

TLG CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
December 30, 2004

Participants:

Phillip Cernera
Rob Hanson
Rogers Hardy

Terry Harwood
John Perfect
Rob Spafford

Dave Sternberg
Mark Stromberg
Note taker: Holly LeBret

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:

1) Technical Memo to the Basin Commissioners dealing with remaining CWA funds: The draft went out and Phillip Cernera asked for comments. Briefly, the memo recommends funding two projects: the 2nd phase of the Lower River Sediment Model and the Lake Management Plan (LMP) Audit, and use the remaining funds (about \$155,000) for contingency.

Terry Harwood said that he is concerned about the contingency language, spreading funding out across the board could be difficult. He suggested a straw project to attach the money to. After some discussion, the Alluvium Sorting Demonstration at Monarch Mine project came up as a good project to fund with the remaining CWA funding.

Harwood received input from folks who want to make the LMP Audit the straw plan and fully fund the Alluvium Sorting Demonstration project. Cernera told the group about recent discussions with some of the Basin Commissioners, Ron Kreizenbeck and Toni Hardesty, who want the LMP project to move forward. The LMP audit ranked very high by the TLG and so it would not make sense to put it as a straw project. (However, it did not rank highly in a memo sent to the Basin Commissioners from the three County Commissioners representatives, referred to as the "minority report"). Harwood said that looking at the minority report might not fully represent the position of people in the counties or the Commissioners. Cernera said that based on what the majority of the TLG desires to move forward with, he recommends fully funding the LMP Audit and fund the alluvium sorting project with surplus funds. Spafford said that the total amount of the CWA funding is not precisely \$2-mil, it is \$1,988,200 (information from the latest EPA Basin Bulletin).

Spafford said regarding the alluvium sorting project, that the TLG had some good comments in support of it, on the other hand, he recommends saving some funding for overhead and administrative expenses. Cernera recalled that Luke Russell did take a portion of each project for overhead. Rob Hanson said that DEQ did add in a small percentage for overhead and indirect. Harwood said that it would be more palatable to people if overhead were not taken out of the remaining \$155k CWA funding, but rather if an additional project was funded.

In more discussion about the memo, Dave Sternberg asked what would happen if the funding did not get approved for the Lower River Sediment Model, Phase 2. Paul Woods responded that the

1-dimensional model is nearly finished, but that information is not going to provide the best modeling tools that are available, such as what is developed for the Kootenai River. The second phase will provide a much better picture of the dynamics of the lower CdA River and the project was not designed to provide only 1-D modeling. Sternberg suggested strengthening the language in the memo in support of the phase II of the lower river model.

2) Cernera asked if anyone had a chance to see ATSDR report. Harwood said he read it. Cernera read the Executive Summary and fact sheet and wrote 5-pages of comments. The Tribe has real problems with the overall premise that recreational users and visitors seem to be the primary target population for the report. ATSDR offered that they may want to do a report in the future for tribal subsistence user's exposure. Cernera said that they should not do two separate public health reports. The current report did not take into consideration the RI/FS information. Dave Sternberg wondered if they used numbers from the EPA. The report did not go into sustenance levels of exposure at all, they do little more than to say: follow institutional controls – wash your hands and follow the warnings that are published. Harwood said that it is as if they say that the Tribe knows better than to dig water potatoes in the Lake area. The Executive Summary says, in bold, “No Human Health Risk if recreating and eating below recommended levels.” Cernera said that the ASTDR report has not adequately addressed local residents exposure risk. He made a call to ATSDR in Atlanta to request a government to government conference. Rogers Hardy asked if there would be studies on any tribal use of the fisheries, and suggested the tribe didn't really live on the lake or have greater exposures since they just buy their food at a supermarket like the rest of us.

Cernera asked a question about the draft 5-year review. He said that when fish samples were taken and the fish advisory issued, that those samples were also to be analyzed for PCBs and asked if anyone read that in the draft. No one had.

3) Cernera asked the group if they want a Basin Information Forum (BIF) before the next Commission Meeting on February 15th. Paul Woods said that he would like John Tracy, with the Idaho Water Resource Institute, to give a talk. He has extensive experience with the Lake Tahoe watershed and could provide valuable LMP information. There was more discussion about holding a BIF and everyone is in favor of having one. Cernera will facilitate setting the meeting up.

4) Cernera told the group that in accordance with the Lake Education project, a work product is ready for review – it is a lake map. His office will make some copies available for review. There was discussion about the need to get a PFT group to meet and comment on the draft and it was decided that people could go over it on January 20th, 10:00 a.m., at the Tribe's Coeur d'Alene office. Hardy requested a copy and Cernera said he would mail him one.

Round Table:

Paul Woods: Quarterly reports for CWA have been completed. USGS successfully transferred data to STORET. He is involved with Steve Box in OU2 issues. His next lake sampling trip is January 24th – if it is icy they will have to chop a hole through the ice and take core samples. The near shore sampling data is due out soon. In December, there was a flood event in the Coeur

d' Alene River that allowed for collection of good samples.

Regarding the TLG draft memo, Woods suggests adding a little bit of text that the minority and majority reports were both considered – and note that several minority projects were adopted and both were fairly represented in the mix.

Rogers Hardy: He asked Phillip Cernera about some comments for the TLG memo that he had emailed to him earlier in the week. Cernera said that in the second draft of the memo that was sent to everyone, he had attempted to incorporate those comments. A portion of what Hardy wrote follows: *“Phil: As I requested on the call today... please add my comment relating to the TLG CWA draft memo compiled by you and Rob. As I said today, the "we" in the report infers that it was an agreed upon and inclusive TLG effort, yet it does not mention the minority paper submitted by the county reps that ought to be included in the memo. In addition, there needs to be a notation that the county reps have not all been participating in the TLG for the past weeks. To omit these facts could exacerbate the issues and does, I think, show exactly what some of the reps have said is a problem. The county reps are the public voice on the TLG, so it is important to acknowledge them. Also, it seems appropriate and simple just to ask the county reps directly (including Frank Frutchey, who has not participated in TLG issues for nearly a year, I think) just why they are choosing to boycott the TLG, etc. Speculation, like exclusion, just adds problems. Ask the source. I look forward to seeing these additions in the call notes for today. Thanks, Rog.”* Cernera responded that he would change the second draft and resubmit it to better reflect Hardy's wording.

Mark Sternberg: He said he is working on his annual report for 2002 CWA funds.

Terry Harwood: There was more discussion about the counties' TLG representatives and he said that there is no immediate solution. Harwood went on to say that the TLG and the CCC are paramount to making the Basin Commission process work.

He went on to say that he is working on the workshop scheduled for January 19th. He also said that he will be working with Robin Simmons to train his new employee, Jeri DeLange.

Schedule:

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC) is meeting on January 13th – call Lloyd Brewer for more information: 509-625-6968. Workshop for the Basin Commission: January 19th, 2005, at the Coeur d'Alene Casino & Resort, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Basin Information Forum (BIF), February 15, 2005. TLG meetings are scheduled each Thursday in January.

Thank you for your participation.