

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2018, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Wallace Inn, Idaho

These minutes are summary notes of the reports and presentations and are intended to capture key topics and issues, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of discussions or individual quotes.

Attendees:

Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Jack Buell (Benewah County), Phillip Cernera (CDA Tribe), Marc Eberlein (Kootenai County), Chris Hladick (EPA), Grant Pfeifer (WA State), and John Tippetts (State of Idaho).

Staff present:

Glory Carlile (BEIPC Assistant to E.D, Note taker), Ed Moreen (EPA), Dan McCracken (IDEQ)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Buell at 9:30 a.m. followed by the flag salute.

Sheryl Bilbrey introduced Chris Hladick who serves as the new EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator and representing the Federal Government on the Basin Commission board.

Approve Minutes from May 23, 2018 Meeting

Marc Eberlein moved and Grant Pfeifer 2nd to approve the May 23, 2018 meeting minutes. M/S/C

Discussion of BEIPC Organizational Practices and Procedures as revised on May 23, 2018.

Terry Harwood reviewed the addition to the updated document included in the packet. Direction to the BEIPC office to contact Basin Commission Chair before dealing with outside issues has been added to the policies and procedures.

Presentation on St. Maries Creosote Cleanup Project by Dr. Laura Buelow, EPA

Dr. Laura Buelow, Project Manager of the St. Maries Creosote site, gave a summary report of the Superfund site cleanup project. She outlined the EPA's oversight of the cleanup project which included excavation and dredging of creosote contaminated soils and sediments. The remedy consisted of 4 phases:

Phase 1 was construction of the following items: de-watering pad, floodwater barrier, installation of a perimeter slurry wall.. On the upland soils, in-situ remediation was completed by injecting slurry through an auger or by bucket mixing. These remediated soils will then solidify and hold contamination on-site.

Phase 2 included the following items: log and debris removal, installing sheet pile wall, dredging of sediment, backfill in the river., bank restoration work, and construct phase 2 de-watering pad.

Phase 3 included the following: offshore sediment removal, dredging and backfill, and thermal treatment to remove the contaminant from the soil and sediments.

Phase 4, the last phase, included the final grading of the site, final bank restoration, and initial site monitoring. Final grading and revegetation was completed April 2018. Next Steps include groundwater sampling and monitoring to be done quarterly. This will determine if the remedies are effective.

Comments/questions

Phillip Cernera commented on the process and congratulated the accomplishment but noted that it took 18 years to finally get this going. He asked about the cost of the project. Jack Buell added that they knew this had to be addressed.

Laura Buelow answered the cost of the project question. Originally the cost estimate was \$12M then the estimate went up to \$24M plus. Sandra Raskell said that storm water pipes had to be relocated and the site constantly had issues. John Tippets commented that he was very impressed with the project. He also wondered about those who contributed costs. Cernera commented favorably that EPA was very tenacious regarding this issue. Raskell added that there were several Remedial Project Managers.

It was asked if the State is on the hook for any O & M costs but Buelow answered that Arcadis is responsible for all O & M now and in the future.

Raskell shared some of the permits that the Tribe had to get and that Arcadis had to get.

Eric Olson asked if there were any other sites like this along the St. Joe. It was answered that there was one cleaned up by EPA further upstream. Harwood said there was one at the log landing at Avery, Idaho, that Potlatch Corporation utilized for many years.

Outreach Activities during the last quarter.

