Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Meeting Summary Minutes

November 29, 2023, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Coeur d'Alene Public Library

702 E Front Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

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:

Sharon Bosley (BEIPC Executive Director)

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Jess Byrne (IDEQ), Michael McCurdy (IDEQ), Leslie Duncan (Kootenai County), Calvin Terada (EPA), Scott Fields (CDA Tribe), Dave Dose (Shoshone County), Karl Rains (Washington State), Phil Lampert (Benewah County)

Staff present:

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

Call to Order

Leslie called the meeting to order 10:06 am. Due to EPA representatives' late flight arrival and attendance at the meeting, the agenda will be arranged so that they may be there for the Work Plan review and approvals.

Introduction of New Executive Director – Leslie Duncan, Chair

Leslie introduced Sharon Bosley as the new Executive Director of the BEIPC.

Executive Director Vision of BEIPC Involvement in the Basin Community – Sharon Bosley, Executive Director

Sharon is honored to be here today and to be selected as the new Executive Director of the BEIPC. She is excited to guide this commission and to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Idaho and Washington in a manner consistent with local, State, Federal and Tribal participation and resources. Her background – she came from the State of Michigan and attended school at Michigan Technological University where she earned her degree in Mechanical Engineering. The upper peninsula of Michigan is very rural, which helped foster her love for the outdoors. This prompted her and her husband to move to Idaho, first starting work in the Boise area at Micron Technologies. After starting their family and deciding to be at home, they moved to Coeur d'Alene. She loves the area with all the beauty and activities of the outdoors, and where they continued to live and expand their family. Sharon again stayed home until the kids were of school age which allowed her to become active in community events and local environmental advocacy boards. She began part-time then full-time jobs working in roles such as development director, communications associate, and executive director. When the pandemic came, she was able to work remotely for an Analytical firm that quantified energy efficiency programs for utilities. Her most recent employment was working for the University of Idaho in the Community Water Resource Center as their water outreach specialist. This allowed her to work with citizen scientists monitoring the water quality of CDA Lake, high school students on the year-long confluence project, and teaching Stormwater & Erosion Education Programs (SEEP) to contractors and agencies. Since starting with the BEIPC in September,

she has met with so many people and learned not only the history of the Basin, but also what is planned for the future. It is amazing to see the progress that has been made, so much has been done but still so much to do not only for the health of humans but for the wildlife that reside here. Sharon is surprised as she speaks to others how many are not aware of the work going on and the work that will still be ongoing. One of her goals is to help people in this area understand what is currently going on through outreach, meeting directly and engaging with people, making presentations at different work groups, writing articles, and utilizing our Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC). Sharon hopes to improve the entire Basins understanding of what is happening going forward. The most important thing for her is to advocate for the seven governments comprising the BEIPC and their stakeholders. She will listen and learn what their needs and concerns are and work to address them if possible. She has met with each of the BEIPC Commissioner's and talked about work completed and future projects, and how to create a culture of continuous improvement. Sharon would like to see more citizen involvement within the Basin and its activities and plans to utilize the CCC which is the main liaison between the public and the BEIPC. An on-line survey has been created that will help gage people's interests, needs, and concerns about activities in the Basin. You can find the link to this form in the November EPA Basin Bulletin that was available at today's meeting. The results will help her and Jerry Boud, CCC Chair, understand which direction they need going forward for the CCC. Sharon would also love to engage with citizen science work which would allow citizens to become more aware of the ecological benefits of what has taken place, get them more directly involved in what's going on, and provide valuable information on research that is taking place. Citizen science can bring the community together, strengthen social bonds, and make the community resilient. As she listens to citizens' needs and concerns, Sharon would like to find funding to address these needs as she realizes there will not be enough settlement funds to cover everything. If she can connect funding sources to stakeholders, we can continue to make improvements beyond current remediation efforts. She would also like to see the BEIPC more involved in community groups and activities. With the Board's support, Sharon will continue to participate in the Confluence Project with high school students, Our Gem Collaborative for CDA Lake, attend local economic and natural resource meetings, and attend Watershed Advisory group meetings. Communication and collaboration are key in achieving all these goals. When we work together, we can be more innovative, increase success, and improve our communication. By listening and learning from stakeholders, she hopes to create a sense of unity to make the Basin a healthier place for generations to come.

Review and Approve Draft August 8, 2023, Meeting Notes – Sharon Bosley **(Action Item)**
Leslie asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from August 8th, Scott Fields from the CDA Tribe had a spelling correction on page 2, 4th paragraph. There were no more edits – Phil Lampert motioned to approve with the correction, Jess seconded – all approved **M/S/C**

Restoration Partnership project funding update – Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe
Rebecca will split her presentation into two parts today – Fiscal 2023 accomplishments and then Restoration Partnership (RP) update. The RP is a collaboration of the US Department of the Interior represented by BLM and US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Department of Agriculture represented by US Forest Service, State of Idaho represented by IDEQ and Idaho Fish & Game, and the CDA Tribe. The Trustees were set up under federal government direction back when CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act) came into play in 1980. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that natural resources are protected for the benefit of the public. Over the course of 30 years, many lawsuits ensued filing claims against the mining companies for the release of hazardous substances (lead, cadmium, arsenic, and zinc) into the environment and the injury to the natural resources. When the last claim was settled against Hecla in 2011, they branded themselves as the RP. Restoration is different from remediation – Natural Resource restoration protects, restores, replaces, and/or acquires the equivalent of natural resources or associated services that they provide such as – cultural services, human services, recreation, and economic benefits.

