

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2015, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg, Idaho

Attendees:

Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Rick Albright, Jack Buell, Phillip Cernera, Marc Eberlein, Rob Hanson, Caj Matheson, Grant Pfeifer, Leslee Stanley and John Tippets.

Staff present:

Glory Carlile (BEIPC Assistant to E.D., note taker), Bruce Schuld (IDEQ), Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe), 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 (Benewah County) called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. followed by the flag salute.

Review and Approval of May 15, 2015 BEIPC Meeting Minutes:

Phillip Cernera moved to approve the May 2015 BEIPC Minutes as submitted. Rick Albright 2nd.
M/S/C

Budget Update and Status of the Five-Year Review – Bill Adams, EPA and Overview of Projects Not on Tour – Bill Adams, EPA

Bill Adams (EPA Team Leader) combined the two presentations listed on the Agenda. He reported on the budget update, the status of the 5 year review, and overview of projects.

EPA Budget: They are using the funds of the Special Account (SA) for a variety of purposes on various projects, and on oversight of the CDA Work Trust (Trust). Current balance in the SA is \$92M but they have a number of big projects coming up and they may be reaching the end of funds in the SA by 2017 depending on a number of factors and decisions. There will be continued discussions with EPA headquarters on overall long term site funding needs in addition to the Trust.

Balance of CDA Work Trust formed under the ASARCO Settlement is \$520M at end of 2nd quarter 2015. The budget allows for a cap of \$25M a year for spending to allow the Trust to grow. Estimated budget for 2016 is about \$24-25M. Adams said that each year we are asking the Trust to do more and more things which becomes a balancing act of identifying priority projects and making sure we include a variety of types of projects addressing primarily human health issues and water quality issues.

2015 Work Overview: Cleanup continues at an aggressive pace focusing on actions that protect people in community areas and improvement of water quality. Cooperation and coordination has been the key for success of these community projects as well as working with property owners affected by projects.

Project Updates:

- Complete Interstate Callahan cleanup in East Fork Ninemile Drainage to be finished up in September with removal of about 50,000 cy of material.

- Complete Success Mine design in East Fork Ninemile Drainage – development of the infrastructure and will be a 4 year contract. As the single largest loader in Ninemile. Adams said it will be good to get started on this project.
- Tamarack site in East Fork Ninemile Drainage – looking at it to determine where the contamination is coming from in that area.
- Award contract and start construction on Central Treatment Plant (CTP) upgrades and Ground Water (GW) collection system with construction to begin in 2016.

Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area (WCA): Will be a very large repository on Trust owned property. It is the waste disposal location for actions in Ninemile Drainage and is also a great source of raw materials for the type and quantity that we are able to get out of this site.

Interstate Callahan: Removing material in the main channel and hauling it up to the WCA. They have diverted the stream so it comes down through a pipeline and is discharged below the site.

Remedy Protection in the Basin: Design and construction work on a big project in Revenue Gulch in Silverton is near completion. A number of other projects include Mill Road where the City of Mullan also plans to replace some water and sewer lines, South 2nd Street in Mullan, and Ninemile Road Culverts. Other smaller projects included Silver Creek in Page and Slaughter House Gulch in Wardner, and design work on several projects on Copper Street, Boulder Creek and Mill Creek in Mullan, Rosebud Gulch in Osburn, and Printers Creek in Wallace.

Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) documents identified types of action for side drainage projects that we are including in the Remedy Protection Program.

Roads Work: Paved Roads Program – funded 4.4M in the Basin and 3.9M in the Box. All jurisdictions completed work for 2015 except for City of Kellogg that just contracted for 2015 work that will likely carry over to 2016 and beyond. Also Shoshone County which has requested and been granted contingency projects on Yellowstone Road and Alhambra Road. There were 593 listed projects in the Strategy and we have completed 241 to date (46 miles of roads).

Terry commented that all of these projects reported on will be in the 2015 Annual Report of accomplishments published in February 2016.

Repositories: A number of the repositories are in operation. Big Creek Repository (BCR) and Annex (BCRA) are ready and open now. East Mission Flats Repository (EMFR) and Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR) now open for Institutional Controls Program (ICP) in the upper and lower basin.

Investigations/Design of the Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustee (SVNRT) area on the other side of Canyon Creek for future repository/address seeps. The Trust acquired the property from Hecla and is investigating the additional area to ultimately increase the capacity in Canyon Creek area.

Limited Use Repositories (LUR): Developed primarily for road waste material and developed for use for a short length of time and then a cap will be put on top of them. There are two now in place: Government Gulch which is ongoing and in east Osburn which filled up very quickly, received over 3500 truckloads. This has saved about \$500,000 in haul costs.

Basin Property Remediation Program: Although the majority of the work has been transitioned to the Trust, but IDEQ will have continued oversight role and communicating with homeowners. Recreation Team evaluating about 15 dispersed recreation sites in the Lower Basin working on strategies and outreach to address recreational exposures and determine which ones along the river

warrant some sort of action and would qualify for remediation. Harwood added that most of these sites are not too highly developed but people use them a lot. Bruce Schuld commented that there are two directional approaches on recreational properties: One, an educational component for those to manage their own risks and two, more that would be subject to mechanical type remedial projects.

Lower Basin: Strategic Plan Development 2015-2016 with outreach and coordination and will be run through the lower basin Project Focus Team (PFT) to include Soil Amendment Evaluation, and Beach Augmentation Evaluation on some sites with monitoring high recreational use. There is ongoing work on Sediment Transport Model – 2D is done. It will give greater level of detail for evaluation of what to do and where. Continue limited data collection to support Conceptual Site Model (CSM) and Environmental Atlas will help in looking at areas and will also be an available tool for the public for information.

Additional Activities:

Five Year review is still in process with draft out to IDEQ and Tribe with plans to be completed this fall. They are working on re-establishment of ADR contract for support of the Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) and for independent professional facilitation of discussions. Ongoing outreach: CIC team works really hard to get the information out there and also attend a lot of local community meetings.

Comments:

Rebecca Stevens asked about the Tamarack with Success jumping in there first to be addressed and Adams said they are still evaluating Tamarack but Success has a priority. She also asked about Mill Creek in Mullan – if there is a threat to recontamination and is scouring happening. Adams agreed and Harwood added that the design is to get the water through as fast as possible.

Phillip Cernera asked about Canyon Creek with removal vs. capturing water and plumbing it downstream. Adams said they are looking at addressing all source areas in the stream channel and identifying the cleanup, adding that “how do we manage the risks” on those properties for the short term is also a big challenge.

Excellence in Site Reuse Award Presentation to Schleppe – Rick Albright – EPA

Commissioner Rick Albright presented the Howard Orlean Excellence in Site Reuse awards in Coeur d’Alene Agriculture to Wetlands project to those involved in the Schleppe Project. The award is named after Howard Orlean (EPA). Project was actually completed in 2011 and water fowl usage has increased at the site. He thanked the property owners Mike and Brenda and also congratulated the following team that worked together on this project:

- Dan Audet - National Park Service
- Brian Spears & Toni Davidson - US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Rod Zion - US Army Corps of Engineers
- Jill Wagner, Rebecca Stevens & Philip Cernera - Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Rob Hanson - IDEQ
- Anne Daily, Ed Moreen, Cara Steiner-Riley & Stephen Hess - EPA
- Steve Hicks & Gloria Beattie - consultants to EPA
- US Department of Interior
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Gretchen Schleppe (Howard’s wife) thanked the Schleppe Team and then the Howard Orlean Award Plaques were distributed.

Break

Preview of Lower Basin PFT Meeting on August 25th – Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe

Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe) gave an overview of the upcoming Lower Basin Project Focus Team (LBPFT) meeting to be held on August 25, 2015 at Centennial Distributing in Hayden from 9 to 3. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on EPA's sampling, monitoring, and modeling activities conducted in the Lower Basin, updates on the Restoration Partnership's planning process, and technical information sharing.

Objectives;

- Inform PFT members on EPA's updated Lower Basin Strategy that is being developed. Provide updates on additional pilot projects being planned and ECSM updates.
- Updates on the river bed coring that was conducted in 2013 and the maps and tools that have been generated as a result and the primary uses of this data.
- Updates on the calibration and validation achievements of the 2D Hydraulic Model and discuss some of the primary uses of the model as well as the upcoming Sediment Transport Model.
- Updates on the 2014-15 Water Fowl Monitoring.
- Provide a status updates and schedule on the Restoration Partnership's draft Restoration Plan and Programmatic EIS.
- Provide updates on other data collection activities that the Tribe has been collecting the Lower Basin and updates on the current hydrologic status and forecast for the CDA Basin.
- BEMP optimization update.
- Robinson Creek wetland mitigation project.

She announced that it will be about three hours of very technical information.

Harwood announced that we will be viewing Remedy Protection Projects and we will also be looking at Paved Roads Projects on the afternoon tour; all of which were for human health remedies.

Harwood also announced that he will be gone on vacation till Sept 4 and that he added Central Treatment Plant (CTP) to the tour.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32

Afternoon Tour included the following sites:

Jackass Creek Remedy Protection Project, Kellogg
Central Treatment Plant, Kellogg
Government Gulch Limited Use Repository, Kellogg
Paved Road Project in Smelerville in route for lunch at West Shoshone Park, Pinehurst
Little Pine Creek Remedy Protection Project along D Street, Pinehurst
Kahnderosa Recreation Site Remedy and Stream Bank Stabilization Projects, Cataldo
Drive Canyon Road and discuss Paved Road Work, Eastside Highway District
Dispersed Recreation Site Contamination Problems along the CDA River