

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)
Conference Call Summary Notes
February 6, 2014

Attendees:

Bill Adams (EPA)
Jerry Boyd (CCC Chair)
Jamie Brunner (IDEQ, LMP Coordinator)
Glory Carlile (BEIPC, note taker)
Randy Connolly (Spokane Tribe)
Bonnie Douglas
Denna Grangaard (IDEQ)
Terry Harwood (BEIPC E.D.)
Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe)
Caj Matheson (CDA Tribe)
Ed Moreen (EPA)
Sandra Raskell (CDA Tribe, TLG Chair)
Rusty Sheppard
Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe)
Sandy Treccani (WA Dept. of Ecology)

Corrections to meeting notes in October 2013:

Jamie Brunner clarified that in the LMP update it states “They continue to collect data in St. Joe area.” However, although they are still gathering data they were not actually physically gathering any monitoring data at this point at the St. Joe River. Laura Laumatia made clarification corrections that after “They are also helping to explore partnership with the City of Coeur d’Alene on the watershed project” to correct that to “Four Corners Project” not on “watershed project” and IDL applicants and partners on the grant. Rebecca Stevens made other minor edits that included that on Page 2, 8th line down “... and consider how they fit into their plan” at the end of the sentence should be a period not question mark. Also, it was clarified that Bonnie Douglas made her comment at the meeting as a CCC member. Raskell asked that these changes be submitted by e-mail.

Approval of October 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes:

Ed Moreen moved to accept the TLG meeting minutes of October 17, 2013 as amended with the changes. Jamie Brunner 2nd. M/S/C

Lake Management Plan (LMP) Update

Jamie Brunner and Laura Laumatia reported on the LMP: They are making final edits on the Web and working on the new logo. Working to brand as collaborative and administered by Tribe. Monitoring Blue Creek, Beauty Bay, Wolf Lodge Bay and Cougar Bay. They went anoxic early in the summer.

St Joe project was completed in December and ended up being about 6000’ of bank stabilization. Harwood asked if there has been any feedback from Kootenai County and suggested taking Benewah County Commissioner Buell up there to look over the site.

Brunner reported that they submitted a grant application this week and worked with University of Idaho. Teachers are training around the Basin culminating with a youth conference in the spring. They are addressing water quality issues in the Basin and informal storm water collaborative. They have

identified about 5 potential demonstration projects and also talking to some landowners in the Mica Creek area about stream bank erosion projects.

Harwood asked if they have heard anything about sediment dredging at Mica Bay approval.

Rebecca Stevens answered about the Mica Bay Homeowners Association – applied through Kootenai County – working on some of the comments about the application. Rebecca added that it was submitted about a year ago. Has not moved forward as of yet but she will keep all posted.

Harwood said he asked because one of the engineering firms told him about it. Stevens said that if that dredging project goes through it would take place off the Kootenai County boat launch. It was noted that the Corps of Engineers are not involved. Harwood shared that his understanding is that they are looking for a place to put the sediment and that it might be going to Fighting Creek Sanitary Landfill.

Restoration Partner (RP) Update:

Caj Matheson reported that the team is finalizing the restoration plan as proposed action for the RP. They are currently doing an analysis on the plan and the time frame has not changed with a draft to be ready in early spring or late summer. Although the timeline is the same and has not been officially changed yet, he said that there may be a possibility that it will be changed.

EPA Update:

Bill Adams provided an overview of work planned for coming year.

Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) is ongoing. They are completing properties in community areas but the program will be scaled back to see what is still out there. Will look at what will be done by the Trust. All the work will be in the cooperative agreement. Repositories are being operated by Trust except Page.

The next big project is work at East Fork Ninemile Drainage:

Interstate Callahan will be 2 year project that involves total removal of all waste at this site.

Construction will continue on the Waste Consolidation Area (WCA). WCA is ready to receive material but will be expanded.

Additional work in Ninemile will include: Continued monitoring of the drainage, further evaluation of sources at the Tamarack site, road infrastructure work, pre-design data collection and design at the Success site, lining Rex Creek through the Rex Site, and development of a conceptual riparian strategy for Ninemile. Infrastructure is in place with the road and construction is planned in 2016.

Adams reported on the ongoing operation of Big Creek, East Mission Flats (EMF), and Page Repositories: They have completed 60% Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR) Design and looking at expansion to the east to increase capacity. Goal is to start construction at the end of summer 2014 in order to receive ICP waste and potentially some other waste until larger projects in Canyon Creek begins.

He said they are looking at Big Creek annex to provide additional capacity. Work this year could include relocation of utilities and construction of a bridge to access it. They are currently working with landowners there to acquire property for the expansion. Planned outreach will be similar to North expansion of Big Creek project but will not have a public comment period. Harwood added that he supported the expansion idea and noted that they may have to move the natural gas line. Adams said that they are trying to avoid it by ultimately acquiring some property in the area.

Remedy Protection Projects:

Adams reported that there is a lot of work planned for 2014.

Box Remedy Protection work:

- Portland Road roadside drainage project in Kellogg – 30% and final designs and full construction
- Little Pine Creek channelization project in Pinehurst – 60% and final designs and full construction

CDA Trust Remedy Protection:

- Shields Gulch channelization project in Osburn – goal to complete the construction of that project this year (about 80% remains to be completed)
- Meyer Creek new subsurface bypass pipe in Osburn – final design and full construction
- Revenue Gulch channel, and culvert upgrades and new roadway storm water collection systems in Silverton – 60%, 90% and final designs.
- Mill Road new storm water collection system in Mullan – 60%, 90%, and final designs
- Pre-design work on Tiger Creek, Mill Creek, Second Ave, Printers Gulch and Copper Street projects

One of the priorities in the Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan (SCIP) is to get these projects done and get out of the communities and also to protect existing remedies.

Paved Roads Program:

It is under what was estimated and continuing ongoing implementation of roads strategy in Box and Basin. Funding approximately \$3.5 million in each of those areas.

SCIP Annual Update:

- Comments were due January 17 but we did not receive any comments so it will be finalized. Planning to do this on an annual basis.

Press release about Community Fill Plan has been completed.

Goal instead of taking material to repositories is to take to other sites. This is a pilot program with the opportunity to save our repository space.

Ongoing activities by the Trust:

- Continue to do property management.
- Programmatic approach to identify mitigation measures concerning historical property resources.
- Enable to be more streamlined
- CTP design work is moving forward, evaluating designs looking for efficiencies.

Update on the Trust: Financially a very good year - up and currently at \$523 million.

Bonnie Douglas asked about the Community Fill Plan and if it was up on the web. Harwood answered that it will be posted under “News” on the Basin Commission website.

Stevens and Laumatia suggested that with the tremendous amount of work being done, it would be great to have a single map color coded to show where all the work is being done.

Jamie Brunner asked about the channelization project in the remedy protection. Adams provided the information that it is for storm water drainage. He added that getting water through community areas is to prevent the scouring so that it doesn't impact the projects that have been remediated. Harwood said that Little Pine Creek will be like the Grouse Creek project.

Sandy Treccani inquired about the funding sources.

Douglas asked about the refusals and if there is anything being done to protect the community and the adjoining properties. Adams answered that they ask again and again for permission. Douglas also asked what the risk is to adjoining properties of the properties that are not remediated. Adams said the risk for an individual property is probably fairly small. However, they continue to pursue that the properties be remediated.

Harwood asked where they are at with the final plan for covers for the repositories. Adams answered that Craig Cameron is working on it and they have come to some agreement about caps. They have a cap design for the WCA as well.

BEIPC Update:

Terry Harwood will post the Community Fill Plan on the BEIPC website. He reported that there was also a Risk Management Assessment by EPA and IDEQ and that he will post it as well.

Remedy Protection/Paved Roads/Unpaved Roads

The plan is to coordinate paved roads program with remedy protection projects. Harwood shared that he is managing the projects that Adams mentioned and assisting EPA with the review of the designs. The plans are to remediate all the unpaved roads by year end.

Giving Panhandle Health all the information on the projects to have on file.

Harwood asked for 2013 Annual Report Draft suggested changes to be submitted to him before the BEIPC meeting on February 12.

Harwood shared that most of these new contracts do not have much of governmental controls so there is a need to have a good watch. He gave a recent example and then Douglas asked about the controls at the end of the project. Harwood clarified that in his example the issue was the material supplied and not the contractor error.

Harwood said he is thinking about having a field trip in August and asked for feedback from TLG about it. Ed Moreen shared that the feedback he received from the last field trip was that it was really informative. Douglas agreed especially in that dignitaries attended. Jerry Boyd suggested that the next field trip include a look at the planned Big Creek annex.

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) Update:

Jerry Boyd reviewed questions/comments brought up at the last CCC meeting and asked what we can do to encourage more attendance at the meetings. Douglas suggested that the meeting be held during the day possibly at noon. Boyd's stated that his observation was that when people attend the TLG meeting in the afternoon then they do not attend the CCC evening meeting. He noted that if there is really a hot issue then there is a lot of participation. It was suggested to have a "focus" to the meeting and that if there is a particular topic of interest that is a focus then there will be more attendees. The thought was that perhaps it would be better to have fewer meetings with more focus.

Douglas said that she believes that there is not really public comment periods. However, Harwood stated that we have multiple meetings with those involved before any of that work begins with all kinds of opportunities for the community to get involved. But Douglas added that she does not see how CCC is getting the community involvement. However, it was also stated that if there is not the interest then it is hard to get people to attend.

Boyd shared that when looking at projects, if you do it early on in the conceptual mode rather than design mode, you get a lot of input to be taken into consideration.

Stevens added that it seems that having Boyd and Douglas on these calls is where they can judge whether to have another meeting or not. Douglas asked “If there is another flood event, how have we made things better?” “Are we disturbing soil by doing the Community Fill Projects” and commented that one concern is that we will just continue recontamination by natural events. Harwood answered that stormwater projects is taking care of some of this. But added that we do not have a flood protection program so we cannot reassure everyone, especially if we have a 100 year flood.

Continued discussion included that CCC should make a decision for how to continue with meetings and specific “hot” topics. It was noted that having meetings just to have scheduled meetings is not for the best. It was decided that the next meeting be set for April 16 in Medimont and perhaps have a meeting on July 16 with the main topic be about the CDA lake and a general meeting on Oct. 15. Harwood added that a CCC meeting should be scheduled before the end of the year and before the BEIPC quarterly meeting in order to look at the Work Plans. Harwood announced that he plans to present a proposal about the CCC and TLG meetings.

Harwood clarified that the CCC and the TLG does not approve the Work Plans. CCC is the citizen’s advocate and if they have recommendations then the process is that they should be submitted to him for consideration. The BEIPC Commissioners are the ones who approve the plans.

Boyd confirmed that there is a contact list for the CCC managed by Ross & Associates. Raskell suggested that an e-mail could be sent out to those on the contact list requesting agenda items like TLG does. Also a letter could be sent out to those who do not have e-mail.

Boyd updates on lower basin pilot projects and water quality work:

ICP does not cover the lake and the property around the lake. Redrafting the ordinances. And the issue has come up about shoreline contamination and it has been asked and if they can get it tested. Stevens answered that the property owner must do this themselves and that the portion of the River Corridor from Cataldo to Harrison is part of the ICP.

Harwood commented that he managed the team for putting together the ICP and shared some of the history of the issues and challenges of the process. In regards to the areas outside the boundaries of Harrison, Harwood answered that the caveat is that if there are contamination areas outside the area then it would be addressed. The decision was made in 2006 and that is how it is. Discussion included if there was new development after March 2007 then the developer is responsible. Sampling then is at your own expense, but Harwood said to refer them and any other questions to him. Boyd added that when the original ROD was made there was not any anticipation of testing of beaches.

Moreen stated that individuals should be able to make comments. Harwood agreed but clarified that as a group CCC cannot make recommendations to officials in the name of the BEIPC.

It was asked how to find out who can test soil and who pays? Adams said that they cannot but Harwood suggested that Terra Graphics could be a referral.

Moreen offered a data source for the CDA basin with the ability to pull up data about sample sites that provide information that is available to the public.

Lower Basin Update:

Ed Moreen reported with an update on the Pilot projects: Design in final stage review for Kahnderosa Campground. Focus is on innovative riverbank stabilization techniques that is primarily a vegetative component. He stated that there is a community human health component that we are interfacing with Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) work.

The other pilot project is a water level manipulation project in the Lower Basin. They have not pushed the design work yet and have not announced a site yet.

Data collection for 2013 includes mapping out contaminated portion of the riverbed using techniques much faster than coring. The end result is that it does not have enough clarity to pursue. The focus is not to get to the bottom but to get through the upper layers. There are other areas that have a mobile layer. They do not have conclusions yet but are working on it.

Denna Grangaard commented and inquired about how the coring information is still really valid to show how contamination has traveled, how there is a risk for recreation, how particles are left over, and is it not natural sources? Moreen replied that answers to that is not the focus of this data collection. What they have done is the background study and it is not the purpose of these studies as they are looking at the upper few layers. He noted that there is not a solid historical map showing the sediment of the lake in the past so there is not a baseline.

Harwood added that the map (in the ROD) shows what is at the bottom of the lake and not presumption of shoreline contamination or risk on the shore. He wondered if there is any map from beach studies and Stevens pointed out that it was lake bed sediment coring that was done and not beach. However, there was beach sampling in 2001 or 2002.

Harwood confirmed that the realtors and property owners must disclose if they are in the Superfund site and if there was testing and the results of the testing. Douglas commented that there is no incentive to test because then you must disclose the findings.

Gene Day Pond Update:

Sandra Raskell reported that she received information on the Gene Day Pond. They are moving forward with phase 1 and they are also looking for funding ideas for phase 2. Adams shared that the EPA provided letters of support for the project.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:02