



BEIPC

Basin Environmental Improvement

1005 W. McKinley, Kellogg, Idaho 83837

(208) 783-2528 • <http://www.basincommission.com> •

Date: 7/15/2026

To: BEIPC Commissioners, Alternates, Staff, TLG and CCC Chairs

From: BEIPC Executive Director, Sharon Bosley

Subject: BEIPC July 29th, 2026, Quarterly Meeting & Annual Basin Tour

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday July 29th**, from **9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** at the Scheffelmaier Country Barn Event Center in Cataldo.

This year's BEIPC Basin Tour will highlight remediation and restoration efforts in the Lower Basin that are improving water quality, habitat, and overall ecosystem health throughout the watershed. The day will begin with a brief Commission meeting to approve May's meeting minutes, followed by several presentations that provide background on the restoration and monitoring projects participants will visit during the tour. The meeting will then transition into the annual Basin Tour, which rotates among the Upper Basin, Lower Basin, and Box to give commissioners and the public an opportunity to see completed projects, ongoing work, and future priorities across the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Tour stops will include the Hepton Lake Willow Nursery near St. Maries, where Coeur d'Alene Tribal staff will discuss wetland restoration, native plant production, and efforts to improve fish habitat and water quality; Grays Meadow, where approximately 700 acres of former agricultural land have been remediated and restored to productive wetlands that benefit wildlife and improve water quality; and Rose Lake, where the U.S. Geological Survey will highlight new sediment monitoring stations that are helping scientists better understand sediment movement into Coeur d'Alene Lake. During lunch, the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy will discuss how strategic land conservation supports long-term restoration efforts throughout the Lower Basin. As an added bonus, attendees will receive a Bird Bingo card and have the opportunity to win prizes while exploring one of the Basin's premier habitats for migratory birds and waterfowl.

A copy of the draft agenda is attached for your reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at **208-659-1715** or by email at sharon.bosley@deq.idaho.gov.

Best Regards,

Sharon Bosley

Executive Director of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

July 29, 2026 BEIPC Meeting Packet Items

- Meeting Guidelines
- Draft July 29, 2026 Meeting Agenda
- Abbreviations and Acronyms
- Draft May 13, 2026 meeting minutes
- July 29, 2026 Tour Guide (will be available at meeting)

BEIPC MEETING GUIDELINES

- The Executive Director is directed to manage these guidelines.
- The agendas for BEIPC meetings are draft agendas and may be modified by the Commissioners by motion and majority vote at the beginning of the meeting to accommodate unanticipated program and scheduling changes.
- Parties requesting a scheduled time slot on BEIPC meeting agendas to present technical or other information shall discuss the request with the Executive Director a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the meeting date. If the draft agenda can accommodate the subject matter and time needed for its presentation and at the request of the Executive Director, the requesting party shall forward an electronic copy of the proposal for the item to the Executive Director a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date. If the item is of a technical nature, the Executive Director will present the technical proposal and or presentation to the TLG for information and review prior to the BEIPC meeting. TLG consideration of the proposal shall not prevent its presentation to the BEIPC.
- Parties making presentations needing overhead equipment, utilizing Power Point or other projection presentations shall furnish their own equipment or make arrangements with the Executive Director. Projection screens shall be provided by the BEIPC at meeting locations.
- At each BEIPC meeting, an open public comment and presentation period shall be set aside for any member of the public to make comments and presentations concerning the Basin or issues being discussed by the BEIPC and presenters on the meeting agenda. The Executive Director is responsible for adjusting the public comment periods on the agenda to ensure that the public is afforded the opportunity to comment concerning an issue of discussion at BEIPC meetings. Each presenter shall have a maximum of three (3) minutes to comment or make a presentation. These presentation times will be monitored by the Executive Director. Presenters shall be recognized by the Chair of the BEIPC meeting prior to speaking. If a presenter needs more time, they shall make arrangements with the Executive Director for a scheduled time slot on the agenda.
- Issues requiring BEIPC discussion and voting such as programs of work, five year work plans, annual work plans, and budget and funding issues shall be presented prior to the final vote on each such issue. The public comment time slot will be managed as outlined above.



Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission Meeting Agenda

July 29th, 2026, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Scheffelmaier Country Barn Event Center
18413 S Old Lane Rd
Cataldo, ID 83810

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:30 AM | Call to Order |
| 9:35 AM | Review and Approve Draft March Meeting Minutes – Sharon Bosley (Action Item) |
| 9:45 AM | Hepton Lake Levee & Willow nursery presentation – Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) |
| 10:00 AM | Grays Meadow presentation – David Van De Reit (IDFG) |
| 10:15 AM | USGS Monitoring Stations – Lauren Zinsser (USGS) |
| 10:30 AM | Adjourn for tour. Bathroom break before loading onto buses |
| 10:45 AM | Drive to Hepton Lake Willow Nursery |
| 11:30 AM | Presentation at Willow Nursery – Eric Hendrickson & Angelo Vitale (CDA Tribe) |
| 12:00 PM | Drive to Aqua Park in St. Maries |
| 12:15 PM | Lunch at Aqua Park
Lunch provided for Commissioners, BEIPC staff and CCC chair. |
| 12:30pm | Conservation Easements in the CDA Basin – Todd Dunfield (Inland Northwest Land Conservancy) |
| 1:00 PM | Drive to Grays Meadow |
| 1:30 PM | Grays Meadow discussion – EPA & David Van De Reit (IDFG) |
| 2:30 PM | Drive to Rose Lake |
| 2:45 PM | USGS Sediment Monitoring Stations– Lauren Zinsser (USGS)
<i>Outhouse available</i> |
| 3:15 PM | Drive back to Scheffelmaiers |
| 3:30 PM | Tour ends |

Note: Times indicated for presentations and discussions are tentative and may be adjusted to accommodate over and under runs of time used to accommodate presenters and Board and public discussions.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AMD: Acid Mine Drainage
ARAR: Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement
ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ATV: All Terrain Vehicle
AWQA: Ambient water quality criterion/criteria
BCR: Big Creek Repository
BEIPC: Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission
BEMP: Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan
BLM: Bureau of Land Management (US Department of the Interior)
BPRP: Basin Property Remediation Program
CCC: Citizens Coordinating Council
CDA: Coeur d'Alene
CDC: Center for Disease Control
CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIA: Central Impoundment Area
CICs: Community Involvement Coordinators
COC: Chemical of concern
CSM: Conceptual Site Model
CTP: Central Treatment Plant
CWA: Clean Water Act
DCIP: Drainage Control Infrastructure Revitalization Plan
ECSM: Enhanced Conceptual Site Model
EFN: East Fork Ninemile
EMFR: East Mission Flats Repository
EMP: Environmental Monitoring Program
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
ERA: Ecological Risk Assessment
ESD: Explanation of Significant Differences
FFS: Focused Feasibility Study
FS: Feasibility Study
GPM: Gallons per Minute
HH PFT: Human Health Project Focus Team
I-90: Interstate 90
I-C: Interstate-Callahan
I & I: Inflow and Infiltration
ICP: Institutional Controls Program
IDAPA: Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IDEQ: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG: Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDPR: Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
ITD: Idaho Transportation Department
LLC: Limited Liability Company
IP: Implementation Plan
LBC: Lower Basin (Citizen's) Collaborative
LBCR: Lower Burke Canyon Repository
LMP: Lake Management Plan
MAU: Multi-attribute utility

MOA: Memorandum of Agreement
NCP: National Contingency Plan
NPL: National Priorities List
NRDA: Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRRT: Natural Restoration Resources Trustees
OSWER: Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (EPA)
OTI: Osburn Tailings Impoundment
OU: Operable Unit
PFT: Project Focus Team
PHD: Panhandle Health District
PM: Project Managers
PRP: Potentially Responsible Parties
PRRACA: Paved Road Remedial Action Cooperative Agreement
QA/QC: Quality Assurance / Quality Control
RA: Remedial Action
RACA: Remedial Action Cooperative Agreement
RAO: Remedial Action Objectives
RD: Remedial Design
RI: Remedial Investigation
RI/FS: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RPM: Remedial Project Manager
RP: Remedy Protection
ROD: Record of Decision
RODA: Record of Decision Amendment
ROW: Right-of-Way
SARA: Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCIP: Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan
SFCDR: South Fork Coeur d'Alene River
SJTI: Superfund Job Training Initiative
SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
SSC: State Superfund Contract
SST: Superfund Straight Talk
STI: Star Tailings Impoundment
SVNRT: Silver Valley Natural Resource Trust
TCD: Typical Conceptual Design
TLG: Technical Leadership Group
Trust: Successor Coeur d'Alene Custodial and Work Trust
UMG: Upstream Mining Group
UPRR: United Pacific Railroad
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS: United States Geological Survey
WAC: Waste Acceptance Criteria
WCA: Waste Consolidation Area
WMS: Waste Management Strategy
WENI: West End Natural Infiltration Area
WCX: Waste Quality Exchange
WY: Water Year

DRAFT

BASIN COMMISSION (BEIPC)

May 13, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Draft Summary Minutes

May 13, 2026 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Panhandle Health District
35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg, Idaho 83837

These minutes are summary notes of the reports and presentations provided at the May 13th, 2026 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), Jess Byrne (DEQ), Dan McCracken (DEQ), Caj Matheson (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Dan Opalski (EPA)

Staff Support

Keri St. John (DEQ), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Sandra Treccani (Washington State), Jocelyn Carver (EPA)

Call to Order

- Leslie Duncan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am, introductions were made by Commissioners present.

