

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY January 6, 2011

Rebecca Stevens (Chair)
Anne Dailey
Andy Mork
Terry Harwood
Dave George

Randy Connolly
Denna Grangaard
Brian Spears
Sandra Raskell
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

Round Table:

Anne Dailey - Said that she is working on responses to comments for the proposed plan (ROD Amendment). She is not sure of the timeline as it will take a big effort to respond to the numerous comments received.

Terry Harwood - Dropped off BEIPC briefing books for the new Kootenai County Commissioners. He plans to try and meet with them before the next BEIPC meeting. He will also meet with the new Shoshone County Commissioner as well.

Anne Dailey - Brought up that the next Upper Basin PFT meeting will be in Kellogg. There will also be a follow-up subcommittee meeting to review the list of mine/mill sites and determine if there is a reason to take some of the sites off the list. She noted that Bill Adams will send out information to everyone after the meetings are scheduled.

A question was raised by one of the TLG members about a few specific mine/mill sites that do not pose a contamination issue for lead or zinc, and if those sites would be removed. Dailey replied that there may not be an issue for zinc or lead, but there may be an issue for copper.

Rebecca Stevens - Inquired how many comments the EPA received on the ROD Amendment.

Anne Dailey - Answered that EPA received over 6,000 comments. She said that their consultant is organizing and entering the comments into a database for the Administrative Record which is a legal record for the proposed plan. Each comment is being issued a unique identifier and there will also be categorized sections to pull up all the information on various categories such as remedy protection, Canyon Creek, South Fork fish, etc. Then the response will be entered into the database. When that work is completed, EPA will put together a comment summary. She relayed that EPA is trying to give due consideration to the comments.

Dave George - Nothing to report.

Randy Connolly - Nothing to report.

Anne Dailey - Expressed appreciation for the effort that people put into their comments. She said that the ROD Amendment will be a better document with everyone's comments.

Andy Mork - Indicated that he is working on a method to categorize mine/mill sites with Bruce Schuld (IDEQ) as there has been some discussion to create categories for sorting the sites on what we know now. They plan to put sites into rough groups such as previously remediated, no data, no significant risk, etc. Then figure out what we know on a site for organizing an action on each site.

Anne Dailey - Responded that Bill Adams is essentially working on this as well with EPA's consultant (CH2M Hill). She suggested the need to coordinate efforts, so we are not doubling up.

Dave George - Inquired if the sorting was based on significant human health or ecological risk.

Andy Mork - Answered that it's a peer list based on remedial objectives which are ecological at this time. For example, the Pulaski tunnel - no risk there. He also brought up that they are currently taking comments on the Big Creek repository expansion. Anyone wishing to provide comments needs to respond by the end of month.

Denna Grangaard - Provided an update on the Superfund Straight Talk column. She encouraged input for ideas on topics. On January 13, she will be attending a Coeur d'Alene Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) meeting in Coeur d'Alene.

Brian Spears - Nothing to report.

Jeri DeLange - Noted that she plans to schedule a Communications PFT meeting sometime in February.

Terry Harwood - Reported on the following: 1) The draft annual accomplishment report has been sent out to the BEIPC and TLG for comments which are due back by January 11. 2) He met with the Basin Commissioners during the executive session at the November BEIPC meeting to discuss his work schedule. He is willing to take on more work as all of the CWA projects have been completed. However, there will need to be an amendment to the existing MOA between the State of Idaho and the Basin Commission about how to handle a request for work from the State. The State (IDEQ) is not going to fill Dan Meyer's job, so the amended MOA will identify specific work that may be done by Harwood on behalf of IDEQ. 3) He believes that the Trustee will take over the yard remediation program after this work season. 4) Under the amended MOA, he would be working with Anne McCauley (EPA) on remedy protection; managing the Big Creek and EMF repositories this next year, working with Bruce Schuld on the Page repository; working with the local communities on O&M of remedy protection for infrastructure; helping Jan Olsen (IDEQ) on the oversight of the railroad work as it pertains to the Wallace Yard and spur lines up Canyon and Ninemile Creeks; and helping develop a method for ways to complete the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP).

Harwood pointed out that there is no official proposed (MOA) amendment from the State yet. He talked to Dan Meyer over the holidays for a briefing on the work. If approved, he will work through this next field season. (He had previously talked about retiring in 2010). Before making a commitment, he wants to see the proposal that the State will come up with.

Harwood mentioned that he is always on call 7 days a week. Anyone may call his cell phone and he also has a home office. During the Christmas holidays, he was called regarding the Rose Creek culvert in Highway 3. The pipe in the ground was 56 years old and rusted out, and all of the flooding from the snow melt washed the pipe out. He opened up the EMF repository and had the road to the back door entrance plowed for trucks to haul the contaminated road embankment material. All the material was hauled to EMF and then replaced with clean material. An article about this work was in the CDA newspaper.

Rob Hanson (IDEQ, Boise) is going to run the Kellogg IDEQ office. Hanson will oversee the yard program and will coordinate with Bill Hudson and Scott Peterson. The amendment to the MOA will need to be signed by Commissioner Jon Cantamessa (Chair of the BEIPC). If the Tribe needs additional help with an engineering project, Harwood is willing to give assistance such as peer review. He is also available to help any of the other governments in the BEIPC. He has been in conversation with the U.S. Senate Public Works and Environment Committee in Washington D.C. as he is concerned with infrastructure needs and has volunteered his services for the reauthorization of the Transportation Bill.

Sandra Raskell - Nothing to report.

Rebecca Stevens - Reported on the following: 1) She is working with Ed Moreen on the Lower Basin PFT agenda for the February meeting. 2) The Forest Service CDA River Ranger District is seeking input by January 31 on a proposal for site rehabilitation projects at Medimont and Rainy Hill recreation sites. She also spoke with Jeff Johnson (USFS) about it. If folks are interested, she will forward a letter. 3) EPA's Five-Year Review Plan has been completed. 4) The tenth annual Regional Lakes Conference will be held on February 5th at Spokane Falls Community College. The conference is free and she will send the agenda by email.

For informational purposes, Stevens brought up that Kootenai County staff have been working on revisions to the site disturbance ordinance. Along the shoreline, a 25-foot designated "no disturbance" area is being redefined; and there will be a public hearing on it. The State and Tribe have submitted a comment letter on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management team. Revisions to the Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan have been completed.

The survey results on the LMP needs assessment conducted by Robinson Research have been finalized. She and Glen Rothrock will provide an update at the CCC meeting on January 27. They have also been asked to present the results to a number of community groups.

TLG Meeting Discussion: Stevens asked the group if there was a need for a TLG face-to-face meeting before the BEIPC meeting on February 16. After polling the TLG members participating on the call, it was agreed to schedule a longer TLG conference call (1 ½ to 2 hours) in lieu of a face-to-face TLG meeting. The call will be held at the next regularly scheduled date of February 3.

Schedule: The next TLG meeting/conference call is scheduled for 2/3/11.