

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Spokesman Review Building (1st Floor Conference Room)
608 Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, ID

Attendees:

Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe	Mike Stevenson, BLM
Nick Zilka, Citizen	Sandra Raskell, CDA Tribe
Terry Harwood, BEIPC	Rob Hanson, IDEQ
Rusty Sheppard, Kootenai County TLG Rep.	Ed Moreen, EPA
Dave George, WA Dept. of Ecology	Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe
Todd Bragdon, CDM	Jim Stefanoff, CH2M Hill
Ron Abramovich, NRCS (Boise)	Glen Rothrock, IDEQ
Martin Carlson, CDM	Anne Dailey, EPA
Don Carpentar, IDEQ (Boise)	Miles Benker, IDFG
Katherine Bowden, NWS	Paul Burnet, CH2M Hill
Chris Mebane, USGS	Craig Sauer, CH2M Hill
Greg Clark, USGS	Steve Box, USGS
Kate Healy, USFWS	Bill Rust, Shoshone County TLG Rep.
Brian Spears, USFWS	Bill Adams, EPA
Jan Olsen, IDEQ	Denna Grangaard, IDEQ
Jeff Johnson, BLM	Jeri DeLange, BEIPC (Note-Taker)
Mr. Andy Mork, IDEQ	

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, Ms. Rebecca Stevens, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. She announced a few changes to the order of agenda items, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Draft TLG Conference Call/Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2011: Ms. Stevens asked if there were any changes or corrections to the draft TLG minutes of February 3, 2011. Mr. Dave George made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kate Healy and approved.

BEIPC Executive Director Update: Mr. Terry Harwood provided an update about BEIPC activities. He is working on a road remediation program with a separate group including Bill Ryan (EPA), TerraGraphics and others. The roads program will address maintenance and repair issues for protection of the remedy as some of the road surfaces serve as barriers for areas contaminated with waste material. Funding will need to be provided and there will also need to be someone responsible for the program.

Ms. Stevens brought up sewer issues and suggested that cracks in the roads may allow roots to get into the sewer. Mr. Harwood replied that the sewer is not part of the remedial barrier, so they are not going to replace any water and sewer lines. There is also no funding in Superfund to do

water or sewer. He put a stimulus package together for the State, and the Central Shoshone Water District received funding for one project, but that's all. They can only do what can be done with the funding available.

Mr. Harwood added that he and Mr. Ryan are working with a consultant on a strategic plan. Funding for road work in the Box will have to come from outside of the Trust because there is no funding for the Box work yet. Levees are another issue. He mentioned that there was a meeting in Seattle earlier in the year with the EPA, State of Idaho, Corps of Engineers (COE), Homeland Security, etc. regarding flood control. When FEMA did the new flood maps they assumed that a levee is not there if it's not certified, so some people are required to purchase flood insurance who did not have to do so previously. Since then, FEMA has come out with a new policy that takes into account the levees and existing structures to determine if they are adequate. However, they will not go back and redo the maps unless we can show that the maps are incorrect. He indicated that he has been working on trying to get funding for the COE to do a flood analysis. The cost is about \$4 million.

Mr. Bill Rust said that in his view the biggest ROD amendment issue is stream channel remediation. He questioned why the preliminary flood analysis is not part of it, and why this core analysis is not part of the remedial plan. Mr. Harwood answered that only 50% may be funded federally, the other 50% must be paid by a sponsor. His opinion is it will be difficult to do any remedies in the river until an analysis is completed because you don't know what the remedies may do to the river hydraulics. He also wants to take a look at side drainages and hopes to have a list of remedy protection projects before the ROD amendment comes out. The ROD has identified required funding for this work and the CDA Trustee will be able to work on projects in OU-3 that make a lot of sense.

Mr. Harwood gave a brief update on repositories. At East Mission Flats (EMF), the plan is to build the berm up to an elevation of 2,140 ft. on the finished edge of the repository. Then they won't need to clear all the trees off the footprint of the repository. The EMF repository will open first this year, then the north face of the Big Creek repository will be expanded. For the new Osburn tailings impoundment repository, Mr. Mork is working to move the access road out of the community.

