

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
June 26, 2008

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Rebecca Stevens (Vice Chair)
Carrie Holtan
Rog Hardy
Bob Flagor

Ed Moreen
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: Discussion of CWA grant amendment for a proposal by the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil Water Conservation District (KSSWCD). The project proposal is for a bank erosion evaluation to prioritize bank stabilization projects on the CDA River.

The TLG Chair, Kenny Hicks, asked Bob Flagor (KSSWCD) to present the proposal to the TLG. Flagor informed everyone that he had wanted to do this project for the past six years. The work will be aimed at prioritizing future bank stabilization projects on the CDA River from Cataldo to the mouth. (Note: This is a continuation of efforts demonstrated by the Basin Commission's CWA projects BWA-2 and BW14 under project manager, Nick Zilka of IDEQ. Information on the proposal was disseminated to the TLG by email prior to the call).

Flagor pointed out that previous erosion surveys on the River displayed a huge range of bank erosion rates and that there was a discrepancy between his numbers and Avista's data. In addition, the studies did not identify the most vulnerable reaches to erosion, nor quantify metals and phosphorus loads from bank erosion. He then provided a brief overview of the project details. The proposal will fund installation of bank erosion pins, soil analysis, evaluation of bank erosion, and a final report will be submitted to the BEIPC by June 30, 2009.

Terry Harwood mentioned that the cost estimate for the proposed CWA project was about \$30,000 and that the BEIPC needed to spend the remaining funding from the second grant year. He indicated that there was nothing else competing with the proposal and that, if approved, the project will be an IDEQ sub-grant which will require a contract with KSSCWD.

Proposal Discussion:

Rog Hardy inquired about erosion issues from flooding events, and how high water was quantified to date. He suggested a systemic survey and said that with the USGS work he would really like to see it happen, but that he is not in a position to write a proposal. Regarding the KSSCWD proposal, Hardy signified that he had no problem. He then asked if anyone was thinking about systemic studies of flooding.

Harwood indicated that he is working on an earmark for the COE to fund a flood analysis that would deal with some of Hardy's concerns. He also commented that he is hoping the Lower Basin PFT and Recreation PFT will look at the impacts from the recent high water. Harwood

said that he took a drive from the Rose Lake trail head to Harrison to personally view the impacts. While there was not a lot of flood damage, he stressed that there was lots of deposition, sometimes a foot of it. Hardy remarked that it was a worthwhile project and that he hoped one of the agencies would do something. Harwood reiterated that he hoped PFT members will take a look into it. He pointed out that it's a good way to see where work may be needed and that the PFT could actually do some field work. Harwood supports the effort as he was amazed at the amount of deposition.

Hardy brought up that Flagor wanted to do the project for a long time and asked if he had thought about rearranging priorities with the last flooding event. Flagor replied that the project had nothing to do with flooding. Hardy answered that this was his point and suggested that we should be looking at flooding events, rather than boat wakes for erosion. He indicated that the bank stabilization work will need funding, but that he is not sure how to fund or direct it.

Flagor responded that he talked to the City of Coeur d'Alene, City of Post Falls, and Spokane County, and that people are interested. He was not sure if they knew how much erosion was occurring, except for maybe the State of Washington. Flagor suggested that Avista should take a look and help with bank stabilization. He also pointed out that we could finally have the data on sediment and phosphorus loads.

Hardy said that he read the St. Joe River is a bigger contributor to sediment and nutrient loading than the CDA River. He also commented that it had been shown that boat wakes from larger boats may have greater impacts on bank erosion.

Harwood recommended that in order to spend the remaining CWA grant funding, it would help to patch it with an existing CWA project. Hardy added that time is critical. Harwood mentioned that Jack Buell (Benewah and BEIPC Commissioner) told him that he is concerned about erosion on the St. Joe because he is worried that sediment production is making it un-navigable.

Rebecca Stevens asked whether the TLG needed to vote on the amendment in person. Hardy replied that nothing was competing with it. Stevens said that it sounded like Hardy was interested in loading coming from beds and banks.

Hicks suggested that the TLG not bring up another project to compete with the proposal, and inquired about some of the details to get the most "bang for the buck." He then asked if anyone was opposed.

Hardy commented that he would like to see if there are other changes from flood impacts, unless someone had seen anything the last few weeks. Harwood replied that he had not seen anything.

Hicks mentioned that the proposal will provide data for a base. He indicated that he did not want to discount Hardy's concerns on the St. Joe River and that there may be increased phosphorus loading. However, Hicks commented that he was in favor of the project and suggested that the TLG move forward.

Dave George said that the State of Washington supports the project, but that he recognizes the

narrow focus and understands Hardy's concerns. He asked about the bank erosion pins and if they would be installed in July. Flagor answered that they should be.

Hardy suggested that the TLG go ahead with the project and that he would not try to stop it. However, he did have a few questions about mechanics. He mentioned that the Natural Resource Conversation Service (NRCS) was doing a soil survey of the entire Basin and asked if there was any synergy with that effort. Flagor replied no. Hardy then brought up that in the USGS work, they were doing streambank sampling on metals contamination. He inquired about sampling methods and pointed out that some places have pre-mining scour; and asked whether they would be able to differentiate between a pre-mining deposit or mining. Flagor responded that it may be complicated and they will just be looking at the total load. Hardy suggested that it would help if they could differentiate. Flagor said that they could try to separate it out and that he would give thought to work with Tom Heron. He indicated that he may ask Hardy for guidance. Hardy said that he would give him call.

After additional TLG discussion, Hicks thanked Flagor for his proposal. Harwood suggested that he may be able to get another \$1,500 for the project if there is remaining funding, but that he cannot go over the grant amount.

Hardy brought up USGS document OFR 99-548 on the CDA River. He mentioned that it was a good piece of work and suggested that people need to reread it to see how it was used in the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) before we come out with the proposal. He indicated that there is a lot of diversity about the bank sampling issue (i.e. pre-mining wedge) that is fairly significant as flood plain deposits may be 10-20 feet deep. Hardy stressed that this presents huge issues in addressing remediation issues on how the contamination got there. He said that it was all outlined in the USGS report.

Hicks asked Stevens if the Lower Basin PFT may be interested. Stevens said that it was discussed at their last meeting. Hardy then offered to do a characterization on the report and how it was under or over utilized in the Record of Decision (ROD) before the next Lower Basin PFT meeting.

Round Table:

Hardy: Commented that he had a problem with the Chair of the Communications PFT for not forwarding an email request that he and his wife sent about a newspaper article along with their personal comments, so he sent it out himself to all of the TLG members.

DeLange: Responded that she did not forward Hardy's email to the Communications PFT as it included personal opinions about the article. She indicated that the newspaper article was only written to provide general information to the public about the status of the Trail. She suggested that forwarding the email with personal opinions attached could be misleading and also be construed as coming from the PFT.

Stevens: Agreed with DeLange and said that it could really put the Communications PFT in a bad position. She suggested that people need to be careful going through the Chair.

Hardy: Indicated that he will send emails directly in the future and that he was only going through the PFT as a courtesy. He then asked for a clarification on the TLG conference call notes for May 29 about the Union Pacific Railroad's (UPR) maintenance of the barrier and repair for the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes due to the recent flood damage.

Moreen: Clarified that the UPR is responsible for maintenance of the barrier for perpetuity.

Stevens: Reported that she: 1) had finalized the Lower Basin PFT notes and would send them to be posted to the web; 2) was happy with the proposal for KSSWCD; and 3) had been working on obtaining electronic copies of some of the CWA reports so that they may be posted to the web. She said that Harwood was putting together summaries of the conclusions similar to what is on line for reports that are not available in electronic format.

Stevens also informed everyone that there was a good turnout (about 40 people) for the release of the draft LMP; and that the 30-day comment period on the LMP may be extended. She asked that people call her for a CD or hard copy and that she was trying to make enough copies for everyone. If anyone has questions, they can call IDEQ or the CDA Tribe. Public comments can also be submitted electronically to IDEQ or the Tribe.

Connolly: Asked Stevens if they plan to have public meetings after the comment period is closed. Stevens replied that they do for the final release, probably in September or October.

DeLange: Mentioned that she was currently in Boise for a conference and would be back in the office on June 30. She provided an update on the Communications PFT and said that they are busy working on developing an informational brochure for public outreach and education for the BEIPC. She indicated that Carrie Holtan had designed the draft of the brochure from ideas discussed at the PFT's meeting on June 9. DeLange thanked Holtan for the good job that she did and all of her hard work. She also mentioned that she had made a few changes to the draft and would be sending it to the PFT for review and feedback.

Holtan: Mentioned that she was downloading the draft for the Communications PFT brochure and was all set.

George: Nothing to report.

Moreen: Commented that he wanted to voice his support of the NRCS's plan to look at riverbanks in the soils survey update.

Hardy: Asked Moreen about EPA's contingency fund. Moreen replied that they did not have a contingency fund, only emergency funds. He noted that EPA had the same budgets as the last 4 years. He also indicated that funding will limit the amount of work, especially with diesel at \$4 gallon. Hardy asked Moreen if there was any funding for flood wetlands and monitoring. Moreen asked for clarification of monitoring for what specific area (i.e. Schlepp). Hardy clarified that he was inquiring first about funding for the repair of the trail embankment breach, then monitoring of deposition. Moreen indicated that he did not have the answer to that specific

question.

Hicks: Inquired about work on the Wallace yards in the near future. Moreen answered that they will not be doing any work now as they first need to negotiate the consent decree. He anticipates that work should occur in 2009.

Harwood: Said that he posted the CWA executive summaries to the BEIPC website. He noted that he received the USGS final report on the River sediment model, but that it was not in electronic format. Regarding the BEIPC field trip this summer, he mentioned that the 3 Shoshone County Commissioners want the BEIPC to stop at the East Mission Flats (EMF) repository site. For the Page repository site, the Shoshone County Commissioners do not want it built any higher, but would rather extend the repository. Harwood said that he recently gave presentations to two groups: 1) active and retired federal employees; and 2) Panhandle Kiwanis.

He then mentioned that one of the elements for the Infrastructure Revitalization Plan (IRP) will be to have a complete list of funding sources, and that there are lots of ideas where to get funding grants. He suggested that he plans to schedule a Funding PFT meeting later this year before the IRP is finalized as it would be good to have it reviewed by others and get some ideas for other funding. Harwood brought up FEMA's new flood inundation maps and indicated that it's not just an issue for Silver Valley residents (who may be required to get flood insurance if they have a federal loan), but that it is a problem all across the U.S. He said that Congressman Sali's office contacted him about this issue and that he gave them information on an article in "*Professional Engineering Magazine*." Harwood said that he took pictures this week of sediment deposition. He noted that the sampling results that Mark Stromberg took at the Rose Lake boat launch were about 5,600 ppm lead and that he is going to post the results to the BEIPC website. Harwood indicated that he will drive around for some field work and also put together an agenda for the field trip.

Hardy: Told Harwood that he appreciated the sampling data being posted. He asked if the results would also be entered into Storet (EPA's database). Harwood said that only four samples were taken and that all of the results were over 1,000 ppm. He indicated that sites above Dudley were less than 2,000 ppm, but the site below Mission Flats was really picking up loading at 5,600 ppm. Hardy inquired if the River was picking up contamination from dredged material because it's a heavy mix. Harwood replied that it was indicative of what's happening from Cataldo to Rose Lake and that it's causing a two-fold increase. Hardy reiterated that the contamination is still in the major part of the River channel and not spreading out in the flood plain.

Harwood: Stressed that the parking lot at Rainy Hill had 6 inches of deposition on the asphalt and suggested that the Recreation PFT take a look. Stevens suggested that Harwood send an email to Mark Masarik.

Stevens: Reported on the sampling results from Camp Larson. She mentioned that 11 samples were taken, but they did not find anything. Lead results did not exceed 330 ppm and the average was 96 ppm. Zinc was 420 ppm with an average of 140 ppm, so they did not have to close the camp as nothing came up "hot".

Connolly: Commented that he thinks the Lower Basin PFT should look into the contribution to loading in the Lower Basin to see if any contamination is coming from the breach of the Trail. He proposed that some suggestions be made to the folks in charge of the Trail and maybe do some kind of modeling or reinforcement.

Hicks: Indicated that Connolly's suggestion was similar to Hardy's to look at what took place as failure.

Hardy: Mentioned that the railroad will do flood repair, but that there may be habitual hot spots along areas in the causeway as it's a manmade feature in a natural environment.

Stevens: Reported that the UPR calculated loading estimates in the notification of flood damage report and metal content. However, she was not sure if they did sediment. She noted that they are still working on finishing up.

Hicks: Suggested that as work moves forward with capping, the PFT should look at contingency plans for flood events in the future. He also suggested that it would be good to brainstorm ideas with barriers and recreation sites to develop plans.

Hardy: Indicated that manmade features need to be maintained along the Trail and suggested bringing in more material. Stevens pointed out that the discussion was not under the BEIPC as the Trail remedy was outside of the BEIPC's approval. Hardy brought up that the Schlepp wetlands restoration project was done without review.

George: Asked for clarification of whether the KSSWCD proposal was approved.

Hicks: Asked Harwood if he recognized approval. Harwood responded affirmatively. Hicks concurred that TLG members were in agreement.

Harwood: Said that he will send an email to IDEQ and KSSWCD, so that they can get to work right away.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 7/10/08.

Thank you for your participation.