

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting Summary Notes

October 29, 2014 ~ Centennial Distributors, Hayden, ID

Attendees (signed in)

Bill Adams (EPA)	Rene Gilbert (EPA)	Ed Moreen (EPA)
Jamie Brunner (IDEQ)	Denna Grangaard (IDEQ)	Jan Olsen (IDEQ)
Glory Carlile (BEIPC)	Terry Harwood (BEIPC)	Kim Prestbo (EPA)
Don Carpenter (IDEQ)	Morai Helfen (USFS)	Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe)
Tracy Chellis (EPA)	Andy Helkey (Panhandle Health)	Katherine Rowden (NWS)
Randy Connelly (STO1)	Aubrey Hoxie (NRCS)	Rusty Shepard (Kootenai County)
Craig Cooper (IDEQ)	Jeff Johnson (BLM)	Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe)
Bonnie Douglas (CCC member)	Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe)	Sandra Treccani (WA Ecology)
	Caj Matheson (Restoration Partnership)	

Call to Order/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with welcome and introductions by the TLG Chair, Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe).

Draft TLG April 10, 2014 Meeting Summary Notes:

It was decided to postpone review of the minutes till the end of the day so that those who had not read them yet could do so during the meeting. At the end of the day approval of the minutes was postponed to provide time for everyone to review them and submit edits to the Chair, Sandra Raskell.

Repository Update

Don Carpenter provided an update on the East Mission Flats (EMFR) and Big Creek (BCR) repositories annual monitoring results evaluated through the end of 2013. In summary, the results showed no increase in trends of groundwater and surface water contamination which indicates that the repositories are functioning as designed.

Carpenter reported on floodwater sampling conducted during the March 2014 flood. The flood was pretty short but samples were collected as water flowed into the area surrounding the repository and as water flowed out of the area. The results of sampling show that lead concentrations decreased as water flowed out of the area. Results of the sampling for cadmium and zinc were inconclusive. The results of this sampling are difficult to interpret because of the historical floodplain contamination that is present throughout the area. Based on the repository design and our understanding of this site, it is unlikely that a release of repository contaminants would occur through the floodwater pathway. The floodwater monitoring will be discontinued and only the most likely contaminant migration pathways will be monitored moving forward. Monitoring will continue to include visual inspections to identify erosion of the clean cap or deficiencies in sediment controls. The quarterly groundwater monitoring will continue and repository soil saturation and geochemical conditions will continue to be monitored.

Carpenter concluded the repository update by summarizing the modeling conducted to identify the appropriate final repository cap design. The modeling conservatively estimates that there is a very low risk to human health and the environment from infiltration of precipitation through the repository wastes. Efforts to prevent unacceptable exposure to repository contaminants will focus on the design of a 12 inch thick clean soil cap that limits the potential for intrusion, erosion, and transport of the contaminated sediments.

Recreation Outreach Efforts:

Denna Grangaard (IDEQ) introduced Andy Helkey, (Panhandle Health District), and Rene Gilbert (EPA).

Helkey reported that recreational exposure to heavy metals was identified as a “potential significant risk” for children in the Basin RI/FS. Recreational activities can lead to substantial increases in lead uptake and absorption. This correlates with the higher average blood lead seen in Basin children during annual screening.

Education and Intervention:

Grangaard spoke about the recreational brochure and poster they are working on that will use a more positive message. It will be more visual and user friendly to increase awareness and promote safe recreating. Healthy Living Brochure will be updated next year.

Helkey reported that they are working with the Parks and Recreation Department on human health information and maps. They are changing focus from talking about lead to metals in general and they are putting together a landowner’s use packet.

They are still doing lead testing for children and will test any time of the year. The goal is to identify the target audience and get out the message to them. The Shoshone Medical Center is doing the testing now through a contract but they are hoping to change that to do the test on site at Panhandle Health.

Comments/Questions:

Suggestions included putting a page ad in the newsletters, and putting the information in school newsletter. Gilbert commented that it is in the Basin Bulletin newsletter and the information is out in the community on a regular basis on flyers and posters.