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

- There were no edits to the March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
- Jess Byrne made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Caj Matheson seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved the meeting minutes. **M/s/c**

Update to Policy and Procedures due to HB 894 – Sharon Bosley **(Action Item)**

- Add language to BEIPC Policies and Procedures for HB 894 which allows for audio or video recordings of public meetings within the State of Idaho, so long as such recordings do not disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting. Recordings of Executive Sessions are prohibited.

- Jess Byrne made a motion to approve the language as presented; Brook Beeler seconded the motion; all Commissioners approved **M/s/c**

CDA Trust financial status, remediation activities & outreach efforts-

Roberto Puga (CDA Trust)

- Great team, success is combination of everyone involved.
- CDA Trust Financial performance:
 - January 1, 2025 balance of approximately \$570M through long-term and short-term investments and working capital.
 - Portfolio grew to \$670M through January 2026, after accounting for \$30M spent in 2025 budget.
 - Current balance in May 2026 sits at \$706M, accounting for market drop.
 - Performance has been excellent, caution for future market upsets. Previous predecessor set up great wealth management program.
 - Only one change to investments due to geopolitical instability and steep fees. Reinvested in conservative equity investments, small increment of changes to reflect market conditions.
- 2026 CDA Trust Project Outlook (EPA will cover in detail in today's presentation):
 - Upper Basin:
 - Ninemile Creek Basin
 - Canyon Creek Basin
 - South Fork CDA River
 - Lower Basin:
 - Riverbanks
 - Riverbeds
 - Wetlands
 - Waste Consolidation Facility Design
- CDA Trust Outreach efforts:
 - Continue to support EPA and other cleanup partners with on-going and future outreach efforts.
 - Canyon Creek cleanup status communication with residents.
 - Developing signage for Gray's Meadow project to communicate project achievements to the public. Also working with the Trail Commission on placement.

Questions/Comments

- Sharon Bosley asked if the CDA Trust had to adjust their season budget due to inflated gas and fertilizer prices.
 - Roberto and Jim Finlay replied that they have funds for immediate use if needed, and a tool in place for contracts if fuel rises above 12-14%.
- Caj Matheson said great job on keeping up the performance of the settlement dollars. This is what we're going to need to ensure that we get the best cleanup years down road.

DEQ Construction Updates in the Box – Andy Helkey (DEQ)

- Airport Riverwalk:
 - Finish work in 2026, 3.2 miles of gravel trail system for durability, plans to expand parking area.
 - Install Human Health signs.
 - Operation and Maintenance of the barrier.
 - Coordinate with Idaho Parks and Rec (IDPR) on additional signage.
 - Shade structure and picnic table installed last fall sponsored by Kootenai Realtor's Association.
 - IDPR installed paved road access for bike-in campground, 26 camping spots available with facilities (charging station, bathrooms, water hookups), ADA accessible.
 - IDPR and BLM are working on easements to connect Pinehurst Trailhead.
- Mountain View Park:
 - Regraded, barrier installed in 2025, 12 inches clean soil, fixed drainage.
 - Hydroseed.
 - Installation of Human Health signs.
 - Gravel trail system for access, hope to open to public this year.
- Kellogg Sidewalk Barrier Enhancement:
 - Exposed contamination, replace concrete, some tree removal.
 - Update ADA accessibility.
 - Some homeowners worked with contractors on issues that are their responsibility.
- Kellogg School District Parking area:
 - Project Scope:
 - Remove asphalt & concrete – 7,500 SY.
 - Remove contaminate base – 370 CY.
 - Improve drainage – grading and drywell.
 - Install new barriers.
- One previous refusal property in the Box will be completed this year.
- One other property previously remediated under Upstream Mining Group, no longer has houses on property, will be remediated.

Questions/Comments

- Jess Byrne asked about the Paved Roads program that was previously completed, who is required to keep up the maintenance.
 - Andy replied that each entity under the Paved Roads and Remedy Protection projects are required to keep up on O&M, so the City of Kellogg has theirs and through their road funds they keep up on resurfacing.

- Rebecca Stevens asked about Mountain View Park and access to a trail that goes up the mountain, is this not being included in the remedy.
 - Andy stated that there is a fence all around the property now and the trail is blocked off. They will also plant willows to help cover the trail.

