

BEIPC/Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) Meeting

April 18, 2018, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Medicine Mountain Grange Hall, Medimont, Idaho

Jerry Boyd, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Introductions of Attendees:

Each attendee introduced themselves. Signed in attendees included Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair), Jamie Brunner (IDEQ), Craig Cameron (EPA), Glory Carlile (BEIPC, note taker), Chip Corsi (IDFG), Julie Dalsaso (citizen), Jack Domit (Spokane River Assn.), Larry Donohoe (citizen), Bonnie Douglas (citizen), Lee First (citizen), David Fortier (citizen), Rene Gilbert (EPA), Terry Harwood (BEIPC E.D.), Any Helkey (PHD), David LePard (citizen), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Ed Moreen (EPA), Kim Prestbo (EPA), Sandra Raskell (TLG Chair, CDA Tribe), Susan Rodgers, (St. Maries Gazette), WC Rust (citizen), Rusty Shepard (CDA Lake Shore Owners Assn.), Ben and Monica Sheppard (citizens), Susan Spalinger (Alta), Ron Streeter (citizen), Jamie Sturgess (citizen), Kajsa Van de Riet (IDEQ), and Bob Witherow (IDEQ)

Citizen Discussion of Issues and Concerns

Julie Dalsaso asked about updating health warnings about lead for new residents and for the Spokane River area. Andy Helkey said that he does not have jurisdictional authority in the Spokane River area and he will be sharing more information and updates in his presentation.

Craig Cameron answered a question about replacement of Bill Adams retiring from EPA. He said that there will not be a team leader replacement but they will have more project team members for an expanded team. Anyone with questions or issue should go to the project manager first. Harwood said that anyone who has a question about who to contact to get ahold of him and he can direct them to the right spot.

Presentation of Blood Lead Report by Andy Helkey, Panhandle Health District.

Andy Helkey gave a presentation of the 2017 Blood Lead Report and noted that the results in the report are from the one week period of annual screening in August. He shared the process of testing including consent form, venous draw, and follow up screening. Jamie Sturgess asked about the week in August incentive vs. year round. Helkey answered that very few test during the rest of the year and the incentive amount is only in that one week. Helkey added that overall there is a decreased blood lead level over time and overall participation increase. An optional survey question also revealed that there is a higher salary range in participant households. Changes in marketing and using social media helped to get the word out.

The report showed that the route of exposure is mainly through absorption, at risk populations are children and pregnant women, and that health effects are higher in children.

Helkey gave many examples of identified sources noting the strong recreational and occupational links. Other contributing factors to higher numbers included antique jewelry and lead based paint products.

Things being done:

They are working on signage and trying to make them relevant to the spot they are in the area site. Since the river changes every year, they have developed temporary signs in public recreation areas that change to the site area.

They are working with the University of ID in education programs and have developed, for example, a video game geared to a higher age group. They also held a Pediatric Lead exposure seminar.

Restoration Partnership and Restoration Plan

Kajsa Van de Riet (IDEQ) and Chip Corsi (IDFG) presented updates discussing Restoration Partnership.

Chip Corsi gave a little background history of the impact of mining activities and other things that injured natural resources, fish and wildlife and water quality. He said that they are at a key point in the restoration work process. Restoration process included litigation, settlements, restoration partnership, plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and developing an implementation plan.

Bill Rust asked about the settlement for the environmental restoration. Corsi said that there is about \$143 M in just the environmental restoration.

Kajsa Van de Riet reported on the restoration action and the cleanup showing examples with the focus on the CDA Basin. Projects focus is on ecosystems restoration and habitants. The focal species chosen is the native trout and waterfowl. Human focus is on ecological restoration and/or human use projects and the ways people are using these environments. She gave past project examples under the interim plan that give an idea of what they are looking for in bigger and better future projects. Next steps include open house meetings in May in Kellogg, Osburn, and St. Maries, solicitation for project applications that anyone is eligible to apply but must fit the plan and selection criteria. Trustees will then review, evaluate and select projects for funding.

Jamie Sturgess asked if there will be a restricted time to apply or is it open. Corsi said that the timeline has not been determined yet but they are thinking of opening solicitation July 1 and closing the timeframe in September. They are considering having a rigid flexibility approach for applications. Sturgess asked about the amount of grants and the minimum and maximum of dollars. Corsi said that ranking projects will fall in the tier priority and matching funds or partnering would certainly help the application score better. Corsi added that they also seek opportunities with EPA to “piggyback” on remedial actions so that there will not be duplicate projects. There also will be technical people available and volunteer and in-kind work may count as a match.

Rust said it looks like a large amount of the projects will be on public property but Corsi said that some will be on private land. The big challenge is to not restore areas that will most likely be re-contaminated.

Harwood added that we are using environmental covenants with property owners for cleanup actions that are recorded on the deeds of the property at the courthouse.

Van de Riet announced that there is a Restoration Partnership website where the plan can be viewed at www.RestorationPartnership.org

Groundwater Monitoring update Repositories Report – Craig Cameron, EPA

Craig Cameron (EPA) gave an update on CDA Basin Repository Monitoring beginning with East Mission Flats Repository Monitoring noting the following:

- EMF historically impacted by flood disposition of contaminants in the sediment from the river.
- They adopted 2 suggestions for the addition of two more monitoring wells.
- Found that barrier construction on repositories is not as important as the compaction of the waste material.
- Big Creek has an annex that was added a few years ago that expanded the capacity.
- Big Creek repository /Annex monitoring: Data provides no indication that repository contaminants are moving off the site.
- Lower Burke Canyon Repository: They are considering additional ways to monitor.
- SVNRT and Canyon Creek Repository (CCR): will address the groundwater flow.
- Page Repository is being expanded to the west.

Harwood shared that the repositories are available for the community in the Institutional Control Program (ICP) to dispose of waste. Boyd added that land owners and developers should be aware of the ICP and the opportunity to use these repositories.

Cameron shared that the Limited Use Repositories, Government Gulch, Zanetti Yard, and East Osburn closed in 2017 and that the Community Fill Plan (CFP) use has been mostly taking the waste from the roads remediation.

Update on Lower Basin Work Planning – Ed Moreen/Kim Prestbo, EPA

Ed Moreen (EPA) gave highlights of 2017 of flood sampling and coring to show where they think the lead is predominantly coming from and what the other sources are into the lower basin.

Sediment and Lead Budget summary:

Flux Lead in Cataldo is about 14% going out at Harrison and bank erosion is about 13% and bed erosion about 73%. He showed the source of greater sediment flux into Cataldo as compared to lead flux in. In March 2017 Flood – Suspended sediment sampling they found that the general trend upstream to downstream was that the lead concentration jumps up and stays pretty consistent to Harrison and into the Lake. The Dudley Reach Coring 2017 purpose was to supplement and corroborate 2013 coring data and it showed high concentrations of lead on surface in scour holes.

Depositional Tiles Project Update

Kim Prestbo (EPA) talked about the modeling work that has been done and depositional tiles wetlands project that showed relatively low amounts of sediment deposited in low-flow off-channel areas. They used information for the modeling update and running trial model applications and testing and to identify high concentration areas and high erosion potential.

In the past year they have completed Lower Basin Strategic Plan with the 4 goals as a starting point for implementation of pilot projects. The goals for cleanup are to reduce risks for people and wildlife, control sources of contamination, and to promote long-term stewardship.

They have developed a Technical Work Group from various agencies with common themes. They all recognize the funding realities and where we are at. The working evaluation process included defining the important criteria, and to come up with an overall measure of performance as well as an observable outcome.

They will be running these proposals through the Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) to note the prioritization and the factors that play into decision making. The evaluation criteria will include how the project will protect human health, prevent recontamination, ensure protection of wildlife, and the ease of implementation.

The next steps will be a Lower Basin stakeholders meeting in June and to develop proposals.

Presentation of Lower Basin proposal by Jaimie Sturgess

Jamie Burgess introduced his presentation by showing a short video about an application to stabilize sediment on the bottom of a lake that was done by the Fish and Game department. The idea was to provide gravel to promote spawning for Kokanee fish. Sturgess showed the video because the idea was brought up years ago. He added that Bill Rust proposed it also in 2012 and we're still in the same place.

This proposal prepared by Jamie Sturgess, Kootenai County citizen and Bill Rust, Shoshone County citizen was presented as an update of one presented in June 2012. Not much has changed in the lower basin including that river banks still erode contaminants into the water and that the CDA River sediments still exceed cleanup goals. EPA continues to study streambed and streambank contamination.

Although some human health remediation has been done, studies confirm downstream movement of contaminated sediments with every major runoff event and public and ecological risks still exist in the Lower Basin.

The 2001 Feasibility Study and Cleanup Alternate review in 2005 by the National Academy Science stated that if mobilization of the riverbed bottom sediments is not prevented then further remediation is essentially useless because it will be re-contaminated.

Sturgess then reviewed streambank stabilization in the NRCS Design with a CDA River example of round rock gradation that showed that it can be done, is not too expensive, it is durable against boat wakes, and eliminates future bank sources of remobilized sediments.

Sturgess proposes that in River Bottom Stabilization that if a rock layer will prevent erosion of a river bank than it will prevent erosion of the stream bottom. He showed a graph of a typical cross section although there are varied levels and feels it is viable and affordable through the CDA Trust. His presentation is for a three mile project proposal to armor the river bottom starting at Dudley Reach at an estimated cost of under \$10 million. Particle size vs flow velocity will stabilize the sediment at the bottom of the stream.

Results would include the following:

Stop remobilization of the contaminated bank and bed sediments to reduce the lead that is in the Lake. . This will reduce the lead content in floodplain deposition, will reduce lead transport into the lakes and the lead at the beaches will also be reduced. Harwood added that the banks be taken care of at the same time to take care of the bed and bank at the same time.

Sturgess said that the timing to tackle the lower basin is helped by the work being done at the Central Treatment Plant which will control seepage water quality. Concepts and Issues in the proposal will consider: Questions, Effects, Permanence, Consequences, Construction period, and Measure of Success. Sturgess concluded the presentation with the hopes that there is a Pilot Project contract in a year and feasible to begin work in 2020 – 2022. Bill Rust added that this proposal is a pilot plan to demonstrate the work that can be done.

Julie Dalsaso asked if it was a pilot project and the area it pertained to. It was answered that it is under Operable Unit 3 in the Lower Basin under the ROD Cleanup part.

Moreen reviewed the process of getting a pilot project even started and the steps include a lot of planning and testing, a model to be run, budget planning, and approval and coordination with other agencies. There is no quick way to get to an end point but to go through the pilot project process is a way to begin to see if it can be done or not.

Boyd asked about input about the location of the Lower Basin meeting in June and perhaps to talk more about pilot projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.