

# 07-25-13 Citizen Coordinating Council Meeting

Medimont Grange - Medimont, ID

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## Attendees (who signed in and/or announced themselves)

Bill Adams	Terry Harwood
Jerry Boyd	Jeff Johnson
Don Carpenter	Caj Matheson
Dorothy Donahoe	Mike Schlepp
Larry Donahoe	Rebecca Stevens
Kristen Durance	Dana Swift
Frank Frutchey	David Whitcomb
Rene Gilbert	Jille Whitcomb
Denna Grangaard	Carol Young

## Meeting Overview

The July 25th, 2013 meeting of the Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC) of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Basin Commission or BEIPC) covered the following topics:

- Open Discussion on Basin Cleanup/CCC Issues
- Basin Commission Updates
- Repository Monitoring Updates
- EPA Updates on Lower Basin activities and Lower Basin pilot project selection
- A presentation on the Restoration Partnership

CCC Chair Jerry Boyd chaired the meeting. Brief introductions were provided by meeting participants.

## Open Discussion on Basin Cleanup/CCC Issues

Jerry Boyd asked participants to bring up any issues or topics to discuss.

No comments or questions were brought up by meeting participants.

## Basin Commission Updates

Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director, provided the following updates related to the Basin Commission work in the Basin.

### General Updates

The Basin Commission is holding their next meeting in Wallace on August 14, 2013, and it will include a half day field trip. The field trip will include site visits to view mine/mill site remedies in the East Fork of Ninemile Canyon, remedy protection projects, gravel road projects, and the Shoshone County Yards remediation. The goal is to view projects that are in mid-construction to get a sense of scale and effort of ongoing projects. Anyone interested in joining the field trip should contact Terry Harwood ([Terry.Harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Terry.Harwood@deq.idaho.gov)).

Terry also noted that Jeri DeLange, staff assistant for the Basin Commission, has resigned to take a job closer to home. He will be posting the job announcement to hire her replacement in the next few weeks. Jerry Boyd and other members expressed appreciation for the great work Jeri has done over the last several years.

### **Basin Road Surface Remediation Program**

Terry is continuing to work with, EPA, IDEQ, communities, Shoshone County, and the East Side Highway District on the road surface remediation program to address road contamination issues that may affect human health in the Box and Basin.

*Unpaved Roads:* A pilot project was completed in 2012 to develop the approach for all unpaved roads in the Box and the Basin. At this point unpaved road segments inside the Box that required remediation are complete. In the Basin nearly all the unpaved road segments identified have been completed and the final two projects are moving into the contracting phase now. Work on gravel roads may be completed by the end of the 2013 construction season.

*Paved Roads:* Paved roads are being addressed by individual road jurisdictions such as counties and road districts using a funding account process set up for each jurisdiction using remediation funds. Terry, EPA, and IDEQ worked with local jurisdictions to develop an inventory of contaminated paved roads, determine the life expectancy of the pavement, and develop a strategy for addressing these projects. This inventory was used to develop a list of road segments that qualify for remediation funds. There is approximately \$30M in the Box and \$24M in the Basin for paved road remediation project. In the Upper Basin all communities have awarded contracts with the exception of Pinehurst (still in the development phase). Once these projects are completed they will become the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

*Remedy Protection Projects:* There are a number of projects identified in local communities to improve drainage issues to prevent prior remediation work from being washed away during flood/high flow events. Drainage analyses were conducted in the steeper communities in the Upper Basin and these projects were included in the RODA. These projects include both urban drainage issues within communities like Wallace, Mullan, and Kellogg, and side drainage issues outside the urban areas. In the Box these projects will be managed by Terry and in the Basin the projects will be managed by the CDA Work Trust.

Coordination and outreach activities within each community are determined on a project by project basis with input from each local jurisdiction. Coordination with Mayor, City Council, City & County Flood Plain Managers, and County Public Works Director may also be included along with discussions with impacted residents. Terry is working with IDEQ and EPA staff to reach out to local communities via neighborhood informational meetings, door hangers and fact sheets, and by posting design information at the local City Hall. Gathering landowner approval for access is one of the most important parts of the project planning phase. If any landowner forbids access, the particular project will be stopped. In addition, all of these projects will involve cooperation with local entities to ensure that any other public works and infrastructure projects in the same area get done at the same time (e.g., utility replacement).

### **Repository Updates**

Don Carpenter, IDEQ, provided a quick update on repository monitoring activities at East Mission Flats Repository (EMF) and Big Creek Repository.

*East Mission Flats:* There are seven sampling wells for groundwater at EMF and four surface water sampling sites that are monitored during high flow events. In 2013 there were no large flood events so data was only collected for groundwater.

- Groundwater concentrations for metals remain below regulatory limits showing no increase in groundwater contamination after repository materials were placed at the site.
- Monitoring information from previous high flow events continues to show that material is not moving offsite.
- There is one monitoring well (E) that does show high concentrations of metals but it has been a location of high concentrations since before the creation of the EMF repository.

*Big Creek Repository:* There are five groundwater monitoring wells at Big Creek and three surface water sampling sites. This repository is located east of Kellogg at the site of the old Sunshine Mine Tailings impoundment. Sampling in the South Fork frequently shows regulatory limit exceedances for antimony, cadmium, and zinc. In Big Creek, metal concentrations generally do not exceed regulatory limits.

- Sampling data show that there has been no further contamination of groundwater from repository materials and that material is not moving offsite.
- In some sampling locations the antimony and Arsenic concentrations have actually decreased downstream. It is believed this may be due to the compacted fill cap on the repository is shedding some rain water away from contaminated soils.
- Surface water sampling shows some exceedances for manganese and antimony but both of those are consistent with contamination from historical mining activities.

Carol Young, CCC member, asked if material was still being hauled to both repositories and Don replied that material is being deposited at both sites.

Jerry also noted that the Sunshine Mine produced a lot of antimony, along with silver, and that the repository is built right on top of their tailings pond which may explain some of the legacy contamination readings found at monitoring locations.

## **EPA Updates**

Bill Adams, EPA, provided updates on EPA's work in the Lower Basin including the Property Remediation Program, roads remediation, repository development, the Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan, and Lower Basin Pilot project selection.

### *Property Remediation Program*

In 2013, remediation on 28 properties has been completed in the Lower Basin to date. These properties tend to be larger in size which is why the number is lower than in years past. Over 6,000 properties have been remediated in the Basin since the cleanup began. EPA is also working to reach out to landowners that may have rejected cleanup activities in the past or could not be contacted. The number of properties left to remediate is very small and this portion of the program is close to completion.

Blood lead sampling through the Lead Health Intervention Program is planning to collect approximately 1,340 dust samples (via mats and vacuum bags) in the Basin to increase opportunities to get community members to have blood lead testing completed. The dust sampling program is another tool to help

identify families that may be at a higher risk for lead exposure and ensure the protectiveness of the remedy.

Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair, asked if people in the Lower Basin could have their blood lead levels tested and if there were any incentives for completing testing. Bill and Terry responded that there is a \$30 incentive paid to parents for completing blood lead testing of children in the Lower Basin.

#### *Paved Roads Program*

There is approximately \$54M available to address contamination in paved roads that are deteriorating and allowing contaminated material to the surface. In many locations the local communities do not have the funds to repair these roads and prevent contaminated material from spreading to properties that have been cleaned up. The Paved Road Remediation Cooperative Agreement between EPA and IDEQ has been approved to fund projects in the Box and requirements for tracking and reporting on funded projects have been identified for the local jurisdictions completing the work. The work done under this program not only recognizes that some road beds were built out of contaminated material and require remediation but also that EPA use of these roads may have contributed to some damage (e.g., trucks hauling contaminated material through the valley). Communities now have the opportunity to repair these roads, update local infrastructure, and ensure that material won't contaminate properties that have already been remediated.

#### *Unpaved Road Projects*

Bill reviewed the Ninemile Cemetery unpaved road as an example of the types of road segments that require attention under the unpaved road program. This road segment was found to be highly contaminated (likely built out of tailings material) with a 400ft section reaching 18% grade. The steep section of this road has been capped with pavement to prevent eroding during rain events.

Jerry asked who would be responsible for maintaining these projects once they are completed. Bill replied that local jurisdictions have to agree to take on the long-term maintenance of each project when they review and approve the design proposal.

#### *2013 Record of Decision Amendment (RODA) Remedy Protection Projects*

The following RODA identified projects are slated for completion in 2013:

- Completed: Sierra Nevada Project in Wardner
- Started: Third Street Area and Dewey Street Area in Mullan
- On-hold: Grouse Creek in Smeltonville – will occur in the fall of 2013 when the water is low enough to do work
- Not yet begun: Little Pine Creek in Pinehurst, Unnamed Creek in Silverton, and Shields Gulch in Osburn (will be done in either 2013 or 2014)

#### *Lower Burke Canyon Repository (LBCR)*

The LBCR investigation and design work was completed in early 2013 and indicated the Star Tailings Impoundments is suitable for construction. Existing surfaces are impacted and the current design will provide space for 800,000 cubic yards of waste materials. The 30% Basis of Design report was submitted to EPA in March and a public comment period was provided through June/July. EPA received very few comments on the repository design. The comments received were focused on the old repository, noise at the site, dust from the site affecting local residents, and the fact that the property has been unrestricted and used as a shooting range. EPA's responses to comments received were made public on

July 25<sup>th</sup> and can be found online here: [http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/bunker\\_hill/waste-repositories/response\\_public\\_comments\\_2013\\_LBCR.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/bunker_hill/waste-repositories/response_public_comments_2013_LBCR.pdf)

Next steps for the LBCR include:

- EPA is evaluating several alternatives based on comments received and the waste volume needs for Canyon Creek. Current needs will exceed the space available in the repository. Alternatives include:
  - Expansion of the LBCR to the west
  - Expansion of the LBCR to the east toward the creek and to the south
  - Evaluate the removal and replacement of SVNRT with increased capacity
  - Evaluate the potential expansion of Big Creek repository
- The 60% Basis of Design is expected in July/August 2013
- The 90% Basis of Design is expected in November 2013
- Groundwater monitoring will continue at the site through 2013
- Construction at the site is expected in the summer of 2014 pending evaluation of the identified alternatives.

#### *East Fork Ninemile (EFNM) Waste Consolidation Area (WCA)*

The EFNM WCA is located south of the Interstate-Callahan Rock Dumps and north of the Tamarack mines. In the Upper Basin the water quality impacts in Canyon Creek and Ninemile Creek are the highest of all the mainstem tributaries. The WCA is being designed to prevent materials from being hauled through local communities and has room for expansion if necessary. The area will be hollowed out with the excavated material hauled out, screened, and potentially used as material to support and/or cap the WCA.

The site design is for an anticipated 1.3M cubic yards of waste from all of the Ninemile Basin with the ability to expand to 2M cubic yards of material. The CDA Trust has already purchased the land and Bill provided a map overview of the site location along with a number of photographs of the WCA initial development. The site will include a rock quarry and has a natural slope on the site to act as a buttress for the foot of the WCA. Mine waste from Interstate-Callahan Rock Dumps will begin to be placed in the summer of 2014.

#### *Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP)*

The BEMP is the long-term monitoring plan for the Basin. The Box has an individual Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP). Monitoring identified in both plans is continuing through 2013 as described in the April 2012 draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). USGS is developing a report on ground and surface water interactions for the 2015 5-year plan review. In the past, EPA has heard from community members that enough cleanup activities had occurred to allow systems to recover naturally. Data collected over the past few years has shown that there has been an improvement in water quality due to the cleanup but improvements have tapered off. This supports the idea that natural attenuation will not occur without further cleanup of potential contamination sources in the Basin.

Other BEMP activities include:

- EPA and IDEQ are discussing the optimization of groundwater monitoring on OU-2.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has been capturing baseline data in EFNM and Canyon Creek to evaluate the effectiveness of RODA work as completed.
- EPA will be doing a groundwater and surface water optimization of the BEMP.

- EPA is exploring the ability to do an optimization of the entire BEMP.
  - This work is needed to provide options for capturing data needed to assess the effectiveness of EPA’s clean-up activities given our current budgetary constraints.
- Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback as EPA moves forward with these projects.
- Plan to schedule BEMP meeting in late fall/early winter of 2013.

Denna Grangaard, IDEQ, asked if the quality of surface water is improving in the Upper Basin since cleanup activities began and Bill responded that yes the water quality in regard to zinc has improved. Denna also asked if public outreach should include language that tells people it is ok to swim or eat fish in certain creeks and what is the water quality threshold for recreational use. Bill responded that EPA is looking at zinc levels for human health exposure and that risk and exposure pathways of zinc are not the same as lead. The advice to the public in the Upper Basin is the same as that given in the Lower Basin, “keep clean, eat clean, and play clean” to prevent sediments from being ingested. Terry Harwood also clarified that ecological cleanup targets were much lower than those for human health because aquatic organisms and other wildlife are much more susceptible to zinc contamination.

Denna commented that older generations are used to hearing “don’t play in the creek” but younger generations are now using those areas for recreation because things look better. Outreach efforts need to know how to best communicate the right message to the public.

*Lower Basin Pilot Projects*

Project proposals were solicited from the public in early 2013 and 46 pilot project proposals were submitted from about 24 different entities ranging from citizens, consultants, and other agencies. EPA has selected two projects to focus on at this time, a combined riverbank and beach remediation and a water level management project using hydraulic controls. The combined riverbank and beach remediation project will show how to best keep a site clean that is used for recreation and will likely occur in conjunction with a property remediation project (site selection is currently underway). The water level management project will investigate if it is possible to prevent migratory waterfowl from ingesting contaminated sediment by raising water levels in areas where birds land. This project will require a lot of monitoring to see where birds typically travel and if they are able to adapt to finding food sources in non-contaminated areas when the water levels are raised.

The objectives of the Riverbank and Beach Remediation project are:

- To reduce potential exposure to people from contaminated material in banks and beaches where recreational use is common.
- Isolate contaminated material beneath clean and stable soil.
- Support recreational use & ecological habitat requirements.
- Measure recontamination occurrences.
- Measure and document bank stability during the project.

The objectives of the Water Level Management project are:

- Use clean tributary flows to maintain higher water levels.
- Deter Waterfowl use of contaminated areas during migration season.
- Reduce contamination deposition during high flows.
- Monitor Waterfowl usage and feeding patterns, water levels, sediment deposition rates and related factors.

EPA is working with landowners and ecological resource experts to select appropriate project locations and develop draft designs. Construction for both pilot projects is anticipated for 2014 and updates will be posted on the EPA website as they are available. EPA also noted they are very thankful for the insights and input from community members on the development of pilot projects.

Mike Schlepp, citizen, asked if the list of projects proposed by the public would be circulated and Bill noted that EPA will provide a summary of the projects submitted by title and a short description.

#### *2013 Lower Basin Field Work*

In 2013, field work in the Lower Basin is focused on gathering data to better define the River sub-bottom and coring in the floodplain to update the depositional rates and concentrations in the Basin. The data will be used to update the Conceptual Site Model and Sediment Transport Model. Both of these models help identify the most effective way to reduce contamination in the Lower Basin with cleanup funds available and prevent projects from occurring that do not actually have any effect on sediment transport. Updated modeling has shown how complex the system is and that contamination occurs at deeper depths and is moving downstream.

Rene Gilbert, EPA, noted that flyers have been posted at Cataldo and Rose Lake that describe the survey work underway during the first week of August. She asked the public to please slow down if they see the survey boats (photographs included in the flyer) to prevent entanglement with the Electric Resistivity Imaging cable which may float 200-500 yards behind the boat.

#### *CTP Upgrades and CIA Groundwater Collection*

The area in the Box adjacent to the CIA is the largest loading source in the Upper Basin. Water is moving through mine waste sources within OU-2 and beneath the CIA water releases dissolved cadmium and zinc from the mine waste. Contaminants are transported in both groundwater and surface water systems because of hydraulic interaction between shallow groundwater and surface water. Bill walked through how water moves through the Box and the areas where groundwater and surface water interact. The proposed remedy will provide an almost immediate impact on water quality improvement at the South Fork in the Box.

The proposed Groundwater Collection System (GCS) is the remedial action included in the 2012 RODA. The GCS is designed to collect groundwater before it enters the South Fork of the River and pipe it to the Central Treatment Plant (CTP). Phase I of the CTP upgrades is now underway to accommodate new waters from the GCS.

Design concepts optimization modeling is geared towards reducing contaminant loading to surface water and minimizes infiltration of surface water into the GCS. The modeling is also attempting to minimize overall groundwater collection flow rates and maximize hydraulic isolation of the CIA. The CTP designs will maximize system flexibility.

The remedy effectiveness is estimated to be a 65-90% reduction in zinc loading in the S.F. of the CDA River. This range depends on the concentrations entering the S.F. after the installation of the 8,800-foot long cutoff wall proposed along the River. Water that currently discharges into Bunker Creek will also be piped directly into the South Fork to reduce contamination potential. Continued modeling support to analyze constructability and optimize configuration will occur in the next few months along

with survey work to establish property lines along the proposed wall and CTP pipeline. Additional geotechnical fieldwork along the southwest edge of the CIA pipeline route will occur in fall of 2013.

## Restoration Partnership Update

Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe, Jeff Johnson, BLM, and Caj Matheson, Restoration Partnership, gave a presentation on the Restoration Partnership including the participating agencies, the goals and objectives, historical activities in the Basin, and current activities the Partnership has underway. More information on the Restoration Partnership can be found online at:

<http://www.restorationpartnership.org/>

The Restoration Partnership includes the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and State of Idaho. Representative agencies are the CDA Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. A trustee council was created with a representative from each participating entity to advise/oversee activities and create a plan for the established restoration team. The restoration team includes one staff member from each agency with a particular skill set that helps address the needs of potential projects and activities.

Jeff Johnson provided the background for the Partnership as a way to complement cleanup activities focused on improving human health in the Basin with activities geared towards improving ecological health. The stated goal of the Partnership is to *restore the health, productivity and diversity of injured natural resources and the services they provide in the Coeur d'Alene Basin*. Restoration activities undertaken by the Partnership strive to make the natural resources impacted not only clean, but healthy and fully functioning. Activities include restoration, rehabilitation, replacement (e.g., creation of new wetlands), and/or the acquisition of land that has the equivalent function of the impacted resource. To achieve this, the Partnership uses provisions in the laws that guide cleanup activities that identify a need for agencies to collect monitoring data for natural resources that were injured during historical mining activities. These monitoring activities help quantify the natural resources in the Basin, their historical function, current state, and the work required to bring them back to full function.

The Partnership is using the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to guide an open and public process to identify potential restoration projects in the Basin. They are in the process of conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to outline potential projects in the Basin and all of the possible alternatives based on the best available science and input from the public. This process has just begun and the Partnership is working hard to gather as much public input as possible to help figure out the best way to move forward with available funds and address community needs.

Rebecca Stevens walked through a number of examples of the monitoring data gathered from partner agencies. Due to the nature of the Partnership, data is available from a wide range of sources that allow staff to overlay known areas of contamination with other information like local bird uses of waterbodies, aquatic life, and recreational activities. Combining these data sources allows them to begin to tell the complete story of areas impacted and begin to prioritize potential restoration activities. Given the broad scope of resource injury throughout the Basin, the Partnership decided to focus on the following ecological parameters:

- Wildlife – e.g., examining riparian (vegetation along stream and river corridors) conditions and modeling on a sub-basin level to quantify impacts of lead contamination on migratory waterfowl use of lateral lakes on the CDA River.

- Fish and Aquatic Resources – e.g., comparing water quality data with Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout distributions.
- Activities and Uses – e.g., impacts of poor water quality or lack of habitat for fish on recreation and subsistence fishing.

Caj Matheson described how the public can get involved with the Partnership. As staff develop a draft plan for restoration activities and move through the EIS process they placed a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on June 13, 2013. This began the 60-day public scoping period to gather official comments from community members which has been extended an additional 15 days and is scheduled to end on August 27th. This process is geared towards identifying any issues that are known to the community, understand the values each community places on their local natural resources, and begin to identify priorities for restoration. The public comments collected will be combined with the known science to develop the draft plan that identifies potential restoration alternatives. The draft is expected in the spring or summer of 2014.

Input has been collected from a number of people and community members have generally been positive about restoration as a concept. The Partnership is using the following prompting questions to help get conversations started:

- What is natural resource restoration to you?
- How do you use natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin?
- How would restoration impact you?
- Are there any specific restorative projects that you would like to see done?

Comments can be made in person (at meetings like the CCC), via email ([info@restorationpartnership.org](mailto:info@restorationpartnership.org)), the website, or by calling Caj directly at 208-582-4080. The Restoration Partnership would like to hear from as many community members as possible and is encouraging public input in whatever format is the easiest. The Shoshone County Commissioners will be hosting a public meeting in Kellogg on August 20<sup>th</sup> (from 5:30-7:00 PM) for interested community members.

## **Lower Basin Collaborative**

Bonnie Douglas contacted Jerry via email to report that the LBC did not have any updates to provide to the CCC.

## **Next BEIPC Meeting**

The Basin Commission Board will hold its next meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Wallace Inn, Wallace, ID. It is open to the public, and an agenda will be posted on <http://www.basincommission.com>.

## **Adjourn**

The CCC meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

# ***Presentation of Citizen Comments to the Basin Commission Board***

***July 25, 2013***

## **Verbal Comments**

Verbal comments provided at the July 25, 2013 CCC meeting are reflected in the CCC meeting summary and paraphrased below.

## **Written Comments**

No written comments were provided.

## **Comments**

## **Commenter**

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Commenter</b>
<b>General Comments</b>	
No Comments	
<b>Repository Updates</b>	
Is material still being hauled to both repositories?	<i>Carol Young, CCC member</i>
The Sunshine Mine produced a lot of antimony, along with silver and the repository is built right on top of their tailings pond which may explain some of the legacy contamination readings found at monitoring locations.	<i>Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair</i>
<b>EPA Updates</b>	
Are people in the Lower Basin able to have their blood lead levels tested? Are there any incentives for completing testing?	<i>Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair</i>
Who will be responsible for maintaining road remedy projects once they are completed?	<i>Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair</i>
Is the quality of surface water is improving in the Upper Basin since cleanup activities began? Should public outreach include language that tells people it is ok to swim or eat fish in certain creeks? What is the water quality threshold for recreational use?	<i>Denna Grangaard, IDEQ</i>
Is the list of pilot projects proposed by the public available to the public?	<i>Mike Schlepp, citizen</i>