

# **Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission**

## **Meeting Summary Minutes**

November 10, 2021, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

IDEQ Regional Office Osprey Conference Room

2110 Ironwood Parkway, Coeur d' Alene, 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 discussion or individual quotes*

### **Attendees in person and on WebEx included the following:**

Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)

#### Commissioners and Alternates present:

Mike Fitzgerald (Shoshone County), Jess Byrne (IDEQ), Michael McCurdy (IDEQ), Sandra Treccani (Washington State), Calvin Terada (EPA), Caj Matheson (CDA Tribe), Philip Lampert (Benewah County), Bill Brooks (Kootenai County)

#### Staff present:

Gail Yost (BEIPC, Assistant to E.D., Note taker), Ed Moreen (EPA), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe), Dana Swift (IDEQ), Jerry Boyd (CCC)

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mike Fitzgerald at 9:08 a.m.

### **Introduce new BEIPC Board Members**

Hemene James is the new commissioner for the CDA Tribe but is not present at today's meeting. Their alternate Caj Matheson, will be representing the Tribe today.

### **Approve the minutes from the March 10 virtual meeting (Action Item)**

There were two edits previously submitted from Ed Moreen and Rebecca Stevens. Ed's edit further explained Dudley Reach on page 6. Rebecca's change was on page 3 regarding the Restoration Partnership- change from "The Restoration Partnership implemented 23 projects" to "The Restoration Partnership continued to implement 23 projects" just for clarification as some of these projects are still ongoing. Caj Matheson made a motion to approve the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with these edits. Jess Byrne second, all approved M/S/C

### **Review and Discussion of Updated BEIPC Policy and Procedures Document**

Terry explained why changes needed to be made to the BEIPC Policy and Procedures. There are instances when alternate commissioners serve on the BEIPC for periods of time who cannot be elected to hold board positions. So, the first change states that alternates can be elected to a Vice Chair or Secretary/Treasurer position, but the Chair must be a commissioner. Another change pertains to the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer so this position could fill-in as the Chair or Vice Chair if needed. Other duties were written before the Executive Director was hired, so these were updated as the ED has been fulfilling these duties (for example – planning meetings, preparing documents). All changes have been approved by the Attorney General's office for legality and meet the Idaho Open Meeting Law.

Mike Fitzgerald and Phil Lampert both agreed that Terry did a good job and agree with the changes. Caj Matheson appreciated the changes made to the alternate commissioner's role in the BEIPC. He believes this lets them participate in a more meaningful manner. Jess Byrne is also supportive of the changes, as

one of the newer members on the commission, thought this made more sense with those more familiar with the group and newer members roles.

### **Public Comment on Draft Policy Document-**

Rebecca stated that Ed Moreen and EPA worked on a red-line strikeout version of the Policy and Procedures with these revisions, and she is wondering if this has been considered. Terry does have that RLSO version which documented the changes that had already taken place. The cleaned-up document is what is being presented. Mike asked Ed if we were missing anything that would add value to go through the additional level of review? Ed stated the RLSO that Jeff Philip created looked at the changes between the old and new version of the document and they didn't see anything that contrasted with Terry's summary of the document.

Due to some of the public having trouble connecting to today's meeting, Mike tabled a vote of the Policy and Procedure document to ensure that all comments can be heard before taking further action.

### **Review and Discuss Draft 2022 Annual Work Plan**

Terry Harwood shared the process of creating the annual and 5-year work plans. The work plans are divided into two sections – Part 1 covers environmental cleanup work performed through CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act). It includes work to implement the Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit 3 (OU-3) and the Upper Basin ROD Amendment (RODA) for OU-2 and 3. Part 2 includes Other Activities and Responsibilities – Lake Management Plan, Natural Resource Trustees, work on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and requests from the communities and citizens of the Basin.