Harwood suggested that the test results information can be shared at the next Basin Commission meeting noting that statistics will have a bigger impact. It was also suggested to have a Recreation Project Focus Team (PFT) meeting.

Community Fill sites

Jan Olsen (IDEQ) talked about the Community Fill Plan (CFP) for disposal of selected remedial wastes. Shoshone County Transfer Station - Potential Community Fill site – doing site assessments to identify suitable fill sites. Looking at low lying sites for waste. Craig Cooper commented that it could turn out to be a bad idea because of the hydrology. It is something to keep in mind.

Plans include:

- Shoshone County Transfer Station evaluation locating utilities and noting and documenting the features
- Terra Graphics will eventually be doing a map
- Evaluation checklist

Grangaard commented that the community is wishing for economic development with infill for properties. Adams added that if we can identify a safe location for disposable waste than we do not have to use the repository.

Mine and Mill Site evaluations:

Adjacent to residential area mine dumps near homes. There are also mine dumps that are not critical human health risks and do not impact residents down below. Some mine dumps have recreational use. They do field logs of the sites. Purpose of this is to establish priority from the human health aspect. Some of the criteria included proximity to residential and recreational use.

Restoration Partnership (RP) Update:

Caj Matheson (Restoration Partnership), Communications Specialist of the RP, reviewed the restoration planning process that they are working on now. Even though under NEPA, they will not have to do an evaluative assessment (EA) of each step of the process as they can group things together. They intend to have enough detail in their programmatic plan to minimize the need. Under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process they are refining the plan. Focus and emphasis is in the CDA Basin.

The Plan:

- Identifies Trustee Approach and Values
- Focuses on Steams, Wetlands and Lakes ecosystems (no uplands)
- Utilized Fish and Waterfowl to show us where and how the work should be done.
- Leads to implementation work plans at a finer scale and to be more specific

Matheson concluded that the next step is to draft the plan and incorporate all the scoping feedback and then produce the EIS analysis.

There was discussion about the counties being in the loop for previewing and review of the plan before it goes out to the public. Matheson said they are having coordination meetings with counties. For example, asking Kootenai County how they want to be involved. He said that Shoshone County is more actively engaged in the process.

Lake Management Plan (LMP) Updates:

Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe) and Craig Cooper (IDEQ) gave updates on the activities of LMP. Laumatia reported that they are preparing for their 5 year review so their staff have been meeting regularly to review the last 6 years of monitoring data and prepare the first part which is a water quality “triggers” report (to happen probably in November) which is a snapshot of the trends of what is happening in the Lake.

Cooper reported on the similar trends and where we are in the overall process and the long term trends. Stage 1 is what is going on inside of the boundaries of the lake putting together reports of the lake status and its water quality triggers and its trending.

He reviewed the summary data on graphs indicating :

- Status of Lake relative to the dissolved metals showing the annual composite of samples collected in the northern bays for any given year.
- Lake Status Relative to Trophic State.
- Lake Status Relative to Bio-indicators.

Overall:

- Intermittently or continuously exceeding most trigger criteria
- Generally trending in the wrong direction
- But, we’ve caught it early and there is time to respond
- Metals are generally doing OK, except for lead
- Trophic State – Status is not good so we need to do a greater emphasis on basin wide nutrient reduction

Laumatia pointed out a major outreach project, the Confluence Project, which is research oriented. They are working very closely with 3 high schools – St. Maries, Post Falls, and Lake City - to get the students out in the field and doing monitoring. Each student is supposed to be involved in doing research on basin issues.

“Our Gem” Symposium will be held on November 18, 2014 at the CDA Resort. The community goal is a healthy lake. The goal of this conference is to bring together a broader range of stakeholders. Action planning session will be in the afternoon. They hope to get the stakeholders to understand that the LMP is a non-regulatory, voluntary plan that relies on our community collaborating.