The restoration plan was adopted in 2018 and falls within the RP Planning area which is a little different than the Superfund boundary as it includes the North Fork of the CDA River and the St. Joe River watershed. You might wonder what was injured in the St. Joe, nothing but part of restoration and the natural resource damage assessment program is that we can replace or compensate for injury in areas that are still injured by mine waste contamination in other parts of the watershed. We keep a close eye on what EPA is doing and work hand in hand with their remedy implementation. Some of the 2023 accomplishments are as follows:

Cougar Bay Stream & Wetland Restoration – very visible along I95 just south of CDA, 800 native riparian plantings installed and culvert replacement. This will bring Cougar Creek back to its sinuosity and restore the wetlands and help retain some of those nutrients before entering CDA Lake.

Hangman Watershed Cultural Significant Plant Restoration – Tribal staff and tribal youth have installed plant protectors, beaver surveys, and ring of fire kiln for future biochar use to boost camas size after harvest, retain soil moisture, and promote mycorrhizal communities.

Monitoring and Modeling CDA Lake – over 13 sampling events took place in the lake and lower CDA River. Data analysis and writing synthesis reports are still underway. They also worked with EPA staff to upload data from this project through the EPA Scribe platform, following the Bunker Hill Superfund Site Data Management Plan – for years the data was not being uploaded, so this is a big deal.

Native Willow Nursery for support of restoration actions – monitored growth and harvest of 7 native willow species for poll and whip availability for all of their RP projects. They also finalized a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document to identify suitable willow conditions and growing habitats. A copy was provided to IDEQ and Pioneer Technical Services.

Hepton Lake Wetland Restoration Project – breach located along the St. Joe River. Work is underway on some lessons learned with the infiltration of ground water and surface water interactions. RFP with construction contractor for wintertime levee breach plug repair during the low water.

Lake Creek Watershed Restoration – this is a cut-throat trout tributary that flows into Windy Bay on CDA Lake. They are working with landowners and completed final design and more plantings for channel restoration to return the creek's sinuosity.

Prichard Creek Planning, Phase 1 Implementation – located way up in the North Fork CDA River watershed. There are multiple partners with Idaho Forest Group as the landowner of the Conservation Easement. They have installed some riparian plantings and log jams have been placed for good water flow. The interesting thing is the stream disappears, but it is a cold water refugia and major tributary to the North Fork. This will be a long-standing project - you will see some of the willows from the Tribal willow farm plantings there.

Gene Day Pond – this project has been going on for a while, but it looks like we will be wrapping it up this year. It is a clean water fishery along the South Fork located near Osburn. The finishing projects include graveling the parking area, traffic control boulders, a restroom and info kiosk.

North Fork CDA River Conservation Easement (CE) – another cold water refugia on a significant piece of land located along the river that the landowners want to protect. There will be more and more CEs as landowners in this Basin, the whole Panhandle of Idaho and in Washington protect their land against development pressures.

Gray's Meadow Wetland Conversion/Restoration – continue to work with EPA and the CDA Trust on remedial activities and construction to prepare for restoration. Baseline monitoring data has been underway along with water control structures, dike reinforcements, bird nesting habitat/island building and dust control. They would like to see this project wrapped up in 2025.

Red Ives Creek Restoration – the dam was removed over a year ago and the Forest Service has been utilizing locally supplied large debris and placing it back into the stream to enhance floodplain connectivity. They will continue to monitor the success of this project as this is a bull trout stream which is one of their focus areas and hopes to re-populate the trout habitat.

Canyon Marsh AG to Wetland project – located in the Lower Basin and is in the pacific flyway for the tundra swans. They continued to work with the landowners there to secure the CEs which have been done. The conceptual wetland restoration design is underway and working closely with EPA as Canyon Marsh has been identified as the next AG to wetland conversion project post remedy – they will do the remedy we'll do the restoration.

Gleason's Marsh will be the other AG to Wetland project – they are monitoring baseline data for CEs and future remedial and restoration plans.

There was a comment in the room about the amazing work that is being done by the RP, she asked for clarification on the breach and where that is located. Rebecca answered at Hepton Lake, which used to be a wetland years ago- it was diked along the St. Joe River just to the west of St. Maries and the Reservation boundary. It breached in 1996 and NRCS went in and fixed it, then it breached again. There are several stories about how it was breached a second time – ice jams, a lot of bank beavers along the levee– it is a huge area and clean wetland. They know there are tundra swans that land there as they are tracking one now that was tagged last year. Unfortunately, it is also becoming a northern pike nursery area and they are trying to stop the invasive intrusion of pike on adfluvial cut-throat trout, provide clean habitat for birds and waterfowl, and cultural resources.

Dave Fortier asked where the willow nursery was located, and Rebecca answered right next to Hepton Lake upstream.

Jerry Boyd wanted to know if Prichard Creek was used for gold and placer mining, and that's why it disappears. Rebecca explained it was flipped up over many times and the gold discovered there helped to build the Empire State Building in New York City. There is a lot of rich history – something that Idaho Forest Group and the RP wanted to still embrace is the community connectivity to that area. Terms in the CE will allow for community members to go sift, sieve, and pan for gold. Jerry also asked when they get the easement do they pay money and Rebecca said correct – they can either have it donated or pay for it. Does the money come out of the funds being used as part of the cleanup efforts – and Rebecca answered the funds they are using are coming out of the Restoration settlement dollars. They are always looking for cost-sharing and they work closely with several land trust companies.

Rebecca gave her RP update – in 2023 they solicited for project ideas. The first solicitation happened in 2019 in which they are now implementing 22 restoration projects. This current solicitation is asking for more focused project ideas based on the following criteria:

1. Critical habitat for bull trout
2. Stream connectivity

3. Lake water quality improvement
4. Wetland enhancement
5. Compliment other Natural Resource Restoration projects

They have limited dollars; the total settlement amount was about $140 million of which about $110 million is left. The RP wants to be strategic on how the dollars are spent because they cannot invest them like the CDA Trust can. Rebecca explained the timeline that they followed from April 2023 up until November when the projects were selected. Sixteen ideas were submitted, three did not meet the eligibility criteria and two withdrew. The eligibility criteria consist of:

1. The project occurs within the planning area.
2. The project does not expend funds on physical structures.
3. No additional injury to natural resources or services.
4. The project avoids or mitigates human health risk.
5. The project is consistent with applicable laws.
6. No infrastructure projects.
7. Services: human use, culturally significant, community support, etc.
8. Will not replicate cleanup and not cause negative effects to cleanup already completed or underway.
9. Will not replace other obligated funds.

After the trustee ranking process, these are the 11 projects that were approved for funding:

1. Restore fish passage and ecosystem function in Miesen Creek which is a tributary on the St. Joe
2. Benewah Creek 'ełtumish Project - Stream/Wetland Restoration – their focus will be mitigating drought as they do not want to be doing restoration work in areas with no water.
3. Lake Creek CE – the landowner is donating a portion of their land to a CE which is a $2 million donation and will secure all the restoration work that has been in place in that drainage over the years.
4. Lane Marsh Acquisition or CE – Lower Basin private landowner adjacent to the F&G parcel where EPA is conducting the thin layer cap project, the landowner is having discussions about potentially selling or putting it into a CE.
5. Big Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal – up Big Creek above the Sunshine Mine where an old dam has been for years, this project will remove that fish barrier as we know there are fish upstream – this will connect the fish down to the South Fork.
6. Upper St. Joe River Bull Trout Habitat – five-to-ten-year project working with the Forest Service. All the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) work has been done. Very exciting because of all the work the FS has been doing up to this point, partnering with them and other funding sources they have secured.
7. Little North Fork Watershed Enhancement – another Forest Service project, NEPA also conducted. It is exciting to partner with our project and leverage our funds and their dedicated funds.
8. Beaver Creek Phased Watershed Enhancement – same as Little Nork Fork work, Forest Service owned.
9. Assessing Fish Passage at Stream Crossings in the CDA Basin – working with the State of Idaho to centralize data throughout the Basin.
10. CDA Lake Monitoring and Modeling – continue monitoring and modeling work as identified by the National Academy of Science (NAS) report.

11. The paleolimnology of Coeur d'Alene Lake from pre-disturbance to mining impacts and present day – also identified by the NAS, they will be partnering with other funding sources as we move into fiscal 2024.

Jess Byrne asked about project #11, he wanted to know if there was a total estimated cost – Rebecca answered about $1.1 million altogether, but not all the funds will come out right now – some of it will be phased out over the next few years.

Jerry asked if any funds were being used for monitoring or controlling some of the introduced species of fish in CDA Lake. Rebecca stated if you look at the 1,000 ft level on some of these projects, they do include some of that because of the base-line monitoring and monitoring of success. The Hepton Lake levee breach project is probably the clearest example as we try to control the pike. She thinks with all the work they do collectively, they are always looking at the invasive species and how we can manage them.

CLAC and Recreation Survey Update – Jamie Brunner, IDEQ
Jamie presented an update on Leading Idaho for CDA Lake. Back in November 2019, Governor Little announced, because of CDA Lake water quality trends, a plan to initiate a third-party review of lake water quality data using the National Academy of Science (NAS). In 2020, the contract with NAS and work began on this study. In the meantime, the Governor initiated Leading Idaho for CDA Lake, which was the action steps taken while they were waiting for the NAS third-party review. In 2021, the Governor directed $2million of state tax-payer dollars towards Leading Idaho, for the purpose of implementing projects that would reduce phosphorus loading to CDA Lake and throughout the Basin. The next year, he directed another $31million towards the same efforts through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding – for a total of $33million. In the beginning, the focus was on reducing phosphorus loads to the lake, and then after the NAS review came out and the two programs combined, the $33 million ending up going towards projects that both reduced phosphorus and addressed follow-up recommendations from the NAS. The Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee (CLAC) was established in 2021 to oversee the rankings of projects to determine where this money would best be spent. The CLAC final rankings in March of 2023 included: nonpoint source improvements; stormwater treatment projects; wastewater treatment upgrades; and other NAS recommendations. Jamie showed the overall summary of the projects selected. There is a deadline to get them committed by a certain timeframe. They are mostly obligated for the $33 million, but there is still some funding unallocated. We have about a year to allocate all the funding through the ARPA requirements, but there are a couple of projects they are working out the details on and expect to be fully allocated.

Leslie had a question on the ARPA funds to clarify that $500,000 out of the $31 million is for administrative and Jamie answered yes. Leslie asked if they could get a copy of this summary and Jamie will provide that. The presentation will also be provided to Gail to post to the Basin webpage. Jamie can be contacted with any questions on the projects.

Some of the NAS recommended projects consist of: Risk-Based Evaluation of Selected Recreational Areas in Coeur d'Alene Lake and Spokane River; convening a Science Coordination Team; and St. Joe Watershed Assessment.

Risk-based Evaluation of Selected Recreational Areas – they are looking at recreational areas around CDA Lake and the Spokane River to access potential metals exposure and respond accordingly. They are working with Alta Science and Engineering and Norka Paden from IDEQ, and when they get further along, they will update everyone. This year they started the planning with stakeholder involvement activities, and a public survey on the internet questioning where and how people were recreating and the frequency of their

activities. They are developing the work plan for the field sampling that will occur in the summer of 2024 with a final report expected by 2026.

The Science Coordination Team – Craig Cooper from IDEQ provided an update. This team is addressing the recommendations from the NAS. The conditions in the lake are so cross cutting both technically and geographically that it takes a team to succeed. If we want to protect the lake and keep moving to the future, we need to be coordinated and cost-effective. This team will bring together people in our agencies with the skills we need to help coordinate, facilitate, and provide actionable information to the decision makers for management purposes. The team consists of IDEQ, University of Idaho, USGS, EPA, and CDA Tribe. We are currently working on two things – setting all the priorities of everything the NAS said need to be done and the actions the NAS didn't need to be done but still require our attention, for example the St. Joe Watershed Assessment. We are about halfway through this process and hope to have a document out by next spring that assesses these priorities both short-term and long-term so we can rank our projects and work on funding them. The CDA Tribe brought forth a paleolimnology proposal which will take cores from the lake and use the analysis to look back in time. It tells us what the lake was like before it was impacted which gives us a target to hit. It also allows us to look at what's happened in the basin over time and see how that has impacted the lake because the sediment contains a history. This proposal has been partially funded, so the science team has put together a project team to build a work plan, get the rest of it funded so it becomes a powerful tool for us moving forward.

St. Joe Watershed Nutrient Assessment (monitoring) – they have a project with the CDA Tribe in place to fill some of the data gaps in their basin-wide nutrient inventory in the St. Joe Watershed and southern lake tributaries. They are currently working on staffing this project. It will be a two-year study with a final report expected in 2025.

The complete list of projects and information is available on the Leading Idaho and CDA Lake website at: www.deq.Idaho.gov/leading-Idaho-and-the-Coeur-dalene-lake. If there are any questions, you may contact Jamie. She showed a picture of one of their Leading Idaho projects for stormwater at Sanders Beach. The stormwater used to get piped out into the lake, but the City of CDA has now captured the water through a series of treatment vaults. Phil Lampert asked what the treatment vault does, and Jamie answered they are essentially a dry well surrounded with filter fabric that has sand and compost in it, the stormwater filters through and picks up some of the contaminants before it continues down into the ground.

Rebecca stated we are always highlighting the importance of the ongoing State and Tribal water quality monitoring in the lake, would she say that the monitoring that we continue to do will help keep track of how these nutrient reduction projects are working, are we seeing a reduction. Jamie answered the hope is yes, although as far as scale goes, she doesn't think the lake monitoring we've been performing would capture individual projects, but collectively she hopes it will pick up the overall load to the lake and how that is being impacted. Craig added we should see this in a couple of years as we get more data, it may take this long to see any real change. There have been some improvements already. We may see results earlier in the USGS analysis of data for these projects.

Lunch and Executive Session under Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b) to Discuss Performance of Executive Director. Separate lunch for BEIPC Staff, TLG and CCC chairs. Phil made the motion to go into Executive Session and Jess seconded – all approved **M/S/C**.

Review and Approve Draft 2024 BEIPC Work Plan – Sharon Bosley **(Action Item)**
Sharon presented the 2024 Work Plan in a PowerPoint presentation. This year's work plan has a different introduction which is essentially the site background and may be helpful to members who are new to this group. The Bunker Hill Superfund Site (BHSS) was listed on the National Priorities List (NSL) in 1983 and is divided into three study and cleanup areas or Operable Units (OU's). The Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-1 was issued in 1991 and includes the populated areas of the Bunker Hill Box. In 1992, a ROD was issued for OU-2 and included the non-populated areas of the Bunker Hill Box. Ten years later another ROD was issued for OU-3 for all areas of the CDA Basin outside of the Box, from the Montana border and into the State of Washington and coincides with the formation of the BEIPC. An amendment to the ROD (RODA) came about in 2012 focusing on the Upper Basin. This site is divided into two geographic areas with common sources of contamination: The Upper Basin and the Lower Basin. The Box is included as part of the Upper Basin when referring to remedies that improve water quality and lessen migration of contaminated sediment to the Lower Basin. The 2024 Work Plan is separated into two parts – 1) Environmental cleanup work and 2) Other activities and responsibilities.

PART 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP WORK
Human Health Remedies – remediation in areas where human health exposures exist and includes maintaining the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) and the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP). At the conclusion of 2023, 3,236 properties in the Box and 3,935 properties in the Basin have been remediated. Sampling and remediation will continue if results are above action levels which stands now at 1,000 parts per million (ppm). Nine properties in the Box remain to be remediated, and 36 properties in the Basin based on previous sampling results; 202 properties in the Basin still require sampling.

The Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) which is managed by Panhandle Health District (PHD) will continue to offer free blood lead screening for residents living within the BHSS boundaries, individuals recreating in the CDA Basin, and workers in occupational settings. In addition, the LHIP will conduct its annual summer screening with a $50 incentive for children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years.

Recreation Use Activities - the Recreation Sites Program was created to address and manage human health risks that can occur during recreation activities throughout the CDA Basin. A Basin strategy document was developed to lay out goals, inventory recreation areas, manage risk to people, and outreach activities. They will now use the same approach for the Box to develop a similar strategy document. The CDA Trust will continue to monitor completed remediation projects in the Basin and to update and install new signage at identified sites. In the Box, IDEQ and PHD will continue to update signage and evaluate access controls at mine and recreation sites as identified. Planning for future remediation recreation sites will be prioritized. Some challenges remain as many places are re-contaminated during high water or flood events, or are remote, hard to access areas difficult to clean up.

Waste Management – Repository and Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) Development and Management
Waste disposal area development and management is an ongoing process that must meet the demand for disposal of contaminated waste from cleanup activities. The repositories and WCA's are engineered waste storage options that are being constructed, capped, and closed to ensure wastes remain in place to prevent contaminates from being released to surface water, groundwater, or air in concentrations above state and/or federal standards.

Repositories – are large, centrally located waste disposal areas that take a variety of wastes from a variety of projects, and typically remain open for longer periods of time. There are five operating repositories located within the site:

1. Page – operated by IDEQ and currently expanding to provide additional capacity.
2. Big Creek – operated by CDA Trust, 85,400 cy remaining capacity.
3. Big Creek Annex – operated by CDA Trust, 168,250 cy remaining capacity.
4. Lower Burke Canyon – operated by CDA Trust, 1,025,000 cy remaining capacity.
5. East Mission Flats – operated by CDA Trust, 156,100 cy remaining capacity.

Waste Consolidation Areas (WCA's) – are located near, and accept waste from, specifically identified sources such as mine and mill site remedial actions and are constructed to be open for a shorter period. There are two WCA's located in the Basin:

1. East Fork Ninemile – receives waste from Tamarack and Dayrock Complexes – final cover expected to be completed in 2026.
2. Canyon Complex Repository/WCA – Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustee (SVNRT) cleanup already placed and consolidated, accepting waste material from nearby Canyon Creek remedial actions and will receive waste from Hecla Star Complex starting in 2024.

Siting of the Lower Basin WCA – in 2020, EPA began seeking public opinion for a WCA in the Lower Basin to accommodate nearby planned remedial actions. A Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) was formed in 2022 to verify the analysis of potential WCA locations. Final site selections are currently under EPA consideration and pending a decision, design activities will commence in 2024.

Remedial Actions
Upper Basin/Box Remedies – the 2012 Upper Basin RODA identified $635 million of work to reduce human and wildlife risks to heavy metal exposures and improve water quality. Clean up in the Box will continue to improve water quality in the South Fork CDA River (SFCDR) and lessen migration of contaminated sediment to the Lower Basin. 2024 goals will include treating additional contaminated water, focus on source control actions to address particulate lead, and protect remedies from further flooding.

Ninemile Creek Basin – in the Dayrock Complex and Lower East Fork Ninemile Creek Riparian Area 32 acres of cleanup for these two areas began in 2022 with completion of construction to happen in 2024. The Tamarack Complex covers approximately 20 acres of multiple mine waste sites and portions of the East Fork Ninemile (EFNM) Creek riparian area. 2024 marks the 3rd and last year of construction of this cleanup.

Canyon Creek Basin – Canyon Creek Investigation/Design, several investigations and designs are planned in 2024 within Lower Canyon Creek Riparian Area, Canyon Silver (Formosa) Mine, and the Standard-Mammoth Millsite, with the cleanup at this location to be initiated in 2024.

Hecla Star Mine Complex – is approximately 22 acres in size and consists of numerous mine and mills, mine adits, waste rock dumps, as well as mining-impacted riparian area. The cleanup was initiated in 2023 and will continue in 2024 to include removal of mine wastes, placement of clean backfill materials, reconstruction of Burke Road and Canyon Creek following removal of mine wastes, and installation of a concrete box culvert to convey Canyon Creek through a portion of the Complex.

Canyon Creek Quarry – is a 23-acre parcel and source of uncontaminated rock and gravel for use as clean backfill at cleanups within the Canyon Creek Basin, first at the Hecla Star Complex and then future Upper Basin remediation work.

Central Treatment Plant (CTP)/Central Impoundment Area (CIA) – The CTP was recently upgraded to treat mine water, primarily from the Bunker Hill Mine, and groundwater from below the CIA. The upgrades allow for treatment and reduction of the amount of solids called "high-density sludge" (HDS) that are produced by the plant. Sludge storage has been transferred to the new sludge impoundment cells on the CIA. System optimization is ongoing at the plant to run as efficiently as possible while still meeting effluent discharge limits. The Groundwater Collection System (GCS) project includes an 8,000 linear feet cutoff wall between the CIA and I-90, a series of extraction wells, and a conveyance pipeline to the CTP. Groundwater monitoring is completed during high and low flows to build a database to determine remedial action effectiveness of the system. The removal efficacy from the CTP shows over 99% removal for zinc and lead, and 98% removal for phosphorus.

Lower Basin Remedies – work described in the 2002 OU-3 ROD for the Lower Basin can be separated into Lower Basin Riverbeds and Banks, Lower Basin Floodplains, and cleanup at identified recreational areas along the CDA River. Goals of remediation focus on reducing human exposure to lead-contaminated soils and sediments, improving water quality, and reducing particulate lead and other heavy metals in the CDA Basin ecosystem. The Draft Final Riverbed Management Plan (RMP) was completed in June 2021 to guide the interim remedy and target areas within the river for active remediation and divide the riverbed into sediment management areas (SMAs), evaluate the effects of remedial technologies, and identify areas for natural recovery. The RMP will feed into a broader Lower Basin Prioritization Plan (LBPP) that is anticipated to be completed in 2024. The purpose of the LBPP is to provide an initial approach toward remedial action, to aid in pilot project selection, and guide pilot projects and remedial actions in the Lower Basin.

Lower Basin Riverbeds and Banks Projects

Dudley Reach Scour Hole Pilot Project - Dudley Reach is considered the most significant lead loading segment in the river system. The technologies to be constructed are a cap/dredge hybrid and unarmored riverbanks adjacent to the pilot segment will be addressed. The 30% design was completed in 2023 with the full design anticipated to be completed in 2026. The Lower Basin WCA needs to be sited and ready to take sediment prior to project initialization.

Cataldo Reach Riverbank Investigation – characterization activities will continue in 2024 and the information obtained will be used to inform prioritization of potential pilot projects to address contaminated sediment transport in this reach of the river.

Lower Basin Floodplain Projects

Gray's Meadow Remediation and Restoration – is 695 acres of former agriculture land to be converted to productive wetlands and waterfowl habitat and is anticipated to be complete in 2024. They will construct 8 more water control structures, complete all embankments, access roads, and habitat features, seeding and hydro mulch.

Wetland Restoration through Conservation Easement – remedial design characterization of a privately-owned 250-acre conservation easement property located near East Killarney Lake Road. Characterization activities included installing monitoring wells, monitoring water levels, and collecting samples of groundwater, surface water, and soil. It is a potential agriculture-to-wetland project to be remediated and restored to provide clean habitat for water birds and other wildlife.

Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) – objectives of the BEMP are:

- Assess long-term trends of surface water, sediment, groundwater, and biological resource conditions.
- Evaluate progress toward meeting Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs), Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs), and Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs).
- Improve the understanding of Basin environmental processes and variability to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of remedial actions.
- Provide data for CERCLA five-year review of remedy performance.

In the Spring of 2024, the BEMP workgroup will continue annual meetings during the spring field planning season to effectively coordinate and communicate BEMP activities across all agencies and organizations.

Ninemile Creek Basin – the Area-wide Remedial Action Effectiveness Monitoring Plan was finalized in 2021, but baseline conditions were established in 2012 to help prioritize work and assess the effect of source area cleanups. Surface sampling is collected and analyzed four times per year during winter storms, peak spring runoff, late summer base flow, and late fall conditions. Results are summarized in the annual monitoring report.

Canyon Creek Basin – the monitoring plan for Canyon Creek was not finalized until 2023, but baseline conditions were established in 2015. Surface sampling is collected and analyzed four times per year the same as Ninemile Creek and summarized in the annual monitoring report.

The Box – in the SFCDA, surface water upstream and downstream of the GCS will continue to be monitored. Four stations are monitored twice a year, during peak spring runoff and late summer baseflow conditions.

Lower Basin – the Lower Basin Area-wide Remedial Action Effectiveness Monitoring Plan is in progress and will continue to be drafted in 2024. They will evaluate progress towards RAOs through assessment of biological conditions in fish and wildlife, and chemical conditions in surface water and suspended sediment. Surface water monitoring increased in 2023 to 12 times per year at 7 of the 20 monitoring sites, in response to recommendations from the 2022 NAS report to better characterize conditions in the Lower Basin and inputs to CDA Lake. Samples will be collected and analyzed in high flow events and at a fixed frequency approximately every six weeks, which represents 60% more samples.

Biological Monitoring – a multi-year applied research project has been occurring to develop monitoring tools to observe changes in lead exposure over time in tundra swan fecal samples and wood duck eggshells (beginning in spring 2024). This project is lead by EPA in collaboration with the CDA Tribe, IDFG, USGS and USFWS.

Coeur d'Alene Lake – in response to other NAS recommendations regarding CDA River inputs to CDA Lake, EPA has funded the USGS for continuous monitoring of surrogate technologies to estimate concentrations of suspended sediment, lead, and phosphorus. This includes installation monitoring, and model development at three established USGS monitoring locations – Cataldo, Rose Lake, and Harrison. The resulting models can be used to make real-time estimates and provide more accurate estimates of contaminant loads within the Lower Basin and entering CDA Lake.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Responsibilities for Remedial Actions – O&M responsibilities for remedial actions and cleanup work across the BHSS are as follows:

- Private properties remediated under BPRP – individual property owners.
- Public gravel and paved remediated roads – local governments with jurisdiction over roads.
- Remedy protection program – falls with governmental jurisdictions or property owner, or environmental covenants filed as riders to deeds or remediated property.
- CDA Trust - responsible for their own work except road and remedy protection projects, Gray's Meadow after five years, and a few others.
- CTP and Ground Water Collection System – falls to IDEQ.
- Other remedies under CERCLA – IDEQ.
- Remedies on BLM and NFS administered lands within the site and North Fork of CDA River – falls to BLM and USFS.

PART 2 – OTHER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Lake Management Activities – the Lake Management Plan (LMP) goals are to manage metals in contaminated lakebed sediments through reduction of nutrient inputs basin-wide from point and non-point sources. The LMP includes actions related to lake water quality monitoring, coordination among basin stakeholders, education and outreach, and identification of funding sources. Below are the objectives of the LMP:

- Improve scientific understanding of lake conditions through monitoring, modeling, and special studies.
- Establish and strengthen partnerships to maximize benefits of actions under existing regulatory frameworks.
- Finalize and implement a Nutrient Reduction Action Plan.
- Increase public awareness of lake conditions and influences on water quality.
- Establish funding mechanisms to support LMP goals, objectives, and strategies.

One recommendation from the NAS was the need to better coordinate data collection, utilization, and reporting throughout the basin. IDEQ convened a Science Coordination Team that will be instrumental in guiding scientific efforts related to management of CDA Lake and other NAS recommendations. IDEQ Lake Management Activities include:

- Continue to monitor water quality – metals, nutrients, and physical.
- Work with Leading Idaho recipients to implement phosphorus reduction projects.
- Analyze tributary data.
- Share relevant data gap monitoring results.
- Coordinate with CDA Tribe to facilitate the Tribe's monitoring in southern lake tributaries.
- Collaborate on water quality improvement effects in the CDA Basin.
- Identify opportunities to align nutrient reduction and remedial actions in the Lower Basin.
- Continue to monitor invasive aquatics.
- Continue to support TCP/YWS and Our Gem Collaborative.
- Support U of I Bay Watcher program.
- Support Local Gems program for local businesses.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe Lake Activities – even though the CDA Tribe retracted their support of the LMP in 2019 as an adopting government, they continue to be concerned about increased pressure on the landscape that may lead to declining water quality, as well as a myriad of other concerns. They will continue to conduct the following activities outside of the LMP process:

- Continue to monitor water quality – metals, nutrients, and physical.
- Continue to model data collected from the Lake, meteorological stations and USGS gage stations.
- Continue to monitor and treat invasive aquatics.
- Participate in the Lower Basin Project Focus Team to align nutrient reduction and remedial efforts.
- Continue to support TCP/YWS and Our Gem Collaborative.
- Support Local Gems program for local businesses.
- Work with IDEQ to implement the St. Joe River Nutrient and Watershed Assessment project.
- Continue to request that EPA reviews/evaluates their decision to "defer" a remedy for the Lake.

Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization – the BEIPC will continue to work with Upper Basin jurisdictions (local flood group) to work on potential flooding issues on the SFCDR. We are still waiting to hear back from FEMA on the new flood map from Elizabeth Park to Theater Bridge in Smelterville and will continue to work with Pinehurst to perform a similar flood zone analysis of Pine Creek. Although much of the needed work outlined in the 2009 Drainage Control Infrastructure Revitalization Plan (DCIRP) is now complete, the BEIPC will continue to assist Upper Basin communities in pursuing funding to implement the remainder of the DCIRP. The Executive Director will coordinate an O&M plan for existing drainage structures and will work with the TLG to develop ideas and potential funding requests for Basin work not covered in the 2002 OU-3 ROD and/or the 2012 Upper Basin RODA.

Communications and Public Involvement – the BEIPC will continue to work with Community Involvement Coordinators and Citizens Coordination Council to carry out public involvement, outreach, and education regarding Basin activities. They will also participate in Regional Outreach and Educational Committees.

State of Washington Activities – The Washington State Department of Ecology will continue to monitor the status of previous cleanups along the Spokane River. Additionally, the results of the 2022-2023 comprehensive sampling effort will be prepared and made available to interested parties.

Restoration Partnership - Rebecca did a great job today going through all the projects they are working on and those they have selected for restoration (see above notes).

Calvin commented that was the best comprehensive look in a visual format that he has ever seen regarding our work. To represent all the organizations and collective work, and being able to describe it was excellent. Thank you for doing this - it is a new way to truly showcase how much work is being done – to restore things and get it back for the community. Leslie agreed that it was excellent.

Leslie stated that we would hold off on the action item to approve the 2024 Work Plan until we review the 5-year 2024-2028 Work Plan and hear comments on both before approval.