He started with an update on the residential and commercial property remediation, which is pretty much complete. Properties can still be sampled and/or remediated if above action levels for owners granting access. Currently about 211 properties require sampling, and 40 properties require remediation in the Upper and Lower Basin; 9 remain to be remediated in the Box. A total of 3,928 properties in the Basin and 3,236 properties in the Box have been remediated at the conclusion of 2021. Oversight and coordination between the Trust and IDEQ will continue to encourage property owners to have their properties sampled and remediated, if necessary.

In 2012, guidelines for the Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) changed its "level of concern" from a blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter to 5. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now suggesting the threshold value decrease to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. The new lower value means that more children will be identified as having lead exposure. The incentive for this year's annual screening will go up to \$50 per child ages 6 months to 6 years of age.

Recreation Use Activities – The Recreation Sites Program was created to address and manage human health risks from exposure to lead and other metals in the Upper and Lower Basin. The Recreation Team includes EPA, IDEQ, PHD, CDA Tribe, BEIPC and CDA Trust. Meetings are held at least biannually to evaluate and discuss priorities and addresses human health risks while maintaining the benefits of recreation. In 2022, the Basin cleanup is expected to start at the Cataldo Boat Ramp, sampling of other Upper and Lower Basin areas known to have high usage and continue to update and install new signage at identified recreation sites. Box projects will also update signage and evaluate access controls at mine and recreation sites where public use has been identified.

Repository Development & Management - There are currently three operational repositories within the OU-3 area: Big Creek Repository (BCR), which includes the Big Creek Repository Annex (BCRA), East Mission Flats Repository (EMFR) and Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR). The Page Repository provides for disposal of remedial and ICP wastes in the Box (OU1 and OU2). The Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) located up Nine Mine is handling waste from the East Fork Nine Mile projects. In 2019 construction began on the Canyon Complex Repository (CCR/WCA), which will receive waste material from Canyon Creek Drainage remedial actions and the material moved from the Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustee Repository (SVNRT). This material was moved in 2021 eliminating the need for repository rework and achieved containment on the contaminated springs discharge. In 2022, the CDA Trust will be addressing increasing Upper Basin Repository and WCA capacity to dispose of waste material generated by the cleanups; they will also be planning on Lower Basin WCA development.

Upper Basin Remedies – The Upper Basin RODA identified \$635 million for work in the Upper Basin including work at 125 mine and mill sites. Upper Basin projects include East Fork Ninemile Basin (which consists of East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area, East Fork Ninemile Creek Riparian area, and Tamarack Complex); SVNRT Repository Remediation and Canyon Creek Complex CCR/WCA; Canyon Creek Quarry; and Douglas Mine and Mill in the Pine Creek Basin.

Central Treatment Plant/Central Impoundment Area –Beginning in October of 2021, IDEQ assumed operations and maintenance of the CTP/GCS. The CTP upgrades were necessary to treat additional influent flow from the GCS, improve system reliability, meet more stringent discharge requirements, and to operate in High-Density Sludge (HDS) mode.

There are two major cleanups left in the East Fork Ninemile area – the Dayrock Complex/Lower EFNM Creek which includes the Ninemile Creek Riparian area; and the second being the Tamarack Complex which is in design with cleanup expected in 2023.

Douglas Mine and Mill – Remedial action was slated for 2022, per Ed Moreen that has now been changed to start in 2023.

Lower Basin Remedies – include actions for wetlands and lateral lakes, river banks, splay areas and river bed dredging. To address the contaminated sediment transport in the CDA River channel, CDA Trust has begun planning and remedial design for an in-channel pilot project to be implemented in the upper part of the River's Dudley Reach. Dudley Reach is considered the most significant upstream lead loading segment in the river system. Future remedial work is also planned on being supported through the design and construction of WCA's similar to the Upper Basin. EPA will continue to coordinate with the Restoration Partnership and various landowners to characterize and identify off-channel areas for remedial action. EPA is finalizing the design on IDFG-owned Gray's Meadow to create clean waterfowl feeding habitat with construction scheduled to start in 2022 and continue through 2023.

