

TLG Meeting Minutes
Technical Leadership Group Meeting
February 11, 2008
Idaho Transportation Department
600 W. Prairie Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Call to Order: The TLG Vice Chair, Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) led the meeting as the TLG Chair, Mr. Kenny Hicks, was unavailable.

Review of Draft BEIPC Five-Year Work Plan: Mr. Terry Harwood (BEIPC) presented the draft five-year work plan for the TLG's review and suggested that the BEIPC may want to edit the plan during the BEIPC meeting on February 27. Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA) asked if there was any way to identify the issues that the BEIPC may be concerned with. Mr. Harwood indicated that the BEIPC wanted to be involved in the Natural Resource Damage Restoration (NRDR) process and that he added a section in the work plan; but that the Natural Resource Trustees asked that it be removed. He suggested that a few of the BEIPC Commissioners may want to put it back in. Mr. Harwood said that another issue was funding for restoration projects. He indicated that he also removed that section in the work plan because there was no reason for the BEIPC to be involved with funding if they are not part of the NRDR process. However, he pointed out that it may be added back into the work plan if the BEIPC approves. Ms. Dailey then asked if the Natural Resource Trustees had come up with revised language for that section in the work plan. Mr. Brian Spears (USFWS) responded that he did not believe the attorneys had time to review it yet.

CWA Grants Update: Mr. Harwood gave a brief update on the CWA grants. He reported that the first year's grant for 2002 ended on January 31, 2008. The second year grant (2003) will end in 2009 and the third year (2004) in 2010. He said that he had scheduled a presentation for the final report on the Lake model at the BEIPC meeting on February 27, but that Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) asked that it be removed as it had yet to be completed and submitted to the Tribe as a final document. Mr. Harwood also mentioned that there would be no report on the River sediment model from USGS as it was going through their peer review process.

Five-Year Work Plan Discussion: The TLG members discussed language and minor revisions to the work plan. The discussion included: table narratives; repositories (the need for more repositories as existing sites fill up); EMF (East Mission Flats); Recreation PFT (working on developing strategy and guidelines for recreation management in the Upper and Lower Basin to give to various management agencies); mine/mill water quality issues (drinking water source in Mullan going through tailings pile); blood lead standards and testing (the question was raised on how do we evaluate the remedy without adequate blood lead results); and yard remediation program.

Additional issues regarding the difficulty in implementing blood lead testing were brought up. Mr. Mark Stromberg pointed out that blood lead testing is already mandated by Medicaid, but that many doctors are not doing it. Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) said that he talked to people in the

communities and suggested that there are no easy answers to implement the program. Mr. Brian Walker (Lands Council) talked about the results of the blood lead testing program in the State of Washington. Ms. Dailey also brought up the lead paint issue with toys and said that some people are not aware of the dangers. Mr. Rog Hardy (Benewah County TLG rep.) suggested that we not only look at mining, but the dangers of lead in general. Mr. Stromberg informed everyone that the soil cleanup standard is 1,000 ppm lead and the standard for toys is 600 ppm.

For ecological remedies, Mr. Harwood brought up that there is no funding yet. Ms. Dailey said that she checked into it and there is no dedicated ecological funding available for projects at this time, but that the EPA will continue to look at options. She emphasized that funding now is needed for human health risk. Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) also agreed that human health is the first priority. He suggested the need to have settlements with Hecla and Asarco in the future, and that some of the funding could be used for ecological work. Ms. Dailey indicated that some future funding for sampling may be retained through the Asarco trust.

Mr. Harwood gave a brief update on the infrastructure project and stormwater drainage reports for the communities. He noted that he funded these projects with savings from the BEIPC budget. He then brought up the \$60,000 State appropriation to the Counties (\$20,000 each to Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah) and reminded County TLG representatives that the funds will not be available after June 30, 2008. Mr. Rusty Sheppard (Kootenai County TLG rep.) mentioned that Kootenai County is planning to hire a consultant to review Lake monitoring data.

Regarding a Communications PFT, Mr. Harwood said that the BEIPC will discuss this at the February 27 meeting and if they approve, it will be set up. He indicated that a few people have already expressed interest. Mr. Harwood also discussed the Funding PFT and mentioned that he had asked Congress about funding. He said that U.S. Senator Craig's office had contacted him to help with a project and that he is working on an appropriations earmark for a flood control analysis to protect the remedy. The appropriation will also require a matching share.

Approval of Five-Year Work Plan: After further discussion by the TLG on work plan revisions, Ms. Stevens asked for a motion to approve the work plan. Mr. Dave George (WDOE) made a motion to approve the revised work plan, seconded by Ms. Dailey. The motion was approved. Mr. Harwood indicated that he would make the approved revisions before sending it out to the BEIPC Commissioners.

Break

Review of Draft One-Year Work Plan: Mr. Harwood pointed out that the one-year work plan should have been approved at the last BEIPC meeting in November, but it was deferred to accommodate the results of the BEIPC workshop. He asked for clarification if the EPA was still providing funding for some of the mine/mill cleanup. Mr. Adams answered affirmatively and said that they were looking to use some of the remaining funding on small sites with limited design in order to do some quick remedial actions. Mr. Harwood also asked Mr. David Fortier (BLM) about other cleanup work. Mr. Fortier replied that work had been done on Denver Creek, Highland Creek, Nevada Stewart and Highland Surprise. Mr. Harwood then asked about the

Asarco trust. Mr. Fortier explained that Asarco (in the U.S.) is currently in bankruptcy court. He indicated that some of the claim settlements may be beneficial to Natural Resource Damage Restoration.

Approval of One-Year Work Plan: After additional discussion on the one-year work plan, the TLG suggested minor revisions. Mr. George made a motion to approve the revised one-year work plan. It was seconded by Ms. Dailey and approved.

Annual Accomplishment Report Update: Mr. Harwood reported that he had completed the annual accomplishment report for the BEIPC and that it would be sent out for publishing at the end of the week. He said that color copies would be provided to the Basin Commissioners at the February 27 meeting. Copies may also be downloaded from the BEIPC website at: www.basincommission.com.

Lunch

(Editor's Note: The following minutes have been adapted from Rebecca Stevens' notes with minor changes).

PFT Discussion: Mr. Harwood and TLG members utilized the flip chart to list all of the PFT's that are either active or inactive. They are as follows:

- Recreation;
- Human Health;
- Mine and Mill;
- Water Treatment;
- Funding;
- Communication;
- Monitoring;
- OU-2;
- Repository;
- Bank Stabilization;
- Lake Monitoring;
- Lower Coeur d'Alene River;
- Education Outreach; and
- Contaminant Management.

The TLG started off by looking at the PFT reports that were generated by the PFT leads and handed out. The following is a summary from each PFT lead.

Mine and Mill PFT

Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) handed out a one-page report on purpose, meetings/conference calls, and future work.

- **The purpose:** To discuss ongoing data collection, design work, and construction issues at Mine and Mill projects. Construction has been completed throughout this group at the Constitution, Sisters, Golconda, Rex, Denver Creek, and Jack Waite site (ongoing). This group is also tasked to develop an inventory of all Mine and Mill and removal sites and prioritize future work as funds become available. The group also reviewed and provided recommendations on Mine/Mill related CWA projects.
- **Future work:** PFT will continue to work on the inventory and prioritization process. It will also work on design and construction at the Jack Waite site through 2009. The group is hoping to select one or more sites during 2008 that can be moved into the design process. Good candidates will be those that require minimal design, have a human health component, and are not on PRP property. Currently, limited funding remains for construction at these sites.

Water Treatment PFT

Mr. Adams handed out a one-page report on purpose, meetings/conference calls, and future work.

- **The purpose:** This group has primarily focused on review and comment on the work being conducted by EPA within Canyon Creek. This work has included Phase I and II treatability studies and hydrological investigations in Lower Canyon Creek. The PFT also reviewed and commented on the CWA treatability study for Canyon Creek and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) evaluation of sediments. Studies to date have shown that the goals of the ROD for Canyon Creek can be met by treating groundwater. Several alternatives have been developed to collect and treat this groundwater. Further efforts to select and design an alternative for Canyon Creek are pending additional funding and coordination with potentially other actions by PRPs in the drainage. Canyon Creek remains one of the highest priorities for water treatment in the Upper Basin. In the interim, the work of this group will expand to conduct a limited evaluation of other source areas in the Upper Basin (for prioritization separate from Canyon Creek) as funds become available. A work plan for conducting additional sampling in the Upper Basin areas is being developed and will soon be distributed to the PFT for review and comment.
- **The future:** Another PFT meeting will likely occur in the March/April time frame to discuss upcoming monitoring work.

