

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY May 12, 2005

Participants:

Phillip Cernera (Chair)
Rob Spafford
Anne Dailey
Nick Zilka
Terry Harwood
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: Recap of May 11 BEIPC meeting

Phillip Cernera suggested a review of yesterday's Basin Commission meeting. He discussed that the voting procedures would continue for the TLG as there were no motions made to change the protocols used by the TLG (i.e. each of the 28 entities having 1 vote). Terry Harwood answered that while the Basin Commission did not formally request a different set of criteria, he believes the BEIPC desires clarification though no orders or deadline were given. He also discussed that Commissioner Toni Hardesty received three different interpretations from three different state staff members, so it is important to clarify the voting protocols to avoid confusion in the future. Rob Spafford mentioned that the TLG sets its own protocols for review by the Basin Commission. Cernera reported that comments were vague and there were no explicit directions to modify the voting procedures. However, he also stated that the TLG is responsible for changes to its protocols so if the BEIPC wants the TLG to modify their protocols this direction must be given to the TLG, not the Executive Director. The changes would then go to the BEIPC for review. Harwood mentioned that he will deal with this and contact the commissioners by email. Cernera requested that if there are any modifications proposed, to contact the TLG.

Other Discussion:

Blackwell Island: Harwood reported that there was no direction or action taken by the BEIPC on this issue. Cernera replied that he would like the TLG to address this issue as a group, possibly at the BIF (Basin Information Forum). The BIF agenda is not dictated by the BEIPC and is outside its scope. Cernera expressed concerns about TLG members being able to have a voice. If the TLG has concerns discussed in the round table, it can coordinate as a group to gather information and provide an update. Then the agency can choose what action to take. Harwood discussed that the BEIPC is concerned about getting more involved in issues. Cernera replied that because the LMP (Lake Management Plan) is involved with delisting the lake, this issue may be a concern for the BEIPC as it deals with dredging and the possible discharge of contamination.

St. Joe River Drainage: Harwood discussed that water quality issues in the St. Joe River drainage were also mentioned at the Basin meeting, but no action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Buell had expressed concerns at the meeting about these issues because they deal with Benewah County. Cernera discussed that the BEIPC needs to understand that they should stay informed and tell the TLG to look at issues. Harwood mentioned that under the scope of the BEIPC for OU2, the BEIPC did vote to approve going forward with Phase II. He will remind the BEIPC of other issues that they did not vote on. Cernera discussed that issues come up all the time and some of them may be good topics at the BIF for further investigation. The county TLG reps can then go back to the commissioners to inform them. If they wish to find out more information, they can contact the Executive Director, Terry Harwood. Cernera further stated that it is important to keep looking at and moving forward on issues instead of needing a motion for every issue. Harwood answered that he did not receive direction from the BEIPC on this and neither did the TLG. He mentioned that he wanted to get the TLG's opinions from the conference call today and then speak with the commissioners.

Phone Problems: Several participants again encountered problems while trying to access the conference call and were unable to do so. Dailey explained the problem which is associated with the number of lines and she will send a message to the phone person. Hopefully, it will be taken care of by next week's call, or she will work on an alternative and notify everyone.

Round Table:

Dailey: Discussed that EPA can be involved in other issues with the lake. Other people are working on St. Maries and we need to coordinate with them.

Cernera: Discussed that TLG members are involved with more than the TLG issues. By the TLG talking about other issues, this will help further the BEIPC's goals and help to prevent problematic issues.

Harwood: Mentioned that he was uneasy if the BEIPC was not to be involved with the LMP. If the BEIPC is not involved, he asked why the BEIPC is funding Plummer Creek and the Mica Bay projects, etc. Cernera replied that there are clearly water quality issues basin-wide. Harwood will try to get clarification.

Spafford: Inquired about involvement by other agencies on water quality issues in the Basin.

Harwood: Stated that our job is to get clarification with the BEIPC on becoming more involved in other issues.

Cernera: Reiterated the ability of the TLG to take the lead on some issues and the need to stay informed on others. Cernera then discussed the Five-Year Work Plan and reviewed the schedule for the lake education map. The BIF meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2.

Schedule: Next TLG conference call scheduled 5/19/05

Thank you for your participation.