

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
August 18, 2005

Participants:

Phillip Cernera (Chair)	Rob Spafford
Anne Dailey	Lloyd Brewer
Paul Woods	Jeri DeLange (Note Taker)
Ron Roizen	
Nick Zilka	
Mark Stromberg	
Terry Harwood	
Rog Hardy	
Brian Spears	

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: Draft TLG Agenda, Draft BIF Agenda

Phillip Cernera reported that he sent out the draft agendas for review and discussion.

TLG Meeting: Cernera mentioned that he has received no emails on the NAS report. He plans to bring information to the meeting and copies of any information he may receive. Based on suggestions at last week's conference call, he asked everyone to have a copy of the NAS report along with their issues. Cernera will have a list of chapters, flipchart and paper to decide on the topics and order for discussion. One hour will be allotted for each chapter which will give everyone enough time to discuss the major issues. He asked if there were any other ideas.

Anne Dailey asked if the list would be prioritized by chapters. Cernera answered that it would be sorted first between morning and afternoon, then prioritized. The PFT that would be most appropriate would then be identified. Dailey mentioned that some PFT's have not been active recently. She suggested a list of names for each PFT. Cernera replied that some PFT's come and go. He will identify the chair of each PFT so people have focus. Terry Harwood agreed. Cernera indicated that if there was a need for a new PFT at the end of the day depending upon issues, that it could be revisited later.

BIF Meeting: Cernera reported that the Kootenai County Administration Building would not be available for the meeting on September 14. He is checking into the Lawrence Arippa room at the Coeur d'Alene Casino. Cernera also mentioned that he is working on potential topics and presenters. He indicated that Angelo Vitale would not be available as he is doing work on Benewah Creek. He asked that if anyone has suggestions to fill the 9:00 a.m. time slot, or any other completed projects that BIF needs to know about, to please let him know.

Harwood mentioned that Brian Spears (USFWS) will be giving a presentation on the waterfowl study to the BEIPC in November.

Cernera answered that Spears did the same presentation at the last BIF meeting.

Harwood suggested that an interim presentation on some other Clean Water Act (CWA) project could be made.

Paul Woods proposed that a panel discussion on the lake management plan (LMP) that the Tribe and State are working on would be a topic that people would be interested in.

Cernera said that he would be amenable and will ask the State. He mentioned that the Tribe and State have participated in a few pre-mediation meetings. Cernera suggested that if the State agrees to a panel discussion, then the Tribe and State may speak on existing LMP chapters, overarching issues and potential differences.

Woods inquired about the panel for the lake management plan and the EPA monitoring that will be required. He asked how it dovetails in the long haul and mentioned that some people may be confused, especially since the NAS report came out.

Dailey informed everyone that she will not be able to attend the BIF meeting on September 14 due to another commitment.

Rob Spafford asked about points of agreement on the LMP.

Cernera responded that there is quite a bit of agreement on items that need to be included in the LMP.

Ron Roizen inquired how we operate on this one issue in a situation of incomplete knowledge. He said that if we have to operate without knowledge, the ROD did not specify delisting and he believes it is a significant issue.

Cernera replied that he is trying to write a section on adaptive management which should address how to work given incomplete knowledge.

Roizen commented that there are many different issues. He mentioned that he read a white paper on the difference in the way that policy makers and scientists look at modeling. It highlights the discrepancies of science being provisional using theoretical data as guidance. Roizen said that he will try to find the white paper.

Cernera suggested that he would be willing to discuss LMP technical issues, but will stay away from politics. He also mentioned that BIF is not a forum to discuss jurisdictional issues or regulatory issues.

Roizen asked Cernera about another agenda item – “Uncertainty vs. Science.” In order to discuss science and how regulators view issues, he suggested changing the agenda a little bit in order to allow a half hour at 2:30 for follow-up.

Cernera asked if there were any other topics and then moved to the round table.

Round Table:

Woods: Indicated that sampling is being conducted on the North and South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in the Upper Basin. The next sampling trip will be August 29. Woods reported that he is ahead of schedule and needs to work on the database. He also said that he is pleased with the progress of the interim process for the calibration of the model and that the Australians have requested additional data.

