

TLG MEETING MINUTES

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting

October 6, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Wastewater Treatment Plant (Conference Room)

765 Hubbard, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Attendees:

Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe

Rusty Sheppard, Kootenai County TLG Rep.

Fred Kirschner, Spokane Tribe

Terry Harwood, BEIPC

Glen Rothrock, IDEQ

Toni Davidson, USFWS

Bill Adams, EPA

Mike Stevenson, BLM

Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe

Sandra Raskell, CDA Tribe

Dave George, WA Dept. of Ecology

Bill Rust, Shoshone County TLG Rep.

Jeff Johnson, BLM

Denna Grangaard, IDEQ

Don Carpenter, IDEQ

Susan Spalinger, TerrGraphics

Ed Moreen, EPA

Katherine Rowden, NOAA/Silver Jackets

Jeri DeLange, BEIPC (Note-Taker)

This summary provides the salient issues. These notes are intended to capture key topics, conclusions, and next steps and not the nuances of the discussion.

Call to Order/Introductions: The TLG Chair, Ms. Rebecca Stevens, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Draft TLG Conference Call/Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2011: Ms. Stevens asked if there were any changes or corrections to the draft July 7th TLG meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Bill Rust to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rusty Sheppard and approved.

BEIPC Executive Director Update: Mr. Terry Harwood announced first that Mr. Bill Adams (EPA) will be the new team leader for the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Basin cleanup and congratulated him. For roads, Mr. Harwood has been working with Mr. Bill Ryan (EPA) and Mr. Rob Hanson (IDEQ) on a program to deal with road surfaces in the Basin and Box for paved and unpaved (gravel and dirt) roads that serve as barriers to contamination in the subgrade. This is not a roads program, but a CERCLA action for construction of a cap. The unpaved roads will be done under the property remediation program. They are still working on issues regarding paved roads and are not sure if the State of Idaho will do this or whether it can be done by the Trustee. He is working with EPA to come up with funding for the work.

Instead of the government doing the engineering, they are working on a way for each of the jurisdictions within the community to have their own funding and it will be their responsibility to come up with proposals. There will be a process to ensure the work gets done. There will also need to be an agreement to turn over cap operation and maintenance (O & M) to the local jurisdictions to maintain the cap from that time forward as there will be no continuing maintenance. Mr. Bill Rust asked about the definition of unpaved roads and logging roads. Mr. Harwood answered that it has to be public ownership (i.e. County and City roads) and not private roads such as logging roads, interstates, or highways.

Regarding flood control and remedy protection, Mr. Harwood is working with Ms. Anne McCauley (EPA) on projects for stormwater drainage and remedies for the side drainages in the South Fork of the CDA River such as Moon Creek. There will be about \$34 million set aside for remedy protection projects in the ROD Amendment for work. The governments will perform the work and the local jurisdictions will take over O & M.

Upper CDA Basin ROD Amendment Update: Mr. Bill Adams provided an update on the ROD Amendment. Every individual comment will get a response and some collective general comments will get a collective comment. EPA is making good progress and has drafted all the sections of the ROD Amendment. It is now going through internal review.

Regarding the summer site characterization pilot project, they collected data at a number of mine/mill sites to see if they could winnow some of the sites down. The concept was if they could take off sites based on human health criteria (i.e. lead less than 530 and arsenic less than 100 ppm), they would do that in the ROD Amendment. A total of 42 sites with lead and arsenic below the decision criteria are being taken off the list and they plan to use this process to scale the list each year. There will be a technical memo in the ROD Amendment. He also briefed everyone on aquatic benchmarks, South Fork bio-stabilization, and adaptive management; and noted that the Basin Commission will be the process for the public to have opportunity to comment each year. There will also be opportunities for the public to provide input on the natural resource restoration work.

The schedule for the ROD Amendment includes briefings with IDEQ and EPA headquarters in late October or November. There will not be an opportunity for public comment after the ROD Amendment is released, so EPA is trying to provide updates to the community so there are no surprises. They will be meeting with local mayors and county commissioners in November, and the Kellogg and Wallace chambers in early December. An update will also be made at the November 16th Basin Commission meeting. There will be no large public meetings, but an Upper Basin PFT meeting will be set up in December to review comments on the technical memo and work. EPA hopes to get the ROD Amendment signed in late 2011, and then distribute it in early 2012.

CDA Work Trust Update: Mr. Adams gave a presentation on the CDA Work Trust. Work included: 1) further characterization work near the Gem site in Canyon Creek; 2) a compost feasibility study; 3) contracting with the Wallace Mining Museum to gather historical information on sites; 4) contracting with the Tribe for cultural resource work; 5) planning and work plan development for 2012; and 6) trying to maximize Trust dollars as they invest a lot of it. The Hecla settlement monies (\$263.4 million over several years) will go for everything else.

Break

Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) Update: Mr. Adams provided an update on the status of the revised BEMP and indicated that all monitoring is still ongoing. In the original BEMP, the objectives called for a lot of effort. For the revised BEMP, they are trying to identify data that they can consistently use to provide a good baseline for future monitoring, determine long and short term trends, and make predictions for future work. Currently, the revised BEMP is going through senior review and incorporating ARARs (Applicable or Relevant

and Appropriate Requirements) and remediation goals from the ROD Amendment. The schedule to get the revised draft out is early November. EPA will be happy to share the draft with anyone interested.

Lower Basin Sampling/Modeling Update: Mr. Ed Moreen gave a presentation on the results of sampling in the Lower Basin which included information on suspended sediment. Bed sampling was also undertaken this year. The results will be used to fill in data gaps for the Lower Basin modeling. EPA is looking at continuing the series of modeling sessions.

North Idaho Fair Update: Ms. Denna Grangaard reported that this was the third year for the joint fair booth for public outreach and education. There was good success with almost 2,400 visitors.

Communications PFT Update: Ms. Jeri DeLange provided an update on the Communications PFT. She is planning to schedule a meeting in late October or early November.

Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update: Ms. Stevens announced that the Tribe and State are updating the Lake*A*Syst materials for CDA Lake and conducting a contest to design a logo for this program. Information about the design challenge will be posted online and in the newspaper.

Lunch

TLG Review and Discussion of Draft BEIPC One Year (2012) and Five Year (2012-2016) Work Plans: Mr. Harwood and Ms. Stevens first reviewed the draft one year work plan for the Basin Commission. During the review and TLG discussion, some revisions were made to some of the language that was agreed to by the TLG members.

After the revisions were made, Mr. Moreen made a motion to recommend the revised draft one year work plan for approval to the BEIPC and CCC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Rust and approved.

The TLG then reviewed the draft five year work plan for 2012-2016. During TLG discussion, additional revisions were made to the language pertaining to the changes that were made in the one year plan. Mr. Rust made a motion to recommend approval of the revised draft five year work plan to the BEIPC and CCC. Ms. Sandra Raskell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Silver Jackets Overview: Ms. Katherine Rowden (Service Hydrologist for the National Weather Service/NOAA) gave an overview on the Silver Jackets. The Silver Jackets are representatives that deal with flood control from the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources (IDWR), IDEQ, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), National Weather Service and others. She will be the liaison between the Silver Valley and the Idaho Silver Jackets, and will be attending the BEIPC and TLG meetings to share information. There will also be an EPA representative (i.e. Mr. Jim Werntz) from Boise who will now attend Silver Valley flood risk meetings and participate on related conference calls.

She explained that the Silver Jackets do not go into a community to build levees, but they can help find funding. The program is state driven and they got a grant for a project in the Silver Valley. It's not finalized to what the project is going to be, but it's not a levee evaluation. It may just be to work with the community on flood issues. The Silver Jackets can assist the communities with hazard planning that is flood related and also flood awareness activities.

Additional information may be found at the following websites:

- *National Silver Jackets* <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/index.cfm>
- *Idaho Silver Jackets* <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factIdaho.cfm>
- *National Committee on Levee Safety* <http://www.leveesafety.org/index.cfm>

Mr. Harwood mentioned that when this started (i.e. flood control and remedy protection), he was tasked by the Basin Commission to talk to the COE, Congress, U.S. Senator Crapo's office, etc. The directors of the various agencies then decided to get together in Seattle. However, he has received no direction or assistance after this meeting. He does not know what they did or what's going on. Ms. Stevens suggested that maybe Mr. Harwood could get back into the loop as the BEIPC Executive Director.

After Ms. Rowden concluded her presentation, TLG members discussed other related issues about this topic.

Programmatic Approach to ARARs: Mr. Adams made a presentation on the ARAR Compliance and Programmatic Approach for the CDA Basin cleanup. As EPA is looking ahead at the cleanup work for a number of sites, they need to ensure that they are meeting all of the ARARs for each specific project. The process is fine if they are only working on one site, but they need to have a consistent way to do more projects over a larger area. EPA has hired a contractor to help establish a process that looks at activities in an area, rather than one activity at a time.

Jack Waite Mine Site Remediation Progress: Mr. Jeff Johnson gave a presentation on the progress of the Jack Waite mine site remediation. The site is one of the largest in the North Fork. He shared some photographs of the cleanup work that was completed this season and indicated that construction will shut down in the next few weeks. Next year, they will do some stream and floodplain design, re-vegetation and as much restoration that makes sense up there.

Adjourn: Ms. Stevens adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m. The next TLG conference call is scheduled for November 3, 2011.