2026 EPA Construction Activities – Jocelyn Carver (EPA)

- Quick historic review:
 - BHSS 1,500 square miles – 166 river miles.
 - Three Operable Units comprise original Box, Upper & Lower Basins.
 - Historic large-scale mining and milling – over 100 million tons of mine and waste spread over thousands of acres.
 - Superfund National Priorities List in 1983 – highest blood lead levels in the country.

Upper Basin

- East Fork Ninemile Basin:
 - Cleanup began in 2013; all priority cleanup actions were completed in 2024.
 - Final cover on the WCA will be completed in 2026.
 - Groundwater and surface water performance monitoring will continue for remedy performance.
- Canyon Creek Basin:
 - Cleanup began in 2023 with investigations at all sites to assess priorities.
 - Waste removed and placed at nearby repository.
 - Groundwater and surface water performance monitoring will continue.
- Hecla Star Complex:
 - Fourth and final year of construction.
 - Removal of 65,000 CY of mine waste, backfill with clean rock and gravel from Canyon Creek Quarry (CCQ)
 - 600 linear feet of creek reconstruction.
 - 2,900 linear feet of new asphalt on Burke Road.
 - Removal of large sources of quality downstream and reduce exposure to people and wildlife.
- Tamarack No. 7:
 - Second and final year of construction.
 - 50,000 CY of mine waste removal.
 - Backfill with clean gravel and rock from CCQ.
 - 1,100 linear feet of Canyon Creek will be reconstructed.
- Flynn Mine and Black Bear Fraction:
 - Relatively small site but assigned higher priority because of the potential for residential exposure – will be completed this year.
 - Removal of approximately 9,000 CY of mine waste.
 - Regrade and cap with clean cover materials from CCQ.

- Canyon Complex Repository Expansion:
 - Will receive waste from Star Complex, Tamarack No. 7, and Flynn Mine and Black Bear Fraction.
 - Start of expansion to provide approximately 541,200 BCY of additional capacity to accommodate remedial action waste through 2029.
- Other Upper Basin Designs – remedial actions similar for removals/capping:
 - Canyon Creek Garbage Dump – construction in 2027.
 - Gem Complex.
 - Frisco Black Bear Reach – construction in 2027.

Lower Basin

- Cataldo Reach Riverbanks Pilot Project:
 - Evaluate construction means and methods, costs, and performance of technologies – to understand what works for future projects.
 - Minimize changes to river hydraulics.
 - Stabilize banks and reduce erosion of contaminated riverbank soil and mobilization into the water.
 - Design for riverbank stabilization is currently ongoing.
 - Tentative construction in 2027.
- Dudley Reach Scour Hole Pilot Project:
 - Reduce downstream migration of particulate lead from the riverbed and banks while minimizing adverse system responses.
 - Develop means and methods for technology applications to address the rest of the riverbed.
 - Establish monitoring methods for assessing remedy performance.
 - Schedule:
 - 2026: Investigations of upland transfer facility.
 - 2027 – 2028: 60% – 100% Design.
 - 2029-2030: Construction.
- Dredge Road WCA:
 - Design ongoing through 2027.
 - Construction in 2028.
 - Ready to accept waste in 2029.
- Gleasons Wetland:
 - 250 acres of ag-to-wetland conversion.
 - Ongoing water elevation monitoring.
 - Design ongoing, through 2027:
 - Incorporate remediation and restoration activities.
 - Remedial action 2028-2029.

- Killarney Peninsula Rec Site:
 - Consists of peninsula that has formed over time from metal-impacted sediment.
 - Recreation in shallow water and beach area during summer months.
 - Design consists of installation of root wads and logs, and woody hostile vegetation.
 - Construction planned for Fall 2026.

Box Work

- I90 Corridor/Ground Water Collection System Cap Design.
- Government Gulch Modeling and Updated Conceptual Site Model.

Sixth Five-Year Review Process

- Evaluates the cleanups across all three Operable Units, including the Box and Basins.
- Evaluates the implementation and performance of cleanups to see if it will continue to protect human health and the environment.
- Identifies issues and provides recommendations for improvement.
- Required to review Superfund sites every five years after cleanup begins.
- 2nd Draft currently being reviewed by the authors, then will start EPA review.
- Anticipated to be completed in September and published in October 2026.