OU 2 Phase II PFT

Ms. Anne Dailey (EPA) handed out a one-page report on background and status.

- **Background:** 1) The BEIPC MOA allows for the Basin Commission to address a future ROD implementing potential OU2 Phase II cleanup actions; 2) The BEIPC voted to participate in future OU2 cleanup activities. Technical input via PFT- remedy alternatives/selection, public input, and educating community/legislature of funding needs.

- **Status:** PFT has held several meetings; most recent meeting (10/07) was in conjunction with Water Treatment PFT to present findings of the OU2 Phase I remedial action assessment report. Provide several presentations at BEIPC meetings (last one was 11/07). IDEQ/EPA Water Treatment team currently assessing OU2 key source areas and will share the results in Spring 2008.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Environmental Monitoring (BEMP) PFT

Ms. Dailey handed out a one-page report on background and status.

- **Background:** Initially a “working group” prior to the issuance of the OU-3 interim ROD (40+ members). Ms. Dailey printed the acknowledgment page from the Final BEMP document 3/26/04 that had a list of all those individuals and organizations that participated. When the OU-3 Interim ROD was issued and the BEIPC formed, the group transitioned to a PFT and new members were invited to join. This PFT worked collaboratively to develop the Coeur d'Alene BEMP which was issued in 2004.
- **Purpose of BEMP:** Assessment of long-term Basin-wide status and trends in surface water, soil/sediment and biota, evaluate overall effectiveness of Selected Remedy, evaluate progress toward cleanup benchmarks, and provide data for CERCLA- required five-year reviews.
- **Status:** BEMP implementation has been ongoing and will be continuing, results from the monitoring work has been presented at TLG and BEIPC meetings, reports are available on the EPA and BEIPC websites and the data is available at www.storet.org.

Repository

Mr. Ed Moreen (EPA) provided a handout on the current status of this PFT.

- **Status:** Several people responded to an announcement put out in early November by Mr. John Lawson (IDEQ) querying for interested parties in the Repository PFT. Mr. Harwood tracked all responses after Mr. Lawson resigned his position and has updated Mr. Andy Mork (new IDEQ State Repository Coordinator). In addition to the parties that responded, both IDEQ and EPA will continue to participate in the PFT. It is anticipated that Mr. Mork will chair the group consistent with protocols. No meetings have been scheduled yet, but expect an email in the coming month with likely meeting date in 6-8 weeks. There was some discussion regarding the Inspector General visiting the EMF site; however, EPA staff did not have any information on when that would be and who the Inspector General would be contacting.

Recreation PFT

Ms. Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) provided a verbal report on behalf of the Recreation PFT Chair, Mr. Mark Masarik (EPA).

- **Background:** This PFT which was dormant for most of 2007 was reconvened in October 2007. Work groups within the PFT have been formed to develop input for a recreation

management plan which we are calling the Recreation Management Strategy and Guidelines. This document will serve as a guide for agencies and organizations that develop and manage recreational use facilities to better coordinate their activities by maximizing limited resources and avoiding duplication. Three working groups were formed within the PFT as follows: Recreation areas inventory, recreation trends forecasting and analysis, and communications and testing strategy. The products from these three working groups will be used to develop the Recreation Management Strategy and Guidelines.

- **Status:** The Rec. Areas PFT met most recently on January 10, 2008. The status of the three working groups is as follows:
 - 1) **Inventory** – The updated and refined inventory for contaminated recreation use areas will include both formal existing sites and dispersed areas not officially designated as recreation sites. A draft inventory format (spreadsheet) is currently under review and comment within the full PFT. After the inventory workgroup receives and incorporates comments into the basic format, we will begin to populate the spreadsheet. This template will then be presented to the TLG for consideration and feedback at a future meeting.
 - 2) **Trends Forecast and Analysis** - A trends analysis was drafted of future recreation use and development to help guide our work on the Recreation Management Strategy and Guidelines. The draft trends analysis document has been sent to the full PFT for review and comment. After the PFT finalizes the summary, it will be presented to the TLG for their review and comment.
 - 3) **Communications and Testing Strategy** - This working group, which had their first call on February 4th, intends to develop a strategy to communicate with the public and involve them in the decisions and activities of the Rec. Areas PFT. This will also be presented to the TLG in the future after a draft strategy is approved by the full PFT.
- **Future:** Next meeting date for Recreation PFT under consideration.