Rebecca believes that there should be clarification on the CTP on page 8 – instead of “is nearing completion and transitioning” it should read “completed”. After discussion, the change will be made to “is completed”.

Erica from Ecology stated Deb Sherbina's question on the chat asks when the agency submissions will be due for the 2021 Accomplishment Report. Terry will be sending out requests for those updates after Christmas.

Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) – EPA has continued to optimize and restructure the BEMP, updating data quality objectives and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) to better meet both remedial action effectiveness and long-term monitoring needs of the cleanup.

Operation and Maintenance responsibilities for Remedial Actions – CERCLA prohibits EPA from use of funds from the Superfund Account on O&M of remedies. Responsibilities on completed and accepted remedial work may vary. O&M on EPA selected cleanup actions will be performed by the CDA Trust, the State of Idaho, and local governmental jurisdictions or parties who are required to perform O&M activities by judicial or administrative settlement, environmental agreements, covenants, and conservation easements.

Other activities and responsibilities include the following work:

- IDEQ Lake Management Activities
- Coeur d’Alene Tribe Lake Activities
- Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization
- Communications and Public Involvement
- State of Washington Activities
- Coordination with the Restoration Partnership

Lake Management Activities – As of the summer of 2018, the CDA Tribe asserted that the LMP is inadequate as an effective tool to protect water quality in the lake and has been in discussions with IDEQ and the EPA to determine what additional actions are needed to manage the hazardous substances in the lakebed sediments. The State of Idaho has initiated a third-party review of lake management data by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to help inform an appropriate response to undesirable water quality trends. A final report from NAS is expected in 2022. IDEQ staff continue to operate under the LMP as discussions with the Tribe and EPA continue and the third-party review commences and progresses.

Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization – The local flood group and the BEIPC will continue to work with the COE and FEMA to update the 2009 Flood Inundation Maps. Based on new flood maps, it is anticipated that updated analysis of the need for certified levees in the SFCDA River may also be initiated. The working group will also support the City of Pinehurst’s request for COE assistance in performing similar flood zone analysis in Pine Creek. The BEIPC will continue to assist Upper Basin communities as well.

Communications and Public Involvement – Multi agency coordination worked together to carry out public involvement, communication, and education related to BEIPC and agency activities. They will continue to facilitate the public involvement process in the Basin.

State of Washington Activities – the Washington State Department of Ecology continues to monitor the status of previous cleanups along the Spokane River. Site visits are performed along with visual documentation of performance and sediment accumulation.

Restoration Partnership – The Restoration Partnership will continue to implement natural resource restoration projects in 2022. There will be ongoing coordination on remedy and restoration activities and participation in BEIPC and associated groups and committees.

**Public Comment on Draft 2022 Work Plan** - Mike asked for any questions or comments on the 2022 Annual Work Plan from commissioners or panelists. There were no further comments.

**Approve 2022 Work Plan – Board (Action Item)** Mike asked for a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Work Plan, including the two edits – one on Douglas Mine work in 2023, and the CTP completion of the project. Caj Matheson made the motion to approve followed by a second from Phil Lampert, all approved M/S/C

**Approve Draft BEIPC Policy and Procedures Document (Action Item)** Mike asked to go back to the tabled discussion and vote on the BEIPC Policies and Procedures document. There were no further comments made – Phil Lampert made a motion to approve the Policies and Procedures, Sandy Treccani seconded, all approved M/S/C

### **Review and Discuss Draft 2022-2026 Five Year Work Plan**

Terry reviewed and reported on the five-year work plan. This work plan also has two sections – the work under CERCLA by the implementing agencies and other activities. The first part includes human health directed activities; lead health intervention program; repository development and management; remedial actions in the Upper Basin; remedial actions and/or pilot projects in the Lower Basin; Basin Environmental Monitoring; and O&M responsibilities for Remedial Actions.

