

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)

Meeting Summary Notes

September 30, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

(These summary notes are intended to capture key topics, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of the presentations or discussions.)

Welcome/Introductions:

Terry Harwood (BEIPC E.D.), Gail Yost (BEIPC, note taker), Andy Helkey (IDEQ), Ed Moreen (EPA), Patrick Hickey (EPA), Bonnie Douglas (Citizen, CCC), Craig Cooper (IDEQ), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Lauren Zinsser (USGS), Kim Prestbo (EPA), Kim Pierson (IDFG), Jamie Brunner (IDEQ), Bonnie Arthur (EPA), Dana Swift (IDEQ), Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair), Brad Smith (ICL), Dale Chess (CDA Tribe), Dave Leptich (IDFG), Christy Johnson-Hughes (USFWS), Scott Fields (CDA Tribe), Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe, Acting TLG Chair), Tim Price (USFS), Jamie Sturgess (Kootenai County, TLG Rep), Sandra Treccani (Washington State)

Status update on FY20 remedial and planning activities: EF Ninemile and Canyon Creeks, Pine Creek – Bonnie Arthur - EPA RPM, oversees the CDA Trust on mine and mill site cleanups; also on the Rec Sites team in the Upper and Lower Basin. She started with an update on the Canyon Creek watershed – primarily the Canyon Complex Repository – or WCA that is being constructed there. This is located next to the old SVNRT Repository that has been leaking for some time into Canyon Creek. They are into the second construction season and should run until the end of October. Next year they should be able to move the old waste material from SVNRT into the new WCA and still have over 1.5M cy additional capacity for other Canyon Creek mine and mill site waste. One of these sites being the Hecla-Star, which is made up of 4 different sites. They are currently at 60% design with hopes of hauling to the WCA in 2023. The Tamarack #7 has a large flowing adit that you can see from Burke Road. This is a high priority site as it is used as a drop off point for recreational use. All field investigations were finished this summer, starting the design this year into next year 2021. Other field work has been going on at the Flynn Mine and Black Bear Fraction. These two are a high priority as well for recreational use and residential houses. There will be quite a few other Canyon Creek sites that will also see field work and investigations into next year.

Bonnie continued on to East Fork Nine Mile watershed – the EFNW WCA was completed in 2013 and has taken waste from the Interstate Callahan and Success Mine cleanups, both are complete and finishing up Interstate Mill waste this year. There is a big push to finish up projects in Nine Mile and close this WCA by 2024. A partial cover was done in 2019, and another partial cover will be completed in 2021. The EFNW Riparian area was split into two parts –an upper portion (just below Success Mine) that will start in 2021, and the remaining portion that extends down to the Dayrock Complex, which is made up of a few mine and mill sites, including the Dayrock Mine. Rebecca asked if Hecla had plans to

remove all the infrastructure and buildings at the Star Complex as part of the remediation. Bonnie answered that they will be able to clean up the whole complex with the removal of only one building.

Ed Moreen EPA – in the 2020 Work Plan, we focused on the selection of a pilot project for 2020 in the Dudley Reach area on the CDA River; we are continuing pushing forward with this task. Various project alternatives were shared with the Lower Basin PFT in 2020 to identify, evaluate and select pilot projects to address contaminated sediment in the river bed. Dudley Reach is one of four reaches - it extends from the Old Mission boat launch to the Bull Run Bridge. Our approach based the selection on multiple criteria – some sediment and data-based criteria and some based on sediment transport modeling; such as estimated change in lead concentrations over time or river bed lead mass. Sampling from river mile marker 160 at the Dredge pool down to 153 at Bull Run Bridge shows a pretty extensive jump in sediment concentrations and suspended sediment. Various alternatives have been looked at – dredging, dredge/cap hybrid, capping, river-bed structures (e.g. sills) to address erosion, as well as monitored natural recovery or enhanced monitored natural recovery. Bank stabilization will be part of the process moving forward. Pilot projects will be managed under an adaptive management framework. We hope to learn a lot from these pilot projects – both from an implementation ability and constructability process, but also from system responses during floods and normal flow periods – to get a good handle on how much sediment gets mobilized or not from these efforts. Some work has already been done through the CDA Trust – they have installed new bank erosion pins, assessed erosion on the old pins, riverbed pre-design characterization, coring in the upper section from river mile 157 thru 159. We continue to look for repository/WCA needs and are coordinating with the Trust on the pilots to be implemented – typical implementation schedule would be 4 to 5 years. A lot of planning has to be done, especially with the first river bed remedial action pilot project.

Patrick Hickey EPA – oversees repositories; when EPA knew the Lower Basin pilot projects were coming up and the potential for waste to be generated, they wanted to get ahead of the project to make sure there was a place to put this waste. They engaged the public through public notices, social media, basin bulletin, email lists, and sent a fact sheet that was mailed to over 2,400 addresses in the Lower Basin. A 2009 developed citizen criteria for repositories was used as a foundation for the public to address concerns or comments, and offer insights or suggestions for improvements. This 30-day comment period goes thru today, September 30th, and has received 8 inputs so far. Of these, there were concerns of wide-spread damage in the Lower Basin; that the 2009 citizen's criteria covered most of the bases and was a good path forward; suggestions to look at alternatives to WCA's; and maps should be produced showing potential sites. There was also concern about property purchased by the Trust on S. River Road - Patrick explained the use is to be for staging equipment and source material for rock and cover soil. All comments will be replied to individually.

Updates on the CTP upgrades – Ed Moreen provided an update on the CTP/GWCS. The progress since the last BEIPC meeting; the gaps have been closed in the ground water cutoff wall so the wall is complete. Additional wall capping and final grading taking place at the GWCS, and then final grading

will happen at the CTP. They are going through the construction punch list and in the midst of acceptance testing. Once this testing is satisfactory, the contractor will have a one-year operational period before finalizing their contract and turning operations over to IDEQ. All systems are operating and performing well.

Rec. Sites update – Andy Helkey IDEQ; in the Box, they are in the process of completing one Rec. Site project this fall. It is located at the Theater Bridge, which is a piece of property along the SFCDA River; it's a parking area commonly used to access a swimming hole and other recreation. A cost proposal will be going out, a contractor selected based on qualifications and hopefully completion in October. They will work on more design work for other Box projects early in 2021.

Bonnie Arthur – EPA, provided an update for the Basin Rec. Sites. There are several agencies working together on projects in the Box and Basin:

- Furthering education through signage - 12 new signs going up this week along the CDA River;
- Informational mailer to property owners along the CDA River – will go out under the BEIPC;
- Working on boat launches – how to clean up after spring flooding, how to reduce access to contaminated sediments and soils by adding pavers, planting willows and alders to restrict access to yearly re-contaminated areas;
- Cataldo boat launch is currently on hold – a design for this project is complete, some comments have been submitted, waiting for further comments;
- Sampling at a possible beach cleanup located across from the Blackrock trail head, sampling is planned for early November;
- One day project in the Canyon Creek watershed – a swimming hole that has been used informally, will add rip rap to the bank to reduce access;
- Continuing the hand wash stations at a few boat launches;
- Sampling took place at Kilarney Lake at an area used for volleyball.

Rebecca added that the 'Our Gem' lake maps have officially been sent to the printers and should be available later this month. She will coordinate with Jamie Brunner IDEQ for distribution.

Update on Paved Roads Program work this Summer – Dan McCracken stated it was an eventful year for the paved roads remediation program. In the Box, Kellogg was working on three segments – Bunker Avenue, Wildcat Way and Hill Street. All of the eligible segments on the list in the Box have been completed and we'll be working on closing this out.

For the Basin, Shoshone County is the last jurisdiction with eligible segments. There were 34 projects on their list this year – highlights were Bauman Addition, Terror Gulch, Two Mile, the last streets in Silverton and Woodland Park. With the \$3.6M that the County spent this season, that rounds out the \$24M allotment for the Basin paved roads program. Our intent initially, was that each jurisdiction would use their full funding allotment and only finish a little more than half of the eligible segments. We

were able to complete every segment in the Box and only 16 left in the Basin from the original list, all within the County. All of the other jurisdictions, except Shoshone County, were able to finish all their segments. The 16 left were rated low priority based on proximity to residences and other factors. We will be moving forward with a Remedial Action Completion Report for the program to hopefully be published sometime next year.

Terry also commented on the paved roads program, 581 total segments completed which is a tremendous accomplishment!

Update on Gray's Meadow – Kim Prestbo EPA RPM, gave an overview on the Gray's Meadow project. It was formerly known as the Black Lake Ranch, located in the lower regions of the CDA River, a historic wetland used for agricultural and ranch use. In 2017, IDFG purchased the property and has continued to manage it as a conservation area. It came to the top of the list for both Restoration Partnership and EPA as a priority to create a functioning ecological habitat for waterfowl. It is a model on how to integrate remediation and restoration to a design for all parties involved and is going very well. We have spent the last couple years sorting out the hydrology of the site, the water balance, and collected some of the first baseline water quality data. In order to make it functioning, restored wetlands - to be able to manage watering and de-watering as done historically - we will be looking for alternatives for managing water as it was pumped into Black Lake before and is a concern for the community members there. The 30% design is complete and we are now working on the 60% design. In 2021, we will be working on infrastructure and access water level management, holding off till 2022 for big construction.

Dave Leptich from IDFG gave a presentation on Gray's Meadow. The major project goals are: clean up the soil to below ROD Cleanup levels; convert the Ag land back to a functional wetland habitat; manage recontamination risk to protect the investments made; improve water quality especially in Black Lake; and provide safe recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for the community. Our approach is to integrate restoration with remediation, which are complimentary actions to each other. This is a coordination of independent actions into a single entity to increase efficiency and improve the outcomes. We have a single unified design team and as a result, everyone is involved in every step – less miscommunication, immediate feedback and the full team is invested. We have been working on data collection to support our final design and some preliminary design concepts. Hydrological studies included the installation of 17 piezometers to monitor ground water movement and its relationship to surface water changes particularly in the River and Black Lake. We found the soils were tight with poor ground water connectivity between wetland basins and the River, extending to a depth between 5 and 15 feet across the site. When we manage the wetland in the future, the water budget will be driven by annual precipitation and seasonal runoff, with very minimal groundwater seepage to take water out of the wetland or recharge the wetland. We expanded soil characterization to better map the concentration in both the horizontal and vertical distribution of various metals across the project site. We also did agronomic sampling to help us mitigate remedial effects on productivity and help plan for soil

amendments ahead of planting. Lead and Zinc leaching studies are also being conducted to ensure metals don't solubilize and release and migrate through ground and surface water. It is estimated that there is over 300,000 cy of contaminated soils to be dealt with - 25,000 12yd dump trucks.

Black Lake has significant water quality issues. A 2011 TMDL identified water transfers from the Gray's Meadow Ag fields as a significant source of nutrient loading, which contribute to blue-green algae blooms that cause health concerns and impact recreational use. Since IDFG acquired the property, livestock have been removed; fertilization of hayfields has ceased; and we expect water quality to improve, and with time, decrease or eliminate the impact of water transfers on Black Lake and the CDA River. In coordination with IDEQ/CDA Tribe, we are conducting a year-long water quality monitoring study that will create the best baseline database to date, and will be available to measure project effectiveness in the future. Cultural Resource Surveys were conducted and these investigations found no significant findings within the project boundary area. EPA and the CDA Trust are close to completing a programmatic Historic Properties Management Plan for the Lower Basin.

We just released the 30% design for Gray's Meadow to the major stakeholders on September 17th. Stakeholder meetings will be taking place and feedback over the next 30 days will be very important as they will be incorporated in the 60% design. Our remediation strategy involves three primary actions: excavation of the most highly contaminated soils; consolidating those soils on-site and capping in-place with clean material; and in areas of lower contamination levels, tilling to mix and dilute those metals below our clean-up concentration targets. Our restoration strategy also depends on three primary design features and revegetation of the site when done: Microtopography – first small changes in ground surface elevation, good diversity of plant communities; Edge Complexity – the edge between two or more communities like riparian and wetlands, you get the most habitat out of an area with complex edges; and Water Management – allows management of hydrological variation in timing, depth and duration inundation for wetland productivity and plant diversity.

Most of the infrastructure developments end up being roads, dikes or water control structures. Dave explained these in detail where they will be placing and developing throughout the site. They are also looking at some new parking areas adjacent to a dike that crosses to the Trail of the CDA. The proposal of two new 'oasis' spots where people can get off the trail, provides a clean apron where folks can enjoy the wetland without violating the remedy. Another recreation feature will be an ADA accessible viewing and access blind for people with mobility difficulties to allow for viewing and hunting wildlife.

The tentative schedule shows the release of the 30% design, with the 60% ready to review in January, 2021, and have a full construction design by next summer. Late Summer/Fall 2021 we would start initial construction/access and water transfer infrastructure with Remedy/Restoration starting in 2022.

Update on other Restoration Partnership activities – Rebecca started off her update for the Restoration Partnership. Their section has been updated in the BEIPC Annual 2021 Work Plan, and the

trustees will be producing an accomplishment report for this past year which will indicate expenditures and progress on projects. Just continuing on with activities as best they can through COVID with Restoration Partnership project implementations, designs, and permitting coordination with trustees and other stakeholders. They are finalizing their three to five year work plan and will share with the public on their website, which also has updates and progress on individual projects. Rebecca will be sending out an email with a link showing the Salmon Release Project that the Tribe was able to implement.

Status update on NAS study of CDA Lake – Jamie Brunner IDEQ, stated they have finalized a scope of work and are finalizing the contract paperwork with the National Academy for their review. The goal was to start in October which is looking promising. The study is expected to take 23 months, with a projected cost of \$775,000. IDEQ and Kootenai County have entered into an MOA as the county has contributed \$200,000 towards the study. Rebecca asked if Jamie could expand on the scope of work. She followed with a list of what is included:

- Evaluate the current water quality data in the lake, rivers and lateral lakes, focusing on trends, nutrients and metals;
- What is the impacts of anoxia on the state of metals and nutrients;
- What are the implications of the zinc levels that might be influencing productivity;
- Based on current metals found in lake bed sediments, will they be released into the lake if current trends continue;
- If there isn't sufficient data available to make those determinations, what sort of recommendations would the NAS need – what sort of data are required to achieve that level of confidence to know what trajectory we're on;
- What is the relevance of these metals releases in the lake to human and ecological health?

