

**Coeur d'Alene Basin Technical Leadership Group Conference Call
March 6, 2003; 8:00 – 9:00 AM PST**

Attendees:

Paul Woods, USGS (note taker); Phil Cernera, CDA Tribe; Anne Dailey, EPA; Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane; Dan Audet, USFWS; Dave Fortier, BLM; Mike Schlepp, CCC; Ed Moreen, COE; Bill Rust, Shoshone County; Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe; Frank Frutchy, CCC; Kathy Johnson, consultant; Stan Miller, Spokane County; Luke Russell, IDEQ; Nick Zilka, IDEQ; John Snider, Kootenai County.

Future TLG meeting note takers:

Kathy Johnson, 3/13; Phil Cernera; 3/20; Ed Marine, 3/27.

Upcoming Events:

No major meetings noted.

Reminder: Closing date for comments on Lake Management Plan is March 25, 2003.

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion of the “strawman” document for the Five-Year Plan was introduced by Phil Cernera; a lengthy discussion ensued. Three of the major points to come out of the discussion were: 1) the need to establish a long-term view of how remediation actions might proceed over thirty years; 2) an improved evaluation matrix is needed to help prioritize projects in both the short- and long-term; and 3) the initial five-year plan should evolve from the long-term view within the 30-year plan. Details of the discussion are as follows. The people who developed remedial actions for the RI (EPA, URS, IDEQ, Tribes) can contribute to this planning effort. The document should establish “sideboards” for the 30-year plan and provide guidance on priorities between human health and ecological health issues. Assistance from the counties would be quite beneficial and give them a voice in planning. Bill Rust volunteered as Shoshone County representative; Dave Fortier offered help with maps. The long-term plan need not be detail-oriented, whereas the five-year plan does need to be a detailed evaluation of projects. Related to that detail, the Commission has requested development of a more robust evaluation matrix for scoring projects. One of the improvements should be addition of weighting factors. It was suggested that the group that developed the original evaluation matrix reconvene so they can provide input in the 5-year and 30-year planning process. Concern was expressed that the impending NAS review of the RI/FS might change remediation plans. The suggested remedy to that concern was using the adaptive management approach throughout the life of the ROD implementation. In a similar manner, cleanup actions within the Box will affect project planning in OU3. If Box actions are properly tracked and coordinated, the adaptive management approach should allow flexibility in planning and prioritization of projects in OU3. Cernera suggested that a small focus group discuss development of the “strawman” document; they would confer on a conference call set up on Thursday, March 13 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. PST. Kathy Johnson will compile what exists today and send to small group for review before the call. The larger TLG would then meet sometime in April to start development of the 5-year plan as well as the longer-term plan.

2. Discussion of site-specific water-quality criteria was introduced by Phil Cernera. Nick Zilka stated that newspaper articles noted that the site-specific water-quality criteria for metals had been adopted by EPA for the SFCDR. Criteria for zinc went up substantially while those for cadmium changed little. The question was raised about how ARARs might be affected by these new criteria; no response yet.

Round Robin Updates:

From Nick Zilka-IDEQ, Terragraphics, and BLM are holding discussions of riparian planting strategies that could be used on the SFCDR.

From Phil Cernera-Streambank met at CDA Tribal office in CDA last Monday. Group decided to proceed with inventory of potential remediation sites on lower CDA and St. Joe Rivers. On-the-ground inventory scheduled for week of March 17, weather permitting. A QAT, or Qualitative Assurance Team, will accompany the inventory staff.

From Luke Russell-Revisions being made to scope of work for Mullan I&I project. IDEQ has received Clean Water Act grant monies and will proceed with contracting for approved projects.

From Dan Audet-Results from the waterfowl feeding study will go out for review in April.

From Anne Dailey-A 1-1/2 hour call on the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) follows today's TLG call. Several CCC members have joined the PFT for the BEMP. The mine-waste technology project has started and will be performed by MSE and Dan Strawn of Univ. of Idaho.

From Ed Moreen-Ed will send out web-page information on how to coordinate with Army Corps of Engineers.

From Mike Schlepp-Reiterated that streambank inventory during week of March 17 is weather-dependent. He and Frank Frutchev plan to flag willow planting locations along lower Coeur d'Alene River that were established by SORE, Save Our River Environment, several years earlier.

From Paul Woods-Streamflow at real-time gages in Basin are about 50 percent of normal. Paul will provide via e-mail some data related to baseline conditions in CDA Lake.

Next Call:

Thursday, March 13, 8 AM PST. Call-in number is 206-553-4557 (no passcode).