

# Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

August 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Wallace Inn (Gold Room), 100 Front St., Wallace, Idaho

## **Attendees:**

Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director

## **Commissioners and Alternates present:**

Rick Albright, Phillip Cernera, Jim Best, Jack Buell, Curt Fransen, Dan Green, Rob Hanson, Caj Matheson, Grant Pfeiffer, and Larry Yergler

## **Staff present:**

Glory Carlile (BEIPC, note taker), Bruce Schuld (IDEQ), and Sandra Treccani (State of WA)

*(Please note that these minutes are a summary of reports and presentations and are intended to capture key topics and issues, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of the discussions.)*

**Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner Jack Buell called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. followed by the flag salute.

## **Approve Minutes from May 14, 2014 Meeting:**

Discussion by the Commissioners about the meeting minutes length and contents included the pros and cons of shorter minutes and the consideration of edits, corrections, and changes. Although Pfeiffer moved to receive the meeting minutes as submitted, and Yergler seconded, before the vote, Cernera asked to add the notation that the minutes be accepted this time as written, but not approved, and that they will continue to address the issues brought up at a later time. Pfeiffer withdrew his motion and made another motion to table approval of minutes until the written edits submitted after the meeting by Bill Adams (EPA) and review and corrections by the CDA Tribe are made. Cernera 2<sup>nd</sup>. M/S/C. Green suggested that the edited minutes be distributed and approved electronically by the board.

## **Update on LMP implementation – Laura Laumatia, CDA Tribe, Jamie Brunner, IDEQ:**

Laura Laumatia and Jamie Brunner reported that they are involved with a lot of outreach such as with the Rotary and Kiwanis and educational outreach such as participation in the North Idaho fair, August 20 -24. They are really excited about their collaborative approach and announced that they now have the updated maps and bumper stickers available.

Activities included “Back to the Earth” with Spokane Tribe to talk about human impact on the river. Lake\*A\*Syst workshops were held in the Fernan Lake watershed. Homeowners there are looking at soil testing and redoing some landscaping. They are developing a Local Gems program to recognize local businesses, individuals, and organizations for doing the right thing for water quality and then they will highlight it on the website. They have been coordinating with Spokane River Forum on the Lake with a big marketing approach including a 1 day Our Gem Coeur d’Alene Symposium on November 18 to include the 5 year LMP and are hoping for strong representation with the Basin Commission.

They talked about the aquatic summer sampling that is almost done, and announced that unfortunately the EPA Environmental Education grant was not funded. They have submitted a 319 Grant application with Kootenai/Shoshone Water Conservation District, and they are going forward with doing projects and looking for more opportunities.

**Comments:** Laumatia responded to Julie Dalsaso (CCC member) that it is their focus to provide more links and information regarding Lake\*A\*Syst, Fernan and lower basin studies and issues that affect Harrison and thus help the public understand at that conference.

Rusty Shepard (Kootenai County TLG representative) asked about the status of projects on the lower St. Joe River and noting that since the St. Joe is such a great loader asked if they are going to do anything at

all. Cernera responded that they did some evaluation with an engineering firm to develop various techniques and the Tribal Council is looking at it as well as looking at the highest priority. He explained that in the Avista settlement it was either to do projects on the St. Joe or purchase land but the Council decided the cost was way too high and not worth doing. However, Cernera said they are not walking away from the nutrient issue on the St. Joe but trying to get the best bang for the buck. Brunner added that they are convening the Watershed Advisory group this fall.

Commissioner Buell (Benewah County) expressed his concerns that the levies are not being fixed on the lower St. Joe and Lake and that he is more concerned about the community of Benewah County not having a river to the lake.

**EPA Project and Budget Update, Upper and Lower Basins – Bill Adams, EPA & Bunker Team**  
(Power Point showing Trust work, Remedy Protection, Unpaved and Paved roads programs, BPRP, Lower Basin work with accomplishments anticipated this year)

Bill Adams (EPA) provided an update of the current work being done in a joint presentation with Bruce Schuld (IDEQ) and Craig Cameron (EPA) about property remediation and the roads programs.

Bill Adams presented 2014 Projects Overview;

The Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) construction is completed in East Fork Nine Mile Creek area. He announced that today on the tour, we will drive up to the Interstate Callahan (IC) site where they are hauling material off the IC site to WCA. The two projects in combination will improve water quality in the entire basin.

WCA South Buttress: The amount of excavated, suitable material they are able to get off this site, which is owned by the Trust, made it so they did not have to import any material. (*This is clean construction material such as rock and soil which can be used in this and other areas of Ninemile Creek.*) The Infrastructure improvements: roads, bridges, etc. are put in.

Planning for Future Work: Success Mine is the next project and they have started design data collection work. He said that they are 2 years away till construction and have done some pump tests to get an idea of surface water interaction. The project may take up to 4 years.

Additional activities in Ninemile: At the Rex site – lining will see improvement noting that all of this work is being done by the Trust. (*The work is lining of drainage channels to prevent infiltration into the consolidated tailings which should result in improved water quality in Rex Creek below the waste area.*) They are working on strategy with a plan for piping, and to determine how much material to take out and decide how much to leave. They are working with the Natural Resource Trustees about this.

Property cleanup goal for the year is 100 properties with 45 properties completed to date. They continue to encourage property owners to step forward to get their properties remediated and continue to go back and approach those that have refused in the past.

Unpaved Roads Program: Harwood reported that there are 2 contracts and that the work on the 2013 one is almost complete and the 2014 contract to be completed before the snow flies. They are also working in conjunction with adjoining properties.

Cernera inquired about the life expectancy of the unpaved gravel roads and when they would need to go back for touchups. Harwood explained that since he changed the surface rock gradation, as long as the local entity (city, county) do not blade the material off the roads too much, it should last a very long time.

Paved Roads Program: Bruce Schuld reported that the construction bids came in about 20- 30% lower than what the engineers estimated for the roads projects. Based on what is being done they will get close to 22 miles total length of roadways done. Wardner was completed as a joint venture with

Shoshone County. Eastside Highway District is undertaking on about \$80,000 seal coating project. City of Pinehurst is working in conjunction with the Remedy Protection Program. Smeltonville hopes to be done in the next 10 days and in Kellogg, Bunker Ave, Railroad Way, and a portion adjoining them on Hill Road and some of the connecting side roads will be done. Most are prepped and ready to be paved with a small portion still needing demolition. City of Osburn is almost done having made great progress with cost savings that enabled a lot more roadway being done. Wallace roads demolition is underway and a big challenge because they are on the north facing hillside with one way in and one way out causing a lot of coordination for utilities, remedy protection projects, and with the residents. Mullan demolition is just under way and Hunter and Mill Street will be done this year. Shoshone County is making great progress with a joint venture with Wardner and there will be new pavement up Pine Creek, Silver Valley Road, and in Montgomery Gulch.

Schuld announced that all of our projects scheduled for this 2014 year will be done by the end of September and that they have put about 250 people total to work on these projects this last year. Harwood added that they have really saturated the valley with work and Adams emphasized the amount of coordination that was involved to do all these projects.

Adams confirmed that the funding for the Paved Roads work was not only from the Trust but is a combination of funding. Schuld added that the yards program had a lot of work for many years and completed about 7000 residential properties in the Box and in the Basin already. They have had a number of problems that have impacted the work now resulting in declining number of participants such as absentee owners and refusals or they do not know who the owner is or could not find them. To get legal access can be real difficult. He said that he recognizes the importance of having jobs. He has staff getting feedback and input about getting participation in the program. There are about 600 properties in the upper basin that may qualify. They have secured one of the biggest property owners in the Valley which is Hecla Mining Company. They have to draw in more people in this "campaign" to participate and have their property remediated.

Box Paved Roads projects have produced over 13,000 cubic yards of waste which was delivered to Page Repository. He gave credit to Schuld for not only being able to handle this material but also generated composted material for topsoil to use on the property remediation projects.

#### Repositories in the Upper Basin:

- Expand Big Creek Repository that the Trust purchased additional land (Big Creek Annex)
- Develop Lower Burke Canyon Repository
- Within 3 to 5 years and re-start design on Osburn Tailings Impoundment Repository
- The need and locations for future repositories are yet to be determined. Options near the SVNRT have been discussed.

#### Basin Repositories: Big Creek

- Big Creek estimated remaining capacity is 45,000 cy and remaining life is 2015 for last remediation season.
- Big Creek Annex Location: Trust has acquired the property and plans are to complete design and ARAR documentation, move water lines and pump house associated with Golf Course, install bridge across Big Creek, and full scale clearing and site prep in 2015.
- Lower Burke Canyon Repository: getting ready to put in a Decon station and ready to receive ICP waste and general schedule.
- East Mission Flats has estimated remaining capacity of 244,000 cy and remaining 10 years of life expectancy still.

Adams provided a funding update on the CDA Work Trust reporting that the Trust is doing a lot of different types of things and additional work will be done in the Lower Basin. He also reported on the funding of the Special Account (SA) which includes proceeds of the Hecla Funds settlement sharing that the remaining settlement balance of approximately \$32M is due by August 15 and the current balance in

the SA is about \$45M. They are carefully watching the budget but are confident that with the funding they will be able to complete these projects.

Work Planning for Next Year:

- Development and approval of Work Plan through the BEIPC process
- Development of Trust Scope of Work in November/December
- Approval of Trust Work Plan in December/January
- Development and approval of Paved Road Program Funding (PRRACA) in October/November

Continued work in the Lower Basin includes additional sediment and core sampling this year, Khanderosa Campground pilot project and hoping to get additional pilot projects. He recognized that the contribution of lead in upper basin to lower has been lower than originally thought and that Kim Presbo and ED Moreen are working on those.

**CCC Comment and Presentation – Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair**

Boyd reported that the organization of the Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) meeting was the same but had only 3 citizens attending the last meeting held in Wallace with a focus on the upper basin and the repositories. A couple that was there has a property up Burke Canyon and their main concern was the Hecla property and nuisance type complaints. During most of the meeting, they tried to reassure them that the new repository would not be like the old SVNRT Repository.

He announced that we need a vice-chair for the CCC and emphasized that the CCC goal is that the public has the opportunity to comment and get information. He shared that there will be a booth at the North Idaho Fair in CDA with various agencies participating and he will be there. He asked the Board Chair for input about best time for meetings and Buell stated that they never have evening meetings in Benewah and they try to have their meeting at four or five.

Harwood commented that the next CCC meeting will be dealing with the work plans for the next calendar year that the TLG and the Basin Commission put together but if people wish to provide input then they should attend the meetings. The process is that Harwood presents the draft work plan to CCC and TLG and then it goes to the Board for approval at the next BEIPC meeting that will be in Spokane Valley on November 12. Boyd also announced that the next CCC meeting will probably be around the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

Delsaso (CCC member) expressed her thanks to Boyd for his efforts to sustain CCC. However, she suggested that the comment times at the other meetings may work for citizen input and to have fewer CCC meetings. She voiced her concern about professional input on reports for the health issues that should have professional oversight.

Harwood reviewed the bus tour plan:

- Drive to East Fork 9 Mile CDA Trust Remedial Projects – Bill Adams (EPA) and Dan Meyer (CDA Trust), discussion leaders.
- Osburn to view Shields Gulch and Meyer Creek, Remedy Protection projects, and Osburn paved road program – Adams and Meyer discussion leaders
- Moon Creek Remedy and natural resource restoration project – Jeff Johnson, BLM discussion leader

**Adjourn**

Albright moved and Fransen 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting at 11:27