Rebecca asked if the NAS would be reaching out to the entities that have been collecting this water quality data and Jamie answered yes. Dan McCracken added that the NAS does not plan on completing any additional sampling; they will be looking at all the data that has already been collected. They will develop a committee of technical experts on their end and plan on meeting 5 times over an 18-month period to interview with all entities and staff that have been involved. Then all this information will be digested and questions answered in the scope of work. Jerry Boyd wanted to know if there will be any public meetings before they issue their final report. Dan answered that he didn't know; they will be sharing information through the BEIPC but not sure the NAS will be hosting any meetings. Jamie agreed and said they do not have any responsibility to conduct any public meetings. We will share information when there is something relevant using our networks to get some of that information out into the community, opportunity for feedback. Jerry said originally when the NAS did their 2005 report, there were public meetings. Ed added that they conducted a few listening sessions because things were so controversial. Rebecca said that was different as that was a Congressional decision to have NAS come in.

Updates on Leadership retirements, new staff appointments, and BEIPC Board appointments (if available) - Dan McCracken updated us on staff changes since the last TLG meeting. He has moved from the Kellogg Office Manager to Regional Administrator for IDEQ in CDA. Andy Helkey has moved from ICP Program Manager at PHD to Kellogg Program Manager for IDEQ. Director Tippetts IDEQ retired in June, and was recently replaced by Jess Byrne who was deputy director. Andy will step into the role that Dan held on the BEIPC as the TLG representative for the Kellogg Office. Director Tippetts board position on the BEIPC has not been approved yet for Jess to be formerly appointed, so if this is not done by the November meeting, Michael McCurdy will step in as the alternate. Terry added for commissioners representing the State and 3 counties, the nomination and appointment come in a letter from the Governor of Idaho. Depending on election results, other commissioner changes could probably affect Jack Buell in Benewah County, and the EPA commissioner determined from the Presidential Election. We will hold election of new officers for the BEIPC at the March 2021 meeting.

Ed added changes for EPA personnel – the new Division Director of Emergency Response and Remedial Program is Calvin Terada, previously held by Sheryl Bilbrey. Kera Lynch has been selected as the new Remedial Cleanup Program Manager - this position was held by Cami Grandinetti. Other new additions are Patrick Hickey and Jenn Crawford as Remedial Project Managers.

Bonnie Douglas asked if there was anyone in the PHD position and Andy answered that the job was just posted and will be hiring in the near future.

Discuss the 2021 Workplan and reference the Sections that Terry will have sent out earlier in Sept. and plans for Oct. meeting to approve work plans – Rebecca stated that the work plans are traditionally reviewed at an in-person meeting. Terry has sent out the draft of the Annual 2021 work plan by email; the 5-year work plan has two different sections for the LMP, Rebecca and Jamie will get back together and re-submit, then Terry will send that out. He stated that everyone did a great job!

Rebecca's suggestion for getting comments back to Terry is to use the 'bubble' feature on the document to track changes, and then Gail can combine all the comments. She opened it up for any other ideas – Dan agreed that this would work best. They all decided to get any comments or feedback to Terry and Gail by October 9th. Jamie would like to make sure that the State and counties have agreed on the LMP sections for both the annual and five year work plans before they are finalized.

Plans for Nov. mtg if in person to be held in CDA rather than Spokane Valley – Terry sent out a poll to commissioners and alternates for their vote whether to have an in-person November BEIPC meeting. There are mixed results so far – Rebecca asked if any of the entities on the call had insight as to what their agencies were allowing. Ed said EPA would probably not be able to send a representative given where we are now and the re-opening phases. Terry's concerns are that the work plans must be approved; some of the presentations and updates on projects could be presented at a later meeting. Ed asked if there would be any harm in postponement of the work plans till next year. Terry said that

happened the first year he worked for the BEIPC, he thinks we can work through this and get the work plans approved before the next calendar year. Terry also stated that the work plans must be presented to the public, and cannot just be approved internally. Rebecca feels that we should have a BEIPC staff call and discuss some ideas and different formats on how to make this happen. Other agencies are not allowing travel or in-person meetings as well. Ed questioned if the draft work plans could be posted on the BEIPC website, working through the CCC for public awareness. Yes, after approval, they will be email to the BEIPC mailing list – so essentially we would have the public presentation.

Election of TLG officers – currently the Chair is held by Dan McCracken, and vice-chair by Rebecca. Jamie made a motion to elect Andy Helkey as chair, Ed second – all approved **M/S/C**.

Andy made a motion to elect Rebecca as vice-chair, Ed second – all approved **M/S/C**.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.