LMP negotiation, Beckwith indicated that the assessment report had not been completed by the negotiator yet. He said that he talked with Don Martin (EPA) and suggested that the negotiator get going on it.

**Zilka:** Mentioned that IDEQ would be conducting some fish sampling and a survey on August 23 and 30. Beckwith reiterated that there was a lot of information on fish sampling and suggested that people take a look at it when they are analyzing results. Hopefully, methodologies would be the same and trends may be seen. Beckwith indicated that he could provide copies of reports to anyone interested.

**Sheppard:** Nothing to report.

**Ryan:** Gave an update on mine/mill work. He reported that: 1) the Corps of Engineers had awarded the contract at the Golconda; 2) sampling was being conducted at the BLM Rex site by MCS Environmental from Montana; 3) Parametrix would be starting work in September; and 4) the EPA Rex design had been finalized, but would not go to contract until next year.

**Brewer:** Commented that the cleanup work on the Upriver Dam had not started yet.

**Hardy:** Inquired why the process for the LMP was stalled because there had been plenty of time for it. Beckwith replied that he was not sure why it had stalled, but agreed that there had been enough time. Hardy then asked if there had been any word on the agreement for the State and Tribe's Trail Long-Term Operating Plan (TLOP). Beckwith indicated that the budget went out and that there would be further discussions with the Union Pacific railroad.

**Spears:** Reported that the cleanup plan for the St. Maries creosote site had been reworked and that the public meeting for August 17 would be rescheduled because of the substantial amount of comments.

**Schedule:** The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 9/7/06.

Thank you for your participation.