

## TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

April 19, 2007

**Participants:**

Brian Spears (Chair)	Lloyd Brewer
Mike Beckwith (Vice Chair)	Rob Spafford
Rebecca Stevens	Rog Hardy
Kenny Hicks	Bill Adams
Anne Dailey	Nick Zilka
Terry Harwood	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:** Comments on Draft Five-Year Work Plan and Updates on Proposed TLG Protocol Changes.

**Draft Five-Year Plan:** Brian Spears asked Terry Harwood to provide an update on the comments he had received so far on the draft five-year plan. Harwood reported that the only comment he received was from Anne Dailey and that she had no additional comments to make. Bill Adams mentioned that he would take another look at the draft and get back to Harwood.

Rusty Sheppard asked Harwood about adding the lake management activity to the draft, but added that it was a large document. Harwood agreed that the document was quite large and that he would need to take a look at it. He asked everyone to get back to him with their comments on the draft by the end of next week (April 27), so that he could make any changes necessary before the TLG meeting.

**Announcements:** Spears reminded everyone that the TLG meeting would be held on May 1 at the Kootenai County Administration building in Room 1A from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Harwood suggested that people try to park in other areas besides the parking lot to make space available for county employees and customers.

**Proposed TLG Protocol Changes:** Spears brought up the potential changes he was proposing for the TLG protocols. One item would be changing the term of the Chair and Vice Chair positions from two years to one year. He believed that more people would be willing to volunteer for the positions if they only had to serve one year.

Spears also noted that the protocols state that conference calls would be facilitated every week, but that the TLG had switched the calls (last year) to every other week. He suggested that the BEIPC would need to take a quick vote to approve the proposed changes at the May 23 meeting. Rog Hardy remarked that he was initially opposed to changing the TLG conference calls from weekly to every other week, but that they seem to be functioning well with the present workload. He suggested that the scheduling for the TLG calls be left open in the protocol revisions to allow flexibility if the workload changed. Spears and Harwood both agreed this was a good suggestion. Harwood said that he would wordsmith the proposed changes for the upcoming BEIPC meeting.

**Nominations for TLG Chair/Vice Chair:** Spears indicated that no one had volunteered yet for the TLG Chair or Vice Chair positions. He reiterated that he sent a previous email calling for volunteers as he did not want anyone nominated at the meeting if they did not know they were being nominated. Spears informed everyone that there were no restrictions for who the Chair or Vice Chair may be as long as the voting entities approve. He also mentioned that it was up to the persons elected to decide how much they wanted to put into the positions. Rob Spafford asked Spears for the timeframe that people had to volunteer. Spears replied that he would be taking names until the TLG meeting on May 1. Spafford also inquired if there was any reason why the EPA could not volunteer. Dailey responded that the EPA decided that other organizations should take the leadership role as it was not appropriate for the EPA since they had a large role. She suggested that it was a good opportunity for others to be involved.

Sheppard mentioned that he had talked with John Snider; and that Snider may not be opposed to being the TLG Chair. Mike Beckwith also volunteered that he would be willing to serve as the TLG Chair. Dailey brought up that the position of Vice Chair needed to be filled too. She asked whether it may be a problem for Snider as he was gone for part of the year. Sheppard clarified that Snider was usually unavailable for only about one month of the year. Spears expressed his thanks to the TLG members volunteering for the positions.

**Other Discussion:** Spears noted that nominations for new CCC officers were being taken from now until mid-May if anyone was interested. Harwood mentioned that the next CCC meeting would be held on May 3; and that additional information on the CCC election process may be found on the BEIPC web site.

Regarding the TLG voting process for Chair and Vice Chair, Dailey inquired whether the person receiving the second highest number of votes for Chair would automatically be elected Vice Chair. Harwood replied that it could be done, but that only the TLG reps from the seven entities could vote. He clarified that this meant one vote per entity: Federal; State; Tribe; Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah counties.

### **Round Table:**

**Spears:** Informed everyone that he would be out of the office next week from April 23 through the 27, but that he would be checking emails. He indicated that he would return on Monday, April 30.

**Beckwith:** Said that he had been working with Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) on organizing lake monitoring activities for the State and Tribe; and that the monitoring should start around June 1. He indicated that they would like to have two labs conducting the analysis for comparison. One lab was set up and ready to go, but that he was still waiting to hear back from the USGS.

**Stevens:** Reported that there was a good turnout for the Stormwater Erosion Education Program (SEEP); and that the recent training included participants from both Kootenai and Shoshone counties. Stevens asked Sheppard if he had any information on the new planning person for Kootenai County. Sheppard responded that the county had just hired him and that he would be starting May 1.

**Dailey:** Gave an update on the OU-2 environmental monitoring plan that was coordinated with

the Basin. She wanted to let people know that they had to scale back the biological monitoring with the USFWS due to construction activities at the Galena Ridge development.

**Brewer:** Nothing to report.

**Hicks:** Nothing to report.

**Sheppard:** Nothing to report.

**Hardy:** Mentioned that Kootenai County had been holding a series of town hall meetings to meet with citizens; and that they were also in the process of making zoning changes to their comprehensive plan. He indicated that there were about 60 people at a recent meeting which included a new citizen's group calling for responsible growth. He commented that the citizen's group is extremely vocal in trying to gain allies to stop some of the development that is going on in the county. It appeared to him that several people in the citizen's group did not know about or understand the BEIPC, as well as the problems with Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River. Hardy said that Commissioner Currie explained the roles of the BEIPC to the citizens and suggested that they become involved with the CCC to learn additional information. He thought that the three Kootenai County commissioners did a good job at the meeting and pointed out that the new county planner was also in attendance.

Hardy also mentioned that the citizen's group was pushing for a moratorium on building in Kootenai County similar to the one that was enacted in Shoshone County. However, Kootenai County Commissioners were against it because the county already had rules and procedures in place and were farther along in the planning process than Shoshone County. Hardy then pointed out that there was an area in the Harrison flats that was zoned agricultural and drains into the Lake. He said that the families owning the property may sell it because the soil was not conducive to profitable farming. He believed that this may create an issue for the county planning process because some of the developers not only want to build homes on the property, but golf courses, etc. He believed that this may also affect the lake management plan.

Stevens thanked Hardy for the updates and inquired about Benewah County. Hardy indicated that Benewah does not have a comp plan as the area is more rural and that the movement for development was less dense. He asked if anyone knew about the status of the remedial action plan for the Trail (RAMP). Beckwith responded that it was still being reviewed by the attorneys.

**Adams:** Said that he would like to schedule a mine/mill PFT meeting for the afternoon of April 30 in Coeur d'Alene, but that it had not been confirmed yet. He mentioned that bids were out for the Rex site and that the work would begin after the contractor had been selected by the COE. At Golconda, he indicated that capping material was being selected and that the work should begin in May.

Beckwith asked Adams about the bio-remediation workshop that was recently held a few weeks ago. Adams said that he was pleased with the attendance and noted that the tour was very good. Beckwith suggested that it may be a good idea to publicize the workshop more. Adams replied that the workshop was put on by the EPA Office of Research & Development and that the people who attended were invited to participate. However, he agreed with Beckwith that it may be good for other people to listen to the presentations. Beckwith commented that he was glad to be able

to contribute to the workshop and indicated that a lot of people are not aware of the water quality issues that we have to deal with. Adams concurred that many of the participants were interested in the variety of aspects for water treatment.

**Zilka:** Nothing to report.

**Harwood:** Informed everyone that the infrastructure revitalization plan (IRP) workshop would be held in Kellogg tomorrow; and that he developed a budget and had enough funding to pay for the next phase of the IRP. He also commented that he was looking into a study to remove metals loading from the Lake and Spokane River as one of the recharge areas for the aquifer was by the Post Falls Dam. Harwood said that he was working on writing a white paper for the contaminant management PFT with the information that he had gathered to date and that he believed Kootenai County's contaminant issues dealt more with development. Harwood indicated that there was a meeting in Spokane on Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer issues on May 8 and 9.

Regarding the BEIPC meeting on May 23, he said that the USGS would be making final CWA project reports for the Lake model and the lower River sediment transport model. He noted that the final report for the draft peer review by Scott Wells would not be available until later because the USGS was working on comments.

Harwood reported that Ryan Jackson, Committee Minority Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, called a few weeks ago to request a tour of the Bunker Hill and CDA Basin Superfund site. He said that he was out of the office on vacation, but that his assistant, Jeri DeLange, took Mr. Jackson on a tour with the assistance of Scott Peterson and Nick Zilka. He indicated that he received a thank you note from Mr. Jackson and emphasized that it was very important to accommodate these requests, especially in regards to future funding appropriations. He pointed out that DeLange had also provided an updated CWA financial report and that he would bring copies for the TLG and BEIPC meetings in May. Harwood then mentioned that he was recently elected for a two-year term as the President of the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers and that he may be going to Boise for some of the meetings.

**Other Discussion:** Additional discussion by the TLG focused on a study of the aquifer in regards to what is happening from metals loading and the contamination from recharge areas including ground water. It was noted that the characterization of metals content was 25% to ten times less in the aquifer from metals contamination and whether that was due to natural attenuation. It was also brought up that with all the growth in the Spokane Valley, as well as the population of Kootenai County being estimated at 300,000 over the next twenty years; that water injection may need to be used in the future to recharge the aquifer, and the issue was raised of where this water would come from.

**Schedule:** The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 5/3/07.

Thank you for your participation.