

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Summary Minutes

November 5, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Panhandle Health District Office

35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg, ID

These minutes are summary notes of the reports and presentations provided at the November 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)

Commissioners and Alternates

Leslie Duncan (Chair, Kootenai County), Brook Beeler (Washington State), Dan McCracken (DEQ), Dave Dose (Shoshone County), Mark Reynolds (Benewah County), Caj Matheson (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Calvin Terada (EPA)

Staff Support

Keri St. John (DEQ), Jocelyn Carver (EPA), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Sandra Treccani (Washington State), Greg Sletten (Chair, Citizens Coordinating Council)

Call to Order

- Leslie Duncan, Chair, called the meeting to order 1:00 pm.

Review and Approve Draft August Meeting Minutes – Sharon Bosley (Action Item)

- There were no edits to the August 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes.
- Brook Beeler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Dan McCracken seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the meeting minutes. **M/s/c**

Basin Tour Survey Results – Sharon Bosley

- Majority of attendees heard about the basin tour via email, followed by word of mouth, BEIPC newsletter and workplace.
- What was liked about the tour – informative presentations, impressive site visits, well organized tour and great overall experience.
- Future tours:
 - Add more variety
 - Include before and after visuals
 - Show recreational safety and ICP operations
 - Provide maps, scientific context, and health impact information
 - Use microphones for presenters
- Majority of attendees would be interested in alternative tour formats in the future including bike, paddle and boats tours
- Most valuable or informative presentation was the WCA at EFNM. Attendees were very satisfied with the overall logistics of the tour
- Next year's BEIPC meeting dates:
 - March 11th (CDA/Spokane)
 - May 13th (Kellogg)
 - Tour dates - July 29, August 5th (Kellogg/Rose Lake Community Center)
 - November 18th (CDA/Spokane)

Review and Approve Draft 2026 BEIPC Work Plan – Sharon Bosley **(Action Item)**

Human Health Remedies

- Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP)
 - Three properties remediated in 2025
 - 2026 Goals:
 - Remediate accessible areas that sample above action levels
 - 9 properties in the “Box” need remediation
 - 37 properties in the “Basin” need remediation -197 properties require sampling
 - Total remediations to date: 3,236 properties in the “Box” – 3,938 properties in the “Basin”
- Updated Residential Soil Lead Guidance
 - Updated 10/20/25 – replaces 1/17/24 update
 - Residential soil lead screening 200 ppm
 - Residential removal management level 600 ppm

- Children’s blood lead level target 5 micrograms per deciliter
- Evaluating Bunker Hill cleanup options under the updated directive to ensure continued protection
- Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP)
 - Provide year-round blood testing, healthy homes support, and HEPA vacuum loans
 - Free to residents living within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site boundaries
 - Continue annual summer screening
 - Free in-home consultations to identify exposure
 - Conduct education and outreach for families, schools (K-12), and community events
 - Sample soil, dust, paint, water, and other media to reduce exposure risks
- Recreational Use Activities
 - Complete Box recreational site strategy and implementation plan
 - Monitor remediations sites and update signage in the Basin
 - Evaluate cleanup options at informal recreation site near Killarney Lake tie-channel
 - Update signage and assess access controls at Box mine and recreation sites

Waste Disposal Area Development and Management

- East Mission Flats – operated by CDA Trust and receives waste from the Lower Basin
- Page Repository – operated by DEQ, waste from the Box
- Big Creek Repository and Annex– operated by CDA Trust, waste from the Upper Basin
- Lower Burke Canyon Repository – operated by CDA Trust, waste primarily from the Upper Basin
- Canyon Complex Repository – operated by the CDA Trust, will generally function as a WCA accepting waste from Canyon Creek remedial actions

Waste Consolidation Areas (WCA)

- East Fork Ninemile WCA (EFNM) – receives waste from Tamarack and Dayrock Complex. All priority cleanups were completed in 2024, final cover expected to be completed in 2026
- Lower Basin WCA – EPA selected the Dredge Road property, design will proceed in 2026

