

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Meeting Summary Minutes

March 15, 2023, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Center Place

2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, Washington

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 included the following:

Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Brook Beeler (Washington State), Jess Byrne (IDEQ), Michael McCurdy (IDEQ), Leslie Duncan (Kootenai County), Calvin Terada (EPA), Caj Matheson (CDA Tribe), Phil Lampert (Benewah County)

Staff present:

Gail Yost (BEIPC, Assistant to E.D., Note taker), Tamara Langton (EPA), Andy Helkey (IDEQ), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Sandra Treccani (Washington State), Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe), Jerry Boyd (CCC), Jamie Brunner (IDEQ)

Call to Order

Brook Beeler called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Nomination, Discussion and Election of a New BEIPC Chair – Terry Harwood (Action Item)

Terry opened it up to the Board for the election of a new BEIPC Chair. Jess Byrne made a motion that Commissioner Leslie Duncan be the Chair of the Basin Commission, Phil Lampert seconded the motion, all approved M/S/C

Leslie then gave a brief overview of herself. Her first BEIPC meeting was actually the day after she was elected Kootenai County Commissioner in 2018. She has been re-elected for a second term and now serves as the Chairman of the BOCC. Terry stated that he has also worked with Leslie on water quality issues on the Rathdrum Prairie.

Review and Approve Draft November 9, 2022, Meeting Notes – Terry Harwood (Action Item)

Leslie asked there were any changes or edits to the November 9th meeting notes - Rebecca stated she had already worked with Gail to correct a couple of spelling errors. There were no other comments, a motion was made by Phil to approve the November 9th meeting notes, Jess seconded the motion, all approved M/S/C

Process for Recruiting a replacement for the BEIPC Executive Director – Andy Helkey, BEIPC Core Staff

Andy spoke about the process over the last couple of months that BEIPC Core Staff (Gail Yost BEIPC, Tamara Langton EPA, Rebecca Stevens CDA Tribe, Sandra Treccani Washington State Department of Ecology and himself from IDEQ) had taken Terry's 20 year old job description and blew the dust off. They basically updated the HR requirements and made the job description more current. which has then been given to the Board to look over today in their Executive Session at lunch. Terry's projected date of retirement is November 24th and he will help with whatever the

Board needs for a smooth transition. Calvin Terada thanked the core staff for jumping in, doing this hard work, dusting off things, looking at history, modernizing and taking the time in addition to the work that you are already doing in your regular jobs to get us to this position today. Andy said as everyone knows, we will have a hard time replacing Terry. With the decision the Board makes today we can then move forward with the hiring process and bring somebody in. Terry was also able to help staff by providing his job description, reviewing, and providing his comments to the updated document.

Review Draft 2022 Annual Report – Terry Harwood

Terry presented the annual report of accomplishments made in 2022. This process includes putting together reports submitted from various agencies and how well they have done during the calendar year on projects that were outlined in the approved work plans.

In the first section, Terry summarized environmental remediation work performed through the federal Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA/Superfund) Program and the State of Idaho environmental cleanup programs and actions under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust (Trust) formed under the ASARCO Bankruptcy settlement. Natural resource damage restoration work was performed by the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees (Restoration Partnership) including the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDA Tribe), State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), U.S. Department of Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Department of Agriculture through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Panhandle Health District (PHD) continued to manage the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) to control the release and migration of contamination remaining in place after remediation.

The Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) serves as an information conduit to and from the BEIPC on citizen, community, and special interest issues, and on environmental cleanup and restoration concerns. It is comprised of politically and geographically diverse members and was established to provide local citizen review and input on Basin related work to the BEIPC.

The Technical Leadership Group (TLG) with its Project Focus Teams (PFT's) is the BEIPC primary technical advisory group. It is comprised of federal, state, local and tribal representatives as well as interested private citizens serving on the PFT's who provide expertise in science, engineering, logistics, regulatory aspects, and land management in the Basin. In 2022, the ED and TLG developed the 2023-2027 Five Year and Calendar Year 2023 draft work plans and studied and developed project and program proposals to implement the remedy in OU-2 and 3.

The BEIPC continued its efforts to maintain public involvement concerning activities and communication between the Basin community and all agencies involved in the cleanup. EPA also coordinated with local communities for the opportunity to be involved in and informed about the cleanup. Many of these activities are also done in partnership with other agencies. IDEQ and PHD conduct education, public engagement, and health awareness activities related to the CDA Basin cleanup. Kellogg (PHD) is the primary partner for health messaging and outreach through the Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP). There were many community involvement activities conducted in 2022 as highlighted in the annual report.

The Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP)

Mary will give an update today on the LHIP Program.

Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP)

At the conclusion of 2022 field season, properties remaining to be sampled and/or remediated in the Upper and Lower Basin are those whose owners have refused access or have not responded to repeated contact attempts. IDEQ did not complete any remediation in the Box this year, keeping their total at 3,236 properties. The CDA Trust BPRP program collected soil samples from five residential properties and remediated three for a total to date of 3,931 in the Upper and Lower Basin. They were also able to collect 306 dust mat samples from 288 residential properties and 108 vacuum samples, along with maintaining six existing drinking water filtration systems.

Contaminated Waste Disposal and Management

A short overview was given on the repositories and Waste Consolidation Areas (WCA's) located in the Box and Basin. These include Big Creek Repository (BCR) and BCR Annex (BCRA), Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR), East Mission Flats Repository (EMFR), Page Repository, East Fork Ninemile Creek WCA, and the Canyon Creek Complex Repository and WCA (CCR). The five repositories receive remedial action and ICP waste. Both IDEQ and CDA Trust direct waste to these repositories to minimize transportation distances and cost. Contaminated waste disposal and management is an ongoing process as we meet the demand for the disposal of historic mining related contamination generated under various remediation programs and under the ICP (which protects the remedy from recontamination). Without the expansion of existing disposal facilities or the construction of new facilities, continued remediation and control of contamination could be compromised and potentially stopped.

The ICP has been administered by PHD and now will become an Idaho State statute, without any administrative or regulatory changes - Jess explained that the rule passed the Senate and the House without a single 'no vote' which is pretty incredible. This is a testament when groups get together and come up with a solution that works for everyone, the process does work, a great accomplishment! Terry said there were a lot of letters of support written for this and he is pleased that the remedy will be protected.

The Waste Consolidation Areas (WCA's) are located adjacent to or near specified remedial action source areas and only take remedial waste. In 2022, a PFT was formed to evaluate Lower Basin locations proposed by EPA during a public comment period on, and to consider alternative locations for, a new WCA to dispose of wastes generated from Lower Basin remedial actions.

Upper Basin Remedies

Upper Basin remedies continued with the operation of the East Fork Ninemile (EFNM) WCA. Surface water monitoring continued in the EFNM Basin, as well as Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the Interstate Callahan Mine Rock Dumps, the Success Mine Complex, Interstate Millsite and Rex Mine No.2/Sixteen-to-One. Characterization and sampling activities in the Canyon Creek Drainage were conducted at the Frisco Black Bear Reach (7 sites) along with surface and ground water monitoring in the Canyon Creek Basin. Initial construction of the Canyon Creek Repository/WCA (CCR/WCA) was completed with the moving of waste material from the old Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees repository. Development continued of the Canyon Creek Quarry (CCD), which will be able to supply clean aggregate materials to CCR/WCA as well as

future Canyon Creek remedial action projects. Designs for the Star Complex and Tamarack No.7 were completed, and design began for the Flynn Mine and Black Bear Fraction sites.

Lower Basin Remedies

Progress continued at the Gray's Meadow, which is a collaborative effort between EPA, the CDA Trust and the Restoration Partnership to remediate and restore contaminated agricultural land to clean, diverse, productive wetlands and riparian waterfowl/wildlife habitat. Activities included completion and stakeholder review of the 90 and 100 percent designs for both the Cave Lake and Lamb Peak wetlands; completion of the Lamb Peak wetland discharge and access road improvements; cultural resource monitoring - localized dewatering – and tilling of impacted soils at both Cave Lake and Lamb Peak wetlands; as well as restoration grading and stockpiling of contaminated soils at Lamb Peak.

EPA continued studies related to lead bioaccessibility and amendments for measuring lead exposure in waterfowl. Several studies were completed or are ongoing as described in Annual Report. The Dudley Reach pilot riverbed remediation project continued in 2022 with sediment sampling at 14 locations; penetrometer tests, geotechnical sample collection, field vane shear testing, geophysical surveying; and riverbank erosion pin monitoring at 5 locations in the Dudley Reach to characterize riverbank soils. Work in the Cataldo Reach included installation of erosion pins at 28 riverbank locations; soil sampling for metals analysis; surface soil composite sampling; upland riverbank assessment for metals analysis; and surface sediment sampling.

State of Washington

A periodic review was completed for the Spokane River beach sites in late 2021 and is planned to go out for public review in 2022. It includes a complete survey of each of the remediated beach sites along the river that was conducted in 2018. In general, it was observed that the beach sites closest to the Washington-Idaho border have accumulated sediment from upstream sources that contain heavy metals. Current concentrations at the upstream beach sites have not reached the action levels that were used when conducting the cleanups and overall, each of these beach sites are in good condition.

Recreational Sites

Work continues in recreation areas including signage, sampling, and extensive public education/outreach activities for areas in both the Box and Basin, and remediation of areas in the Basin. New health information signs were developed and installed to inform users of health risks. Five new signs were installed in Lower Basin locations at boat launches, informal river access points and beach areas - vandalism continues to be a problem.

EPA and DEQ are developing a Box Recreation Site Strategy to guide recreational site clean-up once EPA completes an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) allowing for remediation of Box recreational areas.

In the Lower Basin, EPA continued to evaluate previously completed initial actions at the Medimont boat launch, Rainy Hill boat launch, Anderson Lake boat launch, Thompson Lake boat launch and East of Rose Lake boat launch. At four of these boat launches, willows and/or alders that were planted in 2020 were found to be re-contaminated from yearly flooding. Bare soil areas were hydroseeded and initial actions such as concrete pavers or enhanced vegetation will continue to be evaluated. EPA also completed cleanup at the informal recreation site at the beach across from the Black Rock Trailhead, and at the Cataldo Boat Launch. EPA installed access controls at informal

river access points near the SFCDA River in the Upper Basin to discourage recreation on soils that are re-contaminated with yearly flooding.

Basin Environmental Monitoring

The BEMP Workgroup was restarted in Spring 2021 as an annual forum to share basin-wide monitoring results and planning amongst partner agencies. This workgroup includes IDEQ, US Geological Survey (USGS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, CDA Trust, and EPA. An updated BEMP plan was finalized in 2021 with the goal to design efficient data collection plans to support site-wide management decisions. It incorporates adaptive management principles and is anticipated to evolve during the remedy implementation timeframe.

Part 2 – Lake Management Activities

The Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (LMP) developed by the CDA Tribe and IDEQ, was finalized in 2009. Since then, the CDA Tribe and IDEQ have been implementing core aspects of the LMP such as water quality monitoring, modeling, nutrient source inventory, and education/outreach. In 2018, the CDA Tribe asserted that the LMP has been inadequate, as implemented, as an effective tool to protect water quality in the Lake. The CDA Tribe withdrew their support of the LMP, as an alternative to a CERCLA remedy, in 2019. That same year, Idaho Governor Brad Little called for a third-party review of Lake data to take a closer look at observed Lake water quality trends and guide actions to protect the Lake moving forward. In 2020, the State of Idaho, Kootenai County, and EPA sponsored the contract with the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) to conduct this neutral third-party review of CDA Lake data. The final report was completed in 2022 (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-future-of-water-quality-in-coeur-dalene-lake>) and included a number of recommendations to help guide Lake management science activities into the future. Discussions among the CDA Tribe, IDEQ and EPA related to NAS recommendations and future lake management activities are ongoing and various aspects outlined in the LMP are essential to continue while additional approaches to augment work under the auspices of the LMP are being considered.

Flood Control and Infrastructure

The BEIPC and the Silver Valley Flood Control Group continued to deal with flooding and its impacts on the communities and the Superfund remedies. The formal partnership continued to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), BEIPC Consultant and FEMA to complete Flood Map Revisions for the River from Elizabeth Park to Pinehurst. The City of Pinehurst anticipates using their Flood Risk Assessment from the COE to request a similar flood mapping change to FEMA for the Pinehurst area for the Pine Creek drainage.

Restoration Partnership

The Restoration Partnership is a collaborative effort comprising the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees which are the US Department of the Interior, represented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM); the CDA Tribe; the US Department of Agriculture, represented by the US Forest Service (USFS); and the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). Their primary mission is to implement a restoration plan to help restore the health, productivity, and diversity of injured natural resources from releases of mine waste contamination and the services they provide in the CDA Basin for present and future generations. The annual report lists the projects they have completed and those they continue to implement; a full report can be found on their website at www.restorationpartnership.org.

Challenges Ahead

A great deal of work was accomplished across the Upper and Lower Basin in 2022. The cleanup and restoration effort were focused on a mix of items; remediation of human health risks resulting from contaminated residential and commercial properties; extensive work by the CDA Trust in the EFN Creek and Canyon Creek drainages and the Lower Basin on ecological remedies and related human health issues; and EPA directed work to address the contaminated groundwater problems and mine discharges in OU-2 noted in the Upper Basin RODA. Human health related projects continue to be a priority, but cleanup work in fish and wildlife habitat areas, and surface and ground water is moving forward with EPA working with the BEIPC, IDEQ, the CDA Trust, and other cooperating agencies and stakeholders. The Restoration Partnership also continued moving forward with implementation of natural resource restoration actions in the Basin.

Major challenges include management of the ICP by PHD; development of any needed additional waste repositories and consolidation areas for disposal of remedial action and ICP wastes; continued implementation of the RODA for the Upper Basin and OU-3 ROD for the Lower Basin; development of a solution to major flooding issues in Lower Pine Creek, SFCDR and Main Stem of the CDA River; and continued coordination with the CDA Tribe and State's efforts to address CDA Lake management issues. An important activity completed in 2022 was the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report concerning CDA Lake and future water quality conditions in the Lake.

Public Comment on Draft Report

Leslie asked for any questions or comments on the 2022 Annual Report.

Calvin thanked Terry for the great report – it takes everyone here to do the work we do, there is a lot of information. He commented about the transition planning on the work Terry is doing and saving people money especially those on their flood insurance. Is there something that EPA can do in working with their fellow Fed (FEMA) to make sure that continuity of the discussion continues? And that FEMA understands the remapping is a critical part of saving people money based on the work that has been done. Terry answered that it has been difficult sometimes working with FEMA to get the map revisions done, and sometimes it feels like they are starting over to a certain extent. They need to protect the remedies in the communities and lower costs for residents. Terry did say if Calvin can help without it being a conflict of interest, that would be great.

Leslie asked if there were any more questions from the public – and there were none.

Approval of Draft 2022 Annual Report (Action Item)

A motion to approve the Draft 2022 Annual Report was made by Phil, second by Jess, all approved M/S/C

Ed Moreen introduced two new Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) to the Bunker Hill site – Eric Nicolai and Tyler Chatriand. Eric provided a brief background – he has a history working with Arcadis in different remediation projects, then worked with Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife handling construction projects and restoration work. He will be working on Lower Basin projects like Gray's Meadow and other wetland conversions, Upper Basin Canyon Creek Riparian area, and the BEMP Program. Tyler provided his background – he has 18 years of experience working with abandoned mines and mining reclamation projects. He has been tracking Bunker Hill work for the last decade and is excited to be in on the action and to help contribute to the positive efforts made to

date. His focus will be a lot in the Box working on the CIA, CTP with the State, Ground Water Collection System (GWCS), Government Gulch coming up and Lower Basin in-river work pilot project.

Ed was asked what his new position was now – Ed replied, as many know, he made his career working on Bunker Hill – started in 1995 with COE to help demolish the Smelter Complex. He continued starting with EPA in 2003 and has been managing Lower Basin in-channel work, Bunker Hill Mine negotiations, CTP, and some Upper Basin work in the Ninemile Basin. Ed is now focusing on Idaho Mine sites, still part of Bunker Hill but less of his time will be spent here. He appreciates working with everyone and reflects on all the great work that has been done

Update on Lower Basin WCA Selection Process – Jocelyn Carver, EPA

Eric Nicolai presented the update on the Lower Basin WCA in Jocelyn's absence. EPA has started working in the Lower Basin and a WCA is critical to begin pilot projects, specifically in the Dudley Reach area. As part of their commitment to engage the public with respect to waste management, EPA has informed the public on the WCA since 2020 by re-examining the 2009 Citizens Criteria for Repositories and WCA Siting to see if the criteria are still relevant. They also did this to determine if other factors that are important for the community, should be considered when planning work in the Lower Basin. EPA developed a responsive summary to record the agencies response to public input and other activities were conducted which included fact-sheet mailings to Lower Basin residents, hosted a virtual public information session and communicated through the Basin Bulletin, social media, and the EPA/Bunker Hill project page. The Dudley Reach pilot project will investigate practical solutions to address the heavily contaminated sediments and banks of the CDA River which will inform our approach as we continue clean-up down river. It is important to start this work as soon as possible and get the schedule moving forward. Repositories and WCA's are listed in the ROD as part of a waste management strategy. WCA's are designed and engineered to contain waste materials safely and properly and are monitored continuously to ensure that they are protective to human health and the environment. As part of EPA's ongoing coordination efforts, a PFT was formed consisting of members from other agencies and program groups following the organizational structure of the Basin Commission. The PFT was formed in October 2022 with the goal of evaluating potential WCA locations and other potential concepts for disposal of waste materials from Dudley Reach pilot project. We engaged PFT members on their concerns and values to help inform EPA's decision on site selection. This group met three times and through these meetings we conducted the following – discussed property selection criteria and other considerations; site identification process developed by the CDA Trust and how they narrowed down their options meeting this criteria; requested other PFT members to offer other site locations; discussed technical issues related to the remediation needed in the Lower Basin; and discussed technical concerns for potential sites involved, reaching a level of consensus on site selection. The PFT has officially concluded, however other topics came up outside the scope of the PFT during the groups proceedings that require additional evaluation by EPA. These topics are being evaluated to access technical, financial, and legal feasibility. A technical memorandum summarizing these findings and other evaluations of the PFT is currently being drafted with expected release later this spring. The work done through the PFT will inform EPA on the final selection for siting the WCA in the near future and how we adapt our overall process for siting potential WCA's going forward. We will continue to engage our key stakeholders as work progresses in the Lower Basin. A final decision is expected by summer and will follow up with a formal communication plan on how this announcement will be made. Thanks to everyone who participated in the PFT, their help is greatly appreciated.

Brook asked more on the possible location and roll out plan, are there going to be any additional public comments associated with the location or is it solely EPA decision moving forward. It is Eric's understanding that it will be a EPA selection.

Jerry Boyd asked if they could tell him where the WCA might be located so if the public had concerns they could address them. Eric said there are two properties being considered that the CDA Trust owns, and there were some ideas from other state agencies for proposed sites that have been ruled out for feasibility issues. It comes back down to the Trust owned Dredge Road and South River Road properties that were the main part of the discussion.

Dave Fortier, a resident of CDA, is concerned with the response Eric just gave – the last time they rolled out the two CDA Trust parcels, he had a lengthy discussion with the former project manager of the WCA then about issues of getting information out to the public, and now you're saying you are ready to announce the decision on the two without telling the public or having a chance to comment again. Concerned before and now again because we aren't weighing the pros and cons and only looking at the Trust parcels – he doesn't feel this is a fair evaluation. He would like to know who was on the PFT and how many local people were involved. Ed answered that this has been a long process and one of the things to be clear about is we don't put repositories up for a vote. EPA does take comments very seriously and we do solicit input. When we started in 2020, we asked what was important to people looking at the criteria that had been created for Repositories/WCA siting based on community input. The criteria strongly reflects things like don't track waste through our towns and don't use valuable ground in the Silver Valley. That is why many of the repositories are located on old tailing sites offered by the mining companies. The Trust did look at over 40 properties and parcels as part of this screening process and were whittled down those that were viable for disposal purposes. Ed also stated that they should go back out and have a CCC meeting on where they landed and bring people up-to-date. We have been talking for over a year that we were on the cusp of selecting a site and then stepped back further and went through due diligence process, it's time to bring this to closure. Let's recognize that the selection of a WCA is a critical path to performing work in the river and everyone wants to see those issues addressed. To get the work done in the Lower Basin, we first must test the technology and to see if we can do this without breaking the bank. Early estimates project the dredge/cap project and a few others will do that. If we do not have a place to take the waste, we don't go forward with the work. Ed wants to get work done as we have worked along time in the process. EPA will work with Terry and Jerry to make a CCC meeting happen and bring the public along to where we are now and what we did to get here.

Caj stated the CDA Tribe has been one of the driving factors to try to re-evaluate the two current WCA locations. Part of the reason why was understanding the criteria Ed had mentioned in which there was a lot of logic in that. It also makes a lot of sense to bring the contamination back up to where it came from. So as we start to clean up those areas, we understand that there will be some tension related to some criteria but a desire to make sure we are doing this the correct way. Really what we are going to do is not only this pilot project, but setting a precedence moving forward how we address contamination in the Lower Basin altogether. It was important to the Tribe to go through this due diligence and evaluate all the possibilities moving forward and to see this to fruition. He was a little surprised by the characterization that there was a consensus at the PFT, his understanding that it was not a complete consensus yet and there were still meetings to be had - we should make clear to everyone that we still have not reached a full consensus at the PFT. The Tribe has major concerns with leaving the contamination in the Lower Basin.

Results of 2022 Blood Lead Screening Event – Mary Rehnberg, PHD

Mary presented on the 2022 Blood Lead Report. She will cover the health effects of lead, LHIP program background, 2022 LHIP approach and results. Children ages 6 months to 6 years and pregnant women are the most susceptible to lead exposure with incidental ingestion being the most common exposure route. Lead in children can affect the brain causing behavior problems, lower IQ, hearing loss and learning disabilities. It also attacks the soft organs and tissues causing kidney damage, decreased bone and muscle growth, anemia, and nervous system damage. In adults, cardiovascular damage is common along with reproductive system problems in both male and females. Over the years we have learned more about the health impacts of lead exposure. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) set levels of concern, now referred to as reference levels, for what is considered hazardous amounts of lead in the blood. Back when the cleanup was started, the CDC's recommendation lead levels were 25 µg/dL or under and have now dropped to a current level of 3.5 µg/dL. We continue to realize that no amount of lead in the blood is a good thing and serves no purpose. Even at low level exposures, it causes negative impacts to children.

The LHIP is a public health service here to serve the community, not a study or experiment. This service has been conducted in the Box since 1974 and in the Basin since 1996 and is available to anyone who lives or recreates within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. A cash incentive is offered for participants 6 months to 6 years of age to receive \$50, however we will test anyone for free. Our approach this year included an informed consent, blood test offered by either venous or capillary, if the fingerstick ≥ 3.5 µg/dL then venous confirmation, and to offer consultations and follow-up with all children ≥ 3.5 µg/dL. In 2022, we were still recovering from the recall issues from 2021 so we secured the use of a substitute analyzer – the Lead Care II – and new test kits. To minimize the complication of different detection limits, different machines being used, we did not combine the capillary results with the venous results. In the Basin there were 101 participants – 61 capillary, 40 venous; in the Box there were 114 participants – 71 capillary, 43 venous. Mary explained the different charts showing the average blood lead levels in the Box and the Upper and Lower Basin, with the blood lead averages trending down each year. There were 5 in-home follow ups, 92 phone consultations and 54 letters sent with additional information. Sources were identified as: disturbed barriers, recreating in un-remediated areas, occupational related (mining) and lead based paint in the home.

Bonnie Douglas stated in the past there were efforts to go door-to-door, especially for new residents, has this been done in 2022? Mary answered that it had not been done since 2012 - flyers are mailed to every single resident in the Superfund site, along with postings on social media and community and agency websites, and newspaper releases – she tries to get the word out as much as possible. Bonnie asked if there were still disclosures required for realtors, and Mary said yes – every property that is bought or sold has to have an environmental disclosure. Tamara Langton stated they also train the realtors and Mary said yes – she goes to meetings and does trainings for them to make sure they understand, most are pretty familiar now.

Jerry Boyd asked what time of year the tests are done normally – Mary stated screenings are usually done the first part of August, by that time, the kids have been out playing and recreating a lot more, to try to get a more accurate result. Tamara stated that they offer free blood lead screening year-round which is important to know.

Rebecca wanted to highlight the realtor education, they have been involved in a program called Surf and Turf for a number of years to provide training on water quality-based issues, permitting needs -

all the way down to water rights - to realtors. This year it has gained a lot of traction, they are having a two-day training for title companies down on the reservation. Especially with the ICP, there are a lot of realtors in the CDA area selling homes in Shoshone County.

Phil Lampert wanted to know if they ever tracked the same child over multiple years to see if their levels go up, down or stay the same - and what the national level is? Mary answered that the national level for children is around 2–2.3, and they do have children who participate in the program every year which gives them a good indication of what their exposure is over time. And if they have had education and outreach, they will re-check those elevated children in like a month or two to see if the intervention actions are working. It is nice when the family wants the in-home consultation, we see those results working. There are residents who participate in the dust mat program every year so we can monitor what kind of dirt they are bringing into the home and what kind of exposure with the house dust too.

Over the last two years, we have been working closely with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to identify the multi-family housing that is offered in the Superfund site, any family assistance they provide working with those populations. We have also been identifying the unsheltered population within the site and offer them services available to get them into housing. Many of these families choose to set up camps along the river for water purposes with those areas being contaminated and providing them education and information.

Calvin thanked Mary very much for all the great work they have been doing and continue to do as it is really important – he wanted to know how many children there are overall within the area are of concern. Mary anticipated this question – the estimated eligible population in the Basin is 493 (with only 101 providing samples) and 330 in the Box (with only 114 participating). She would love to see these numbers go up! That’s why they are partnering with others and trying better ways to reach people. She believes most know about the program, but many do not think that it affects their family. The ones that have been convinced to participate were shocked after their kids were tested and found to have high blood lead. This takes personal connection, talking with neighbors and explaining the benefits. It is not only identifying source exposures from Superfund contaminants, but it can also be from other sources (one particular child teething on canned foods and the lead solder). Other sources could include old toys, candy from Mexico, jewelry, antiques, chipping lead paint. Calvin’s second question asked Mary if she had unlimited resources what would her wish list be? And she replied to have more easily accessed screenings like a van for mobile access, or to be at schools when kids are registering.

Jerry wanted to know about the rewards given to the children, he feels it increased the number of kids that showed up, but if you tested now you would know their level came from some other source and not recreation. Mary agreed, \$50 is now the incentive they offer.

Sandra Treccani stated PHD plays a specific role of collecting the data, how much beyond reaching out to families to figure out sources, how much have they considered data trends and making recommendations to this commission or EPA because she noticed in the charts there did appear to be some increases in the last 5-10 years. Do you see your role as one to make data recommendations to this commission? Mary said they look at the data constantly and partner with Alta Science & Engineering to collaborate in putting all the data together. They are watching the trends, and the spikes you sometimes see are usually a particular source of exposure – one spike was a family who was remodeling an old home, and no one was using any safe practices so the whole family tested

high. We don't have a huge population size and the amount that do participate really limit how the data looks and make some of the elevated one or two kids really stand out in the numbers. Sandra said one of the charts showed long-term trends with a little bump, not really a spike. Mary said they could dive deeper into those and come to the commission with a proposition.

Bonnie wanted to know about the effort into the signage at parking areas, access points and sights along the river where people stop – is this effort complete or is it still in progress. Mary stated it is ongoing - they are constantly identifying new recreational sites, trying to keep the signs up at all the ones they have identified, they are monitoring new sites that pop up. One of the biggest challenges they have is vandalization of these signs – people steal them, spray them with paint and knock them over – it is a constant battle. They will even work with private property owners if they are willing, but they are working on any public common use areas. New signage is replacing the old ones with brighter colors, basic lettering, easier to read and understand.

Dan McCracken spoke briefly back to Sandra's question about evaluation of trends in human health data – quarterly they have a team that consists of PHD, IDEQ, EPA and the CDA Trust that evaluates what is going on with the blood lead data. They typically do at least in coordination with the 5-year review and sometime more frequently to study trends analysis. Some of the spikes she noticed in the data, IDEQ contracted with Alta to do additional surveys to participants in both the blood lead screening and house dust programs to try and find specific sources. Generally, the findings point back to what Mary talked about where you can often tie some of those things that jump out of the data back to individual families that had multiple kids testing high. There wasn't an overwhelming trend that pointed back to something in the cleanup, but those are things we are looking at, at least on a quarterly basis and putting together reports to summarize the findings.

Rebecca made a comment, uncomfortable because of the absence of Shoshone County, she wondered what the tenor and political will is of the leaders in Shoshone County for this program, because years ago in one of these meeting Jon Cantamessa said he did not support the program and doesn't see why he would have his grandkids tested. Do you feel the need for any help in getting some of the leaders to back the program more in your efforts? Mary answered that she has already met with the new county commissioners with her director and had some really good conversations. Andy and Terry went up and met with them as well. We do a regular meeting with the county commissioners as a health district and our goal is to keep this dialogue going with them, recognizing they are all new people that have never done this before.

Update on CCC Activities – Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair

Jerry stated they only have meetings when people want to have them. If issues come up that need to be addressed, the CCC will help with them. In hearing more about the Lower Basin work, pilot project and WCA today, the CCC would be glad to assist with a Lower Basin meeting.

Lunch Executive Session Under Idaho Code 74 - 206 (1)(b) to Discuss New Executive Director Recruitment, Commissioners, Alternates and Executive Director; Separate Lunch for BEIPC Staff, TLG and CCC Chairs – Leslie asked for a motion to move into Executive Session which was made by Brook, Caj seconded – all approved **M/S/C**

A motion was made by Caj to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Brook – all approved **M/S/C**

Update on Restoration Partnership and Status of Future Project Solicitation – Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe

Rebecca will give a presentation in May, today just a brief update on RP activities. They have been implementing the restoration plans that were adopted in 2018 with the Record of Decision (ROD) that accompanies that plan. Solicitation of project ideas after the adoption of the plans occurred in 2019 and they have been implementing about 22 projects throughout the entire planning area. The restoration map is a little different from the Superfund facility as it includes the North Fork and the St. Joe, as well as a portion of CDA Lake and the Spokane River within Idaho. It is a large planning area, and they are trying to be as strategic as possible with the settlement dollars they have. The trustees sponsor all the projects and work together – CDA Tribe, IDEQ, IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and BLM. This past year, as you saw in the Accomplishment Report, we had 14 projects with one completed. Things are going well, lots of lessons learned like navigating construction and inflation costs over the COVID period on some of the larger projects like Grays Meadow and the Hepton Levee Breach Project. In meetings with the Trustee Council, they have decided they are getting ready for another project idea solicitation period to take on some more projects. The presentation in May will be the official kickoff, changing it up with more focus in the solicitation process. These include project ideas that enhance streams that provide critical bull trout habitat; restore connectivity between clean streams and metals contaminated streams to provide refugia for trout and other fisheries; restore and/or enhance wetlands that have been remediated; stream and wetland restoration that directly flow into CDA Lake; and restore and enhance areas adjacent to ongoing stream and/or wetland restoration areas where have previously dedicated funds that can be leveraged from other plans or programs. For those following the Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee (CLAC) process, a lot of projects are coming in to reduce nutrients into CDA Lake, and some of those projects might not fit that process but might fit ours. We want to make sure we complement and utilize our funds as strategically as possible. The eligibility criteria for these projects - must be in the planning area; funds not to be spent on physical structures; projects not to result in further injury to natural resources; projects to not undo work that EPA has completed or spend funds on cleanup; all rules and applicable requirements must be met; don't want to replicate any of the cleanup work; and do not want the funds to replace other funds that have already been dedicated for this work. Other criteria they look at – logical benefits, social benefits, human uses, and cultural resources. A two-page project idea solicitation form will be coming out online and folks will have an opportunity to present their ideas for ranking to see if they make it to a full application. Their fiscal 2022 full accomplishment report will be on the RP website next week. The website also has publications, policies and procedures, and resources available for project submittals.

Sandra asked if there was a mailing list so those who might be interested in providing projects can get notified when the solicitation is open? Rebecca said yes – the link to submit your email is at info@restorationpartnership.org – they had a previous list, when they do open it up they will make sure and present that information so people know where to go to and how to get on the list.

Jerry asked if they could send out a notice to be posted on the CCC mailing list – and Rebecca said when they are ready for the project solicitation, he will get the notification.

Update on Final National Academy of Sciences Study and Report for CDA Lake and the CDA Lake Advisory Committee Work on Lake Nutrient Loading Project Selection – Jamie Brunner, IDEQ

Jamie first introduced a new face at the IDEQ office in CDA – Jade Clinkenbeard, she is the new ARPA Project Coordinator for CDA Lake. Jade gave a brief overview of herself – a Spokane native

she completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Eastern Washington University. Her work history has been in plant biology and wetland restoration, she worked at IDEQ last summer as a BURP stream technician and then this opportunity came up. Jamie stated she has been at work for six weeks now and has jumped into the ARPA job well and is doing a great job.

Jamie started her update on the National Academy of Science (NAS) review of CDA Lake. She will not go through the scope of the study again, as you can reference the minutes from the November 2022 meeting for details. The third-party review was pursued by the State of Idaho when trends in CDA Lake started approaching some of the triggers outlined in the CDA Lake Management Plan (LMP). The NAS agreed to do this review sponsored by the State of Idaho, Kootenai County, and EPA with a lot of support from our partners at the CDA Tribe through staff time and information provided. The final report was issued September 30, 2022, with a webinar from the NAS. On November 15, Our Gem Collaborative hosted some of the staff from the NAS to give a presentation to the community. There is a lot of information within the final report which can be accessed online at www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-future-of-water-quality-in-coeur-dalene-lake. Some of the highlights from this report include: metals, nutrients concentrations from major inputs declined over the last decade; Lower Basin contains large amounts of contaminated sediments (lead reductions from SFCDA River offset by Lower Basin releases); total in lake phosphorus in the last 10 years of data shifted from a long-term increase to no trend (still approximately double the level from the 1990;s); general in-lake metals are declining; a lot of suggestions made for improving monitoring activities to acquire more data; and future water quality considerations would be climate change and population influx which may slow or reverse desirable trends. The NAS recommended all the agencies working in the Basin to coordinate efforts and synthesize data in a useful way to the public, so we are exploring the development of a science coordination team to guide lake management efforts. They also suggested further watershed monitoring of incoming rivers and streams into the lake, bays and shallow area monitoring, and ecological monitoring. Also, to look at human health risks and enhancement of wastewater treatment upgrades for phosphorus reduction.

Ed Moreen also added one of the key requests of NAS was to look at the effectiveness of the CTP and how that may impact lake water quality. Their conclusion was the CTP is running effectively and is not adding to any detrimental effects to the lake. Rebecca also added that there was a request to increase the BEMP program back to some additional sampling like it was which the Tribe has been pushing for and happy to see that recommendation looked at by EPA.

Jamie continued to her Leading Idaho presentation – back in FY 2022, Governor Little allocated \$2 million for CDA Lake under the Leading Idaho initiative to fund programs that reduce phosphorus loading entering CDA Lake to help protect the health of the lake. This work is ongoing, we had a variety of projects in the stormwater and nonpoint source categories. In 2022, it was announced that the Governor allocated an additional \$20 million from ARPA funding to further this effort seeing the demand after the first \$2 million was announced. We are in the process through the Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee (CLAC) to rank out priorities where that funding will be spent. In December 2022, the CLAC ranked out \$3.6 million in project applications, they only received \$6 million worth of requests which is the opposite scenario from the first round of funding. Not sure why this happened, maybe because the first time some of the higher dollar projects were weeded out due to limited amount of money. CLAC asked IDEQ to table the remaining decisions pending more information on the NAS recommendations and to reach back out to previous project applicants to see if they were still interested in being considered for funding.

Jamie showed a picture of one of the projects that is being funded from the first \$2 million – it is working on treatment to replace one of the outfalls located on Sanders Beach in CDA. Instead of discharging directly into the lake, it will go through a series of treatments. The City of Kellogg is also working on a number of outfall projects that discharge directly into the SFCDA River. East Side Highway District is doing stormwater improvements on a couple of their roads, and there is some bank stabilization work in Mica Creek.

The next CLAC meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2023. In between meetings, they were notified of an additional \$11 million to allocate along with the \$20 million. The CLAC will be reviewing previous applications not yet ranked that were tabled, information on potential wastewater upgrades, and looking at the NAS recommendations. To utilize this funding, all projects and upgrades must be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent out by the end of 2026.

Bonnie Douglas who lives on Fernan Lake, said there is a project that is funded through ARPA just starting up that will draw down the lake five feet to hopefully help with the phosphorus and algae. She believes they channelized the input into the lake as it used to wander through pussy willows and plants. A lot of this has been disturbed, and they are trying to get the people who live along that section of the lake to have the meanders put back in and change the dam to something they can open and close to change the flow of water in and out of the lake. The ultimate goal is to get the lake healthy to enjoy and swim again. They appreciate the funding – so many wonderful things to enjoy, not only for homeowners, but the whole region uses the lake. She thinks the county is going to re-do the public docks so people can still get access to fishing. Hopefully there won't be any unintended consequences. Jamie stated the public meetings on this are March 20th at the Kroc Center and the Fernan City Council on March 27th at the CDA Public Library. Jess asked Jamie to clarify where the decision-making process is for that project as he didn't think it was quite decided it was going to move forward, he thought they were still accepting input. Jamie answered that the CLAC approved the project for funding, but no agreement has been put in place yet because the folks involved in the community are still trying to gather feedback and formulate their plan before submitting all the materials to get the sub-award agreement in place.

Phil asked about the phosphorus levels still being double the level from the 1990's, does she know where the increased phosphorus levels were coming from? Jamie said they have a nutrient source inventory report out that identifies about one-third of the incoming phosphorus is coming from the St. Joe watershed, about one-third from the CDA River watershed and the other third from other smaller tributaries. She can't say what that was historically, but this is data gathered from BEMP and their own data collection efforts. Phil asked if it was measured in parts per million, and Jaime said tons per year. Jamie stated one of the NAS recommendations was watershed monitoring, and one of the projects to present to the CLAC group for consideration is assessment of the St. Joe River watershed because we do not have as much data in this watershed as we do the CDA River due to BEMP monitoring.

Bonnie was wondering about the snowpack – she read a publication from IDEQ that the last several years the snowpack has been smaller. With more snow this year will this have a positive effect on Fernan and CDA Lake. Jamie said she hopes so.

Public Comment and Input on Agenda Items or Requests for Information and Assistance

Rebecca updated the two questions on the RP website – there is a tab called partners, you can click on it and put your email in so they can add you to their email distribution list. And yes, the RP website is linked to the BEIPC website.

Jerry Boyd has noticed being on CDA Lake in the summer a lot of wake boats that put out a huge wake and the damage along the shorelines, he wondered if anything can be done to control them especially along the CDA River and its banks. Leslie took that question and answered that there is no water skiing allowed on CDA River and should be no surf boat activity there. As far as the other, there is a 300 ft. wake rule, so the boat should be staying 300 ft. from any dock or shore. Their biggest problem is lack of enforcement and the people to dedicate to this. They are quite aware of the issues, and until they can get more law enforcement this is where it stands.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM