

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
October 5, 2006

Participants:

Brian Spears (Chair)
Rog Hardy
Carrie Hugo
Anne Dailey
Bill Adams
Dave George
Mike Beckwith
Rob Spafford
Mark Masarik
Terry Harwood
Randy Connolly
Jeri DeLange (Note Taker)

This summary provides the salient issues. These notes are intended to capture key topics, conclusions, and next steps and not the nuances of the discussion.

Agenda Items: 2007 One-Year Work Plan

The TLG Chair, Brian Spears, thanked Terry Harwood for his work on the draft 2007 one-year work plan. Harwood said that he wanted to get the draft out as soon as possible so that people could send their comments back. Then based upon the input he receives, he would develop a second draft to send out for discussion on the next TLG call, October 19. He indicated that he would have the third draft ready for the TLG meeting on October 23.

Harwood also reminded everyone that that the deadline to submit board packet information for the November 29 BEIPC meeting was Friday, November 10; and that he would be sending out the board packets on November 12 or 13.

Spears indicated that he would be sending out a revised draft agenda for the TLG meeting as he would like some of the CWA sponsors to present an update. He asked if there were any other items to discuss on the call.

Rog Hardy asked about the upcoming contaminant management PFT meeting scheduled for next Friday, October 13. Harwood responded that he would be sending out the draft contaminant management rule for Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River and a map for the PFT members to review that included the floodplain. He explained that the map was an extremely large file and that some people may experience difficulty in opening it. However, he indicated that he would bring hard copies to the PFT meeting.

Hardy inquired whether repositories would be rolled under the rule. Harwood replied that they would be in a separate one. Hardy then asked if there would be geographic boundaries and Harwood answered no.

Round Table:

Dailey: Mentioned that new monitoring wells were installed in OU-2 which included two new wells in Smeltonville Flats and one in Government Gulch. She indicated that sampling was being done now, and that the USGS was also conducting sampling on surface water. Dailey added that the EPA was working on ground and surface water interaction in key areas for OU-2.

Spears: Inquired if anyone had information about a monitoring station that recently burned down. Carrie Hugo responded that it was by the Springston Bridge near Harrison, but that she did not know the cause of the fire. Spears commented that it would be interesting to look at the monitoring in the next 3-4 years to see what dynamics the results of the fire may have on songbirds.

Adams: Reported that work had been completed at the Constitution mine/mill site. He said that the final inspection was done and that the work looks great. At the Golconda, he indicated that they are doing some excavation work at the mill site. They hope to get the work completed before the weather turns bad. For the Rex, he mentioned that BLM was making progress on the toe buttress and were half finished with construction.

He also reported that there was a good turnout at the Water Treatment PFT meeting yesterday. At Canyon Creek, he said that the EPA started work on the pump test and would be busy the next few days.

Beckwith: Mentioned that he had been working on plans for continued monitoring on the lake and had also checked into the work on the LMP negotiation process. Rog Hardy asked why it was taking so long for the report. Beckwith responded that he was not sure why, but that there was a meeting today with the negotiator to find out. Hardy commented that people conclude strange things when they do not receive any information back for months. Beckwith agreed. Hardy then commented that people know they do not have control over the issue, but suggested that progress reports may help. Beckwith said that he would let them know.

Hardy: Asked if Rebecca Stevens was working on Mica Creek. Beckwith answered that Glen Rothrock and Harwood were checking into whether the project should be shifted upstream because of the erosion occurring there. Hardy made a suggestion that maybe the whole drainage would be in order. Harwood recommended that people look at the 2007 work plan because it may help to explain further. Spears pointed out to everyone that Glen Rothrock would be discussing it at the TLG meeting on October 23.

Connolly: Commented that the ROD for the Midnight mine was signed and that it would now go into the design phase. He mentioned that there may be possible legal action against the PRPs next year. Harwood suggested to try and get the PRPs to voluntarily take clean-up actions under an AOC (Administrative Order of Consent) rather than by force with an UAO (Unilateral Administrative Order). Spears added that Jim Hanson (USFWS) was involved in the clean-up work for the Midnight mine.

Harwood: Asked that people send their comments on the draft 2007 one-year work plan to both him and Spears as soon as possible. He pointed out that the draft work plan was missing the blood lead section as Rob Hanson (IDEQ) and the Human Health PFT were still working on it.

Regarding the Contaminant Management PFT, Harwood reported that he prepared a strawman and sent it out to the PFT members for review. He mentioned that he attended Bill Adams' PFT meeting yesterday on water treatment and commented that it was a good meeting. He suggested that as the PFT gets closer to solutions, then it can compete for funding.

Harwood also informed everyone that he was working on preparations for the upcoming BEIPC meeting on November 29.

Hugo: Nothing to report.

Spears: Remarked that he read a recent newspaper article dealing with Kokanee in Coeur d'Alene Lake. He suggested that Carrie Hugo's involvement in the TLG may be timely in discussions regarding the lake such as contaminants, nutrient loading and the effects on fish. Hugo responded that she usually did not get involved with fish management, but that she could find someone who did if the TLG needed further information.

Spears then brought up Senate Bill 1848, Cleanup of Inactive and Abandoned Mines Act and expressed concern that the proposed legislation would release environmental liability for any work conducted under a "Good Samaritan" permit. He pointed out that there would be no regulations on the work done with this kind of permit because it would not have to meet CWA or other water quality standards. He mentioned that the National Wildlife Service received information from Washington D.C. about the bill and sent comments back.

Harwood suggested that it would be good for the various land agencies to be involved with this issue as the bill was passed in committee (Senate Environment and Public Works) and would now go to the Senate floor. He stressed that the legislation would override the CWA, CERCLA, RCRA, and other federal regulations.

Spears emphasized that the agencies should have a say in regards to the permittees for "Good Samaritans" to do the work. Harwood commented that it exempts Superfund sites, but affirmed that the federal agencies would have no say. He said that it would be up to the EPA; and that the State or Tribe could give a "Good Samaritan" permit without the oversight of the federal agencies.

DeLange: Nothing to report.

George: Thanked Harwood for his work on the contaminant management map for the lake and river.

Masarik: Indicated that he had a conversation with Kootenai County's new Director of Parks and Waterways, Nick Snyder.

Spears: Advised the TLG members to review the 2007 one-year work plan and get comments back to him and Harwood as soon as possible. He reiterated that he would be sending everyone an updated agenda for the TLG meeting on October 23.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 10/19/06.

Thank you for your participation.