Remedial Actions

- Upper Basin/Box Remedies
 - Clean up to improve water quality and address human health and environmental risks
 - Clean up in the Box to improve water quality of the South Fork CDA River (SFCDR)
 - Treat additional contaminated water
 - Focus on source control actions to address particulate lead
 - Protect remedies from flooding
- Box Remedial Actions
 - Central Impoundment Area Sludge Pond Closure
 - Capped and seeded to match existing cover, maintenance continues in 2026
 - East Smeltonville Flats
 - Crews will remove remaining contaminated soil, add barrier fabric, cap with clean soil, and revegetate the site
 - Rights-of-Way, Sidewalks, and Parking Areas
 - Remediation of degraded sidewalks
 - Galena Ridge Overview barriers will continue
 - Groundwater Collection System (GWCS) and Slag Pile Area (SPA) Cap Design
 - In 2025 cap compliance sampling at the GWCS and SPA found cap contamination
 - In 2026 design will begin for a new clean cap meeting ICP standards to maintain exposure risks
- Upper Basin Remedial Actions
 - Ninemile Creek Basin
 - O&M will continue at cleanup sites as well as remedial action effectiveness monitoring
 - Canyon Creek
 - Investigations and designs
 - Investigations at Riparian Area
 - Design of Frisco Reach to be completed
 - Design of Canyon Creek Garbage Dump and Gem Complex

- Hecla Star Mine Complex and Tamarack #7
 - Cleanup to continue in 2026
 - Mine waste removals
 - Re-grading and capping mine wastes
 - Placement of clean backfill materials
 - Reconstruction of Canyon Creek
 - Expecting completion in 2026
 - Pine Creek Basin Remedial Action – Douglas Complex
 - Cleanup completed in 2025 and O&M will begin in 2026
 - South Fork CDA River Investigations/Designs
 - Investigate contamination sources along the SFCDR from Osburn to the Box to identify and prioritize areas for future cleanup and design work
- Lower Basin Remedial Actions
 - Reduce human exposure to lead-contaminated soil
 - Improve water quality
 - Reduce particulate lead and other heavy metals in basin ecosystem
 - Lower Basin Prioritization Plan
 - Establish initial approach for remedial actions
 - Identify and prioritize data gaps
 - Guide pilot project selection
 - Apply adaptive framework for ongoing cleanup efforts
 - Dudley Reach Scour Hole Pilot Project
 - In 2026, investigations will support design of a cap/dredge pilot with riverbank armoring to test methods for containing and removing mine waste and preventing downstream movement
 - Cataldo Reach Riverbank Design
 - Site characterization completed in 2024 for a riverbank pilot (RM 166-167)
 - Design began in 2025 and expected to finish in 2026
 - Gray's Meadow Remediation and Restoration
 - 695-acre ag to wetland conversion completed in 2025 with O&M starting in 2026
 - Gleason Wetland Remediation and Restoration
 - 270-acre property, characterizations and investigations completed in 2025, project design scheduled for 2026-2027

Basin Environmental Monitoring

- Assess long-term trends
 - Surface water
 - Sediment
 - Groundwater
 - Biological resource conditions
- Evaluate progress
 - Remedial action objectives
 - Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements
 - Preliminary remediation goals
- Understand Effectiveness and efficiency of remedial actions
- Data for CERCLA five-year review
- The Box:
 - Surface water monitoring at four OU-2 stations near the GWCS, twice yearly under the BEMP
 - Biological monitoring near the CTP completed in July 2025, summary report expected in 2026
- Upper Basin:
 - Ninemile Creek and Canyon Creek
 - Remedial action effectiveness monitoring has tracked cleanup progress, with continued surface water sampling through 2026
 - South Fork CDA River
 - Surface water monitoring was initiated to establish a baseline and prioritize work, with continued surface water sampling through 2026
- Lower Basin:
 - Area-wide remedial action effectiveness monitoring plan will continue to be drafted in 2026
 - Surface water quality samples
 - 12 times per year at 7 locations targeted for high flow events
 - Fixed frequency approximately every 6 weeks
 - CDA Lake
 - USGS to develop real-time models estimating suspended sediment lead and phosphorus at three sites – Cataldo, Rose Lake and Harrison; equipment installation will improve accuracy of contaminant load estimates entering CDA Lake

