

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

August 16, 2017 Meeting Summary Minutes

9:30 a.m. - 11 and Tour 12:05 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Department of Health and Welfare, 35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg, Idaho

These minutes are summary notes of the reports and presentations and are intended to capture key topics and issues, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of discussions or individual quotes.

Attendees:

Terry Harwood (BEIPC Executive Director)

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Sheryl Bilbrey (EPA), Jack Buell (Benewah Co.), Phillip Cernera (CDA Tribe), Marc Eberlein (Kootenai Co.), Rob Hanson (IDEQ), Grant Pfeifer (State of WA), and Leslee Stanley (Shoshone Co.).

Staff present:

Glory Carlile (BEIPC Assistant to E.D., note taker), Dan McCracken (IDEQ), Ed Moreen (EPA), and Sandra Treccani (State of WA).

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Buell at 9:30 a.m. followed by the flag salute.

Approve Summary Minutes from May 17, 2017 BEIPC Meeting

Phillip Cernera noted a name typo.

Marc Eberlein moved and Leslee Stanley 2nd to approve the minutes with the typo corrections. **M/S/C**

Lake Management Plan (LMP) Implementation Update

Jamie Brunner (IDEQ) reported on the LMP with an implementation update on activities toward the objectives. Regarding their Science Objective 1, the 2015 Trends Update Report is under internal review. They are doing special studies and continuing Partnerships (LMP Objective 2) partnering with University of Idaho (UI) LaSES Lab grad students who are conducting a Periphyton Study and Benthic Microbe Study and collecting samples. LMP is contributing toward a metal analysis and to help improve modeling abilities. They are continuing with their Management Action Table Model and they will have a report on the Management Action Table Audit hopefully by the end of the year. Regarding Nutrient Management (LMP Objective 3) they have plans to have the Nutrient Inventory report done by end of November 2017. Then after review by the Technical Leadership Group (TLG) and the report is finalized, they will work with stakeholders to develop an action plan. Current projects also include installation of automatic monitoring stations in Wolf Lodge Creek and a project at Windy Bay and Camp Four Echoes. Plans are in place and they are working on agreements with land owners.

Laura Laumatia (CDA Tribe) reported on Public Awareness (LMP Objective 4) of the LMP Implementation. They have put together a binder full of resource information with contacts in different Lake bay areas. They are continuing ongoing projects with partners and schools. She said that there were 200 students at the Youth Water Summit where students from schools shared their research on water related projects. They are looking at partnering with Gizmo, CDA, a non-profit organization that provides programs that give access to tools, technologies, and mentors. Other outreach included CDA City Council, Leadership CDA, and CDA 2030 Grow Your Mind. Upcoming outreach includes the LMP team helping to organize a booth and participating at the North Idaho Fair in August. She also announced the Our GEM Lake Symposium on November 14 and the Spokane River Forum Conference on November 15 and 16.

Phillip Cernera asked about the funding for some of these study projects. Brunner explained that IDEQ has provided funding for the summer work and UI for the graduate students throughout the school year which will also include a report.

Site Funding and CDA Trust Operational Funding Update

Bill Adams (EPA) talked about the funding that is available in the Special Account (SA) and the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust (Trust) providing a spreadsheet handout showing all of the funding and a detailed report of how the funding is used. He also talked about some sites that will not be viewed on the tour particularly in the Upper Basin.

EPA Budget

Adams shared that the SA is from the Hecla settlement and the account funding has been set aside to be used in the basin and the box including oversight of the Central Treatment Plant (CTP) contract and the roads program in the box. The good news is that they will be able to stretch funds to last a bit longer and now the funds are projected to FY19 because of shifting some of the work to the Trust.

He reported that the SA current balance is \$23M and is the remaining proceeds from the Hecla settlement after putting aside \$52M for long-term O & M of the CTP and \$48M for the CTP project.

He said that the Trust was established according to the ASARCO Bankruptcy Settlement and that the work is being done under EPA direction. EPA also reviews and approves the annual Trust Workplan and Budget and oversees the work. Dan Silver is the trustee that manages the Trust and every year they do an independent audit and the Trust operates efficiently.

The CDA Trust current balance is \$526.6M. Planned average annual expenditures into the future are about \$22M with a balance of work vs fund growth. The strategy is that they continue to grow the Trust. The budget for 2016 was \$23.6M but the actual amount spent was about \$16.6M. The budget for 2017 is \$20.7M. Harwood asked about the decreased spending in 2016 and Adams explained that the reason included that sometimes the Trust and other cooperating agencies cannot get the projects completed in the timeframe corresponding to the budget.

Adams showed a snapshot of expenditures over time depicting a slow steady growth in the Trust with some up's and down's. He explained that they try to find the right balance between getting work done, taking care of the issues, and completing the projects.

Grant Pfeifer asked about the accounting protocols and Adams said that there is not really any roll-over of budgeted amounts from year to year. Bill Rust asked about doing a budget every year with a suggestion to do a cost estimate of all of the work and then report on the actual cost with a comparison. He said it would be interesting to see a report on the difference of the estimate and the actual costs. Adams noted that the planned work is getting done and project costs are documented vs estimated budget and they are keeping a track record. Harwood added that the EPA work plan is also a part of the BEIPC annual and 5 year work plans.

Adams continued his update reporting on the work underway at Ninemile Creek. There is continued remediation at Success Mine and operation of the Waste Consolidation Area (WCA). He said that after waste is removed they will reestablish the natural stream corridor in that area. They are continuing investigation and evaluating on what needs to be done in Tamarack Mine and the Mill site.

Basin Property Remediation Program:

The Remediation Program is also ongoing with 75 residential and commercial properties planned for this year for a total of 1M square feet. They continue to encourage property owner hold-outs to have their properties sampled and remediated and some are finally coming on board. He added that the Recreation Team is implementing strategies and outreach to address Recreational Exposures.

The Remedy Protection Projects in Mullan are focused on protecting existing remediated properties and there is a lot going on. Projects are aimed at putting in the infrastructure to have the storm and flood waters flow through the community and not cause damage. They are coordinating with the city's efforts to replace sewer and water lines and also the Roads Program.

Roads Program

Remaining construction season work includes completion of 2016 funded work in Kellogg and Mullan, and 87 roads segments in the Box and 49 segments in the Basin. Many of the roads projects continue to be done in concert with sewer and water projects funded through bond elections and USDA Rural Development Grants.

Repositories

Ongoing repositories include Box repository operations at Page and repository operations at Big Creek, East Mission Flats, Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR), and investigations at Silver Valley Natural Resource Trust (SVNRT).

Ongoing Activities

In response to comments on actions to address SVNRT seeps and siting of new repository, they are addressing concerns brought up at the meeting Open House held in April such as traffic control and LBCR hours of operations. Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) optimization continues as well as ongoing coordination with IDEQ, and various agencies and others on issues that may come up. Adams added that ongoing outreach efforts include the Basin Bulletin, flyers, open houses, and posting on Facebook. Harwood also offered kudos to the outreach team sharing that Andy Helkey (PHD) said they have had way more lead testing due to the outreach efforts.

EPA Staff transitions: Adams announced that Tracy Chellis is leaving the agency in the middle of September. Bonnie Arthur has joined the team and is working on the SVNRT. Adams has reduced his hours so his availability is more limited but he plans to be around until the end of the year.

Rob Hanson (IDEQ) introduced Dan McCracken, Kellogg Remediation Program Manager, who is taking the place of Bruce Schuld who retired. He also introduced Mike McCurdy and Lisa O'Hara from the IDEQ State Office. He announced that Terra Graphics' work in the Silver Valley has been assumed by Alta Science & Engineering Inc. Adams also introduced his wife Wendy Adams.

CCC Update and Comments

Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair, reported that the CCC meeting held in Harrison on July 18th was well attended by those nearby and from CDA making the citizen count at 7 including himself. The rest of the attendees were agency folks. He shared that a person (not at the meeting) said that the riprap on the banks of the CDA River has helped and is really working after the high water this year. At the meeting the zinc reduction was brought up as an issue due to the impact on the vegetation. The concern was the increase in vegetation.

Boyd stated that Craig Cooper gave a great presentation (*on nutrient loading issues and concerns for CDA Lake*) as the other presenters also did. (*The summary notes from the July meeting are in this August meeting packets and on the BEIPC web site at www.basincommission.com*) Overall findings in the reports indicated that most of the lead coming into the lake comes from the river bed. He noted that everyone is concerned about the lead and want to be kept informed. They particularly want to know when the public will know the plans of what will be done and where the funds will come from.

Comments:

Marc Eberlein commented that it was a good sign that Jamie Sturgess was at the meeting as he is a member of the Kootenai County Natural Resource Advisory Board. Bill Rust commented that the outreach is really important especially now with the limited editions of the local newspaper.

Ed Moreen (EPA) gave an impromptu update on Components of Enhanced Conceptual Model and what has been learned about the Lower Basin. He talked about the March 2017 Flood – Boat based Suspended Sediment Sampling using 2 techniques: Grab sampling (metals) and Casting (particle size and loading), and compared data that were captured in 2017 Boat-based vs. previous Bridge-based sampling. Bridge-based sampling is conducted at Cataldo, Rose Lake, and Harrison (Springston) bridges. Resolution of metals data significantly improved compared to previous bridge-based sampling because the samples were collected at numerous locations as opposed to three and the data will be used to validate the sediment transport model.

USGS data showed comparison from the most recent sampling event in March 2017. Overall, metals increase from upstream to downstream. Total lead concentrations are 50 times greater than dissolved lead. Total zinc increases by 6 times between Cataldo and Harrison. Dissolved zinc increases only 1.5 times between these two stations.

Moreen reported that sediment budget shows riverbed to be the primary source of contamination and that much of the lead at Harrison comes from the riverbed. Riverbed is about 280 feet wide, 30+ miles long, with contaminated sediment from 0' – 16+' thick. Riverbed Geomorphology consists of both depositional and erosional features and bed-forms were used to guide where to sample. He noted that you can see transition from dunes that are more prevalent in the upper part of the riverbed and planar bed more common downstream showing the evolutionary features. Riverbed coring results showed the efficiency from the mining industry sources. Cleaner material is overlaying the hot stuff (layers with higher lead concentration) that we don't want to uncover. Graphs showed the riverbed characterization and evolution of riverbed and sediment and lead "budget" review.

His summary review included that the riverbed is main source of contamination. Inflow from the South Fork and bank erosion are secondary sources of lead. He added that they have a recreation strategy and signs will be viewed on the tour.

Kim Prestbo (EPA) gave a quick update on the 2D Hydraulic and Sediment Transport Modeling. She announced that there will be stops at Lane Marsh and Strobl Marsh to discuss the channel impacted by flows. She explained that the modeling is showing what happens in the natural systems. The 2D hydraulic model can predict the flow paths and uses the information to estimate the sediment deposition patterns and characteristics. They have used tiles to collect depositional sediment annually and conducted floodplain coring in 2016 to obtain data to help validate results of the Sediment Transport Model and to support site characterization and remedial design.

Prestbo pointed out the Rose Lake Bull Run area is beautiful but contaminated. She also said that the challenge is how to keep it from recontamination as it is an example of a human exposure at a recreational site. She shared that Lane Marsh was selected for a study to evaluate incremental thin layer capping as a means to protect waterfowl from contaminated sediments in the marsh. In 2016, test plots were created to monitor vegetation recovery after applying a thin layer of clean sediment. Lane Marsh is an important wetland because of high waterfowl use and also because it is next to productive and clean Schlepp wetlands, both of which will also be viewed and discussed on the tour. She noted that EPA partnerships with Idaho Fish & Game and Restoration Partnership and the community are very important.

Karen Trebitz, a grad student from U of I, asked if multiple cap layering will change the water table and affect the vegetation. Prestbo said that it is a concern and added that the impact of hydraulics in the system and inundation and the effect on vegetation is a part of the study.

Announcements:

Harwood announced that lunch is provided in this meeting room for the Commissioners, staff, and the TLG and CCC Chairs. Loading of the tour busses will be in the parking lot at 12:05. There will be water bottles provided on the busses and there will be restrooms available along the way.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

BEIPC sponsored Field Tour of Projects

After lunch the afternoon tour stopped and had discussions at the following locations:

Central Treatment Plant (CTP) and overlook of Central Impoundment Area (CIA) – Rod Zion, Corps of Engineers

Cataldo Boat Ramp and discussion of Dredge Pool –Ed Moreen, EPA and Kim Prestbo, EPA

Rose Lake Boat Ramp to discuss Recreational Remediation, Recontamination Issues, Gaging Station, Sampling locations, and River characteristics. – Andy Helkey, Panhandle Health and Ed Moreen, EPA

Killarney Lake Boat Ramp to discuss off channel flows through Killarney Lake and Strobl Marsh. – Kim Prestbo, EPA, and Chip Corsi, IDF&G

Lane Marsh to discuss test plots, large area, RR embankment, and hydraulic connection to river. – Kim Prestbo, EPA

Robinson Creek Wetland discussion – Chip Corsi, IDF&G includes Schlepp’s Wetland – Ed Moreen, EPA and Kim Prestbo, EPA

Black Lake Ranch overlook to discuss Black Lake Issues – Chip Corsi, IDF&G

Returned to Kellogg at 4:30.