

TLG MEETING MINUTES
Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
October 17, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
CDA Waste Water Treatment Plant
765 W. Hubbard, Coeur d'Alene

Attendees:

Sandra Raskell, CDA Tribe	Bonnie Douglas, CCC member
Jamie Brunner, IDEQ	Sandra Treccani, WA State, Dept. of Ecology
Craig Cooper, IDEQ	Rene Gilbert, CIC - EPA
Caj Matheson, CDA Tribe	Ed Moreen, EPA
Laura Laumatia, CDA Tribe	Jan Olsen, IDEQ
Randy Connelly, Spokane Tribe	Jason Minzghor, ITD
Jeff Johnson, BLM	Terry Harwood, BEIPC
Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe	Glory Carlile, BEIPC (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.

Call to Order/Introductions: The TLG Chair, Sandra Raskell, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Draft TLG Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2013:

Brunner moved to approve the minutes as written and Treccani seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

CDA Lake Management Plan Update (LMP): Jamie Brunner and Laura Laumatia gave an update on the activities of the LMP with a brief overview of the LMP. They continue to collect data in St. Joe area but are not actually physically gathering any monitoring data at this point at the St. Joe River. IDEQ is installing automated sampler in Wolf Lodge Creek. At the last meeting it was reported that they found Milfoil in Mica Bay but did not see any lately. They are waiting for a grant to do assessment at Wolf Lodge and Fernan and Blue Creek watersheds. The proposal would include a Management Action Table to see where people are at.

Brunner reported on the project on the St Joe River: 7000 linear feet is on the St. Joe riverbank. They will place riprap and willow plants, no excavation and fill the old hole and will leave existing vegetation that is there alone.

They continue to do work with K-12 education. For example, the STEM Expo and work with partners such as the University of Idaho, the Tribe etc. They also continue to work with summer camps and are hoping to expand to include the Boy Scouts. They have deferred "Lake A Syst" workshops in order to focus on other projects.

In addition, they are currently working on updating and reprinting maps and strategizing on involving more of the community. They are also helping to explore partnership with the City of Coeur d'Alene on the Four Corners Project and IDL applicants and partners on the grant.

Media Website rollout: They presented a draft of their new logo “Our Gem” wanting to grab people on the appeal of the lake and encourage stewardship. Opinions included that the logo looked more like a river than a lake. Suggestions were made on what kind of pictures to show.

Jason Minzghor, (ITD) is planning to do some hydraulic analysis for bridgework and will be willing to share with Brunner what the commissioners have suggested that may be helpful for LMP.

Brunner introduced Craig Cooper who shared his background and announced that he joined IDEQ in August as the new limnologist.

Restoration Partnership Update (RP): Caj Matheson introduced himself as the Communications Specialist of (RP), CDA Basin Trustees. The focus of the RP is the Natural Resources - to return injured natural resources back to their healthy conditions. They are developing the plan but will not focus on projects but rather a developmental plan to achieve goals. On June 12, 2013 they filed a Notice of Intent with a 60 day scoping period. However, they extended their scoping period for more input and had an “Alternatives Analysis” to address the scoping comments and ideas. Overall, the scoping was very successful with a diversity of comments. They received about 229 distinct comments from just over 100 people. A lot of people focused on general geographic areas in their comments. They plan to take each comment and ask how to fit into their plan. In late spring or early summer 2014, they hope to come up with an updated plan allowing for 45 days for the 2nd public comment period on the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is being developed.

The Preliminary Public Scoping Report is on their website for those interested in the process where they can also look at all the different comments. He was pleased to share that a vast majority of comments were extremely positive in nature and that how people utilize natural resources was a big focus. He also announced that those interested can subscribe to their e-mail list on the website for updates and information.

It was noted that all this scoping is to shape how the plan goes. Funding needs to be linked to the services related to the injuries to the natural resources keeping in mind CERCLA.

Bonnie Douglas (CCC member) addressed how confusing the issue of contamination and recontamination is in the restoration and the need to emphasize the difference.

Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) Update

Jan Olsen, read a report by Denna Grangaard stating that the PSA’s went very well.

Olson also reported that BPRP yards done prior to 2013 included 3408 plus 100 this year for a total of 3508. The total Box yard count is now 3230 yards done. For the end of season there are roughly 6738 yards done basin wide.

Rebecca Stevens then suggested that the PSA be presented at the Basin Commission meeting in November. Harwood agreed to put it on the agenda.

1 year Work Plan Review and Discussion:

Harwood provided a summary of updates of the following:

- Unpaved roads program: completed all the sampling in July and was able to come up with a list.
- All the unpaved roads in Kootenai County will be capped by this Friday, October 18.

- Will advertise the next segment in Shoshone County in November.
- Plan to have all contaminated unpaved roads to be remediated by August 2014.

He explained a change in contracting process to public works competitively bidding on the projects. As a result, bids were significantly lower by 40 to 50%. By having competition it has saved a lot of money.

Paved roads contracts: By using Idaho public works contracting procedures they are coming in 50% lower. They are also able to write change overs to do more work using the same contracts. With these lower bids, it may be possible to do 100% on the list with the same amount of money.

The discussion included information that in the contracting 95% of the employees must be Idaho residents and must be bonded contractors. Stevens asked “Where are you advertising these bids?” Harwood replied that the ads are posted in the newspaper and ID State.

Harwood continued the summary updates:

- Completed remedy protection project in Wardner.
- Dewey and 3rd St. remedy protection projects in Mullan done.
- Grouse St. Project in Smelterville is about 75% done.
- 42,000 linear feet of paved roads have been remediated this year.

He is working with Anne McCauley (EPA). There is a project Unnamed Gulch in Silverton to be done this fall. Meyer Creek project is coming up in Osburn. Little Pine Creek is in design right now for Pinehurst and Portland road in Kellogg. Harwood noted that because of all the infrastructure work we are filling up the repositories fast.

There was discussion on the how the work is impacting the employment status in the community of the Silver Valley. Rebecca Stevens recommended a report about how we are going to improve the economy for the locals. Rene Gilbert noted that we are seasonally based so cannot see year round 40 hour a week jobs. However, good workers are going back to work.

The projects have created a lot of local jobs, and Stevens suggested a report of this data. It was also suggested by Gilbert that there is no need to “blow our own horn” but there is a way to remind people of the work we have done in order to keep people informed about what we are doing to improve the community. Gilbert has pictures of local people working on local projects and she will submit photos at the Basin Commission meeting to add to the accomplishments report due in February. Community Involvement Coordinators (CIC) offered to help with this. And, Olson shared that Grangaard is working on interviews to get quotes. Gilbert says “Like us on Facebook”.

Annual Review by Harwood:

Harwood submitted a Draft BEIPC Coeur d’Alene Basin Calendar Year 2014 Work Plan and the Draft Coeur d’Alene Basin Five-year (2014-2018) Work Plan for review by the TLG:

(He noted that this had not been submitted electronically to anyone yet awaiting input from EPA that was not available due to the government furlough. The work plans were reviewed together for the first time with all present at the meeting for comments and suggestions before being presented at the BEIPC meeting.)

Harwood will get EPA input and then send to Sandra Raskell for distribution to TLG members for final comments.

Harwood requested that any other Work Plan changes must be completed by the end of next week (by October 25th) in order to get out in the packets for the Basin Commission meeting to be held on November 20th.

Announcements:

Next TLG conference call is November 7, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Next face to face TLG meeting will be in January 2014 with the date to be determined.

Rebecca Stevens is planning a Basin Information Forum (BIF) in January 2014.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.