Dailey: Mentioned that she is working on the EPA five-year responses and will be completed next week.

Roizen: Nothing to report.

Zilka: Reported that work at the Sisters site has been completed. Harwood inquired about the plantings. Zilka replied that they are doing well. Cernera suggested that pictures of the ground work for the Sisters project be presented at the next meeting. Zilka asked whether it should be at the TLG or BIF meeting, or a combination of both. Harwood responded that he would also like Zilka to make a presentation at the BEIPC meeting on November 9. Zilka said that he could present "before" and "after" pictures. Dailey suggested that Zilka's presentation be scheduled early on the agenda for November 9 as a third of the people left the Basin Commission meeting early on August 10 and did not hear about the ground work. Cernera agreed that it was a good idea.

Harwood: Inquired who was running the Constitution project. Dailey replied that it was the Corps of Engineers under Bill Adams or Dave Fortier.

Cernera: Pointed out that the 2006 one-year work plan needs to be on the table at the BEIPC meeting on November 9. Harwood indicated that the 2006 work plan needs to be completed for approval by the BEIPC at that time. Cernera responded that the TLG will do what it needs to do to meet the deadline. He also commented that one of the Commissioner's suggestions for the 2006 plan was to emphasize ground work. Cernera suggested that language in the plan should be strengthened to emphasize on the ground work.

Roizen: Mentioned that the county representatives believe that with the strong commitment to clean yards, there will be no funding available for the main issues of cleanup such as the lake. He feels the Commissioners needs to be reminded of this. If this picture is not true of the yards exhausting all the funding, then it needs to be explained to the Commissioners.

Cernera: Proposed to Harwood that he put together a strawman of what the 2006 plan may include and what the funding is for each year. In addition, that people have the stage set for work on ground studies.

Spafford: Suggested that the funding PFT be a topic.

Roizen: Mentioned his willingness for the State to come up with matching funds if ultimately phosphorus would be a controlling issue in the lake from what he heard by Bill Rust.

Harwood: Responded that the funding PFT needs to look into all areas and scope the potential for the next five year cycle. He remarked that it was a well-made point by Rust & Roizen. Harwood also mentioned that he is in the process of sending letters to the subgrantees to request the detail for the project work planned in 2006.

Cernera: Informed everyone that October 26 would be the final date to get the 2006 work plan to Harwood. He believes that Labor Day would be the earliest week to produce a strawman.

Roizen: Requested Cernera to provide the salience of CWA to EPA and how it helps the EPA for work on the ground.

Cernera: Indicated that a draft strawman would be completed the week of September 12. Harwood said that the draft could be built as a skeleton. Cernera agreed and suggested that after the draft is developed, to get on the phone with Dailey and Adams in order to determine what funding may be available and what they envision. He will put together a schedule to have a TLG meeting take place in early October. Then he will talk to John Snider about scheduling a CCC meeting for later in October to make a presentation on the draft work plan.

Harwood: Indicated that usually he receives only a 50% response to the letters and needs to follow up for each project so they have the most up-to-date narratives.

Stromberg: Reported that 113 properties have been remediated and they are in the process of sampling for 2006.

Cernera: Asked Stromberg if he could have all of the information clearly defined at the next BEIPC meeting.

Stromberg: Answered that the 3500 properties the ROD identifies to be remediated include private, business, ROW's, etc. He mentioned that this year's work will be closing down in October.

Hardy: Inquired about the status of the lake map.

Harwood: Answered that the 500 scheduled to be printed have not been done yet as the printer is trying to correct a layering problem.

Hardy: Reported on an ATV problem out at the bridge in Rose Lake with ATV's kicking up red dirt. A suggestion was made that Harwood contact Jeff Johnson of the Forest Service to put up a barricade on the property.

Spears: Nothing to report.

Harwood: Mentioned that he is working on the design and plans for the Plummer wetland treatment and that the other QAPP's are being reviewed. He reported that last week he was out with Dave Lamb on the vegetation project and they have good data to use.

Cernera: Indicated that he would email the schedule to the TLG for the development of the 2006 one-year work plan. He also reminded everyone about the TLG meeting next Tuesday.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 8/25/05

Thank you for your participation.