Questions/Comments

- Sharon Bosley wanted to know if a partnership was ever found to collar the Tundra Swans.
 - Rebecca Stevens replied not for this year.
- Jess Byrne asked what the monitoring process includes for Ninemile Creek.
 - Jocelyn replied that they will be taking groundwater and surface water samples and comparing them to pre-construction, construction, and post-construction samples to see if we're seeing a decrease in concentration of contaminants.
- Sandra Treccani also asked about Ninemile, what will the monitoring be at the WCA itself? Will you do annual inspections to look for erosion, check for appropriate vegetation growth?
 - Jocelyn stated that they will be monitoring the WCA area and maintain O&M inspections to make sure it is still structurally sound. The cap will be inspected twice a year. The WCA will also be checked on after big rain events.
- Dan Opalski had a couple of questions about the Canyon Basin work, what is the nature of the vegetative covers?
 - Jocelyn said there is an upland seed mix that is hydroseeded for the cover, and more of a specific mix for the stream restoration and floodplain work areas.
 - Dan – does that mean if a tree takes root, it gets removed? Or is there some allowance for natural conditions to recover?
 - Jocelyn – they do want trees; they are also planting willows and alders along the riverbank itself. They encourage woodier, bigger plant infrastructure.
 - Dan – what does this mean in terms of public accessibility, do we encourage and support a return of the land to the community?

- Jocelyn – some of the properties were already private and not generally open for public access, they were informally used. We're not putting up any fencing to keep people out.
- Dan – does this include the WCA?
- Jocelyn – we do not want people up on the WCA, there will be a fence to stop anyone from that area, there will also be larger rock and rip rap in some places.
- Rebecca Stevens question is about East Mission Flats Repository, it seems like they are taking more of the I90 waste and trees from windfall that wasn't anticipated; they have been pushing to use this facility for Dudley Scour Hole waste, so it seems like they are adaptive to some waste but other times not. Where can we find a balancing act?
 - Jocelyn replied this repository was designed to take ICP waste, and work in contaminated soil are within the acceptance criteria for disposal here. Roads built on contaminated materials when disrupting the barrier are also part of this acceptance. Mary Rehnborg confirmed that contractors are certified in the handling of exposed material and responsible for transferring that information to their employees.

Bunker Hill Superfund Site maps overview – Sharon Bosley (BEIPC)

- Update to BEIPC website "Cleanup Status Across the Basin" tab under About BEIPC.
- Maps outlining work being done in the Box and Upper & Lower Basins.
 - Color coding presents current stages of work.
 - Repository locations.
 - Work with EPA/DEQ to add additional locations.

Questions/Comments

- Jennifer Crawford wanted to know if a live ArcGIS online link will be added to the BEIPC website to allow users to zoom in/move around the maps in the future?
 - Sharon stated it was currently not set up that way; we will consider trying to improve this feature in the future.
- Brook Beeler thanked Sharon for putting these maps together. As people use them and we get feedback, there's always room for improvement and/or adjustment. She is curious what kind of analytics are on the pages to be able to track their usage.
 - Sharon does believe we can look at the metrics to see how many people have frequented the site. Maybe look and see where we are now and a year from now.
- Rebecca Stevens commented that she is part of a Tribal Superfund group and this is exactly what people are wanting, keeping up on the progress of working through the site.
- Dan McCracken stated that we should make sure we are clear that these maps do not cover all remedial actions, (i.e. BPRP or Roads program). We should also describe in the language above the maps that often our remedy is consolidating contaminated material and not cleaning it all up, putting it in place and capping it so some contamination still exists.

- Sharon agreed that potentially updating the language above would be helpful so it's clearer when they utilize the maps.
- Rebecca Stevens asked if there would be some concerns about the disclosure piece to have the residential part be on the map.
 - Dan wouldn't recommend putting individual properties on here. To fully understand what remedy took place you would need to look at the remediation map. His suggestion for those interested would be to work with PHD and ICP program.
- Sandy Treccani wanted to follow-up on tracking the metrics, will Sharon be sharing that this new option is available to the public.
 - Sharon said that was a good suggestion, possibly through the next newsletter or other outreach opportunities.

Love our Gem Week Overview – Sharon Bosley (BEIPC)

- Our Gem Collaborative – many partners to get information out to the public.
- Our Gem Symposium happens every couple years – do something to reach a different audience.
- Get public interested in being active and join in learning about what's going on with Lake Management.
- Love Our Gem Week – July 13-17, 2026
 - Monday – Coffee talk, A simple look at a complicated lake 9-11 am.
 - Tuesday – Lake trivia, Vantage Point Brewing 6-8pm.
 - Wednesday – Live after 5 Music at McEuen 5-8pm.
 - Thursday – Blackwell Island talk and self-guided paddle 11am – 1pm
 - Friday – Love Your Lake activities at the Harbor Center 9am-12pm.

Questions/Comments

- Leslie Duncan asked where this would be advertised.
 - Rebecca replied on the radio KPND, through the Chamber of Commerce, on their website, through U of I. Post cards will also be made so that people can get a stamp for activities completed with prizes drawn at the end of the week.

Living Lake update:

- Ten artists were selected to learn about the lake and issues around the region.
- Six months observations then one year to put together some sort of art piece to reflect what they learned to help promote outreach for the Lake.
- Already visiting BHSS, CDA Casino and Tribal activities, PHD presentation, CDA Trust, CTP tour, BEIPC tour in July, Love Our Gem Week events.

Youth Water Summit:

- Next week at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds.
- Culminating event for The Confluence Project where students present what they have learned throughout the year and present their science fair project. Prizes are awarded for top three with the top project in each school receiving NIC scholarships.
- Expect 170 students from 8 schools.

Questions/Comments

- Greg Sletten wanted to know what the plan was for the BEIPC Tour in July.
 - Sharon replied that the tour will be in the Lower Basin, we are currently working on logistics, but it will include Gray's Meadow.

Discussion and Comments with TLG – Rebecca Stevens, Chair

- No meetings since the last BEIPC meeting – usually meet once a year depending on material.
- Lower Basin Project Focus Team (LBPFT) met online to review 60% design for Cataldo Riverbank.
- TLG meeting in October to discuss LBPFT and recreation sites PFT, will schedule this before the November BEIPC meeting.
- State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, EPA, CDA Trust meet every year before work is underway. This meeting was specific to Lower Basin projects making sure cultural resource concerns are met and historic property management is being followed.

Discussion and Comments with CCC – Greg Sletten, Chair

- June 26th bike ride scheduled in conjunction with Panhandle Nordic Club. The bike ride will consist of going to Gray's Meadow with a presentation on the wetland remediation.
- August 25th self-paddle scheduled in conjunction with CDA Canoe and Kayak Club. They will put in at Rose Lake and paddle to the Dudley Reach area. There will be discussions about the work that will be done.
- Sierra Club and KEA will hold a fully historic watershed tour discussing mining and forestry issues in the Silver Valley. It will be a six-to-eight-hour event being held up Canyon Creek on June 13th.
- Sandy Treccani wanted to know how these events are being advertised.
 - Sharon answered that both the bike and paddle are pilot projects to see how they go. The groups need to be smaller in size and capable of the activity. We may reach a broader group after we determine if there will be any issues. The Sierra

Club event on the 13th will be advertised through their channels and can take as many people as possible.

- Sandy also asked if participants needed to bring their own gear and the answer was yes.
- There are currently no CCC meetings scheduled. Hopefully as projects develop and more public interest happens in the Lower Basin, we can get one scheduled so we can provide more information. Additionally, when the lead guidance is finalized, we may be able to bring our community together to help them understand any changes.
- Dan Opalski mentioned that maybe the CCC would be interested in the opportunity for signage that not just tells the public what was cleaned up, but more of the history and background stories of the area.
 - Greg was talking to Roberto more about the signage the Trust is doing, and there are issues with the Trail and their requirements for signage or lack of signage. There is one already in place by the boat launch, but he agrees they should get more information out to the public.

Septic Systems on CDA Lake – Jason Peppin (PHD)

- Working towards long-term improvements on wastewater infrastructure within the CDA Basin and particularly CDA Lake.
- CDA Lake is an important environmental, cultural, recreational, and economic resource.
- Long-term lake stewardship involves many partners across the basin.
- Wastewater infrastructure is one of many considerations within the broader nutrient framework.
- Basin water quality is influenced by multiple natural and human factors.
 - Recent scientific research continues to evaluate phosphorus interactions within the lake system.
 - Wastewater infrastructure represents one component within the broader basin framework.
- Even though there is sewer availability, CDA Basin is still heavily reliant on septic systems.
 - Many shoreline parcels were created before modern wastewater regulations existed (before 1973).
 - Numerous structures and systems predate current state and county standards.
 - Existing systems retain vested rights for continued subsurface wastewater discharge.
 - System replacement often occurs within highly constrained sites:
 - Basalt outcrops/shallow rock.
 - Slopes exceeding 45%.
 - Limited parcel depth.
 - Approximately 50 ft. between shoreline to roadway.

- Dense legacy lot configuration.
- Idaho maintains some of the most protective surface water setback requirements in the country.
 - Advanced treatment technologies provide additional options in constrained environments.
 - When full current standards can be applied, modern onsite systems are effective and protective of water quality.
- Long-term wastewater disposal approaches:
 - Area-wide planning provides more flexibility than parcel-by-parcel replacement.
 - Bay-based or smaller-scale wastewater solutions may help reduce cumulative nutrient inputs.
 - Coordinated approaches may improve long-term reliability in constrained shoreline areas.
 - Infrastructure planning can support future property improvements and redevelopment.
- Collaborative planning for the future:
 - No single agency or jurisdiction can address these challenges alone.
 - Long-term solutions will require collaboration among property owners, utilities, local governments, the CDA Tribe, DEQ, and other partners.
 - Prioritization and phased implementation can help focus resources effectively.
 - External funding will likely be necessary for meaningful infrastructure improvements.
- Infrastructure challenges shaped by history – Burke Canyon as an example of Legacy Development and Incremental Wastewater Improvement:
 - Burke Canyon presented severe physical and infrastructure constraints.
 - Many legacy discharges occurred in areas with limited replacement options.
 - Collaboration among property owners and agencies resulted in meaningful improvements.
 - Approximately 37 residential direct discharges were eliminated through grant-supported infrastructure work.
 - While not all systems met full modern standards, wastewater management and environmental protection were substantially improved.
- Key takeaways:
 - CDA Basin communities rely heavily on decentralized wastewater systems.
 - Many shoreline wastewater challenges stem from historical development patterns and physical site constraints.

- Modern Idaho wastewater standards are protective and effective when site conditions allow full implementation.
- Long-term wastewater solutions will require collaborative planning, prioritization, and partnership.
- Incremental infrastructure improvements can produce meaningful long-term water quality benefits.
- Long-term path forward:
 - Continued collaboration among agencies, utilities, property owners and the CDA Tribe.
 - Strategic prioritization of constrained shoreline areas and long-term infrastructure planning.
 - Incremental improvements can continue reducing cumulative impacts across the basin.
 - Sustained investment and partnership will be necessary to protect water quality for future generations.

Questions/Comments

- Caj Matheson thanked Jason, he appreciates the collaboration and cooperation. One of the reasons the Tribe pulled out of the Lake Management Plan (LMP) was because they didn't feel like there was enough approach like what he has been talking about today. Even though Idaho has more restrictions, we should also point out the unique situation with our Lake. We have a management responsibility to manage the impacts on the lake, and we don't see that across all agencies. The goal was to start managing these impacts, we can't be just okay with stringent standards. How do we create partnerships and do more on the volunteer basis to have significant impacts. The CDA Tribe has always wanted that from every agency that's managing some sort of land within the Basin. There are a lot of areas where we could have improvements, but if everyone takes care of our area then we are giving the lake the best possible chance to move forward.
 - Jason replied that is really the point of having this discussion, of regulating on site wastewater in individual parcels, and working together.
- Sharon Bosely wanted to know if his years of experience, has technology improved enough that we are getting a smaller footprint? In the future does he see something that could be implemented in those smaller lots?
 - Jason stated yes to a point. Disposal of wastewater is problematic and has many challenges. Many of those steps would involve the technology to be able to shrink the footprint. Disposing of wastewater takes physical space as you saw in his presentation, but from a treatment standpoint certainly.

- Brook Beeler said it sounds like places where people are financially able to expand their parcel are the ones you are hitting but are there incentive programs for lower income or others not able to make the shift.
 - Jason replied they do have their CAC program that provides either low interest loans or grant support for those wanting to make improvements or for system failures. Dan McCracken added funding comes from State SRF funds.
- Greg Sletten asked if there was routine testing done on every system?
 - Jason answered that they issue installation permits and there are certain types of mechanical systems that require ongoing operation maintenance, but Idaho does not have an operational permit requirement, nor does it have a requirement to disclose the status of the subject system.
 - Greg – so they are not tested yearly, and Jason said no, it is recommended that septic systems pump every three to six years, but it is not required.
- Tyler Chatriand wanted to follow up if testing was done on advanced systems.
 - Jason replied these do require ongoing operation and maintenance.
 - Tyler – is there more of a shift to advanced treatment systems, like by contractors.
 - Jason – there are limitations to the program to transition to a service provider model. We do not have many specific situations where this level of system is required.
- Rebecca Stevens mentioned in 2007 when her and DEQ were tasked to audit the 1996 LMP, they conducted a shoreline survey and looked into mapping all the septic tanks around CDA Lake, anything put in circa 1973, no permit, no record – there were a lot of them. Cave Bay community rallied themselves to get their own wastewater treatment and put it upon themselves to manage their own treatment facility. We did see this in some of the bay communities; this is the stewardship we try to push from the trenches.
 - Jason replied absolutely – there were several areas around the lake working with property owners to potentially pursue some of the ARPA funding to make improvements. Regional sites as well, for example the Kingston-Cataldo Sewer District, recognizing the discharge standards and improvements to allow for expansion of their sewer system.
- Val Wade asked do we know the percentage of systems on the lake that are not permitted and/or not up to standards to prevent discharge into the lake?
 - Jason was hoping to do a data analysis, but it is challenging. Some properties have been done, but not the entire lake shores. It is information they would like to have, there are still substandard systems out there.
- Tom Henderson said Sunshine is taking steps on a failed system up Big Creek as well and are engaged with DEQ and PHD to fix wastewater handling there.