Harwood reviewed his list that is included in the meeting packet:

- Update the new BEIPC web page– operational adding that it is now “live” plans to post presentations from meetings to it
- Worked with CDA Trust and land owner on remedy protection project issue.
- Assisted Shoshone County concerning questions from County Airport Manager.
- At the request of IDEQ, processed a BEIPC support letter to Secretary of Transportation concerning an IDEQ road surfacing program grant application.
- Met with Corps of Engineers and Kellogg City concerning the COE Grant to develop hydraulic loading data for flood control on the South Fork CDA River.
- Along with other Flood Control Group members, held a meeting to discuss Flood Group MOA and the ongoing COE work through their grant.
- Worked with IDEQ and Idaho Department of Water Resources on a possible IDWR Tour of the Site in October.
- The Public and CCC members requested a listing from EPA of the EPA personnel assigned as project leads for the various work taking place on the Site - List available upon request.
- Assisted CDA Trust, IDEQ, and EPA on processing 5 Environmental Covenants for two Remedy Protection Projects.
- Worked with Kootenai County and EPA on issues concerning proposed work in the Lower Basin. Developed and agreed to a plan for BEIPC involvement in Lower Basin project formation and priority setting process.

Marc Eberlein commented that Kootenai County has concerns about if we have an understanding in place that the County and the Tribe being involved in the planning process instead of EPA ramrodding what they are doing without input. Ed Moreen responded that he will address this later in his report.

Bonnie Arthur gave a report on CIC's outreach activities. Worked on a flyer on Rosebud and will distribute it for the afternoon tour. Ed Moreen gave a tour with the Spokane River Keepers in June,

Dan McCracken reported that blood lead screening is going on now with a \$30 incentive for children who live within the Bunker Hill Superfund site. He announced that the North Idaho Fair coming up beginning August 22 and we (EPA, IDEQ, PHD, and BEIPC) will have a booth for that week with one of the big areas of focus to be on safe recreation. He also announced that on September 15 is the Shoshone Medical Center Kids Health Fair.

Lake Management Plan Implementation Update

Jamie Brunner (IDEQ) gave an update on Lake Management activities. She reported that Wolf Lodge Creek nutrient automated monitoring is up and running. They are planning the next Our Gem Symposium in the spring and the first training for Baywatch volunteers will be held to learn how to do lake monitoring. They are working on the Confluence program to expand it to more schools.

Jann Higdem asked if there are boat check stations that are looking for weeds but Brunner said that it is done from ID State of Agriculture and not from IDEQ.

Rusty Shepard asked about the status of the monitoring that has been going on for 10 years. Brunner responded that they are at the point that they are trying to figure it out with the data gaps how we can make a meaningful inventory. He also asked if there will be a report and the schedule for producing it. Brunner said that there is already an interim report that has been presented and that it is available. It is a summary of available monitoring data.

Phillip Cernera added comments on the Lake Management Plan. He shared that they had a meeting with the Tribal membership council to discuss what is going to be done to protect the Lake to reduce nutrients going in. The current plan is not working and the water quality is declining. Many of the activities in the plan have been actually implemented but may need to be changed because they are not really effective. Cernera shared that the Council basically told the State that they no longer believe the LMP is working, is not functioning and we are no longer a part of it. They are particularly concerned about the consequences of the CTP upgrade and how it will affect the Lake. He applauds the EPA efforts but they are also concerned that the Lake has not been monitored adequately.

John Tippetts commented that the concern is that to reduce the zinc may reduce the oxygen level in the Lake water. Need to make sure what is happening in the Upper Basin does not have a major impact and that what is happening upriver does not do long term damage to the Lake. The issues are more complex than what was anticipated. We welcome EPA's partnership but do not want to work against each other. Chris Hladick from EPA is in agreement with Tippetts. He said that they heard loud and clear the frustrations and agreed that the issue regarding CTP needs to be studied to make sure that taking zinc out does not have an adverse effect on the Lake. It is a complex issue and they will work on a master plan to put these pieces together.

Marc Eberlein noted that Kootenai County needs to also be involved with the plan as there is a large population that also has a great interest in the Lake.

Jack Buell asked Tippetts about the sediment production and wondered where we go from here. Tippetts said that they have had audits that show that forest practices are being complied with.

Tippetts addressed Eberlein concerns. Strong need to make sure that what we are doing in those areas regarding water quality is essential. We are hoping that modeling will help us better understand. Eberlein added that there is still a problem with the forest practices. If you don't take care of the forest with forest management then the water quality could disappear.