Human health activities – the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) will continue at the request of the property owners when access is granted. Remediation of high-risk properties will continue as agencies and the CDA Trust become aware of them. Human health risks associated with basin wide recreational activities will be addressed and educational resources and health advisories will be provided to manage the potential for metals exposure through the consumption of fish.

The Lead Health Intervention Program – PHD will continue to administer screening of children for elevated blood lead levels. The threshold value for levels in young children is 5 micrograms per deciliter. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now suggesting the threshold value decrease to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. Terry will consult with Andy Helkey and Mary Rehnberg for possible change to this section.

Repository and WCA Development & Management – operation and management will continue at the current repositories and WCA's with potential site development of future WCA's in the Lower Basin.

Upper Basin Remedies – operate the groundwater collection system and upgraded CTP; source control actions in the Ninemile and Canyon Creek watersheds; and implement source control and water treatment remedies, ecological cleanup projects, and related human health activities identified in the Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan (SCIP).

Lower Basin remedies – evaluate and prioritize potential source control remedies; conduct pilot projects to address contaminated riverbed source areas and implement remedies as appropriate; characterize and prioritize additional riverbank segments for stabilization; ensure that remedies are coordinated with natural resource restoration activities; identify recreation areas for remediation and implement programs to educate recreation site users regarding human health risks along the river corridor.

Basin Environmental Monitoring – continue implementing the Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) under the updated plan produced in 2020.

O&M Responsibilities for Remedial Actions – Terry briefly covered responsibilities for remedial actions and cleanup work on the site. Each program defines its responsible parties and required maintenance to protect the work completed as already described earlier in the 2022 Annual Work Plan.

Part 2 – Other Activities and Responsibilities – the five-year work plan recognizes work items the BEIPC will be involved in, and items of work needed to accommodate some of the recommendations of the 2005 NAS study; it also includes Lake Management activities by both the CDA Tribe and the State of Idaho; flood control and infrastructure revitalization; communication and public involvement; and coordination with Restoration Partnership.

Caj commented on the third paragraph of the Lake Management activities “As of the summer of 2018, the CDA Tribe asserted that the LMP is inadequate” he says gives the impression that they are coming out of nowhere saying the LMP is inadequate, but the triggers that were agreed upon in the initial LMP is what the Tribe was responding to. Caj would like this reflected so that it does not appear that the Tribe came up with their own unique indicators, these were indicators that everyone agreed to from the start. There needs to be some indication these triggers were reached first and because of that the Tribe responded that something else needed to be done. Terry said that was a good point, it is stated the same way in the 2022 Work Plan. Caj agreed and said he motioned for the 2022 Work Plan to be approved, but if we could catch it here to change the wording that would be great. Mike asked that we modify this part – and Caj agreed. Rebecca will work on the re-wording while the rest of the five-year plan is reviewed and comment on the chat.

Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization – under a 2018 MOA, participating governments of the BEIPC and the Upper Basin jurisdictions will continue to work on potential flooding issues on the SFCDAR to implement a LOMAR to update the 2009 Flood Inundation Maps based on current flood zone analysis by the COE. Based on new flood maps, it is anticipated that updated analysis of the need for certified levees in the SFCDAR will also be initiated. This group will also support the City of Pinehurst’s request for assistance in performing similar flood zone analysis in Pine Creek.

Communications and Public Involvement – will continue to address issues and facilitate public involvement and education in BEIPC activities.

Restoration Partnership – will continue to coordinate with the BEIPC and provide updates on restoration planning efforts and implementation of restoration projects that will be solicited by the Trustees and from interested parties.

Mike summarized the five-year plan after his review and saw no major changes, just staying the course as we have been doing the past five or six years. Terry agreed and said the dynamics will be how to handle projects in the Lower Basin.

