

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
January 31, 2006

Idaho Transportation Department
600 W. Prairie Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Call to Order: The TLG Chair, Phillip Cernera, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mica Creek Presentation - Terragraphics: Tom Bourque presented findings from their work on the design phase of the CWA project to accomplish the goals of the TLG for reduction in nutrients and sediments.

The salient points of the presentation are as follows:

- 1) The Hason property which was originally proposed to implement the project does not provide enough area to conduct an effective sediment reduction project.
- 2) If the upstream land owners (Mr. Toedter and Swendig) were willing to allow work to be conducted on their land, several other design options would be available which would provide far greater sediment reduction benefits. Wetlands could also be created which would provide waterfowl habitat.
- 3) Although the larger scale project options would cost more than the currently available CWA funding (\$120k) there may be other groups (NRDA trustees, Ducks Unlimited, ITD) that may be interested in cost sharing, if project designs meet their needs.
- 4) Brian Spears of USFWS will continue to discuss project options with upstream land owners.
- 5) Until the TLG understands if upstream landowners are willing to participate in the project, there is no need to continue technical discussion.
- 6) The TLG recommends proceeding with land owner dialog and suggested this discussion should be provided to the Commission Board as an update.

2006 Work Plan Presentation: Terry Harwood brought two handouts to be included in the Work Plan, one is the Blood Lead Screening Section and the other is the Institutional Controls Program (ICP).

He pointed out that the Blood Lead Screening has a provision for a 2-year pilot program to increase the number of children tested. He said that he is looking into funding that may pay parents to get their children tested (he is thinking of \$100 for each child) and wants to find ways to get elected officials and physicians involved in the project. The PFT assumed responsibilities that would require researching how other communities have crafted pilot programs and looking into other aspects of how to best proceed. Harwood said that a good data base must be developed.

The Workplan draft, as presented, will go forward as part of the final BEIPC presentation.

The ICP draft was reviewed and discussed. Both the Benewah and Shoshone County

representatives had handouts that will go to the ICP PFT and Harwood said that Sherry Krulitz suggested a special meeting be scheduled to discuss the ICP rather than discussing the ICP at the next BEIPC meeting. The draft as presented will go forward as part of the final BEIPC 2006 Workplan.

Tribal Water Quality Presentation: Scott Fields spoke about the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's application to the EPA for Treatment in a similar manner as State (TAS), which was recently put out for public comment. The water quality standards were developed to protect use of the lake for tribal members, the public at large, and to protect native salmonids. Much of the guidance used in developing the standard was found in EPA's minimum guidelines. Minimum guidelines help in cross-jurisdictional management of the lake with the State.

The public comment period of 45-days was from October 11, 2005 to November 28, 2005. That was extended to the 13th of January 2006. The Tribe advertised that in the Spokesman-Review, the Coeur d'Alene Press, and on their website.

In comparing standards, for temperature and dissolved oxygen, the Tribe is a little more stringent at certain times of the year and at times IDEQ is more stringent. The comments received related to beneficial uses (involving bulltrout and cutthroat trout), toxic criteria and mixing zones. The proposed standards are available on the web.

Paul Woods asked how the Tribe was handling stratification in the water body. Fields said that the Tribe will not allow the bottom layer to become anoxic and he is not sure how the State will tackle that issue.

Rusty Sheppard asked if the standards would be in the LMP. Fields responded that the toxic criteria are a big influence on LMP goals and water standards are the overall goals. Cernera went on to explain that it is kind of an antidegradation issue. Using the 3D model as it relates to nutrient loads will help us learn more about what will be future standards for the LMP.

Rogers Hardy asked what agencies submitted comments. Fields said that IDEQ, the City of St. Maries, Benewah County and the EPA did. He said he did not get comments from Kootenai or Shoshone Counties. Bret Bowers asked who in the Tribe is actively involved in mediation with the State.

Mines and Mill Sites Presentation: Bill Adams made the presentation for the PFT and provided handouts of his presentation, which are available upon request.

Funding PFT Presentation: Terry Harwood provided a CWA Subgrant Report handout. He spoke about the need for more funding for blood lead testing.

The Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce supports the idea of private funding for clean up and development of existing recreation sites. He said that he has approached the Forest Service for a possible land exchange for recreation lands and suggests that improvements on recreational areas that are federal, be moved uphill, away from contamination. If the federal lands go to state ownership, the state can get EPA funding.

He is looking for a funding source for infrastructure work in the Silver Valley.

Certera asked if there is a PFT for funding yet? Harwood responded that there is, but they haven't had a meeting yet. Certera also asked if there was a game plan or a list of funding sources? Harwood said that he is coming up with a list of needs and sources. There was discussion about the funding sources that various agencies and individuals thought would be useful. Certera suggested that maybe Harwood could send an email brainstorming ways to come up with funding that could go out to the TLG. Woods asked if the spigot was turned off for CWA funding? Harwood responded that if we can present that we are working together and making headway, and that it may be a good place to invest, funding may be found through CWA.

Harwood said that he has had inquiries from lots of different business and real-estate interests about current environmental conditions in the Silver Valley. Dailey said that the recent moratorium in Shoshone County on building should get some attention. Roizen asked Harwood how he would answer the question whether there is a human health risk issue in the Basin. Harwood said that depends on where the property is, it is a case by case issue and you have to be very careful what you tell people.

Monitoring PFT Update: Anne Dailey said that the OU3 monitoring is continuing. Soon, she will be posting on the EPA website, annual reports from the USGS and USFWS. The OU2 monitoring plan with IDEQ and USFWS will be modified to compliment the OU3 data management. This will aid users of STORET.

Woods added that as of February 28, the USGS annual summary will be available. The report summarizes the loading at BEMP stations, it has gone through review. The station at Canyon Creek will be restarted. The South Fork at Kellogg added to centinal loading information by 8 times per year. The USGS is picking a site for installation of a gaging station on the Spokane River.

Woods is going to retire soon and explained how his projects will be handled by the USGS. The data collection will be handled by the Post Falls field office. Lori Baulistara will work with the modeling and keep the efforts with the Australians going. As far as the lake study that is being done in cooperation with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, he is about half way through. He is working with Mike Beckwith on that report and should meet the publication date at the end of September.

Brian Spears said that the OU3 biological monitoring for this year will include a map program, waterfowl surveys, and aquatic/macroinvertebrate surveys. This year, studies were done in the riparian vegetative community and looking at revegetation work for the future in OU2 and OU3. For the waterfowl surveys, they are adding Smelerville Flats and doing some aquatic receptor metals analysis (bank erosion index). The USFWS focus is on the riparian habitat, not soil and sediment analysis. Certera asked when will the level be established. Dailey replied that they just got a draft report and some indications of what numbers would be protective of songbirds will be available soon. Woods said that in the lake study, a toxicity bioavailability sample for bulltrout was done. Spears said that his office will do a similar study this year.

Phase II Water Quality Update: Dailey said that the OU2 ROD, issued in 1999, has as part of its intent an evaluation of effectiveness of source removal and containment on long-term water status and quality trends. In the next couple of weeks, some documents will be available that are a characterization of actions and comparison of water quality and long-term ground water monitoring from 2000 to 2004. The PFT for OU2 is meeting on February 21st at the USFS building in Coeur d'Alene. They will put together five monitoring plans.

Mines and Mill Sites Presentation: Adams made the presentation for the PFT and provided handouts that are available upon request.

Lower Basin Forum: Woods said that the sediment transport models (both 1 and 2 dimensional) are very impressive. The report is due out in September 2006. Cernera asked if the sediment models were ready for a presentation at the next BIF meeting. Woods said, yes, it is runnable.

Cernera asked how the modeling would be handed off to the group after Woods retires. Woods said that the lake model funding ends in September 2006. The 3D and aquatic ecosystem dynamic models are linked. Jim Kuwabara is doing a bioassay that will be available at the end of summer. Lori Balistreri, the geochemist, is working with the University of Western Australia staff and is incorporating new sediment and benthic flux information into the model. Woods said he is pleased with the work, it is ahead of schedule and they have been doing more work than anticipated. Peer review of the model will begin soon.

There was discussion about what would be done to support these models and what funding will be available to run simulations for new projects. The models could be utilized as a predictive tool for new projects or restoration strategies.

Woods said that he is concerned after seeing the modeling with Kuwabara's bioassay data (how nutrients and metals interact). These are good tools and he said that Lori Balistreri can handle this type of work. Lloyd Brewer asked if there is a mechanism where folks could work on the model locally. Woods said that anyone could get connected via Perth (<http://rtm.cwr.uwa.edu.au/FieldExp/CDAexp05/>) Woods said that someone could be trained to run it locally.

Ron Roizen asked about abilities of the various models in context of the ICP discussions. If, for instance, there was a flood event could we predict what may happen to get an idea of how hard to fight for remediation efforts? Woods said that the model tells us at what stage actions would be needed to protect the site and you can design a remedy better. Spears commented that flooding doesn't always correlate into increased contamination. We need a sediment flow, not just a water flow.

Human Health PFT Update: Rob Hanson said that they have two tasks: 1) blood lead testing with a two year pilot project (and a recent conference call with the PFT resulted in offers to research aspects of that), and 2) a Basin ICP. They have had a few conference phone calls, face to face meetings, areas of agreement and issues to discuss – they have had good progress on what the issues are that are out there. They have both the Benewah and Shoshone County ICP papers

and will have a little more time to go through issues now that the BEIPC Chair wants to set up a special block of time for the ICP discussion. He also said that they have a good boundary map with section lines on it and the 100-year floodplain. Brewer asked if any entity came forward with some funding, because it is an important driver in the process. Hanson responded that in terms of the process, the PFT will bring recommendations to the TLG, then if approved they go to the BEIPC Board, then if approved, on to the local entity (who then brings the Rule forward and establishes the process that they will work through). Rusty Sheppard stated that during the recent PFT meeting, the map made many people upset and asked about the ICP boundaries and if it should be handled under the CWA (Clean Water Act) 404 process (e.g. the Spokane River). Hanson said that the map is preliminary and concerns about the ICP and areas under CWA 404, would go through the process in good faith. The Spokane River is under consideration for the ICP. Fortier said that there is not a high level of protection in the CWA 404 process. In part it can be handled under CWA 404. Hanson said that it could come before the Commissioners to look at how to handle potential dredge materials coming out of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Cernera said that the PFT will run through the technical process and present that to the Commissioners and they will have their decision to make. Sheppard said that Commissioner Hardesty said that Blackwell Island will be handled under the CWA 404 process. Hardy asked what the State of Idaho and EPA's position are on the Spokane River. He also said that the map was not presented as a 'done deal'. Toni Hardy said that she attended the meeting and it went very well. She saw an elected official who had problems with it (e.g. perhaps personal issues with the map). Roizen said that he was at the meeting. Shoshone County's position is very close to Kootenai County's. There was a disclaimer about the Spokane River area, he also said that even if you were strongly committed to the ICP for the Box model, there are new complexities that go well beyond the Box model.

Repository Update: Ed Moreen said that there is an upcoming PFT meeting, February 7th. The EPA did a hydraulic analysis at Mission Flats resulting from a public meeting held last spring at Cataldo and the focus will be on that. Moreen introduced Paul Hanson, with the US Army Corps of Engineers, who gave a powerpoint presentation. John Lawson spoke about DEQ's efforts to identify costs, using \$20 to \$25 per cubic yard as the goal. They are looking at a number of conceptual designs.

Cernera asked if they had an update on the public process. Moreen said that they plan to go back to the community with the information that they now have.

Bourque showed some of the design ideas with a powerpoint presentation. There was discussion about flooding in the area. Cernera asked what level of inundation they were considering design criteria. Woods asked if the design simulated the Coeur d'Alene River at the 2122-foot level and asked what if they started at the 2128-foot level (like the start of a storm). Cernera asked if anyone had estimated possible leaching during a four day standing water occurrence. Lawson responded that they looked at the geochemical profile of the area, it already has three to four feet of tailings, and the pH of the water is not going to dissolve those metals. He said that at the worst, when a flood event happens nothing will go anywhere, because there just isn't that much material there. Bourque listed three considerations: 1) installing an 18" rock bottom layer; 2) building up a protective berm; and 3) operate in a phased approach each year within the protective area.

Rogers Hardy said that through these repository selection processes there are issues with them all. Mission Flats is a large area and the repository would not have to be stacked so high. He suggested that the next public meeting at Cataldo may meet with some perceptions that will not change, a communications vacuum. He said that it may require a higher level to deal with this need for a global solution. The larger tracts of land that the PFT is looking at will not be available for one or more years and we can't afford to wait.

5-year Plan Process – Cernera brought up a discussion about creating a new 5-year Commission work plan. Some of the thoughts of the TLG members included:

Harwood said that having a 5-year plan is important to secure funding, but revising it should be easier. As you get projects done, they fall off of the list.

Roizen spoke about his experience with grant funding from federal agencies. He felt that producing lots of reports was maybe the primary function of the grantor and he came to the understanding that if we trusted each other more, we could spend a lot more time doing what we proposed we would be doing.

David Fortier said that the BLM does a strategic plan and that holistically, you need to look at it every 2 or 3 years to really think about the goals and objectives. You can make minor tweaks, but if you substantively change it you should just do a 1-year plan.

Dailey said that CERCLA requires a 5-year plan. Cernera said that it is up to the Commission what they want.

Hanson said that he likes having a 5-year plan and that changing it does not have to be difficult.

Mark Stromberg said that the plan will change after we are done with the yard work.

There was discussion in favor of a strategic 5-year plan and a 1-year work plan. For example, the NAS report release does address a need to change some of the methods and goals from the previous plan. The long-term objectives need to go into the 5-year plan, but how these things will be done should be in general terms.

Cernera said that when you leave a 5-year plan too general, people will not sign off on it. He suggested deciding if the TLG needs to suggest modifying the 5-year plan and maybe use an Addendum (for a quick turn around). Once projects are done, revise the plan.

Cernera suggested that he and Harwood would look at the old plan and what may change and report back to the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.