- Biological Monitoring
 - Sampling for wood duck and tundra swan research largely completed in 2025; EPA seeking new partnerships to collar additional swans using GPS devices
 - Ongoing lab analysis and data assessment will continue to develop non-invasive tools for tracking lead exposure
 - EPA commissioned review of the annual waterfowl survey to clarify objectives and improve efficiency; recommendations are expected in 2026

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Responsibilities for Remedial Actions

- Private properties remediated under BPRP – individual property owners
- Public gravel and paved roads – local governments jurisdiction
- Remedy protection projects – government jurisdictions or property owner
- CDA Trust is responsible for their own work (except road and remedy protection projects; gray’s meadow after five years and others)
- CTP and GWCS – DEQ
- Other remedies under CERCLA – DEQ
- Remedies on BLM and NFS administered lands within the site and North Fork of CDA River – BLM, USDA, FS

DEQ Lake Management Activities

- Increase Scientific Understanding of Lake conditions
 - Monitor CDA Lake water for metals, nutrients, and physical parameters
 - Support the CDA Tribe’s lakebed sediment coring project
 - Coordinate with Science Coordination Team (SCT) on National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommendations and future monitoring plans
- Establish and strengthen partnerships
- Nutrient reduction and implementation
 - Support Leading Idaho Initiative phosphorus reduction projects
 - Complete lake tributary monitoring report (2009-2022) and share data with stakeholders
 - Assist CDA Tribe in monitoring nutrient loads in southern tributaries, St. Maries River, and St. Joe River
 - Collaborate with Restoration Partnership, Avista, NRCS and local governments on water quality improvements
 - Align nutrient reduction and remedial efforts in the Lower Basin
- Aquatic plant surveys

- Increase Public Awareness
 - Partner with the CDA Tribe, UI/IWRRRI (Idaho Water Resource Research Institute), schools, and community groups to engage the basin through outreach, education, volunteer monitoring and recognition programs
 - New this year, Living Lake Project with CDA Arts and Cultural Alliance
- Establish funding mechanisms to support LMP

CDA Tribe Lake Activities

- Monitor water quality for metals, nutrients, and physical parameters
- Model data collected from the Lake, meteorological stations and USGS stations
- Monitor and treat invasive aquatics
- Work with EPA to identify opportunities to align nutrient reduction and remedial efforts in the Lower Basin
- Support The Confluence Project (TCP)/Youth Water Summit (YWS) and the Our Gem Collaborative
- Work with DEQ to implement nutrient and water assessment of the St. Joe
- Continue to request that EPA review/evaluates their decision to “defer” a remedy for the lake

Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization

- BEIPC will continue to work with local flood group to update flood maps for Kellogg

Communications and Public Involvement

- BEIPC will continue to work with community involvement coordinators and Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) to carry out public involvement, outreach, and education regarding basin activities
- BEIPC will participate in regional outreach and educational committees

State of Washington Activities

- Ecology will continue to monitor previous cleanup along the Spokane River

Restoration Partnership

- Multi agency collaboration
- Wetlands and habitat restoration across multiple sites – Hepton Lake, Gray’s Meadow, Cougar Bay, Beaver Creek, Beneway Creek, Little North Fork CDA River, Miesen Creek, and Gleason Wetland
- Fish passage improvements and stream restoration – Big Creek, Prichard Creek, Miesen Creek, CDA Basin crossings, and Upper St. Joe River
- Native plant and culturally significant species management – Hangman Creek and willow nursery

- Watershed monitoring, modeling, and conservation planning – CDA Lake, Lake Creek, and North Fork CDA River
- Conservation easements and corridor protection – Lake Creek and North Fork CDA River

Review and Approve Draft 2026 BEIPC Work Plan – Sharon Bosley (Action Item)

- There were no questions or edits to the BEIPC 2026 Work Plan
- Caj Matheson made a motion to approve the 2026 Work Plan as presented; Mark Reynolds seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the Draft 2026 BEIPC Work Plan. **m/s/c**

Review and Approve Draft 2026–2030 Five Year BEIPC Work Plan – Sharon Bosley (Action Item)

- Sharon changed five-year format to be similar the annual work plan
- She will address significant changes only from the 2025–2029 Work Plan to this year’s 2026–2030 Work Plan
- Updated Residential Soil Lead Guidance – On October 20, 2025 EPA issued new Directive replacing its 2024 soil lead guidance
 - Key updates:
 - Regional screening level – 200 ppm
 - Removal management level – 600 ppm
 - Target blood lead level – 5 µg/dl
 - Objective:
 - Evaluate if current residential soil lead cleanup levels need revision to protect human health
- Waste Disposal Area Development and Management
 - Lower Basin WCA
 - Plan and design a WCA at Dredge Road in 2026–2027
 - WCA Construction to begin in 2028 to support future Lower Basin remedial actions
- CDA Lake Activities
 - Bank Erosion Inventory
 - Conduct river shoreline erosion survey along the lower 30 miles of the CDA and St. Joe Rivers

- Conduct river shoreline erosion survey along nine miles of the lower St. Maries River
- Final report will be completed by the end of 2025
- Living Lake Project
 - Coordinate with the CDA Arts and Culture Alliance to implement a Living Lake Project to advance outreach efforts throughout the basin

Questions/Comments

- Leslie Duncan asked where the funding is coming from for the Living Lake Project
 - Sharon replied that the Arts and Culture Alliance applied and received a grant for this project
- Explanation was given explaining the Lower Basin boundaries
- There were no edits – Mark Reynolds made a motion to approve the 2026–2030 Five–Year Work Plan as presented; Caj Matheson seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the Draft 2026–2030 Five–Year Work Plan. **M/s/c**

BEIPC Budget Update – Sharon Bosley

- BEIPC established through Idaho Statute – Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 81
- Coordinates federal, tribal, state and local agencies implementing cleanup plans to restore the CDA Basin and protect human health and natural resources
- Housed under DEQ for the purpose of providing appropriation, funding, and resources
 - Resources available
 - Administrative support
 - Human Resources
 - Deputy Attorney General
 - Fiscal
 - Communications
 - Tech editing
 - Safety
- BEIPC budget is part of DEQ’s annual appropriation and managed by DEQ’s fiscal department
 - Follows the state fiscal year starting July 1st
 - Budget request submitted to Division of Financial Management by September 1st

- Appropriations are approved by Joint Finance Appropriations Committee and the legislature
- State General Funds:
 - Covers Executive Director's salary/benefits and potential CEC increases
 - Includes operating funds (BC01)
 - Office & meeting expenses
 - KC Fairground fees for NI Fair booth
 - Training
 - Conferences
 - Website maintenance
 - Cell Phone
 - Funded by state income and sales taxes
- DEQ BHSS Basin Environmental Remediation Fund:
 - Covers Administrative Assistant's part-time salary/benefits and CEC increases
 - Includes operating funds (BC02)
 - Office & meeting expenses as needed
 - The funding source for the State of Idaho's responsibility to pay 10% match and long-term O&M costs associated with federally funded remedial actions conducted by EPA (occasionally used by the former ED for Engineering costs)
- Federal Appropriation:
 - No federal cash provided for FY26 despite \$16K (personnel) and \$50K (Trustee & Benefit (T&B) appropriation lines
 - Personnel previously funded dual Executive Director positions for training/transition
 - T&B allows subawards but hasn't been used recently

Questions/Comments

- Mark Reynolds asked if the Federal funds were dedicated funds, there whenever they request?
 - Sharon has not been involved with this process yet.
 - Dan McCracken answered that the funds could be available under a cooperative agreement the state has with EPA if a project were to come up that they would want the BEIPC to handle, this gives the flexibility of not having to wait for the next legislative session to be granted the funding

Bay Watchers – Meg Wolf (IWRRRI)

- IWRRRI's mission is to address state, regional, and national water issues by conducting research, sharing current information, and supporting the development of a multi-disciplinary water workforce
- Citizen science water quality monitoring
 - Collect data that will be used to protect and improve water bodies
 - Identify potential water quality problems by viewing trends over time
 - Provide property owners with an opportunity to learn about aquatic ecosystems
- Collaborative monitoring on CDA Lake
 - USGS
 - DEQ
 - CDA Tribe
 - Bay watcher volunteers
- Long-term data - Federal, state, and tribal agencies collect multi-decade data on nutrients, heavy metals, and ecological trends
- Bay watchers program since 2019 - volunteers have gathered nearshore water quality data, offering local insight and early warnings
- Monitor for temperature, Ph, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and phosphorus
- Monitoring equipment includes temperature logger, Secchi Disk (for water quality), view tubes, and YSI multi-probe
- Thermocline occurs in summer months when temperature changes sharply with depth
 - When sun heats surface waters, cooler and denser water stays at the bottom of the water column, creating a temperature gradient across depth and preventing oxygenated surface water from mixing with deeper waters
 - In spring, the lake experiences a lot of mixing
 - In fall, air temperature returns closer to lake water temperature, so the fall turnover happens and the water column gets redistributed
 - In winter, low mixing happens
- Dissolved oxygen regarded as positive, controls chemistry and mineral mixing
- Biggest concern – no oxygen environments can lead to the release of phosphorus, nitrogen and metals
- Eutrophication process:
 - Nutrients released from the watershed creates growth
 - Aquatic plants eat nutrients then die and decompose

- Microbes take in oxygen and reduce oxygen at lower levels
 - Low oxygen concerns of metals released from sediments at the bottom
- CDA Lake is Oligotrophic which is low in nutrients, and low in primary productivity
- Continue to monitor for trends – no significant changes have occurred in their 6 years of data (2019–2025)
- Relatively good clarity across the lake for most of the water year – June is typically more turbid due to runoff coming into the lake
- Working to align long-term datasets with Bay Watchers’ near-shore data through a collaborative platform to make data publicly available and viewable.

Questions/Comments

- Ron Streeter wanted to know why they adopted the Celsius and Meter for measurements
 - Meg replied that most scientific monitoring is reported this way. Good feedback that they should probably report both ways
- Greg Sletten asked since they have been collecting data and in the history of the lake, is there documentation or issues of any eutrophication?
 - Rebecca believes there is some data from the USGS since they started collecting data in 1991, she will follow up with him
 - Meg added that there have been some concerns with dissolved oxygen levels which would be an early indicator of the re-release of phosphorus back into the water column
 - Rebecca stated they have gone anoxic numerous times on the southern end of the lake

Discussion and Comments with CCC – Greg Sletten, Chair

- One property owner question about remediation that has been addressed
- Talking with BEIPC about more public involvement, especially with increases in population throughout the basin
- Question on refusing remediation and clarification that some financial institutions demand property be remediated before selling for liability reasons. If cash deal between landowners and no banks involved, property can switch hands without any requirements. PHD has a disclosure system with all the realtors to provide them with property information for potential buyers.
- Dave Fortier also commented on disclosures of properties that it is a requirement under Superfund if you are a licensed realtor, you must disclose or lose your license.

Discussion and Comments with TLG – Rebecca Stevens, Chair

- All the governments under the BEIPC have at least one technical representative on the TLG
- Technical discussions over designs, projects, EPA and the CDA Trust plans
- Meet twice a year – other discussions may warrant additional meetings i.e. Lower Basin WCA design
- Project Focus Teams (PFTs) under the TLG meet to review technicalities of projects and to bring issues back to the board at BEIPC meetings
- Last meeting was held on October 14th
- Dave Fortier asked if there were minutes or recordings available for the October TLG meeting – summary minutes are posted on the BEIPC website, Gail confirmed that October’s minutes were posted

Updates on Restoration Partnership

- Started project October 27th working with Sunshine Mine, Forest Service, and BLM to remove dam structures Sunshine used to divert water

Public Comments & Discussion

- Ron Streeter asked if Ed Moreen’s position with EPA had been filled
 - Rebecca stated that his position has not been filled, work has been divided amongst the remaining remedial project managers (RPMs).
 - Calvin Terada also replied that Ed’s position has not been backfilled. EPA does not have the ability to hire permanently right now, so they are figuring out how to provide coverage. As Rebecca said, the RPMs have spread out the workload and are dedicated to keeping the work moving forward at BHSS.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm