

**TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**  
**May 14, 2009**

Kenny Hicks (Vice Chair)  
Anne Dailey  
Nick Zilka  
Dave George

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: Repository Workshop, Funding PFT, Recreation PFT and BEIPC Meeting**

As the TLG Chair, Rebecca Stevens, was unavailable, Kenny Hicks led the conference call. He mentioned that Stevens and Glen Rothrock will be making a presentation on the Lake audit next week at the BEIPC meeting on May 20. He also indicated that he would like to have a discussion with the TLG on the Recreation PFT.

**Round Table:**

**Nick Zilka** - Suggested the Recreation PFT be combined with the Lower Basin PFT as both deal with bank stabilization and related issues. He feels this may make it easier for agency people to attend as the agencies have to ration out commodities for spending time, effort, and funding on various PFTs; and multi-issues are more important than a single issue.

**Kenny Hicks** - Indicated the Lower Basin PFT could help to provide feedback on the recreation inventory. He also mentioned there may need to be a change in the Recreation PFT Chair as the current Chair, Mark Masarik, had made a previous suggestion that it should be someone from one of the managing agencies.

**Nick Zilka** - Commented that Masarik has done a good job as the Recreation PFT Chair.

**Anne Dailey** - Said the idea for the Recreation PFT was to initially focus on contaminated areas to do remedies such as the Rose Lake boat launch, but only for a small amount of projects. She suggested combining the recreation cleanup issues with the Lower Basin PFT and to promote safe recreation needs and use (i.e. one area high in contamination is Bull Run Lake). Dailey acknowledged that Masarik has done a good job for the Recreation PFT. However, he's not getting much response from people. She understands Zilka's remark that people are busy and may not have time.

**Kenny Hicks** - Would like to be involved in the Recreation PFT, but feels that recreation cannot exclude lack of management on the North Fork of the CDA River. He suggested the County may be at fault for not looking at the North Fork many (15) years ago as management is a huge issue now. If the Rec. PFT wants to create recreational areas where recreation is taking place, and if the North Fork of the CDA River is involved, then Hicks will jump on board. However, he pointed out the North Fork does not have metals contamination like the South Fork, so the Rec. PFT is not addressing those areas. He thinks Zilka's idea is a good suggestion as recreational use is growing on the St. Joe River as well as Avery, Calder, etc.

**Terry Harwood** - Explained the BEIPC was formed to deal with Superfund, so we have no authority on the St. Joe or North Fork, only the Basin. He thinks some people do not want to engage on the Rec. PFT for a number of reasons. Harwood feels that rolling everything into two PFTs (Upper and Lower Basin) is fine, but thinks it says we're not going to do anything with recreation issues. The key may be the recreation areas managing agencies and they are dependent upon funding. There may be some settlement funding, not just for the Lower Basin, but also for the Upper Basin. He has talked with some people who have an interest in Upper Basin recreational opportunities such as kayaking, building a campground, etc. Harwood suggested we see if anyone wants to step forward from a responsible recreation providing agency.

**Kenny Hicks** - Talked with Stevens and they think that Fish & Game looks at recreation use from a prescriptive standpoint. Hicks hopes the Recreation PFT is successful, but does not see it affecting real recreation sites. If the PFT is strictly agency driven, they may not recognize the impacts of groundwater treatment and diminishing returns regarding the water quality issue and "*How clean is clean?*" He does not believe the Rec. PFT will have much impact in Shoshone County as they are not focused on issues in the County.

**Anne Dailey** - Said she is working on the Upper Basin ROD amendment and will provide an update at the BEIPC meeting next week. The BEMP sampling for surface water has not occurred for high water yet, but there is still snowpack up high. She and Zilka plan to start groundwater sampling when the USGS activates its surface water sampling.

**Terry Harwood** - Brought up the ROD amendment process and prioritization. He noted remedy protection is not being talked about and suggested it needs to be discussed soon (before the public comment period). Otherwise, people may become concerned. He emphasized that Shoshone County does not care about groundwater as much as remedy protection. People are more concerned about the surface remedy and want it maintained. Dailey said his point is well taken. Harwood mentioned that funding for site maintenance from the State Legislature may also be a problem. Dailey replied that EPA funding is the largest share. Harwood asked if anyone was going to deal with this issue.

**Kenny Hicks** - Replied the population is hearing about this and paying more attention to the ROD amendment. They are also concerned about a groundwater remedy with diminishing returns.

**Anne Dailey** - Stated she understands and they are not planning to clean up groundwater except where it interacts with surface water (i.e. interactions with tailings piles, etc.) to reduce contamination. They know they will not be able to clean up the groundwater or get it back to pristine, but will try to reduce the loading from Pinehurst and move downstream.

**Kenny Hicks** - Suggested to Dailey that most people are not interested in tables, charts, graphs, etc. related to groundwater loading, but are more interested in what is going to be done. Dailey offered to discuss this issue further with Hicks by phone.

**Terry Harwood** - Agreed with Hicks. He suggested EPA needs to make statements to the public about these issues when making public presentations as well as updates on the ROD amendment, so the public is aware. Dailey responded the process is evolving, but she will revise her presentation for next week. Harwood also suggested they not wait until the 30-day comment period to keep everyone informed. Dailey noted they have done fact sheets, FAQs, website, etc. However, she does not feel presentations should be made about possible remedies until the information gets

tangible. Harwood indicated he was not talking about presentations. He thinks EPA may be reticent to talk about issues because they may feel if they say anything; then they have to commit to something. He stressed that people are not interested in fancy presentations. It's what you tell them that is important to the public.

**Kenny Hicks** - Mentioned some citizens did not understand how the EPA went from a 21-square mile "Box" to a huge expansion (i.e. Montana to Lake Roosevelt) for the Superfund site. He suggested they may not have been paying attention at critical times, but when it got close to the 30-day public comment period, emotions were high and urgency set in. Hicks suggested to EPA that he and Harwood are trying to give them a heads-up. It's not meant to be derogatory, but to recognize it's happening. He advised if people are informed about areas that need to be maintained into perpetuity and they are kept up-to-date with information; then as we move towards ecological cleanup, it will help them to better understand why it needs to happen.

**Dave George** - Inquired if the CCC will be helping in any way? He suggested it may be good to have some outreach by the CCC to talk to people in the communities.

**Kenny Hicks** - Said he agreed, and thinks this was the intent of the CCC when it was created. He has not been able to participate in the CCC process, but indicated the CCC is comprised of a handful of citizens who participate in public issues as a subsection of the BEIPC. He does not want the rumor mill to start running on the ROD amendment process and stressed the need for communication. He believes Dave George is right about getting the CCC involved and suggested the Communications PFT could be another opportunity to do some dissemination to the public.

**Dave George** - Commented he was also thinking about dissemination with the Communications PFT and CCC, but more as a grassroots movement.

**Terry Harwood** - Agreed with George, but emphasized the bottom line is the public wants to know what the agencies are going to do. He clarified the CCC and Communications PFT cannot make a commitment. Only agency people can and it needs to be in layman's terms (i.e. it's the agency's commitment to the community). Unless agency people say what they are going to do in straight forward talk, then people are not going to be willing to listen. For example, he pointed out that when he got here, he heard the yard cleanup program was voluntary. He had to explain to people that the only thing voluntary about it was that the landowner was accepting CERCLA responsibility for their contaminated property if they did not allow the governments to perform the cleanup. Once people understand you are telling the truth, they are willing to listen as most people don't care about technical discussions.

**Dave George** - Noted that once the message is established, then we need to find a way to get it out so people cannot say they don't know anything about it. He recommended a more coordinated effort between the CCC and Communications PFT with the agencies. Also the agencies need to let people know that if anything changes, they will let them know. That way, they are not getting one message and then something else.

**Kenny Hicks** - Agreed George had a good point.

**Anne Dailey** - Said they are trying to be straight forward and appreciate the input. She will keep everything in mind and try to do better.

**TLG Discussion:** The TLG had further discussion on this issue along with the following: 1) repositories; 2) Bunker Creek loading; 3) lack of trust by citizens; 4) drainage problems; 5) recontamination; 6) infrastructure impacts; and 7) water quality - how clean is clean? Hicks remarked it was a productive conversation. He also commented on the proposed fishery (in the South Fork of the CDA River) and said people know it cannot be done, but fear the agencies will try.

**Jeri DeLange** - Reported she recently made some revisions to the BEIPC brochure produced by the Communications PFT last year. She replaced the map with the one on the BEIPC website and made some minor changes to the language. The CCC has asked her to bring copies of the brochure to the repository workshop tonight.

**Terry Harwood** - Mentioned that IDEQ and their consultant produced two documents: 1) Waste Acceptance Criteria Plan; and 2) Waste Management Strategy Implementation Plan. The documents relate to siting waste repositories and implementation. He indicated Jerry Cobb of the Panhandle Health District (PHD) reacted to the two documents in a letter to him saying they won't work and he doubts the government will be able to get funding unless they reduce efforts somewhere else. Harwood also received a copy of another letter to Rob Hanson (IDEQ) and Angela Chung (EPA) which was signed by all the local elected officials regarding the two plans. He reviewed both documents and thinks the Bunker Hill Task Force comments are well written. He is concerned that as written the documents cannot be implemented and will discourage ICP compliance.

**Kenny Hicks** - Agreed with Harwood. He feels it's a prescriptive approach that probably came out of a book. It may discourage some people from following the ICP or doing cleanup.

**Terry Harwood** - Stressed the need to be practical and suggested the documents seem to be "canned" and they should have been customized for this site. He wants people to know that relations within the community have deteriorated over the documents.

**Kenny Hicks** - Said he was not able to attend the Funding PFT meeting on May 7 as he was attending a SEEP (stormwater erosion education program) class. However, he understands Harwood asked the individual PFTs to come up with projects. Harwood indicated you need projects before seeking outside funding.

**Dave George** - Nothing to report. However, his outside travel restrictions have been lifted and he will be at the BEIPC meeting.

**Randy Connolly** - Nothing to report, but recalled that concerns started back in 2000 or 2001.

**Kenny Hicks** - Commented he does not want to go back to those days and will take one step at a time. He thanked Harwood for his work with Shoshone County. He also told Dailey that he appreciated her work on the ROD amendment process and knows she is trying. Some of the technical data may be difficult to understand, but he understands the social impact. People are concerned with drainage issues, proper land use, how much land will be left at the end of this, or if there will be an end. Hicks reminded everyone about the waste repository workshop tonight at the Wallace Inn at 6:00 p.m. and the BEIPC meeting on May 20 at the Coeur d'Alene Inn at 8:30 a.m.

**Schedule:** The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 5/28/09. Thank you for your

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participation.