

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
December 23, 2004

Participants:

Phillip Cernera
Randy Connolly
Dave George

Terry Harwood
John Perfect
Rob Spafford

Dave Sternberg
Mark Stromberg
Nick Zilka
Note taker: Holly LeBret

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:

1) Update of meeting on Lake Management Plan (LMP): Last week a meeting to discuss two issues, the LMP and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's application for Treatment as State (TAS), was held in Plummer, Idaho, at the Tribe's Council Chambers. The EPA was represented by Ann Clee (the head of EPA's legal department in Washington DC) and Ron Kreizenbeck. The State of Idaho was represented by Toni Hardesty, Gwen and Curt Fransen.

Regarding the TAS, a decision document is in draft form. Regarding the LMP, the state expressed that they are very interested in co-developing a final plan. The timing of the TAS decision will not be linked to the finalization of the LMP.

It was determined that funding should be easier to find to implement the LMP once a plan is written. DEQ is also in the process of getting a full-time person on board who will be their Lake Coordinator. There were discussions about how it is going to be implemented and what the Basin Commission's role will be.

2) Update on remaining CWA funds: The Tribe (as Chair to the TLG) developed a draft memo that will be forthcoming, recommending the Lake Management Plan Audit and the Lower River Sediment Model – Phase 2, for funding. During the meeting at Tribal Council, Toni Hardesty expressed that the State and EPA both value these projects.

3) Update of Terry Harwood's office: During the past week, Terry met with the County Basin Commissioners to get their point of view on things. Commissioner Dick Panabaker will be done on the 9th of January so Terry will meet with his replacement. He also met with the County TLG representative Bill Rust, who said that he is done with the TLG, but if he were paid he might stay. There was a discussion about members of the TLG who represent various parties and are paid for their time. Rob Spafford suggested the counties may look to universities or extension services, etc. for their expertise as representatives on the TLG. Phillip Cernera said that the Tribe, in part, put up some of their own money to provide representation. Terry Harwood said that the counties may not have engineering/scientific experts on staff and that he may bring it up at the workshop.

Harwood went on to give an update on hiring a new assistant, Jeri DeLange, who will report to work on January 3rd, 2005. One of the first work projects that he wants to see is a comprehensive report of all that has been done around the Basin, a compilation of all the work done as far as environmental removals and remediation. Nick Zilka commented that the EPA 5-year review will include a lot of that information. Cernera suggests adding the information to a GIS coverage of the area, an electronic map with points on coordinates where work has been done, that will bring up a report when clicked on. Harwood went on to speak about attention given the Basin Superfund cleanup on a national level. An EPA official recently gave a speech about “mega” CERCLA sites and talked a lot about the Basin. Also, the Washington Post had an article about CERCLA clean ups and referred to the Basin. It looks like the Federal Government will not provide additional funding so Harwood suggests we setup a group of people from various agencies to develop funding streams. Dave Sternberg will forward a link to a site that has a funding opportunity. It is an EPA grant to facilitate communications amongst agencies, specifically for state and tribal environmental work together.

4) Update on the Human Health Assessment from ATSDR: Cernera reviewed the report and stated that it down plays human health risks, especially in the Lateral Lakes and the lower Basin, and fails to adequately address Tribal subsistence uses. The report is out for public comment and he encourages everyone to review it and comment.

Round Table:

Nick Zilka: The bank stabilization project was ahead of schedule until about 2-weeks ago when the river level rose. They will restart on Monday, December 27, 2004. They are nearly done with the excavation, about two days of work left, and then they lay rock.

Rob Spafford: He asked John Perfect about the progress on the Harrison Bridge. Perfect responded that he hopes to get it out to bid this spring. Final design review is coming up in a couple of weeks. He will talk with the Tribal Cultural program about any excavation.

Schedule:

Workshop for the Basin Commission: January 19th, 2005, at the Coeur d’Alene Casino & Resort, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. TLG meetings are scheduled for the entire month of January.

Thank you for your participation.