

TLG MEETING MINUTES

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
August 1, 2012, 10:00-3:30 p.m.
Kootenai Title Company,
1450 NW Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, ID

Attendees:

Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe
Terry Harwood, BEIPC
Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe
Greg Clark, USGS
Toni Davidson, USFWS
Tracy Chellis, EPA
Bill Adams, EPA
Bob Kirkpatrick, USFS
Jan Olsen, IDEQ

Mike Stevenson, BLM
Bill Rust, Shoshone County TLG Rep.
Dave George, WA Dept. of Ecology
Jeff Johnson, BLM
Don Carpenter, IDEQ
Denna Grangaard, IDEQ
Rene Gilbert, EPA
Heather Carroll
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, Rebecca Stevens called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Draft TLG Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2012: A motion was made by Bill Rust to approve the minutes as written and was seconded by Dave George. The motion was approved.

BEIPC Executive Director Update: Terry Harwood said that he is working with Bill Adams and BEIPC staff on a 10-year planning spreadsheet for project costs and funding sources. This information will be included in the board packets for the August 15th BEIPC meeting. He gave updates on the unpaved roads program, remedy protection, side drainage and stormwater projects. Any projects that cross private property will require easements. There is also the big question of who is going to be responsible for the Operation and Maintenance (O & M) after the projects are completed. He indicated that the City of Smelterville has agreed to O & M for the Grouse Creek project. Regarding the paved roads program, funding will be set aside for the communities similar to a grant process. They will have a list of roads that they can work on and a preliminary concept of the work that needs to be done. Once the process and policy documents are set up, a Roads Board will review and approve the projects. The policy will be mailed to the local road jurisdictions with a form that they will need to sign saying that they accept the O & M. He wants everyone to understand that the local jurisdictions will need to maintain the remedy after the work is done. He is also concerned about running out of funding for the project and emphasized that we will all need to work together.

Upper Basin ROD Amendment Update: Bill Adams introduced Rene Gilbert as the new Community Liaison reporting to EPA and then provided an update on the ROD Amendment. There is a pre-signature version that is not open for comment. EPA has provided advance copies and completed government-to-government consultations with the CDA Tribe and Spokane Tribe

and made calls to all the BEIPC Commissioners, local mayors, and local congressional staffers. Pre-signature copies are also available at various community locations. EPA hopes to have the ROD Amendment signed before the BEIPC meeting on August 15th. After the document is signed, EPA will distribute signed copies and CD copies will also be available upon request.

BEIPC Projects and Funding Sources Workshop: Adams provided some background on the workshop and project planning spreadsheet. Then he explained about the funding in the Special Accounts (SA) and that it's basically funding everything for this site as there are no appropriations from EPA headquarters this year. The goal is to spread the work out over a number of years because there is only a certain amount of funding available in the SA. For the Trust settlement, the money is invested in a diversified portfolio that is slated to grow over time. Overall, there is some high risk with the economy being down. Typically they would expect to see 5% growth each year. He suggested that if they keep spending limited to \$10 million dollars per year for the first five-year time frame, then by that time, they hope to spend \$20-25 million per year. However, if the investment does not grow, they will need to figure out what to do.

Currently, EPA is working on the draft (adaptive) implementation plan which they hope to get out at the same time as the ROD Amendment. They want to get input on it as it will ultimately identify the basis for the plan moving forward. The vision for the implementation plan is that it will be a living document. As they are doing work and seeing the process, there will be an addendum every year. Then every five years, they will pull together all the addendums for the five-year review. This will also form the basis for the BEIPC one and five-year work plans.

Discussion on Spreadsheet: Adams reviewed the project work on the spreadsheet and the costs associated with each one separately for each year for a ten-year period. He explained that the Court Registry account is \$66 million that was set aside for the court settlement and that money will either go to run the Central Water Treatment Plant (CTP) for perpetuity, or to EPA as another source of money. He indicated that what is in the spreadsheet is only for work that has been tasked so far; and that there may be other costs that are not in the ROD Amendment. The property remediation program is currently being funded from the Hecla settlement.

After reviewing some of the other project costs, Adams said that they are looking at moving some things around, or possibly doing away with certain things to try and make the SA money last as long as possible because then they will have to use the Trust funding. Harwood brought up that Congress will fund human health first and suggested that if there is a lot of ecological cleanup work that is not done; then we may not get any funding for it. He asked if any of the SA funding could be saved to do ecological work such as groundwater treatment. Adams agreed and said that they are aggressively moving forward with the pre-design on the French drains and CTP.

TLG Discussion on Spreadsheet: TLG members discussed various issues related to the spreadsheet and funding sources such as:

- *Funding the property remediation program from the Trust and saving the SA money for work in the Box;*

- *Higher costs for property remediation in the Lower Basin as some properties may be larger than in the Upper Basin;*
- *Growing the Trust to justify spreading the work out over time;*
- *Changes to work that may affect other areas and increase costs;*
- *Balancing the work with the sources of funding available, so that money is not wasted.*

Lower Basin Update: Rebecca Stevens gave an update on the Lake Management Plan (LMP) as Ed Moreen was unavailable to provide a Lower Basin update. The State and CDA Tribe are doing monthly water quality monitoring. Next week, the Tribe will start herbicide application on the southern portion of the Lake. CDA Tribe and IDEQ staff are working on the Lake*A*Syst manual that will be used for public outreach with CDA Lake shore property owners.

North Idaho Fair Booth Update: Denna Grangaard provided an update about the joint fair booth for education and public outreach. The booth is larger this year, so there will be more space for hands-on exhibits and promotional items by IDEQ, Basin Commission, CDA Tribe, EPA, and Panhandle Health District.

Lunch

2011 Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) Data Collection & 2012 Update: Greg Clark made a presentation on the 2011 BEMP data collection and 2012 update. For anyone interested, he will make the presentation available in a pdf version.

2012 Bio-Monitoring in East Fork Ninemile Creek: Toni Davidson gave an update about the 2012 bio-monitoring in the East Fork Ninemile Creek drainage. They are hoping to collect two years of data in the following groups: 1) aquatic; 2) riparian; 3) benthic; and 4) macro invertebrate.

CDA Work Trust Update: Bill Adams provided an update on the Trust work for: 1) Ninemile; 2) Interstate Callahan; 3) Waste Consolidation Area (WCA); 4) Tamarack; 5) Success; 6) Star complex; 7) Hercules; and 8) the Hidden Treasure mine.

Lower Burke Canyon Repository: The Trust is moving forward with the repository design and doing some additional characterization on the monitoring wells.

2012 Upper Basin Focused Site Characterization: Tracy Chellis provided an update about the 2012 Upper Basin focused site characterization work. EPA has identified 104 mine/mill sites for sampling this year. However, they will need to get access agreements for some of the sites that are on private land.

Announcements: The BEIPC meeting is scheduled for August 15th at the Wallace Inn at 9:15 a.m. with a BEIPC field trip following the meeting.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned early at 2:28 p.m.