Communications PFT Update: Ms. Jeri DeLange provided a Communications PFT update. She announced that the Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) survey has been posted online to the Basin Commission website. The form is fillable electronically, but must be saved in order to email it back. The information collected will be used to help provide better opportunities for citizen participation within the CCC and public education/outreach in the BEIPC/CCC process. (All personal information will be kept confidential). The survey may also be printed and returned by mail. She encouraged everyone to participate. For BEIPC/CCC public education and outreach, the Communications PFT will again be helping to sponsor a joint fair booth with IDEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe at the North Idaho Fair.

Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update: Ms. Rebecca Stevens informed everyone about the upcoming community workshop on Coeur d'Alene Lake water quality that

will be held on May 4th at the CDA Library. There will be hands-on science instruments and exhibits for the public such as microscopes, sampling tools to collect aquatic weeds such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, phytoplankton samples, etc. Limnologists from both the State and Tribe will make PowerPoint presentations and answer questions. Ms. Stevens and Mr. Glen Rothrock (IDEQ) are sponsoring the workshop for public education and outreach as identified in the LMP. They have been advertising it heavily in the press, online, etc. She noted that Ms. Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe) has created a Facebook page about the LMP to provide general information and updates.

Presentation on SNOTEL Network and Rain-On-Snow Modeling: Mr. Ron Abramovich, Snow Survey Specialist with the Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) made a presentation on the Idaho Snow Survey Network or SNOTEL (SNOWpack TELEmetry) and rain-on-snow modeling. The system is used to collect data on snowpack and other key climatic indicators that lead to rain and snow events. Data will be used to look at trends and forecasting future water budgets.

Nominations for TLG Officers: Ms. Stevens suggested that TLG members be thinking of nominations for TLG officers later in the meeting. She mentioned that the TLG Vice-Chair, Mr. Kenny Hicks, submitted a resignation letter as he is working for the CDA Trust and will no longer be the Shoshone County TLG representative.

Break

ROD Amendment Update: Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) gave an update on the ROD Amendment. He said that EPA is looking at possible changes to the plan such as removing the liner within the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. If removed from the amendment, this proposed remedy would reduce the cost by \$350 million. They will still need to do some removals along the South Fork in Ninemile Creek and Canyon Creek to reduce particulate levels. The estimated cost of removal work in the South Fork and remedy protection is about \$400 million. They are also starting to take a look at aquatic benchmarks and working with the Natural Resource Trustees to establish some benchmarks for fisheries and water quality criteria.

TLG members discussed various issues associated with the ROD Amendment such as using the CDA Trust for cleanup; developing a more focused strategy in Osburn for a groundwater collection system, using other options to reduce loading in Osburn such as installing extraction wells, etc.

Mr. Adams noted that EPA is working on the response to comments and that the response and summary will be part of the ROD Amendment. As they get further along, they will try to inform the public of certain things, so the ROD Amendment will not be a total surprise. They hope to complete the document before December 2011. Regarding the CDA Trust, he indicated that Mr. Dan Meyer is the project manager and contact for field work. The Trust office is located in the Upper Basin south of the Big Creek Repository. EPA is hopeful that there will be a settlement with Hecla soon.

Upper Basin PFT Update: Mr. Adams provided a brief update on the Upper Basin PFT. The PFT will move forward on implementation planning; however, they do not know the full picture as different funding, priorities, water treatment issues, etc. still need to be balanced out. They will do this through the PFT process. Ms. Anne Dailey added that there will be a PFT subcommittee meeting tomorrow. EPA has done a series of these on how to address some of the comments such as some of the mine and mill sites that may not need to be in the decision document. They are working with the PFT on how to make refinements. There is strong consensus to go out and look at a number of sites and do sampling this summer. This will be discussed in further detail at tomorrow's subcommittee meeting. Essentially the plan would be to sample approximately 95 sites and then determine a basis for whether those sites stay in the decision document. The list would be further refined by mineral discovery, etc. They recognize that a lot of sites are located in drainages with snowpack, so they may have to wait until later in May to begin sampling.

Election of TLG Officers: Mr. Dave George nominated Ms. Stevens for the position of TLG Chair. Ms. Kate Healy seconded the motion; and the motion was approved. Mr. Mike Stevenson volunteered to serve as the Vice-Chair. Ms. Jan Olsen made a motion to nominate Mr. Stevenson; and it was seconded by Mr. Bill Rust. The motion was approved.

Lunch

Toxicity Predictions in the South Fork CDA River Presentation: Mr. Christopher Mebane (USGS) gave a presentation on toxicity predictions for aquatic life on site specific criteria (SSC) related to cadmium, lead, and zinc in the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene (SFCDA) River watershed. In lieu of EPA national criteria, the concept was to develop SSC based solely on the sensitivity of organisms resident to the SFCDA watershed. The data requirements were almost the same as developing nationwide EPA criteria requirements for "acute" (short-term) and "chronic" (long-term) toxicity. Findings show that fish are more sensitive to metals than insects. The sampling results also show that zinc and lead are not as toxic to fish as cadmium, so the SSC for cadmium may need to be changed. However, in different testing locations, there were different results depending upon soft or hard water in combination with varying levels of metals. Data collected will be used to evaluate whether the SSC is protective of sensitive species in the South Fork.

Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) Update and Discussion: Mr. Bill Adams said that EPA is modifying the BEMP by consolidating the OU-2 and OU-3 data for environmental monitoring into one document. EPA's consultant, Mr. Craig Sauer (CH2M Hill) then provided an update on the statistical analyses for the revised BEMP. The plan is a sampling program from the headwaters of the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River all the way to the Washington state line. The results will be used to assess long-term trends, changes, and the status of ecological conditions in the Basin to improve the effectiveness of the BEMP. Mr. Sauer gave an overview of the key revisions for monitoring of surface water, groundwater, sediment, and biological resources. EPA hopes to have the draft revised plan completed by mid-June.

Break

BEMP Surface Water Monitoring: Mr. Greg Clark (USGS) presented information on the recent rain-on-snow event in January 2011, and the trace metal transport based on the 2005-2010 water quality data. He indicated that storm events continue to deliver large quantities of cadmium, lead, and zinc to Coeur d'Alene Lake. Lead transport really takes off during peak flows. Overall, zinc and cadmium levels have decreased since the early 1990s, but concentrations of lead (particularly at Harrison) have not decreased to the same extent. He pointed out that 95% of the lead transport is staying in the Lake.

BEMP Sediment Program: Mr. Paul Burnet (CH2M Hill) reported on the sampling results of suspended and depositional sediment data; and other data collection efforts regarding bed material, bank erosion, and a digital terrain model

During TLG discussion of sampling results, Mr. Harwood brought up that people think the high lead level concentrations at Harrison are a result of the East Mission Flats (EMF) repository being constructed at Cataldo due to some misinformation presented by different groups. He clarified that the disposal of waste material at EMF is not moving.

TLG members then discussed bank erosion issues and streambank stabilization. Mr. Bill Rust pointed out that you have to know what you are going to do with the banks before you can work on the channels.

Lower Basin Update: Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) provided an update on the Lower Basin Enhanced Conceptual Model (ECSM) and how sediment sampling is fitting in. The ECSM is a series of technical memos on hydrology, geochemistry, sediment transport, etc. A synopsis is posted on the BEIPC website at: <http://www.basincommission.com/PFT/LowerBasin/Synopsis.pdf>

The focus of the ECSM is Basin dynamics. EPA is now working on data gathering for developing the computational models that will be used as a tool in decision making for cleanup actions in the Lower Basin.

Repository Program Update: Mr. Andy Mork provided an update on the repository program. IDEQ is now working on the 30% design report for the Osburn repository. It is anticipated that the report will be released in the fall of 2011. After an informal public review and comment period, they will do the 90% design. Capacity will be about 1 million cubic yards and the waste height will be 30 to 50 feet above the current elevation.

For the north expansion at the Big Creek repository, he mentioned that they are almost done with the design. There will be no formal public design review or comment because they own the existing repository and ground. They have been giving public updates at the BEIPC, TLG and CCC meetings; and additional updates will be provided as construction continues. The next Repository PFT meeting will be May 13, 2011.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Ms. Stevens adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.