1 Year Work Plan Review & Discussion:

Terry Harwood reviewed the annual Work Plan and made a few edits. Rebecca Stevens moved and Jamie Brunner 2nd to approve the 2015 Work Plan with the edits and to make the recommendation to the BEIPC Commissioners to accept the plan. M/S/C

5 Year Work Plan Review & Discussion:

Terry Harwood reviewed the 5 year Work Plan and made a few edits. Ed Moreen moved and Rusty Shepard 2nd to approve the 5 year Work Plan with the edits to make the recommendation to the Commissioners to accept the plan. M/S/C

Lower Basin, CTP/GCS and the BEMP:

Kim Prestbo (EPA) reported on the CTP Upgrade/GCS Update: She provided an overview of the Groundwater Collection System (GWCS)(Design Elements. Groundwater slurry wall 3 ft. wide barrier to essentially isolate and extract the groundwater. It extends for 8000 ft. and wraps around about 2000 ft. of the CIA and will have 10 -12 extraction wells. Based on their modeling they expect an average flow rate between 2000 – 2500 gpm. A key aspect of this remedy is the optimization to correct with the wall constructed. The goal is to minimize the amount of groundwater extracted and would have to put through the CTP.

In order to treat this additional groundwater they will need to update the CTP and to accommodate the CTP for future expansion. In January 2014 they looked at their design at the time and for ways to optimize the system and came up with Key Value Engineering Study Recommendation which includes controlling the flow to the CTP, optimize and control the groundwater collected, and to control the flow from the Bunker Hill Mine.

Ed Moreen explained the process and said they are having ongoing discussions with the Bunker Hill Mine to take responsibility to control their water flow.

Prestbo said that they have selected their procurement strategy and they have spent time on property easements both temporary and permanent for construction with private landowners. They have been coordinating with the Paved Roads Program and with utilities coordination as part of the process. Other activities include working with the water quality group for baseline and monitoring criteria limits. They expect to see changes but may never get groundwater to meet the water quality criteria but need to understand the impact of this remedy. Target is to have major construction to begin in 2015 and anticipated completion in fall 2017.

Lower Basin of the CDA River:

Ed Moreen gave an update on the Bank Isolation Pilot Project at Kahnderosa Campground in Cataldo. Primary focus was to isolate high level contaminants to the site public access down the banks to the water. They used conifer fascine construction on the river banks. Between the layers they put down willows.

He reported that Modeling – 2D Hydrodynamic is continuing on the river and currently they are in the final calibration stages expecting to be done by the end of the year.

Next steps:

River bed parameterization is nearly complete, so sediment transport model development report can begin as soon as the 2D model calibration is done.

BEMP – Sediment Updates:

Sediment data collection is being optimized as data gaps are filled. Need for monitoring (status and trends) vs. ECSM/modeling can now be efficiently separated. For suspended sediment, smaller sample volumes and simpler sample processing in lab. Remaining data gaps are under consideration.

BEMP Update:

Tracy Chellis (EPA) reported on BEMP stating that it has been in existence for over 10 years. EPA is working to update and optimize the BEMP in conjunction with IDEQ Superfund program, USGS, USFWS and CH2M hill to evaluate monitoring needs for the 2012 ROD Remedial Actions to step back and look at what data needs to be had in relationship with the actions needed to be put in place. Primarily to update our data quality objective to better meet our remedial action effectiveness, monitoring, and long term monitoring needs.

Changes in FY2015:

Ground water monitoring on OU2 has been reduced. Surface water monitoring is being updated. USGS is developing a report in the 2015 5 year review. USFWS has been capturing pre- remedial action data in East Fork Ninemile Creek Drainage and Canyon Creek. They are still in the optimization process. They plan to summarize all this in the 5 year review report to the public.

Approval of the April 10, 2014 TLG Meeting Summary Notes:

Review of the April 10 meeting minutes was tabled for review by TLG Chair, Sandra Raskell, and will be edited electronically. Comments are due by November 14.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30.

Brunner moved to adjourn the meeting and Trecanni 2nd M/S/C