Human Health PFT

Mr. Rob Hanson (IDEQ) was not present to provide an update, but the group had some discussions regarding the future of this PFT.

- **TLG Discussion:** The overall feeling was that there are still a number of hurdles to overcome and that if TLG members have ideas for future blood lead screening incentives to get in touch with Mr. Hanson. Mr. Brian Walker (Lands Council) provided an update on a blood lead screening survey that the Lands Council conducted in 2006-2007. Mr. Walker reported to the group that they have one full-time employee (FTE) that works solely on community education and outreach as it pertains to blood lead screening. Results from the survey in 2007 consisted in 30 children being tested and over 60 signed up to be tested. (For more information, please contact the Lands Council). Mr. Walker also notified the group that there is a grad student from John Hopkins University that recently visited the area and conducted interviews throughout the Basin regarding the

effectiveness of the blood lead screening program. That graduate student will provide her final report to the BEIPC.

Communications PFT

This PFT has yet to be set up pending approval by the BEIPC

- **Status:** The TLG is awaiting five-year plan approval by the BEIPC. It was suggested to combine the Education & Outreach PFT into this PFT and members of that PFT were in agreement to do so. EPA outreach specialist staff will be contacted to see if they are interested in participating.

Education and Outreach

This PFT has not met since 2004 when the development of “Our Gem” was underway.

- **Status:** Since the completion of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Lake Stewardship Outreach CWA project, this group has not met. PFT members agreed to “do away” with this PFT and move to the Communications PFT (see above).

Contaminant Management PFT

This PFT met in 2007 as per directed by the BEIPC to look at the issues surrounding contaminant management outside of the ICP and around Coeur d'Alene Lake.

- **Status:** Mr. Harwood put together a paper outlining all of the issues (particularly jurisdiction and the lack of contamination management requirements) and provided it to the BEIPC. There was discussion among the TLG on whether to keep this PFT active or to let it go dormant. It was the overall consensus to keep this PFT and let it lie dormant for the time being as potential issues may arise for the PFT to meet again and address.

Funding PFT

Members of this PFT participated in a past conference call, but have not met recently.

- **Status:** Awaiting BEIPC approval on the five-year work plan.

Bank Stabilization, Lake Monitoring, and Lower Coeur d'Alene River PFTs

- **Status:** There has not been any recent updates on the above mentioned PFTs; however, the TLG as a whole felt it was important to keep them alive due to CWA projects being completed and other outside projects coming down the pipes. These three PFTs have been combined into one called the Lower Basin PFT.

Lower Basin PFT

- **Status:** Rebecca offered to contact TLG members that show an interest in meeting on the issues within the Lower Basin.

Other Discussion: Mr. Rusty Sheppard (Kootenai County TLG rep.) reported that the Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan revisions will be released soon and posted to the County website for review. Mr. George suggested that if contamination issues were not addressed in the Comp Plan revisions, then the BEIPC will need to address them. Mr. Harwood said that Kootenai County did not address the institutional controls program (ICP) in the Comp Plan revisions, but that he along with Mr. Sheppard and Ms. Julie Dalsaso (CCC Member) have been working on this issue.

Mr. Harwood also mentioned that he clarified the recent misinformation that was printed in the newspaper about Coeur d'Alene Lake not being part of Superfund. He indicated that he was asked to do so by the CCC; and that he called the reporter to explain that the Lake was part of the Superfund site, but that it was not part of the cleanup remedy.

Update of BEIPC Meeting Agenda Items: Mr. Harwood provided an update on agenda items for the upcoming BEIPC meeting on February 27.

Next TLG Meeting: The TLG agreed to schedule the next meeting for May 1. (Editor's Note: The TLG meeting was later rescheduled to April 21 to accommodate the CCC meeting on April 23 and the deadline for BEIPC board packet information, April 25). Ms. Stevens noted that election of TLG officers was slated for May 2008.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, Ms. Stevens asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. George made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fortier. The meeting was adjourned.