Rebecca shared on the chat box the re-worded statement for the LMP section as discussed earlier - the chat was not working so Rebecca read the following statement:

“As of the Summer of 2018, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe (CDA Tribe) asserted that the LMP is inadequate, in itself, as an effective tool to protecting water quality in the Lake due to water quality triggers - lead, phosphorus and dissolved oxygen, in particular, being exceeded. These triggers were developed by the Tribe and IDEQ in the 2009 LMP and as stated in the LMP, if these triggers were to be exceeded within 10 years after the adoption of the Lake Management Plan, the Tribe and IDEQ would revisit the

effectiveness of the LMP and go back to EPA and call for more action to re-address the hazardous substances that continue to remain at the bottom of the lake”

Mike asked everyone if the modification was okay as re-written. Caj thought Rebecca’s statement was perfect and provided context as to why the Tribe is asserting that the LMP is inadequate. Terry said the statement makes sense, that’s why the NAS is doing their study, it precipitates that. Jess asked Dan McCracken and the IDEQ staff if they were comfortable with this statement as we have had slightly different opinions on the data. Dan agreed with Rebecca’s statement – where the State has had a difference of opinion is when the triggers are exceeded what do we do. The Tribe thinks that we should go back to EPA and ask for more action and the State wants to gather more information and get the NAS study and their thoughts on the appropriate action to take. Ed Moreen said the language that was read-off was quick, could we get the changes the Tribe has requested, and specifically which triggers are they referring to? Rebecca re-sent the statement to the chat box with success! This would modify the section of the LMP in both the 2022 Work Plan and the Five-Year 2022-2026 Work Plan. This answered Ed’s question seeing the triggers listed, he asked if the State was on-board with the statement that lead, phosphorus and dissolved oxygen were exceeded? Jamie Brunner said those were the triggers of concern at the time the Tribe withdrew their support of the LMP. Since then, another report came out that calls into question whether the dissolved oxygen is still in that trend direction. Craig Cooper said the triggers are accurate on the lead and phosphorus, the dissolved oxygen has been up and down depending on where you are at on the lake, but said the statement is reasonably accurate. Rebecca added for clarification that the Tribe has seen the dissolved oxygen levels decline on the Southern end of the lake.

**Public Comment on Draft 2022-2026 Five Year Work Plan** – there were no further comments on the five-year work plan.

**Approve 2022–2026 Five Year Work Plan – Board (Action Item)**

Mike summarized the points of change for the five-year work plan – update the blood lead level from 5 milligrams per deciliter to 3.5 milligrams per deciliter and provide the inserted language on the LMP as we just discussed as part of the approval of the 2022-2026 Work Plan. Caj made the motion to approve the five-year work plan with changes noted – Jess seconded – all approved M/S/C

Terry also asked that he be given authority to update the LMP language in the 2022 Work Plan. Caj made the motion to approve the 2022 Work Plan with the updated LMP section – Sandy seconded – all approved M/S/C

**CCC and Public Input Session and Discussion**

Jerry Boyd gave an update on the CCC – he had trouble connecting today and missed the discussion on the Policy and Procedures but did catch the review of the work plans and approves of both. He has had one citizen ask about updates on the monitoring and successes as it pertains to the cleanup and water quality up Nine Mile and Canyon Creek and looks forward to hearing about this. There have been no CCC meetings lately but will do what he can to participate when needed. Terry added that the Policy and Procedures document does not apply to the CCC. There may be a need for a CCC meeting when the Lower Basin activities begin and meetings informing the public will need to be held.

Mike said this would be a good time if IDEQ or EPA members have monitoring success stories to share with the group. Ed Moreen stated they don’t have anything at this time to share as far as success stories, but the work that has been implemented in the Upper Basin is displaying, with preliminary data

collection, a sharp decrease in concentrations. He suggested that we wait a little longer to present the whole package after we have completed a couple more sites in Ninemile Creek, then we will have an entire sub-basin to address. EPA did present preliminary data on the CTP a couple of meetings ago and current data is showing very positive results in the removal of metals. He would be glad to have a more formal presentation in the future at either a BEIPC or TLG meeting.

Mike gave a moment for any further public input – Sandy offered their help in setting up a CCC meeting if we are still unable to meet in person. There were no more public comments.

**Update Lake Management Plan, NAS and Coeur d’Alene Lake Advisory Committee Activities** – Jamie Brunner, IDEQ, gave an update on the LMP, NAS study and CLAC activities – a third party review of the Lake Management data was called for by Governor Little in 2020. EPA and Kootenai County co-sponsor this contract. The NAS committee has been meeting regularly in mostly closed and some public meetings collecting information. The open sessions were recorded and can be viewed on their webpage. The field tour that was scheduled for September was cancelled due to COVID concerns. Some footage of points of interest around the Basin has been videoed will hopefully be shared with the committee. In the meantime, Governor Little has recognized the issue with the increase in phosphorus levels and has directed \$2M to fund projects that will reduce phosphorus and improve water quality in CDA Lake. In September, the Coeur d’Alene Lake Advisory Committee (CLAC) was appointed and will advise and prioritize proposals that are eligible for this funding. The timeline was aggressive in starting this committee so if there were weather related projects, contracts could be put in place in time. They approved eligibility and ranking criteria and received 29 applications thru their solicitation process, which broke out into 34 projects to consider. A rigorous internal review and scoring from staff in CDA and Kellogg offices help put together technical reviews which were provided to CLAC. Their meeting in October looked at all this information, prioritized projects by what they felt were most important and shortened the list to 22 projects with a good variety of proposals, The next step will be to provide their recommendations to the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG), and the BAG will meet on their concurrence of these recommendations to be forwarded to Director Byrne. Mike asked if the stormwater and point-source projects were similar to the wastewater as phosphorus-based projects? Jamie said the proposals they have seen are general treatment proposals so it would treat metals as well, but the target is phosphorus. Dan added that most of their stormwater discharges are untreated throughout the watershed, the phosphorus removal estimates for the stormwater projects are fairly high. In the technical evaluations of the projects, IDEQ did an estimate of how many pounds of phosphorus each project would reduce, which were included in the technical summary. Caj expressed on behalf of the Tribe how pleased they are that the Governor has initiated this \$2M proposal and the desire to hopefully lead into something more. The Tribe begrudgingly agreed to the NAS process because it’s pretty clear that something needs to be done and this indicates the Governor agrees while we wait for the NAS process. Caj said this demonstrates a level of stewardship for the lake that we all care about and build on this momentum to create something great out of this. Jamie hopes that this process will be successful enough that in the future we’ll get more funding directed at these sorts of projects. Jess added that from the agency’s perspective that the \$2M is like a pilot where we’re testing the process and seeing what type of projects come forward and what the interest is. As Jamie indicated in that short amount of time to receive that number of projects was impressive and demonstrates both the interest that’s there and acknowledgement that nutrient reduction needs to take place around the lake. Jess is optimistic for additional dollars to potentially be put towards this from the State moving forward. There is nothing definitive yet, but the chances are likely for additional funding to go towards these efforts.



**Outreach Activities during last year** – Terry Harwood acknowledged that PHD has been very busy with their outreach activities as outlined in their report. He briefly went thru the outreach report for BEIPC, PHD and IDEQ accomplishments throughout 2021. Rebecca added that the Tribe was also involved with a lot of those outreach activities.

**Update on Restoration Partnership activities** – Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe

Rebecca's presentation updated us on the work the Restoration Partnership has accomplished in the last 2 ½ to 3 years. The Partnership is comprised of: US Fish & Wildlife; Bureau of Land Management; US Forest Service; CDA Tribe; Idaho Fish & Game and IDEQ. The difference between restoration as it compares to remedy – remedy is the cleanup under CERCLA Superfund activities and restoration under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program which is also under CERCLA. They work in tandem as EPA continues to conduct their remedy and work alongside them with restoration activities. The Coeur d'Alene Lake monitoring and modeling has been continuing to gather real time data as far as pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, and temperature. Outreach and education ties in collectively with many other agencies. They have tried to make outreach virtually available to the teachers that they work with in the Basin. The numbers are down some in their confluence project but making advances and staying strong and positive.

