

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
October 21, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Spokesman Review Building (1st Floor Conference Room)
608 Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, ID

Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe
Terry Harwood, BEIPC
Bill Rust, Shoshone County TLG Rep.
Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe
Bill Adams, EPA
Denna Grangaard, IDEQ
Derek Forseth, TerraGraphics
Barbara Morson, HDR Consulting
Kenny Hicks, CCC Member
Anne Dailey, EPA
Sandra Raskell, CDA Tribe

Andy Mork, IDEQ
Rusty Sheppard, Kootenai County TLG Rep.
Toni Davidson, USFWS
Kate Healy, USFWS
Susan Spalinger, TerraGraphics
Don Vernon, TerraGraphics
Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair
Ed Moreen, EPA
Vera Williams, CCC Vice-Chair
Jake Waterdown
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, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, followed by introductions.

Approval of Draft TLG Minutes of July 15, 2010: Ms. Stevens noted a correction in the draft July 15 meeting minutes as the time of the meeting was changed from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Bill Rust made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randy Connolly and approved.

Changes to the Agenda: Ms. Stevens made some minor changes to the order of the agenda to accommodate the schedule of a few of the presenters.

Discussion of TLG Conference Calls: Ms. Stevens brought up that recent TLG calls have been poorly attended. She asked the TLG for suggestions on improving participation or if there was a need to reduce the schedule for bi-weekly calls. TLG members concurred that there is less to discuss on the calls now since all of the CWA projects are completed; and agreed to adjust the schedule to one conference call on the first Thursday of each month beginning November 4. Mr. Kenny Hicks encouraged everyone to participate as it helps to keep the TLG members informed. He inquired whether other interested parties could participate in the calls. Ms. Stevens answered that TLG and CCC members are always welcome. If there is a technical issue that a consultant would like to make an update on, they are also welcome.

Communications PFT Update: Ms. Jeri DeLange provided an update on the Communications PFT. The PFT has produced a FAQ sheet on public commenting that was distributed at recent community open houses and posted to the BEIPC website. (Handouts of the FAQ sheet were

also available at the TLG meeting). She informed everyone that a mini-workshop on how to provide effective public comment will be held next week at the CCC meeting on October 27, and encouraged people to attend. The workshop will be facilitated by Ms. Vera Williams, the CCC Vice-Chair, on behalf of the CCC and Communications PFT. It may also be presented at other venues in the future. Ms. DeLange also noted that the joint fair booth was very successful.

North Idaho Fair Booth Update: Ms. Denna Grangaard gave an update on the North Idaho Fair booth. Participants in this joint effort for public education and outreach included members of the IDEQ and CDA Tribe LMP, BEIPC Communications PFT and Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC), and the Panhandle Stormwater Erosion Education Program (SEEP). The title of the booth was: “Working Together for your Environment.” Ms. Grangaard reported that the trivia wheel or “Wheel of Fun” was thoroughly enjoyed by all age groups. This consisted of spinning the wheel and answering “light quiz” questions related to the topic you landed on. Everyone received a prize. She indicated that there was a large turnout and that it was really a good opportunity for public outreach.

Draft Final BEMP (Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan): Mr. Bill Adams provided an update on the draft final BEMP. They have been working on putting together the documentation, statistical analysis, and key items to finalize. This will be an interim document, so they will be able to make adjustments to the plan as they move forward with the work. EPA’s consultant, Mr. Craig Sauer (CH2M Hill) gave a powerpoint presentation on the surface water monitoring. The consolidated BEMP will merge the data from OU-2 into the overall framework of the OU-3 program. Purposes of the plan include the following:

- Assess long-term status and trends of ecological conditions in the Basin;
- Evaluate progress toward meeting remedial action objectives;
- Improve understanding of Basin environmental processes to improve effectiveness and efficiency of remedial actions; and
- Provide data for CERCLA required 5-year review of remedy performance.

Then Mr. Adams explained the approach for the process/strategy for adaptive management. The TLG discussed various issues associated with the plan such as: monitoring plan goals; ecological conditions; long-term conditions; trends; ARARs (Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements); ambient water quality criteria; fishery tiers; current water quality standards; metals concentrations; data results; and realistic goals. Mr. Terry Harwood pointed out that at last night’s meeting (i.e. town hall meeting/open house by the 7 local mayors regarding the proposed ROD Amendment), there was some discussion by the public about human health and the need for cleanup as most of the human health work has already been done.

Break

CDA Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update: Ms. Stevens provided an update on the LMP needs assessment. The State and Tribe have contracted with Robinson Research to conduct it. The web survey closed September 30 with approximately 130 hits. After the results are

finalized, the information will be shared with everyone and a report will be presented at the February BEIPC meeting.

Mr. Glen Rothrock gave an update on the LMP work for the State. Two full-time staff positions were hired to take over the science arm of the LMP. The State will be continuing Eurasian milfoil inspection and is also working with the Tribe on the nutrient inventory in the St. Maries/St. Joe Rivers. Sampling is being conducted at 6-7 sites and one of the nutrients being sampled for is total phosphorus (TP). Sources of TP at the mouth of the St. Joe River are unknown, but the Tribe and State know that the St. Joe contributes approximately 40% of the phosphorus loading into the Lake.

Ms. Stevens said that the Tribe and State support Kootenai County's site disturbance ordinance on development around the lake to minimize disturbance within 25 feet of the Lake; however, they will continue to request participation in any revisions of that ordinance including increasing the setback distance. Regarding water quality monitoring, she mentioned that the Idaho Water Steward program has recently been developed and it is designed to teach people how to sample water quality and habitat. The program is a partnership between the University of Idaho (U of I) Extension and U of I Coeur d'Alene. They are also partners with the U of I effort (which is similar to the Master Gardening program). She commented that it's helping to educate the community and that people are really passionate about collecting samples. A question was asked on whether the data would be used by the State and Tribe. Ms. Stevens answered that the State and Tribe would be adamant about using accepted sampling protocols if they were to be able to use the data. This is the first year of the program, so the Tribe and State will be interested to see what kind of participation produces data.

Lunch

BEIPC 2011-2015 Five-Year Work Plan Discussion: Mr. Terry Harwood presented the draft five-year work plan to the TLG. He also pointed out the following: 1) All of the CWA projects have been completed; 2) No CERCLA funding may be spent on public lands; 3) He started with the five-year plan to focus on where we need to go for the one-year plan.

For yard remediation work, Mr. Kenny Hicks asked whether there is a process for people who refuse to have their property remediated. Mr. Rob Hanson responded that they are continuing to work on this issue. He brought up that the model used in the past by the UMG (United Mining Group) in the Box was to make a list of the refusals, do an estimated cost to remediate the properties, and set funding aside. The State is looking at this process.

TLG members then discussed other issues related to the five-year work plan including blood lead testing, repositories, remedy protection, funding, etc. Mr. Harwood made changes to the draft language as agreed upon by the TLG during discussion. After the revisions were made, the TLG agreed unanimously to recommend approval of the revised draft five-year work plan by the Basin Commission.

Draft Implementation Plan: Mr. Bill Adams provided an update about the draft implementation plan that they are developing for what work they will be doing in the next five years or more. He explained that when working with the Successor Coeur d'Alene Custodial and Work Trust (SCCWT), you can only request work allowed by the litigated Trust document. The plan will be put together reflecting the direction that they are being given and by matching work and funding. The main focus will be repository work. They are also in the process of gathering additional water quality data, but will need some access agreements in order to conduct sampling. The Trustee, Mr. Dan Silver, is trying to figure out how to do the work and he will need to bring in more people and a project manager in the Silver Valley to work through these sites.

Mr. Harwood suggested that besides an access agreement, an Administrative Order of Consent (AOC) may be needed to answer concerns that property owners may have. Then property owners need to know that EPA would not pursue them as a PRP (Potentially Responsible Party) in the future.

Mr. Adams noted that he will be setting up the next Upper Basin PFT meeting for project planning purposes, but that the Trust will be able to select who they want to do the work. For yard remediation past 2011 the Trust will perform the work, but they may possibly look at the State for assistance. He projected that the Trustee will be talking to people, adjusting the implementation plan, getting comments, and incorporating everything into the Trust plan. Mr. Bill Rust brought up that not all of the items of work are listed in the project spreadsheet portion of the draft ROD Amendment. Mr. Adams responded that some items may be removed from the list; however, it will depend upon the process.

South Fork CDA River and Pine Creek Flooding Remedy Discussion: Mr. Ed Moreen provided an update on this topic on behalf of Ms. Anne McCauley (who is the EPA lead on these issues, but was not available). He recognized that there will be a lot of local coordination for dealing with remedy protection. This will include the following items:

1. Determine risks associated with flooding.
2. Coordination of PFTs, Shoshone County, Corps of Engineers (COE), and other various agencies related to flood control (i.e. Silver Jackets, FEMA, IDWR, etc.). The Silver Jackets can provide multi-jurisdictional authorities on flooding issues. Each agency works within its own authority and mission, but there is synergy when working together. There may also be opportunities to collaborate with other agencies when some things overlap.
3. Risk characterization.
4. Option evaluation - to address risks that are warranted (i.e. structural, restoration of flood plains, future flooding, etc.)
5. For remedial work done within the river or the flood channel, we need to understand possible impacts when the work is done and also the work done by other parties, so it may be necessary to perform additional evaluations.

Mr. Harwood brought up issues about the overall risk assessment and the COE's analysis on the potential flooding and failure of the levees. He indicated that it sounds like they are asking their

consultant to do the same work on the risk assessment that we are currently looking to the COE for performance of the work. The COE needs to do the work; otherwise they may not accept it. The cost estimate is \$2 to \$2.5 million. Mr. Moreen said that EPA's concern is the risk to the remedies and not the levees. Mr. Harwood explained that if there is a levee failure, then it may still affect the remedy as both remediated and un-remediated properties may be damaged. Mr. Moreen suggested that there may be many other types of risks that could affect infrastructure for example.

Mr. Bill Rust commented that we need to step back from performing the risk assessment until after the remedy is complete. He also indicated that the County does not agree with the proposed remedy for the stream channel. They believe that a cooperative design needs to be done for the stream channel remediation, and that it needs to be something that can be maintained. He recommended that we need to reconsider the use of woody debris for habitat restoration as most of the damage from the 1974 flood was done by floating debris and that habitat can be built out of rock instead of woody debris. Mr. Kenny Hicks raised the issue of flood control planning and the difference in flood damage between a 50-year event versus a 100-year event. He stressed the need for collaboration to reduce costs and provide more efficiency in the process. The TLG discussed other related issues concerning hydraulics, rip rap, etc.

Lower Basin PFT Update: Ms. Stevens provided a brief update on the Lower Basin PFT meeting that was held on September 29. There was a presentation on the Schlepp wetland project by Ms. Dailey. This was followed by a discussion on recreation sites. Ms. Stevens asked the TLG members to let her know if anyone has ideas about potential recreation sites that can be cleaned up. She still thinks that there is good potential for the project at Gene Day pond. Information was also presented on the "Floating Islands" concept. This is an alternative technology that can be used in a variety of applications to provide habitat and it can also be used in other ways. If anyone is interested, Ms. Stevens has a copy of the presentation that was presented at the PFT meeting. She also mentioned that the Lower Basin PFT notes will be posted on the Basin Commission website.

Lower Basin Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM) Update: Mr. Moreen reported on the Lower Basin ECSM, and reviewed some of the key goals. Information was gathered through a variety of sources such as CWA grants and other processes. The ECSM will be used to update our understanding of the Lower Basin along with sediment transport. Data will continue to be collected to develop a predictive tool that will be used to help evaluate remedy decisions in the Lower Basin and enhance working knowledge. If people would like to be a part of the modeling process, then EPA may schedule a series of workshops for people to participate in. Mr. Moreen also has copies of the ECSM document on CD for anyone who is interested.

BEIPC One-Year Work Plan Discussion: Mr. Terry Harwood presented the draft one-year work plan to the TLG after making the necessary revisions from the changes in the five-year plan. Upon TLG discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bill Rust to recommend approval of the revised draft one-year work plan by the Basin Commission. Mr. Rusty Sheppard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Presentation on Spring Creek Sediment Removal Project at Iron Mountain Mine Site: For informational purposes, Ms. Stevens and Mr. Moreen gave a powerpoint presentation on the sediment removal remedial action for the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund site in northern California. This site was a large copper mine that operated for approximately twenty years. Cleanup work consisted of dredging the contaminated sediments in the Arm of the Keswick Reservoir and water treatment during dredging operations.

Other Announcements and Wrap Up: Ms. Stevens reminded the TLG about the next Basin Commission meeting on November 17. The CCC Chair, Mr. Jerry Boyd, encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming CCC meeting on October 27.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.