

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Summary Meeting Minutes

March 5th, 2025, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

These minutes are summary notes of the reports and presentations provided at the March 5, 2025 meeting, focusing on the key topics and issues, conclusions, and next steps that were discussed.

Attendees

- **Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)** Sharon Bosley (Executive Director)
- Gail Yost (Assistant to Executive Director; Notetaker)
- Jerry Boyd (Chair, Citizen's Coordinating Council)

Commissioners and Alternates

- Leslie Duncan (Chair, Kootenai County)
- Brook Beeler (Washington State)
- Jess Byrne (DEQ)
- Dave Dose (Shoshone County)
- Scott Fields (Coeur d'Alene Tribe)
- Phil Lampert (Benewah County)
- Calvin Terada (EPA)

Staff Support

- Andy Helkey (DEQ)
- Tamara Langton (EPA)
- Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe)
- Sandra Treccani (Washington State)

Call to Order

- Leslie Duncan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:14 am.

Review and Approve Draft November 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Sharon Bosley (Action Item)

- Sharon Bosley reviewed edits that came in after the packets were sent out which were mostly grammatical with no content changes.
- A discussion was held about summarizing meeting minutes more concisely. Open meeting law requires the motions to be verbatim.
- Jess Byrne was comfortable approving the minutes if the changes were not substantive, and made a motion to approve November 20, 2024, minutes as corrected; Phil Lampert seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the meeting notes. **M/S/C**

BEIPC Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer - Sharon Bosley (Action Item)

- Elections are held every two years for the Chair, Vice Chair and combined Secretary/Treasurer positions.
- Calvin Terada made the motion for all positions to remain the same; Phil Lampert seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved. **M/S/C**

The Confluence Project (TCP – Mike Wood, U of I, [TCP presentation.pdf](#))

- The TCP engages 8 North Idaho schools and up to 371 students in hands-on water education.
- Field trips include snow science, aquifer studies, and water quality testing.
- The Youth Water Summit will be on May 20th at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. Students develop water-related research projects and present to volunteer judges.
- Plans for the 2025-2026 school year:
 - Continue working with all schools and bring in more schools
 - Grow volunteer and advisor base

Questions/Comments

- Sharon Bosley asked about incorporating St. Maries High School.
 - Mike Wood answered that he was trying to get them involved as they have participated before.
- Tamara Langton wanted to know what kinds of classes the TCP students were taking.
 - Mike Wood answered it depended on the school – i.e. science class, environmental or earth science, and biology classes.
- Calvin Terada asked if they have a module talking about the cleanup work in the Silver Valley.
 - Mike Wood said they talked to students about the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

- Sharon Bosley added she would like to see the schools involved in TCP come and do a Basin tour. This will be something we can add as an additional field trip depending on the funding.
- Jess Byrne asked if there was a ballpark figure on what it costs per school to participate.
 - Mike Wood answered last year they put together a sponsorship guideline and it was about \$1500.

Blood Lead Screening and Healthy Homes Update – Mary Rehnborg, Panhandle Health District (PHD)

- Mary Rehnborg was unable to present the blood lead screening update today due to an IT server issue. Instead, she gave a quick summary of the event from last August:
 - There were 391 participants (100 more than last year)
 - More screenings possible due to the new on-line scheduling service, available on the updated website
 - Fun carnival theme – more kid friendly
 - Healthy Homes program provides free supplies to reduce indoor dust exposure.

Questions/Comments

Bunker Hill Superfund Site Website Introduction – Emily Hasz, PHD

- Emily Hasz, PHD Outreach Coordinator, introduced the new DEQ/PHD/EPA human health-focused website: *Bunker Hill/Coeur d’Alene Basin Superfund Site* at <https://cdabasin.idaho.gov>.
- Provides a central hub for Bunker Hill/CDA Basin information
- Features: health resources, free services, permitting info, and education materials

Questions/Comments

- Jerry Boyd asked if she had checked Google to access the site.
 - Emily hadn’t physically Google-searched but she knows the analytics were set up so everything should be good.
- David Fortier did not see any quick links to the EPA or DEQ.
 - Emily Hasz stated there is a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section that addresses how DEQ, PHD, and EPA are connected to the Superfund Site with quick links.
- Leslie Duncan asked about the free services and permitting if they were all inside the Box.
 - Emily Hasz answered these services are for everyone inside the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) jurisdictional boundaries, including permitting and free resources.

- Dan McCracken asked about the logo.
 - Emily Hasz answered it is meant to represent the Bunker Hill Superfund site with a tundra swan, flow area indicating the water and river, inverted Smelter stacks, and the trees in mirror image to represent the past and future.
- Jerry Boyd asked if there was an ICP boundary map on the website.
 - Emily Hasz said it is under the section “ICP Resources”.
- Rebecca Stevens stated she has an edit to the ICP map which takes out the boundary line going across CDA Lake – Emily will update.

Update on Siting of a Lower Basin Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) –Calvin Terada, EPA

- Protecting the Lower Basin and removing the contamination from the river is a critical part of the overall cleanup strategy.
- EPA needs to take the time to study, understand and walk through the process prior to making the siting decision.
- The goal is to make the site decision by summer 2025.
- A robust outreach strategy will be used to inform all involved when the final decision is made.

CDA Trust Transition – Roberto Puga, Coeur d’Alene Custodial & Work Trust (Trust) – **CDA Trust Transition Update**

- Roberto Puga, a professional geologist and President of PathForward Consulting, was recently appointed as the Successor Trustee for the ASARCO Coeur d’Alene Custodial & Work Trust, succeeding Dan Silver. With extensive national experience managing environmental and custodial trusts, Roberto is committed to continuing the Trust’s mission of protecting human health and the environment in the Coeur d’Alene Basin.
- Qualifications & Background:
 - Founder & President, PathForward Consulting (pathforwardconsult.com)
 - Trustee for several high-profile CERCLA and RCRA sites nationwide
 - Leads technically complex environmental remediation efforts
 - Sites managed include trusts in Texas, California, Mississippi, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 2024 CDA Trust Accomplishments:
 - Upper Basin Remediation

- Completed major cleanups at Tamarack Complex, Dayrock Complex, and Lower East Fork Ninemile Creek
- Advanced work at the Star Complex
- Designed future projects at Standard-Mammoth Reach and Tamarack No. 7
- Expanded East Fork Ninemile WCA to handle additional waste volumes
- Lower Basin Projects
 - Progressed planning and investigation for the Cataldo Reach stabilization
 - In the process of completing the 700-acre Gray's Meadow remedy and restoration project with IDFG as the sponsor with the Restoration Partnership
- 2025 Goals:
 - Enhance collaboration and transparency with partners and stakeholders
 - Support the team in advancing remediation strategies and keeping projects on schedule
 - Ensure responsible management of Trust resources to support long-term cleanup goals
- Trust Financials:
 - Trust was established in 2009 with \$436.6M.
 - The Trust is currently valued at \$605.2M.
 - \$262.3M has been spent to date on remediation work.
 - The operating budget is approx. \$30M annually.

Questions/Comments

- Sandy Treccani asked what the process is for selecting the trustee.
 - Calvin Terada answered there are several steps in selecting the trustee. Once Dan Silver announced his retirement, EPA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) initiated the process to appoint a new trustee, as required by Article 4.11 of the Trust agreement. EPA and DOJ identified four qualified candidates and issued a detailed questionnaire to assess their experience. A joint interview panel conducted multiple interviews and reference checks. While all candidates were strong, PathForward Consulting was unanimously recommended. The Court approved the selection, officially appointing Roberto Puga as Successor Trustee effective January 1, 2025.
 - Roberto Puga added he received a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the DOJ and EPA and submitted a comprehensive 60-page proposal detailing his qualifications, including experience in financial management, mining waste remediation, and Superfund site work. He completed multiple interviews with DOJ, EPA, and technical staff. Following evaluation, he was selected and officially appointed by Court order.
- Leslie Duncan asked if Dan Silver was part of a company.
 - Roberto replied Dan Silver was a sole practitioner, Roberto is part of a company.

[Repository Update w/highlight on Big Creek Repository \(BCR\)/Big Creek Repository Annex \(BCRA\) -](#)

Jocelyn Carver, EPA

- Jocelyn provided an overview of repository site design, construction, operation, and monitoring as part of the long-term strategy to manage mining-related contamination in the Bunker Hill Superfund site and discussed in detail the siting, design, and operation of Big Creek Repository and Big Creek Repository as a case study
- Site History & Cleanup Strategy
 - Listed in 1983, with a phased cleanup focused first on human health risks (beginning in 1986) and later environmental impacts
 - Cleanup accomplishments include:
 - 7,171 properties remediated
 - 2.8 million+ cubic yards of contaminated soil removed
 - Lead levels reduced from 25 to 3.5 µg/dL
- Waste Disposal Areas
 - Repositories and waste consolidation areas (WCAs) were selected in the 2002 Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision (ROD) to safely store and consolidate contaminated materials.
 - The waste disposal areas differ in location, construction, and waste stream but all are engineered for long-term containment and are regularly monitored and maintained throughout the lifetime of the waste disposal area.
- Overview of Siting Design, and Monitoring of Waste Disposal Areas
 - Repositories undergo detailed design phases (30%, 60%, 90%, 100%).
 - Baseline/pre-waste investigations are performed to understand the siting and existing conditions to gather data on how to design and operate the waste disposal area.
 - During construction and operation, performance monitoring is conducted to ensure the waste disposal area is operating as intended.
 - An operation and maintenance (O&M) plan is developed that includes a description of when and how to inspect the waste disposal area.
- Big Creek Repository & Big Creek Repository Annex
 - Overview
 - BCR (constructed in 2002): 703,000 cy capacity, 81,000 cy remaining.
 - BCRA (constructed in 2014): 190,000 cy capacity, 168,000 cy remaining.
 - Accepts waste from ICP, Basin Property Remediation Program, Paved Roads, and Remedy Protection programs.

- Pre-design and Baseline Monitoring
 - BCR was built on the former Sunshine Mine tailings pond. Pre-design and baseline investigations, including fate and transport modeling, were performed to understand the extent and nature of the existing contamination prior to repository operations.
- Performance monitoring includes:
 - Seven wells and six surface water sites which are monitored semiannually.
 - Results do not appear to indicate evidence of adverse impacts to the groundwater or surface water from the operation of BCR/BCRA. Trends show stable or declining metal concentrations.
- Best management practices include erosion control, dust suppression, and stormwater management.
 - Operations & Maintenance (O&M) continues after closure and includes regular inspections and public outreach.
- Community Engagement & Siting Criteria
 - Public input helped develop WCA siting criteria in 2009, reaffirmed in 2020.
 - Criteria address environmental, social, and economic impacts, such as proximity to wetlands, haul routes, and redevelopment potential.
- Current Status
 - All monitored repositories are performing as expected.
 - Adaptive management ensures early detection and response to any potential issues.
- **Questions/Comments:** Jess Bryne asked if there were unexpected issues at any of the repositories that EPA has had to account for. Jocelyn Carver responded that there hasn't been anything unexpected at any of the repositories that EPA/Trust have had to account for to date.
- David Fortier commented there have been surface water impacts at a creek and muddy roads at East Fork Ninemile WCA. Jocelyn Carver responded that EPA could follow up on those specific concerns post-meeting.

FY24 Restoration Partnership Annual Accomplishment Report – Rebecca Stevens, CDA
Tribe [FY24 Restoration Partnership Annual Accomplishments](#)

- Rebecca Stevens provided an overview of the Restoration Partnership (RP) accomplishments for the year, which focuses on restoring, replacing, and/or acquiring resources impacted by hazardous substance releases.

- Cougar Bay Stream & Wetland Restoration:
 - Culvert replacement, 800 native riparian plantings, noxious weed control, spring and fall plantings
 - Expenditures: \$3,267
- Guł Hnch'mchinmsh (Native Willow Nursery):
 - Monitored growth and harvest of 7 willow species, invasive species control
 - Expenditures: \$1,872
- Uł qhesu'lumkhw (Cultural Plant Restoration):
 - Camas seed and bulbs harvested and replanted, horticulture program development, beaver surveys
 - Expenditures: \$154
- Chdelm khwa chatq'ele'et (Lake Response Monitoring):
 - Water quality sampling, data analysis, and report writing for Coeur d'Alene Lake
 - Expenditures: \$8,359
- Hepton Lake Wetland Restoration:
 - Levee repair, creation of waterfowl habitat, culturally significant plantings, invasive species reduction
 - Expenditures: \$55,137
- Gray's Meadow Wetland Conversion/Restoration:
 - Collaboration with EPA, remedial activities, bird surveys, and water control structures
 - Expenditures: \$4,012,830
- Gene Day Pond:
 - ROW agreement finalized, project to complete in 2025
 - Expenditures: \$3,211
- North Fork CDA River Conservation Easement:
 - Conversations about preserving cold water refugia with landowner
 - Expenditures: \$0
- Canyon Marsh AG to Wetland:
 - SOW development, conceptual planning, and ongoing monitoring
 - Expenditures: \$8,695
- Gleason's Marsh AG to Wetland:
 - Baseline resource reports developed, remedial investigations in progress
 - Expenditures: \$16,528
- Lake Creek Watershed Restoration:
 - Finalized restoration designs, planted native species, installed large woody debris
 - Expenditures: \$76,980

- Prichard Creek Planning & Phase 1:
 - Conservation easement signed, planning and Phase 1 construction of floodplain connectivity
 - Expenditures: \$1,602,348
- Upper Little NFK CDA River Restoration:
 - Work in Hudlow Meadows, multiple partners and funding sources
 - Expenditures: \$34,506
- Upper St. Joe Bull Trout Habitat Restoration:
 - NEPA initiated survey and design work for bridge replacement and stream restoration
 - Expenditures: \$8,915
- Beaver Creek Watershed enhancements:
 - Multi-phase project in headwaters, exploring cost-share options
 - Expenditures: \$0
- Miesen Creek Fish Passage:
 - Hydraulic modeling completed, coordination with multiple partners
 - Expenditures: \$23,946
- Benewah Creek Stream & Wetland Restoration:
 - Infrastructure and survey/design work
 - Expenditures: \$0
- Lake Creek Corridor Protection & Enhancement:
 - Coordination with INLC and landowner, finalizing contract
 - Expenditures: \$0
- Big Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal:
 - Coordination meetings, site surveys, and NEPA ongoing
 - Expenditures: \$0
- Aquatic Organisms Passage Surveys:
 - Field surveys completed, data uploaded to Fish Passage Portal
 - Expenditures: \$0 (with anticipated \$43K)
- **Total expenditures in FY24: \$5,856,748. Future idea solicitation in 2026.**

Review and Approve Annual Accomplishment Report – Sharon Bosley, BEIPC (Action Item) [2024 BEIPC Annual Accomplishment Report](#)

- Sharon Bosley summarized the 2024 BEIPC Annual Accomplishment Report.
- General Overview:
 - BEIPC coordinates federal, tribal, state, and local efforts for human health and ecological remediation related to the ROD for OU-3 and the Upper Basin RODA.

- Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) held two meetings in 2024.
- Technical Leadership Group (TLG) had no meetings in 2024 but held a meeting in February 2025.
- Public Outreach & Citizen Involvement:
 - BEIPC: Launched *The Dirt* to increase public awareness, updated the website, and attended outreach events.
 - EPA: Produced updates, held a 50-year cleanup commemoration, and hosted a Job Training Initiative.
 - DEQ/PHD: Conducted blood lead screenings, hosted booths, and ran a lead awareness poster contest in schools.
- Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP):
 - No new property remediations. 3,236 properties in the Box and 3,935 in the Basin have been remediated, to date.
 - Activities: Maintained water filtration systems and collected soil and water samples.
- Waste Disposal & Management:
 - Waste disposal facilities are built to accommodate disposal of contaminated waste and are engineered to reliably contain materials and prevent contaminants from being released.
 - Groundwater and surface water monitoring conducted, showing no evidence of impact from disposal activities.
 - Waste disposal facilities actively manage stormwater to protect against erosion.
 - Repositories:
 - Lower Burke Canyon
 - Canyon Complex
 - Big Creek
 - Big Creek Annex
 - Page
 - East Mission Flats
 - Waste Consolidation Areas:
 - East Fork Ninemile
 - Lower Basin WCA – to be decided in Summer 2025
- Upper Basin Remedies (the Box):
 - Design initiated at Pinehurst Elementary to promote proper drainage, repave the playground and add turf.
 - Excavated 4,000 cy contaminated soil at East Smelterville Flats and installed fencing to restrict access.

- Installed four monitoring wells in Government Gulch to determine if selected groundwater remedy would be cost effective.
- Central Treatment Plant:
 - Over 1 billion gallons of water were treated.
 - 51% mine water – 48% groundwater
 - Reactor 2 had impellor replaced.
- Upper Basin Remedies (the Basin):
 - East Fork Ninemile
 - Priority cleanup actions in the EFNM basin complete
 - Dayrock
 - 91,000 cy contaminated waste removed
 - 2,360 ft of stream channel re-constructed
 - Tamarack
 - 108,000 cy contaminated waste removed
 - 1,780 ft of tributary channel re-constructed
 - Canyon Creek
 - Star Complex
 - 23,000 cy contaminated waste removed
 - Installed 1,100 ft concrete box culvert
 - 180 ft of stream channel re-constructed
 - Characterization initiated at George Gulch, Canyon Silver (Formosa), Standard-Mammoth Millsite.
 - Design initiated at the Standard-Mammoth Reach
- Lower Basin Remedies:
 - Gray's Meadow: Conducted dewatering, built water control structures, and excavated 430,000 cubic yards of soil.
 - Lead Bioaccessibility: Treated contaminated soils and measured the impact of environmental conditions on wetland sediments.
 - River Channel Monitoring: Continued riverbank erosion pin monitoring
 - Lower Basin Prioritization Plan was completed.
- Other Projects:
 - The State of Washington continued to monitor the Spokane River.
 - Recreational Sites Program
 - In the Box, 80 rec sites were reviewed, and samples were collected from seven sites.
 - In the Basin, two rec sites were sampled in Lower Basin.
 - Installed access controls at 2 sites, and 7 signs were installed throughout the Basin

- Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP):
 - Goal to verify remedy effectiveness and monitor Basin wide actions.
 - Monitoring: Surface and groundwater sampling at multiple sites, with a focus on metals, nutrients, and nutrients.
 - Biological Resources: Annual waterfowl surveys are done to provide tools for monitoring ecological health and remedial action effectiveness.
- DEQ Lake Management Activities:
 - Science Core Program
 - Filled 3 vacant positions and continued to monitor the lake
 - Coordinated with partners on field work, studies and setting priorities
 - Education & Outreach
 - Provided LMP update to community through outreach
 - Participated in Collaborative groups
 - Nutrient Inventory/Reduction
 - Analyzed water quality for 11 tributaries/10 drainages
 - Sampled phosphorus during high flow events on the CDA river
 - Implemented nutrient reducing projects
- CDA Tribe Lake Management Activities:
 - Science Core Program
 - Continued CDA Lake monitoring & modeling
 - Continued milfoil control program including bottom barrier and mechanical harvester treatments
 - Education & Outreach
 - Provided Lake updates to the community
 - Participated in Collaborative groups
 - Lake and River Water Quality Sampling
 - Continued to sample CDA river at Harrison, St Joe River, Chatcolet Lake, and CDA Lake
 - Analyzed WQ data and continued calibration of AEM3D model for Lake
- Restoration Partnership:
 - Focused on restoring health, productivity, and diversity of injured natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin
 - Ongoing implementation of restoration efforts, including quarterly reporting and site visits.
- Phil Lampert made a motion to approve the 2024 Accomplishment Report as presented, Calvin Terada seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the annual report. **M/S/C**

Discussion and Comments with CCC – Jerry Boyd, Chair

- CCC Chair Jerry Boyd announced his retirement.
- Greg Sletten has expressed an interest in the CCC Chair position, so there will be an upcoming CCC meeting to have elections.

Public Comments & Discussion

- Dave Leptich was wondering when will the siting of the Lower Basin WCA be announced. If not announced until later in the summer, it will be tough to include it in next year's workplan.
 - Calvin Terada appreciated the comment about the timing. They will take that into advisement and try to work with the team to figure out what that will look like.

Next BEIPC Meeting: May 28, 2025, in Plummer, ID.