Project overviews:

**Lake Creek stream enhancements** – located on the reservation and is a 6–7-year program to restore almost the entire portion of the Lake Creek watershed within the CDA Tribe exterior boundaries of the reservation. This is a strong cutthroat trout tributary that flows into Windy Bay and is very important for the trout population.

**Culturally Significant Plant project** – taking place in the Hangman Creek drainage on the reservation where they are growing traditional culturally significant plants for future harvest by tribal members.

**Hepton Lake Breach Repair** – along the St. Joe where a breach occurred in 1996, was repaired and breached again. It has been a non-native northern pike fishery habitat and they have plans underway working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to repair the breach and restore the wetland to what it once was and create clean feeding habitat for migratory waterfowl, in particular tundra swans.

**Hepton Native Willow Nursery** – adjacent to Hepton Lake is the native willow nursery. The Tribe has been working on this for the past 2 ½ years and have seven different species of willows on 18 acres. The willows are made available to all our Trustees in their restoration projects of which some have already been planted at Gray's Meadow and Cougar Bay. It is amazing to see these native willows take off and be utilized in our restoration projects, while also not competing with our local nurseries.

**Put and Take Fishery** – taking place in the Hangman Drainage. We worked with one of the fish hatcheries in Washington to bring over salmon for this put and take fishery. This is the first time we have seen fish in this portion of Hangman Creek for well over 100 years and is exciting to bring back this cultural service to the community. This was supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish & Game and the US Forest Service.

**Canyon Marsh and Gleason's Marsh** – sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are addressing contamination in these high waterfowl use areas. EPA has committed to complete remedy's followed by our restoration – these are two conservation easements we have been working on with the local landowners. It will be similar to the Schlepp Ag to Wetland Conversion project. Hats off to our partners at US Fish and Wildlife Service for their efforts to keep these conversations with the landowners going during these difficult pandemic times.

Projects sponsored by IDEQ:

Wolf Lodge Creek – restoration project in which Phase I has been completed – working with 4-5 landowners to do streambank stabilization.

Prichard Creek – 1,100 acres of Prichard Creek working with Idaho Forest Group supporting their securing of a conservation easement so it won't be developed and will include riparian restoration.

St. Joe River – completed streambank stabilization with local landowners.

North Fork CDA River – completed streambank stabilization with local landowners.

Projects sponsored by Idaho Fish & Game:

Gene Day Pond – working with adjacent landowners to complete a clean oasis for family fishing opportunities and is about finished.

Gray's Meadow – is an Ag to Wetland Conversion project on the lower CDA River.

Trapper Creek – working with BLM and IDFG to replace a fish passage barrier and bridge replacement.

Black Rock Slough – isolating the lower CDA River from accessing the wetlands and to prevent further recontamination.

Cougar Bay Wetlands – is a public use site and very visible right off Highway 95. Working on getting the stream back in its original channel, reinvent the sinuosity, replace the bridge choke point as well as restore the wetlands.

Red Ives Dam Removal – is a fish passage barrier removal project on the upper St. Joe.

Mike stated that the Partnership was completing some very good work! Sandy asked if the project photos and summaries were posted on the RP website – Rebecca said yes, they are. She added after this year with their accomplishments, the profiles will be updated with fresh photos – they will indicate which projects were completed there as well.

Terry plans on having the next BEIPC meeting in March in Coeur d'Alene. At this meeting, we will need to review and approve the 2021 Accomplishment Report. He will be asking for those agency updates after Christmas. Terry believes this report is a great way to show the public and interested parties just what has been done. We will probably have another update by then on the NAS study and possible EPA field season updates. Terry would also like to hold an Executive Session.

Deb Sherbina wanted to thank our partners for working collaboratively on outreach for the projects. The Basin Bulletin will be released next week, thanks to all of you for your contribution and review.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18