Sunshine Mine updates – Tom Henderson (Sunshine Mine)

- 108 currently employed, another 40 contractors.
- 140 years as an entity, current owner Sunshine Silver Mining and Refining Company since 2010, bought out of bankruptcy.
- Located in the Silver Belt, high grade silver and generally low-grade base metals (lead, zinc, copper, antimony).
- Ownership of original holdings of the Sunshine Mine plus other adjacent land packages that obtained patented and unpatented claims.
- Virtual tour available on <https://sunshinesilvermining.com/>.
- Conducting technical studies on what resources look like and what needs to be done.
- Three to four years with drill campaigns.
- Not in production yet, three years minimally, currently underground driving tunnels and drilling out areas for exploration.
- Started replacement of 110-year-old Jewel Hoist.
- Stellar safety record – in the last 5 years only four citations all non-serious and substantial.
- Refinery plant is still fully functional, last operated 12 years ago.
- Water treatment plant and tailings storage facility – plans to convert wet tailings to dry sack tailings – Brook asked if it would increase their capacity and Tom said only by about 10%.
- Third party engineering firm conducting feasibility study on reserves, decision to come around second quarter of 2027. Any production wouldn't be until end of 2028 or beyond.
 - Mine/Mill/TSF Feasibility Study (FS):
 - Awarded to SLR – May 2025.
 - Completion scheduled for end of Q1 2027.
 - Development & Infill Drill Program in progress to support FS.
 - Antimony Refinery FS:
 - Q2 2025 – PEA level study completed.
 - FS was awarded Samuel Engineering in Q3 2025.
 - Completion scheduled for Q3 2026.
 - Silver Refinery FS:
 - Nov 2025 – PEA level study completed.
 - FS was awarded to Samuel Engineering in Q1 2026.
 - Completion scheduled for Q4 2026.
- Last 12 months – 6,000 ft of new tunnel; rehabilitated about 7,600 ft of drift; installed 7,700 ft of rail; drilled 71,00 ft (planned footage for 162,000 ft).

- Additional projects:
 - Big Creek Dam Restoration (completed Nov. 2025):
 - Collaborated with CDA Tribe, BLM, US Forest Service, and HMM Engineering and developed plans to remove abandoned dam in Big Creek.
 - Historic dam that was previously used as water intake for the mine.
 - Installed submerged wells for water intake that do not disrupt the creek.
 - Silver Summit Hoist and Shaft (on going):
 - Removed timber, install ground support (complete).
 - Shotcrete hoist room (in progress).
 - Redrive the hoist motor and controls.
 - Shaft rehabilitation down to 3000 Level.
 - Mill Deconstruction (on going):
 - Remove all the hand tools and clean out work areas within the mill and rock house (complete).
 - Remove all exterior paneling and begin removing large equipment (in progress).
 - Completely deconstruct mill and rock house down to the foundation.
 - Cleaned up about 10 tons of old concentrate.

Questions/Comments

- Mary Rehnberg asked what they are doing with the old concentrates.
 - Tom stated they will use some for their feasibility study and assay them, then sort the rest in the refinery then back into a future mill should one be built.
- Sandy Treccani wanted to know what they are doing with the old hoist.
 - Tom said they saved it and are trying to find a home for it, hopefully for an interpretive center or museum.
- Tyler Chatriand said it is great that they are talking about filtered tailings, is the idea that they would dispose of the dry sack beyond the existing tailings facility and if so, any modifications needed for that.
 - Tom replied that about 70%, if the mill were to go back into operation, would go back underground to replace the mined-out areas and voids. The filter tails that remain would go to this facility, what modifications we would need to take place are ongoing now. His guess for 2026 type standards, they will be buttressing additional on the East and North slopes that face the repository and make sure there's nothing that's built on top of old tailings other than dry compact. Then they will compact in an engineered way starting from the outside and move compression towards the hillside. Anything they are going to do will be zero or near zero discharge, even though there will be a new water treatment plant to meet today's standards.
- Jon Groth asked if they ever pick up any gold in their assays.
 - Tom said almost nothing, very trace.

- Sharon Bosley added that Sunshine donated to the Youth Water Summit and each kid will receive a swag bag with top winners also receiving silver coins.

Public Comments & Discussion

- Jon Groth commented great presentations today from everybody.
- Sharon talked about the next BEIPC meeting, to be held July 29th in the Lower Basin; itinerary will be forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm