

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
June 14, 2007

Participants:

Mike Beckwith (Chair)
Nick Zilka
Anne Dailey
Rog Hardy
Terry Harwood

Greg Clark
Randy Connolly
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: 2008 Water Year (WY) Expanded Water Quality Sampling by the USGS under the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP).

The TLG Chair, Mike Beckwith, mentioned that the only agenda item to discuss was the BEMP 2008 WY expanded water quality sampling and that Greg Clark of the USGS would be participating on the conference call to give a report on it. Anne Dailey explained that she had asked Clark to participate because he was the one spearheading the effort. She also mentioned that Bill Adams and Bill Ryan would not be available for the call as they were traveling.

2008 WY Expanded Water Quality Sampling: Under the Coeur d'Alene Basin ROD, Greg Clark reported that every five years the BEMP conducts additional sampling at benchmark monitoring stations. These stations are sampled annually during the fall low flow period and an additional seven times/year during the every 5-year benchmark sampling efforts. The first 5-year event under the BEMP is planned for Water Year 2008 beginning October 1. The additional stations include:

- South Fork CDA River above Ninemile Creek
- Upper East Fork of Ninemile Creek
- Lower East Fork of Ninemile Creek
- Pine Creek below Amy Gulch
- CDA River at Cataldo
- Spokane River near Stateline

Clark noted that the mouth of the Canyon Creek station was converted to a sentinel station in order to gather data to support the Canyon Creek water treatment planning effort. He also noted that there is sampling emphasis on Ninemile Creek because active remediation in this area is planned under the interim OU-3 ROD. The water quality data will help with the planning and evaluation of the remedial actions conducted in OU-3.

To measure flow and calculate loads at the benchmark stations, Clark indicated that an existing flow station at the mouth of Ninemile has been re-established. Some of the other Benchmark stations already have gaging stations and those that do not will be indexed to nearby stations in order to develop daily stream flow record and to calculate loads.

Clark also reported that Avista is funding the installation and operation of satellite telemetry at the gaging station on the Spokane River near Post Falls. This will provide hourly (realtime) stream flow and gage height information from the gage and make it available to the public on the USGS webpage. The USGS realtime flow data is available at the following weblink:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow> . This site has information about the following stations relevant to the Bunker Hill Superfund Site:

- North Fork CDA River at Enaville
- Canyon Creek at Wallace
- East Fork Pine Creek above Gilbert near Pinehurst
- East Fork Creek above Nabob near Pinehurst
- Pine Creek below Amy Gulch
- CDA River near Cataldo
- St. Joe near Chatcolet
- Spokane River near outlet

The USGS realtime flow data is used by NOAA's National Weather Service to present an "Advanced Hydrologic Prediction" which shows the hydrographic and predicted near future river stages and flows. This is particularly interesting during high water events. The information is available at the following weblink:

[http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/river.php?wfo=otx&wfoid=18722&riverid=203457&view=1%2C1%2C1%2C1%2C1&pt%5B%5D=all&allpoints=143991%2C141919%2C145246%2C143957&data%5B%5D=hydrograph&submit=Make+my+River+Page%21](http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/river.php?wfo=otx&wfoid=18722&riverid=203457&view=1%2C1%2C1%2C1%2C1%2C1&pt%5B%5D=all&allpoints=143991%2C141919%2C145246%2C143957&data%5B%5D=hydrograph&submit=Make+my+River+Page%21) .

Beckwith suggested that it would be good if there was a gage for temperature. Clark agreed that having temperature info would be useful and brought up Silver Creek in southern Idaho as an example. He indicated that Silver Creek is a high desert, cold spring that flows at the base of the Picabo Hills. The Nature Conservancy owns the property and the creek supports a world-class fishery. Clark pointed out that the temperature in the creek fluctuates between 8 and 10 degrees and that no one seemed to know about the fluctuation, not even the Nature Conservancy.

Jeri DeLange asked Clark if he knew the reason for the temperature fluctuations in the water at Silver Creek. Clark answered that the creek was fed by springs from the aquifer in which the water was very cold. In addition, there are also some retention ponds on the main stream which he thought may have thermal heating spilling up and over into the stagnant water bodies. However, the temperature fluctuations did not appear to be having a significant impact on the fish as they did some electro-shocking and were pulling out five and six pound fish.

Dailey thanked Clark for participating on the call. Clark suggested that if anyone would like to go out with him to see some of the Basin water quality sampling, to please contact him or the Post Falls field office. He mentioned that they are using new equipment which is more accurate and that he would be willing to coordinate a field trip. Beckwith indicated his interest to Clark and commented that some people do not understand why all of the data is collected, but emphasized that the decisions made are only as good as the data. Clark also remarked that you need to be able to trust in how the data is collected and not assume that the data is good.

Round Table:

Harwood: Mentioned that he developed a draft white paper on contaminant management issues. He indicated that he will share the draft with the PFT after he has a few people review it. Then he plans to call a meeting before the next BEIPC meeting in August for the PFT to discuss it.

He also reported that he tried to attend a water adjudication meeting in Sandpoint last night, but that the building only had enough room for about 100 people. He said that approximately 300 people showed up and some were disruptive. A few of them also suggested that the meeting was set up that way to discourage public input. Harwood said that the meeting was eventually closed down by the fire marshals, but that another meeting will be scheduled after a new location is found to accommodate everyone. He added that he planned to attend the water adjudication meeting scheduled in Plummer tonight, but that he was not sure if they would encounter the same problem as Sandpoint and not have enough room for everyone.

Harwood said that someone had commented to him that people were extremely interested in the aquifer and the issue of metals contamination. Rog Hardy asked Harwood about what recommendation would be made to the BEIPC for its role. Harwood responded that he was going to attend the meeting and bring back a report because one of the topics was about metals loading from the Spokane River and CDA Lake. The Lake and Spokane River at the Post Falls Dam to the confluence of Flora Road in Spokane is the greatest inflow of any source for aquifer recharge. He indicated that this was why he wanted to attend the meeting in Sandpoint and why he planned to attend tonight's meeting in Plummer.

Clark: Confirmed that the Spokane River and Lake are a huge source of recharge to the aquifer, but that only a trace of metals (i.e. zinc) shows up. He clarified that it goes in and goes out within a minimal distance and does not spread throughout the aquifer. He also indicated that there is no presence of lead at all. Clark mentioned that the USGS has publications on this topic and noted one report in particular: "*Surface-Water/Ground-Water Interaction of the Spokane River and the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, Idaho and Washington*".

Harwood: Reiterated that a lot of people are concerned about contaminated material getting into the aquifer from activities such as dredging at Blackwell Island and the pilings that are being driven into the Lake bottom for the new bridge at Harrison. Clark said that there are trace metals that may go into the aquifer, but clarified they do flow back out. Harwood brought up that he had heard there may be a few closed wells in the Post Falls area due to zinc influence and that he was going to check into it. He also informed everyone that he would be out of the office on June 25 and 26.

Connolly: Asked Harwood about the status of the contaminant management document. Harwood replied that he had been asked to prepare a white paper and that he used data gathered from the PFT as well as the Corps of Engineers, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Kootenai and Benewah counties (i.e. building codes and zoning ordinances) and other regulations such as the navigable and harbors act. He indicated that he wanted feedback from a few peers before he sends it out to the PFT. Hardy inquired who Harwood had sent the draft out to. Harwood answered that it was a few people from the EPA, State of Idaho, State of Washington, CDA Tribe, and BEIPC Chair,

Jon Cantamessa. He also talked with the Washington Department of Ecology who indicated that people were concerned that dredging may cause contamination to be washed downstream to Washington; and that there was also a potential for dredging for deep draft boats as developers want bigger boats for the bays. Harwood said that he was not sure how much the BEIPC should be involved in, but that he thought he would attend the meetings to find out additional information.

Hardy: Brought up that on the last TLG call, Rebecca Stevens had commented about playing a role in the Basin Bulletin newsletter. Dailey clarified that (as it has been in the past) the EPA puts together the Basin Bulletin and requests various parties to submit articles. She explained that the EPA has a long list of parties in the Basin that they notify (i.e. CDA Tribe, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources, etc.); and that these parties share information which may be included in an article. Dailey pointed out that the Tribe is involved in this process as well as the other parties on the list and suggested that the clarification be put in the notes. Hardy remarked that one of the reasons he brought this up was because some of the articles are rejected; and that he would like to see the bulletin more balanced. Dailey responded that nothing has changed and that anyone is welcome to submit articles. Hardy suggested that it would be good to get other citizen participation. He also noted that the Governor made a brief visit at the BEIPC meeting in May.

Hardy then indicated that he had not received any emails lately regarding two of the PFTs for recreational areas and repositories. Harwood responded that he and Mark Masarik (EPA) were trying to figure out what type of meeting to have to develop an overall plan for recreational areas in the lower Basin and for the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. He said that the public continues to use areas for recreation that are contaminated. He stressed that a lot of people are not sure where to go. Harwood said that he will ask the BEIPC what they want to do on this issue. In regards to repositories, Harwood mentioned that Ed Moreen was putting together a meeting. Hardy stated that development of the repository in Cataldo should be developed in coordination with remediation of the adjacent mine acreage. Dailey answered that the land is owned by Asarco and that it is currently tied up in litigation. Hardy suggested that it may take the State Legislators and Governor to try to change the repository location.

Connolly: Inquired whether the East Mission Flats repository tour was still on. Dailey replied that it will be held on June 22 and will start at 11:00 a.m.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 6/28/07.

Thank you for your participation.