

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
May 29, 2008

Rebecca Stevens (Vice Chair)
Bill Adams
Mark Masarik
Anne Dailey
Dave George
Nick Zilka

Rog Hardy
Terry Harwood
Mark Stromberg
Rusty Sheppard
Dave George
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: None

Rebecca Stevens (TLG Vice Chair) led the call as Kenny Hicks (TLG Chair) was unavailable. Before going into a round table discussion, she mentioned that the Kootenai County Parks Department was working with IDEQ to pick up debris along the Lake and River from the recent flooding.

Round Table:

Dailey: Commented that the USGS had conducted high flow sampling during the May 17 weekend and that hopefully they will get some good data. She indicated that the flow at Cataldo was 31,000 cfs; and that the USGS may do additional sampling if there is further flooding (trigger point 40,000 cfs). The EPA will try to get BEMP sediment sampling at the time the floodwater recedes. Dailey also mentioned that CH2M Hill took pictures of the high flow events at various locations; and that she and Nick Zilka will set up for OU-2 sampling this fall.

Dailey then reported that field work will be starting on June 16. EPA has a geoprobe machine to do core samples and will use temporary monitoring wells (i.e. piezometers) to sample water flow at different locations and elevations for concentrations of heavy metals. She also informed everyone that she will be out of the office from June 5-20.

Hardy: Inquired about what other agencies do after recessional events and whether the railroad does anything. Dailey responded that Idaho Fish & Game came out with equipment and collected material around the historic schoolhouse in Rose Lake. For the remaining sediments along the boat launch and other asphalted areas, they used a pressure washer for removal. She indicated that she did not have any knowledge about the BLM or other agencies. Hardy suggested that it would be good to get a sample.

Stromberg: Mentioned that he took samples at: 1) the upper portion of the paved parking area at the Rose Lake boat ramp; 2) just upriver of the Pinehurst Trailhead for the Trail of the CDA's bike trail, upstream of the confluence of the South Fork with Pine Creek; 3) Riverview Road west of State Hwy. 9, downstream of the confluence of the North and South Forks of the River; and 4) the road east of the Cataldo campground and south of I-90 on LaTour Road. He stated

that the samples were sandy and very fine. Hardy pointed out that when floodwater recedes gradually, it leaves behind sandy sediments; but when it recedes quickly, it leaves colloidal. Stromberg brought up that he wanted to get a sample at Cataldo where it had flooded, but it was too fine. He indicated that he should have the results of the sampling next week. Hardy thanked Stromberg and said that he would like to get a copy of the results.

Dailey: Added that they would like to get the results for the QAPP (quality assurance project plan) as well. Terry Harwood said that he would post the results to the BEIPC website.

George: Mentioned that the Washington Department of Ecology will be sampling beach areas during low flow this summer. He said that they have the initial analysis from before and that they will share the data with EPA for their database.

Stevens: Recalled that Phillip Cernera took samples during the 1990's. Dailey said that it was in 1998 and that 32 beaches were sampled around the Lake. She said that if there are any current problems, she was not sure if the RI/FS (remedial investigation/feasibility study) would be revisited. Hardy brought up that it may be good to do because if the samples are cleaner, then it would be a significant finding about how well the cleanup is doing. Stevens pointed out that the beaches around the Lake are still submerged and that it may pose problems for the Ironman planning (i.e. swim).

Adams: Said that they had completed sampling in the Upper Basin for: 1) mine/mill sites; and 2) up and down gradient (from Ninemile down to Osburn). For the Osburn area, he indicated that work is still needed to fill in some data gaps. Harwood asked whether samples of the Mill Creek drinking water supply were taken. Adams answered no, but that he would check through the QAPP. Harwood replied that he was curious as the CWA project for inflow and infiltration (I/I) showed that heavy metals concentrations were heavy in low flows during the summer, but down in high flows. He also noted that some of the inflow pipe had been eroded.

Masarik: Mentioned that Dave White had loaded recreation information into the matrix, but still had not received all of the information from some groups yet. He indicated that Dave Fortier had also loaded some data. Masarik will be scheduling a PFT meeting to work through the inventory process before the draft report is presented.

George: Asked Jeri DeLange to add Cathy Cochran (WA Dept. of Ecology) to the Communications PFT. DeLange indicated that she would do so.

Zilka: Said that he was out last week at Denver Creek to see how the work made it through the winter. He noted that the work along the creek was doing well, but that there were a few structures that did not hold up to the major flows. Zilka mentioned that some of the revegetation efforts were questionable. However, he was not sure if it was due to spring conditions and will check later. Overall, he indicated that the project was very successful.

Harwood: Asked Zilka about the Pine Creek project. Zilka replied that he talked to Avista and they will be doing the work on the golf course in October or November.

Hardy: Nothing to report.

Stromberg: Reported that he had been out in the field a lot and had looked at the floodwaters at Cataldo. He indicated that the flood level reached 43 feet, and that the level for the water to go over the levee is about 45 ft. Stromberg said that the water flowed over just one portion (not a huge amount), from one I-90 culvert south of the East Mission Flats (EMF) pad under I-90. The culverts were 30 inches and the flood waters flowed from the river through the culverts, so the EMF site did get a couple of feet deep with flooding. However, when the floodwater started to recede, it went down and through the culverts. Stromberg commented that the area is dry now, but clarified that water does flow in/out of the EMF. He indicated that the flooding was very low velocity and that the water flows were close to I-90 itself, but not where the berm is. He emphasized that he saw no evidence of scour and that he really paid attention.

Hardy: Suggested that a February/March rain-on-snow event may cause scour.

Stromberg: Mentioned that the yard program has started. He has two contractors, but some bonding problems with one contractor. However, he will have an agreement by June 16. Stromberg said that he lost a lot of operators over the winter; and that diesel prices had increased from \$3.00 to \$4.09 (30% in 5 months).

Stevens: Inquired about potential recontamination due to the recent flooding. Stromberg responded that he had not heard of anything. However, he said that if there are recontamination problems, they will look at each property on an individual basis. Stevens remarked that she takes her hat off to the Idaho Department of Lands and Shoshone County for forming an emergency response team.

Stevens said that she contacted Bill Adams yesterday to ask for his assistance on the Lower Basin PFT for eco-planning. For the Lower Basin PFT meeting on June 10, she hopes to get an agenda out soon. (The meeting will be held at Idaho Fish & Game in CDA from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.) Stevens also indicated that she has received a lot of emails regarding the flood damage to the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. She mentioned that the railroad inspector has been out every day on the Trail. Once the railroad completes their assessment, she hopes that the State and Tribe will also do one. She thinks that the Tribe may do some sampling.

Other Discussion: TLG members then discussed the Trail issue at length. Rog Hardy brought up background information on the history and construction of the railroad, as well as information on the construction of the Trail. He asked if there was any evidence of scour from Harrison to Plummer. Stevens replied that there may be some around the Round Lake area, but that she will know more once they get the report back from the Union Pacific inspector. Hardy suggested that the Harrison beach may also have more scour.

Round Table:

Harwood: Indicated that he is planning to have a BEIPC field trip in August, and that DeLange had secured two buses. He will be working on the agenda and asked the TLG for ideas on where to go. Some of the priorities that he is thinking about include the: 1) Moon Gulch habitat

restoration project (i.e. BEIPC funded \$300,000 in CWA funding with additional funding by the Natural Resource Trustees and Forest Service); 2) top of Ninemile to look at the Rex site; 3) yard remediation program; and 4) Big Creek repository. Harwood said that he was not sure about going all the way to the EMF repository site, but that he would appreciate everyone's ideas.

George: Asked about room on the buses for other people as they did not fill up completely for the last field trip a few years ago. Harwood responded that he would like to take everyone if there was room, but that he needed to check into insurance and legal ramifications.

Harwood: Indicated that he spent time last week with EPA and the Inspector General in regards to the EMF, and that the Inspector General talked to everyone. Harwood said that he will be attending a meeting in the Silver Valley on Friday, May 30, regarding flooding issues in the Upper Basin; and that he attended a SNRC (Shoshone Natural Resource Coalition) meeting Tuesday. He also mentioned that all of the stormwater drainage reports for the Upper Basin were done and that the preliminary estimate for infrastructure revitalization work is \$100 million. He is working on the final assessment and hopes to have it completed by June 30. The report will have a complete list of all potential funding sources. Next, he plans to meet with the communities to develop a priority list. Harwood also gave an update about the appropriations earmark and said that Congress was still working on the funding request for \$360,000 (COE budget) to do an analysis on flooding in the Silver Valley. He pointed out that the new FEMA maps assume that the current levees will fail. This affects federally backed loans and will require property owners to purchase flood insurance.

Harwood informed everyone that he will be gone from June 4 to Boise (for the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers where he will be installed as the new President); and then on vacation the following week. He will back in the office on June 16.

George: Brought up that it would be good to have a BIF (Basin Information Forum) meeting sometime in the future. Stevens mentioned that when the Lower Basin PFT was revitalized, it was suggested to have the BIF combined with the PFT as well. Harwood commented if the Lower Basin PFT did plan a BIF meeting, his only concern is that everyone is invited to the BIF. George agreed and suggested that the Lower Basin PFT could schedule a BIF in the afternoon. Stevens asked George about having a BIF at the June 10 PFT meeting. George suggested that the meeting date was too soon, but that it would be good to discuss.

DeLange: Reported that the Communications PFT will be having a conference call tomorrow, May 30, to discuss agenda items for the upcoming meeting in June.

Sheppard: Nothing to report.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 6/12/08.

Thank you for your participation.