Cernera commented that he used it as a land use activity illustration and not as a problem. They are at the beginning of the next step to protect the Lake noting that we need to do something also about non-point sources.

Jann Higdem wondered about CDA Lake being in the plan to address the problem. Harwood responded that the Lake is not in the CERCLA remedies from 2002 ROD. Cernera stated that triggers that were found in the LMP are not being addressed effectively and EPA needs to help. Tippetts commented that we understand now that it is more complex and we need more resources available than was originally envisioned.

Bill Rust commented that they originally looked at remedial CERCLA alternates. The options that were first brought up were to dredge the Lake, cap the bottom, or no action.

Matt Nykiel asked Tippetts about the differences of point and non-point sources and municipalities having wastewater treatment plants costing more and being more stringent. Tippetts said Federal law controls the point sources and that non-point sources are from run off. Another issue is what really is working in point and non-point sources.

Update on EPA 2018 Project Work and Tour Highlights – Ed Moreen, Bonnie Arthur, EPA and Rod Zion, COE

Bonnie Arthur, Project Manager for Bunker Hill, gave an Upper Basin update with an overview of work being done by the CDA Work Trust. Ninemile Basin Cleanup Sites include the Success Mine, and Waste Consolidation Area. They are also looking for pilot projects. They have also studied the Tamarack complex. She talked about investigations/clean-ups done and looked at work plans to figure out data gaps to help with their future planning.

Jerry Boyd asked about the lead in the water wondering if it is suspended or dissolved. Arthur answered that it is both.

Matt Nykiel asked about mine adits that are still discharging and Arthur answered that they are including that in their investigations and looking at closing some.

Ed Moreen from EPA gave a summary overview of projects in the Lower Basin.

CCC hosted an open house on April 13 for EPA to help with engaging the public by providing an opportunity for sharing of information. The meeting focused on EPA's structured process to prioritize projects for implementation in the Lower Basin. Draft selection criteria was shared and input was

requested. Comments high-lighted starting from the top of the upper basin and going down were made at the meeting included to dredge the river, capping riverbed, and other proposals for protecting water quality and human health. We are going forward with dealing with the sources, river beds and banks, and off channel areas. Next Steps is to score and evaluate the scoring of proposed projects, consider the input heard, and to consider our responsibilities at EPA as well as the viability of various project processes. Plans are to engage the Lower Basin Project Focus Team which will include the counties, the CDA Trust budget, and Basin Commission work plans.

Rod Zion, Army Corps of Engineers and Project Engineer of the Operate Design Build Operate contract, talked about the Central Treatment Plant (CTP) and the Central Impoundment Area (CIA) process that will upgrade and expand the currently operating CTP and support facilities (such as the sludge pond) and install a new groundwater collection system to extract and convey contaminated groundwater for treatment at the upgraded CTP.

Zion reported that the major components in the Groundwater Collection System Design Concept include a wall to effectively cut off the groundwater from entering the South Fork, upgrade of the CTP, CIA treatment system upgrade and an Infiltration System.

Eric Ryder, Project Manager, gave a summary update on the construction work activities being done which started in 2017. They installed 24 extraction wells for monitoring. In June 2018 they started work at the CTP in the treatment system area. They will have an 8000 foot slurry wall that is 25 to 30 feet deep. He said that the expectation is that construction is scheduled to be done next summer in 2019. Contract completion date is May 3, 2021.

Tour of Projects

Begin loading of buses to leave at noon with the first stop at Gene Day Park for lunch and then a review of Rosebud Gulch Remedy Protection Project.

Travel to Kellogg and review of McKinley Ave., Paved Roads Project, and review of Central Treatment Plant and Groundwater Collection Project.

Travel to Wallace and then to Ninemile Canyon and review cleanup work.

Travel back to Wallace Inn and adjourn.