

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
September 4, 2008

Kenny Hicks (Chair)
Bill Adams
Anne Dailey
Dave George
Rog Hardy
Rebecca Stevens

Carrie Holtan
Mark Masarik
Randy Connolly
Brian Spears
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

Kenny Hicks - Shoshone County adopted the new FEMA flood maps (that will supersede the 1979 maps). The County felt that it had to adopt the maps; as otherwise, the communities are not able to participate in the flood insurance program. There will be an opportunity to challenge a few of the details. Hick's personal view is that the new maps are not accurate and do the Silver Valley a disservice. Comment period for the LMP ended. Counties had an additional meeting after LMP comment period.

- TLG members discussed condensing TLG conference call summary notes and using bullets.

Round Table:

Anne Dailey - Started first round of BEMP sampling on sediment this week; other BEMP sampling will be conducted in October. There is a new BEMP monitoring station on the South Fork across Pine Creek. The USGS will be sampling surface water at summer recessional. EPA will complete geoprobe borings in the Box, also in Osburn. Temporary piezometers have been installed for sampling as part of the work this fall in OU-2 and also OU-3. They will do a study on Bunker Hill Creek to collect design data to address losses of clean water, and how to keep clean water "clean". The streambed bottom is unlined and surface water goes underground and comes out contaminated, then it needs to be treated by the CTP.

Mark Masarik – There will be a Recreation PFT meeting on September 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Grizzly Room at the U.S. Forest Service Office in CDA. He is working on the draft agenda. On September 24, there will be a meeting with participants from various governmental entities and agencies (IDEQ, PHD, Forest Service, BLM, Parks & Recreation, Fish & Game, CDA Tribe, BEIPC, EPA, etc.) to deal with sediment deposition issues. One goal will be to develop some kind of plan to remediate Lower Basin boat ramps that get inundated in the spring. He also discussed contamination issues at recreational areas along the River. For the Rec. PFT, Dave White worked on a comprehensive recreational inventory and the info was entered into a spreadsheet. It will be used to develop all kinds of GIS maps and do trends analysis. He noted as more development occurs; it will push people up the River channel for recreation.

Rog Hardy – Suggested that the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and railroad sampling should be an agenda item for the Rec. PFT meeting. Commented that the beach sediments may not exceed action levels, but he does not see how they can average as low as 26 ppm.

Mark Masarik – Said it was a good point and he will check into.

Bill Adams – Lots of sampling going on in the Upper Basin. Surface water sampling is being done up-gradient and down-gradient of source areas; and will be used to study issues related to water treatment. Hecla completed their water treatment plant (WTP) at the Lucky Friday mine and now will be able to meet NPDES permit limits. He may have some Phase 2 low flow data for OU-2 for the next meeting. He offered to talk about the information as it will be used as part of the ecological plan work.

Anne Dailey - Also offered to give an update of the work in the Box on the preliminary soil data.

Dave George - Nothing to report.

Rog Hardy - Asked Rebecca Stevens about the next Lower Basin meeting. Stevens replied that it may be scheduled in late September or early October, before the TLG meeting. Hardy suggested a briefing by Art Bookstrom and Steve Box on their sedimentation report.

Brian Spears – For the Schlepp property restoration work, they are tilling the field and will plant 45 acres of non-wetland area with seed from native grasses. When the work is finished, they will let the water in this fall and monitor. They will not be conducting plantings in the flooded wetland area this fall. The work is looking good and will probably take a few weeks to flood.

Anne Dailey - Received some settlement funding. Sampling at Lane Marsh was completed on Tuesday. They will be doing soils sampling, a topographic survey, and looking at wetland vegetation. However, one property owner declined access.

- TLG members discussed Lane Marsh.

Randy Connolly – Brought up concern to Anne Dailey about the natural resource restoration projects appearing and not going through the TLG. Dailey noted she gave a presentation at the TLG meeting. Connolly said it was not run through the TLG process and he believed it should go through the TLG.

Rog Hardy – Commented the TLG gets briefings on restoration projects as a done deal.

Randy Connolly – Suggested the TLG should not get just a cursory briefing. He questioned why it was done this way.

Kenny Hicks - Asked when the process started. Dailey replied they received funding in June.

Rebecca Stevens - Said she remembered Dailey doing a presentation.

Rog Hardy – Asked if there were recommendations on how the funding would be spent. Dailey said when they had word the Asarco funding would be available; they put together a proposal for Lane Marsh. She indicated it was talked about a long time ago.

Kenny Hicks – Recalled that Spears discussed it, but said it sounded like it was not delved into deep enough.

Randy Connolly – Reiterated his concerns about the process.

Rog Hardy – Said he has sampling ideas for a TLG proposal and would like to let people weigh in.

Rebecca Stevens – Will work on scheduling a Lower Basin PFT meeting to brainstorm ecological ideas for the Lower Basin.

Rog Hardy – Inquired about the response to comments for the LMP process.

Rebecca Stevens – The State and Tribe are reviewing LMP comments now. There is no date set yet for a response meeting, but she will keep everyone up to speed. There were significantly fewer comments received than on the 2002 addendum (only about 30-35).

Carrie Holtan – Nothing to report.

Jeri DeLange – Thanked the EPA for providing the third bus on the BEIPC field trip and commented the field trip was very successful. The Communications PFT produced the BEIPC brochure for public outreach and presented it at the EMF open house and BEIPC field trip.

Brian Spears – Will be doing BEMP biological sampling. Sending samples to the lab on 1) sediment; 2) soil; and 3) water. Sampling at Smeltonville Flats and OU-2 to see how the remedy is doing. U.S. Fish & Wildlife sent in some carcasses for testing to check for metals exposure. Results on soils testing will be sent to Storet (EPA's database).

Randy Connolly – Nothing to report.

Kenny Hicks – Suggested TLG members look at their calendars for October 14 to schedule the next TLG meeting.

Schedule: The next TLG conference call will be scheduled 9/18/08.

Thank you for your participation.