

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

February 26, 2004

Participants:

Phillip Cernera	Rogers Hardy	Jana McCurdy
Rob Spafford	Ed Moreen	Rob Hanson
Luke Russell	Lloyd Brewer	Chuck Vita
Bill Rust	Rusty Sheppard	Jeff Johnson
John Roland	Anne Dailey	Randy Connolly
Bill Adams	Paul Woods	Ginny Dierich

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. Clean Water Act – Remaining \$180k:

Approximately \$180,000 of the 2003 CWA funding remains unallocated. The Basin Commission prompted the TLG to look again at the IDEQ/INEEL Canyon Creek Project. Bill Adams provided an update on the Water Treatment PFT's recommendation: That PFT has had two conference calls since the Basin Commission meeting. INEEL has revised and refined its proposal, and is getting closer to a proposal the PFT can agree on. The PFT feels it can go forward with a recommendation at this point, and work out details of sample location and methodology, with a package ready by the May deadline for grant application.

The current proposal differs from that presented earlier. In response to comments received, it is linked more closely to the ROD, it incorporates previous data from Canyon Creek, it better defines the questions to be answered, and it provides more detail on the sampling and analysis that is to be done.

Bill Rust summarized how the three Canyon Creek projects fit together:

- The INEEL project finds where the metals are and in what form.
- The hydrogeological studies determine how the metals move.
- The treatability study examines how to remove the metals from the water.

Adams reiterated the PFT's recommendation that the TLG recommend this project to the Basin Commission for funding from the 2003 CWA grant. The consensus of the TLG (those on the call) was to accept that recommendation.

2. CCC Update from the TLG:

The CCC meets March 10, and has asked for summaries from all of the PFTs. Cernera will poll PFT leads. Active PFTs at this time are these:

- Water Treatment
- Repository
- Stream Bank Stabilization,

- Monitoring,
- Human Health – Recreation Areas
- Human Health – Residential Yard Remediations

Cernera will also update the CCC on the Lower Basin Forum, the Lake Information and Education Program, and the latest CWA recommendation summary.

The CCC has requested that they be provided quarterly updates.

3. Potential for Another Basin Information Forum (BIF):

Recent technical papers and correspondence among TLG members and others, particularly with respect to benthic flux, has raised the question as to whether another BIF should be scheduled. The BIF was recalled as a place to air new information and discuss issues. It was suggested that Kuwabara and Balistrieri be invited to present updates on their work with benthic flux. Paul Woods noted he is preparing a response to Bill Rust's recent memo, and that there will be fewer issues than it may appear. Rog Hardy and others encouraged Rust to provide a bibliography citing his references.

The group decided to leave the scheduling of another BIF open for now, but to be open to a presentation by Kuwabara and Balistrieri.

4. Potential for Another Lower Basin Forum:

The group agreed to schedule another LBF. Discussion followed about Box/Bookstrum's availability. Woods noted their participation may fit under an existing EPA-USGS contract.

Various callers expressed an interest in gaining access to unpublished data. The big issue seems to be whether the higher proportion of contaminants that go to the Lake is from the bed, rather than the banks, of the river.

Action Item: Keep USGS involved, and get the data to be made available.

Anne Dailey will meet shortly with URS to assess progress on their effort to catalog available information.

The group agreed to hold off until next week scheduling another LBF.

Cernera noted the Coeur d'Alene Tribe will facilitate the LBF, and discussed the need to a work plan that identifies needed studies, and that shows how these will lead to "digging dirt". He sees the LBF developing a plan to recommend to the Basin Commission. Rust commented that an earlier step would be to develop a consistent conceptual model of the Lower Basin. Dailey Cautioned that the TLG needs to remember that RA funds are going to be used for Human Health components of the remedy first.

Round Table:

Luke Russell: Luke has met with Terragraphics about the memo from Pinehurst. Terragraphics will draft a rproposal.

Bill Rust: Nothing

John Roland: Nothing.

Rogers Hardy: Rog recommended moving the document repository that is at Harrison to the St. Maries Public Library.

Ed Moreen: Ed noted last week's notes were incorrect as to the date of the Repository PFT meeting. It will be March 16. Time and location are to be determined, although it will likely be in the Upper Basin.

Jana McCurdy: The CCC meeting will be March 10, at 6:30, at the Kellogg Middle School.

When preparing parts of the Basin Commission meeting packets, it helps if submissions are numbered.

She has received requests from the public to publicize all meetings, including agency to agency meetings. Discussion followed that there is an almost constant flow of "ad hoc" discussions and get-togethers between and among agency staffs. It was agreed that a common sense approach would be used in publicizing meetings, and that attempts would be made to make the public aware of agency training opportunities.

Lloyd Brewer: The WCAC has a tentative meeting date set for March 25.

Randy Connolloy: He is not comfortable moving forward with the INEEL project without the TLG having fuller understanding and involvement. He feels the project is still too undefined and that the INEEL still lacks understanding about the site.

Jeff Johnson: Nothing.

Anne Dailey: The Basin Monitoring Plan is moving forward. If anyone wants paper copies, let her know. She will try to make it available on CD. She also reported the Recreation Areas work is moving forward. The PFT will meet with ITD in March.

Rusty Sheppard: Rusty asked if there was any news from the Stream Bank PFT. No one had heard any.

Ginny Dierich: One stream bankk issue is USACE's involvement. Funding for the regulatory arm is limited, and those in that office also need to remain separate and distinct from the planning effort. That said, she reported that Greg Raynor has offered to strategize with project proponents on a "pre-project meeting basis", from time to time, but not on a regular basis.

Rob Hanson: Rob noted that Nick Zilka has done similar coordination with the USFWS.

Rebecca Stevens: Nothing.

Chuck Vita: Chuck reported that RFPs have gone to the laboratories for analysis related to the Canyon Creek treatability study. He expects responses Monday.

Thank you for your participation.