Discussion and Public Comments with CCC – Jerry Boyd, Chair
Jerry stated that if there were any particular issues the public is concerned about, please feel free to contact Sharon or himself and they will see what they can do to share the information either to or from the Commissioners.

Rebecca stated that we haven't talked about Limited Use Repositories (LURs) lately and she was wondering if we were picking that back up in 2024, have there been any requests from the community? Andy answered that LURs were created to take in Paved Roads waste only, so we would have to go back and

amend that language so that LURs could take in remedial waste. There haven't been any requests from the community.

There was one question on-line - will the slide presentations today be available on the BEIPC website, and the answer was yes.

Review and Approve Draft 2024-2028 Five Year BEIPC Work Plan – Sharon Bosley **(Action Item)**
This work plan is similar to years past, so Sharon will quickly walk through what has changed since last year. The Site Background section is new to both work plans but is the same historical information regarding the BHSS. Work Plans are reviewed and approved by both TLG and CCC and cover a broader range of work that will be accomplished.

PART 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP WORK
Human health activities including BPRP – complete remediation of any identified residential and community property sites and private drinking water sources, address human health risks associated with basin wide recreational activities, and provide educational resources and health advisories. Most properties remaining to be sampled and/or cleaned-up will be properties whose owners have withheld access. Remediation of high-risk properties will continue as agencies and the CDA Trust become aware of them. Implementation actions to address human health risks from exposure to lead and other metals that can occur during recreational activities will continue throughout the Upper and Lower Basin.

Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) – administered by PHD to provide services to prevent elevated blood lead levels in children and others living or recreating within the BHSS. These services include education and awareness about the risks associated with lead contamination and annual voluntary blood lead screenings. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has established a reference value for blood lead levels in young children at 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. Other site cleanup programs run by PHD include interior house dust monitoring, yard remediations, and the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) with the goal to prevent lead exposure that could result in elevated blood levels.

Repository and WCAs – continue operations at all five repositories and two WCAs as mentioned in the annual work plan and continue to explore potential sites and development plans for a WCA in the Lower Basin.

Upper Basin Remedies – continue to implement source control and water treatment remedies, ecological cleanup projects, and related human health activities. The focus for the 5-year period will be to operate the GWCS and upgraded CTP, and source control actions in the Ninemile and Canyon Creek watersheds which are the sources for the most significantly impacted water quality outside the Box.

Lower Basin Remedies – conduct pilot projects to address contaminated riverbed source areas and characterize and prioritize additional riverbank segments for stabilization. Coordinate as needed with the governmental structure that manages the Trail of the CDA remedy, and identify recreation areas for remediation or develop substitute clean areas along the South Fork and main stem CDA River. Utilize the Lower Basin PFT process to evaluate multiple objectives for source control, cleanup of channel habitat, and protecting human health. A RODA or Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) may be necessary if additional actions are deemed necessary to address riverbed source areas. They will continue to evaluate and further characterize additional wetland properties for increasing feeding habitat for waterfowl, begin planning actions for the entire river system, and update the inventory of recreational beaches and banks to

identify those that may be considered for remediation. Adaptive management will be a key component of any implementation actions and management plans.

Basin Environmental Monitoring – continue to implement remedy effectiveness and long-term monitoring under the BEMP program to inform ongoing and upcoming near-term cleanup actions.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) – same responsibilities as in the 2024 Work Plan.

PART 2 – OTHER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The scope of the 5-year work plan recognizes several work items where the BEIPC will be involved and items of work needed to accommodate some of the recommendations of the 2022 NAS study, implementation of the LMP by the State of Idaho and CDA Tribe, and coordination with activities of the Natural Resource Trustees.

Lake Management Activities – The 2002 OU-3 ROD did not include CDA Lake in the selected remedy. The 2012 Upper Basin RODA indicated that a remedy for lakebed contamination has been deferred contingent on successful management through the LMP. The 5-year work plan includes activities planned for implementation by both IDEQ and CDA Tribe as described in detail in the above 2024 Work Plan.

Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization – participating governments of the BEIPC and the Upper Basin jurisdictions will continue to work on potential flooding issues on the SFCDA River. The Executive Director will work with the TLG to develop ideas and potential funding requests for Basin work not covered in the ROD for OU-3 and/or the Upper Basin RODA.

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

Restoration Partnership (RP) – the Trustees will continue to implement their Restoration Plan and will coordinate with the BEIPC to provide updates on restoration planning efforts and implementation of restoration projects. The RP will continue to coordinate closely with EPA and CDA Trust to integrate restoration planning and implementation with remediation projects.

Rebecca had a correction on page 12, objective 3 under the basin-wide nutrient inventory – the CDA Tribe needs to be added in the far-right column under participants.

Felician from Alta asked a question from page 10 which addresses the 2005 NAS Study and 2022 NAS Study, Sharon stated that items of work would address recommendations from both studies.

Leslie asked for a motion to approve both the 2024 Work Plan and the Five-Year 2024-2028 Work Plan – Phil motioned; Karl seconded – all approved **M/S/C**

Rebecca provided an update on the Springstoen Bridge that crosses over the CDA River, it is going to be removed soon. The USGS gage station that a lot of us use will be relocated upriver a little ways and still be accessible.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm