

BEIPC- Technical Leadership Group (TLG) Meeting
February 20, 2025 1:00 -4:00pm
Coeur d’Alene Wastewater Treatment Plant
765 W. Hubbard Ave. Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
Meeting Summary Notes

(These summary notes are intended to capture key topics, conclusions, and next steps and not every detail of the presentations or discussions.)

Attendees:

Andy Helkey (DEQ, TLG Chair)	Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe, TLG Vice-Chair)
Sharon Bosley (BEIPC Executive Director)	Gail Yost (BEIPC – note taker)
Eric Nicolai (EPA)	Sandra Treccani (Washington State Ecology)
Todd Higen (DEQ)	Pete Stayton (South Fork Sewer District)
Bob Steed (DEQ)	Corey Bosen (NRCS)
David Van deRiet (IDFG)	Kyle Richards (CDA Trust)
Scott Fields (CDA Tribe)	Mark Getscher (CDA Tribe)
Doug Evans (BLM)	Dave Leptich (IDFG)
Jamie Brunner (DEQ)	

Online Attendees:

Jocelyn Carver (EPA)	Dana Swift (DEQ)
Wade Jerome (USFS)	Mary Rehnborg (PHD)
Ed Hagan (EPA)	Tamara Langton (EPA)
Lauren Zinsser (USGS)	Jennifer Ekstrom (ICL)
Jennifer Crawford (EPA)	

Update on Leading Idaho Initiative projects- Jamie Brunner (DEQ)

- Total of \$37 million for projects for CDA Lake (\$2 million State dollars, \$35 million ARPA funding)
- Ranked through the Coeur d’Alene Lake Advisory Committee (CLAC) appointed by Governor Brad Little.
- To date, 8 projects have been completed. There are several projects that are currently active.

City of Kellogg:

- Phase 1&2 Complete. Bunker Creek, Hill Street, North Kellogg, & Vactor Truck.
- Phase 3- Mapping/assessing remaining drainages and setting priorities.

City of Coeur d’Alene:

- Sanders Beach, Mullan Ave., and Independence Point complete.
- 3rd Street outfall
 - Two educational stormwater signs near Sanders Beach and Tubbs Hill Trailhead.

Santa-Fernwood Wastewater Reuse:

- Land purchased, reuse permit process initiated, and silviculture and forest report shared with DEQ.

South Fork Sewer District – Pete will update today.

NAS Recommendations:

- Science Coordination Team
 - Working on priorities documents
- St. Joe Watershed Assessment with the CDA Tribe
 - Monitoring in progress
- Evaluation of Recreational Areas in Coeur d'Alene Lake and Spokane River
 - Samples collected summer 2024, draft report 2025, and final report 2026
- Comprehensive Coring Plan
 - Lakebed sediment coring to view historic lake conditions
 - Samples collected September 2024

All of the projects have individual pages on the Leading Idaho website showing their funding overview, project details, and pictures.

Rebecca wanted to know if there are plans to share the Kellogg Vac machine with other municipalities.

- Jamie was unsure if there were any changes from their initial agreement. Bob Steed thought there was some agreement to be able to use the machine for emergency response situations. Andy stated that other municipalities have their own contract with Big Sky.

Rebecca also asked if they were able to get ahold of anyone on the human health assessment at Harrison beach.

- Jamie was unsure and Andy did not think they were able to contact anyone. When the Union Pacific samples this year, they will use the same parameters so we will be able to use their sample. Rebecca said she will circle back on this.

Plans for 2025 Construction Season- Andy Helkey (DEQ), Eric Nicolai (EPA), and Kyle Richards (CDA Work)

Box Update – Andy Helkey (DEQ)

- East Smelterville Flats –The City of Kellogg designated the east end a park in 2017. It is a high use area especially for people with dogs. Sampling results showed that the property had never been remediated.
 - Phase 1 was completed in 2024.
 - Installed BMPs and fencing to control access.
 - Established clean driving and parking areas outside the fence area.
 - Removed contaminated soils, placed barrier fabric and clean material.
 - Phase 2 will begin in 2025
 - Continue to remove contamination, place concrete oasis pads for shade structures, and place human health signs.
- Kellogg Middle School Asphalt Replacement
 - Address remaining asphalt that needs replacing to cover contaminants.
- Pinehurst Elementary School
 - Replace asphalt, fix drainage and place new wood chips.
- Kellogg sidewalk replacement and Galena Ridge right of way.
- Sludge Pond Closure – Old sludge pond on top of the CIA is slated to be closed this summer.
 - The new cover system will be tied to the existing CIA cover system.

Rebecca asked what was happening on I-90 by the Osburn school.

- Andy stated that a truck wrecked by the Shields Gulch and all damage done to the remedy protection project has been repaired.

Sandra Treccani asked if any of these projects were potentially in jeopardy with the federal funding.

- Both Andy and Jocelyn answered no, all projects have already been funded.

Basin Update – Kyle Richards (CDA Trust)

Upper Basin:

- Douglas Complex – located in the East Fork of Pine Creek
 - 1-year remedial action project identified as a high-risk human health site.
- Continue to operate repositories, WCAs and Canyon Creek Quarry
- Investigation work:
 - South Fork CDR – the Middle SF from Wallace downstream to the Box
 - South Fork Floodplain No.1 – the Upper SF from Mullan to Wallace
 - Lower Canyon Creek Riparian Area – Woodland Park floodplain
 - Installing more wells to better define groundwater and surface water interaction.
- EF Ninemile WCA
 - 2025-26 final closure.
- Star Complex –
 - Entering year 3 of 4 remedial action projects.
- Standard Mammoth Reach
 - 2nd year of design with construction anticipated in 2027.
- Tamarack No.7
 - Design completed, they will start construction in 2025.

Andy asked if they are using FEMAs 100-year flow rates on their SFCDR?

- Kyle said they will consider what that looks like when they get into design.

Lower Basin:

- Cataldo Reach Riverbank Pilot project
 - Riverbank stabilization techniques – first year of design, with construction in 2027.
 - Continue to collect additional data.
- East Mission Flats Repository
 - Continue to accept ICP waste
- Gleason Wetland
 - Continue investigations, starting design in 2026-2027, and construction in 2028.
- Grays Meadow
 - Finish habitat features and complete project in 2025.

Todd Higen from DEQ asked if the Cataldo Reach stabilization would be using rip rap.

- Kyle commented that rip rap isn't out of the question but not the solution for 37 river miles, so looking for alternatives.

Rebecca wanted to know about landowner access.

- Kyle stated they have access to do what they need to do but there are some private landowners that don't want to participate, so they will manage their work around the access they have.

Bob Steed stated the Avista erosion group has been focused on the St. Joe, but this year are looking to include the CDA River for some of their erosion projects, so that could be a good collaboration.

Lower Basin Prioritization Update- Eric Nicolai (EPA)

- [Lower Basin Prioritization Plan](#) was finalized and published in October 2024
 - Prioritizes remedial actions and related data gap investigations.
 - Reevaluate annual prioritizations and help select pilot projects.
 - Divided into three site categories:
 1. Riverbeds and banks
 2. Wetlands and lateral lakes
 3. Recreational sites
 - The plan was developed from a combination of past collaborative efforts:
 - Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) Process – 2017 to 2019
 - Framework for a Strategic Plan for the Lower Basin – 2018
 - Adaptive Management Project Management Plan – 2020

The Lower Basin Prioritization Plan was developed to tackle the biggest sources of contamination, provide flexibility, and balance with Upper Basin work.

Initial priorities

- Dudley Reach Scour Hole Pilot Project:
 - Reduce downstream migration of particulate lead from the riverbed and banks while minimizing adverse system responses.
 - Develop means and methods for technology applications elsewhere in the Lower Basin.
 - Establish monitoring methods for assessing remedy performance.
 - Goal: 50% reduction in particulate lead loading during high flow events.
- Riverbank Monitoring:
 - Understand riverbank types, bank erosion rates and metals concentrations.
 - Evidence of recreational use
 - Riverbank erosion monitoring pins locations:
 - Cataldo Reach 36 monitoring pins to-date.
 - 4 banks have had one or more completely erode out.
 - Bob Steed asked if they were 4 ft pins and Eric said yes.
- Wetlands and Lateral Lakes:
 - Gray's Meadow (695 acres) Ag-to-wetland conversion.
 - Construction until end of 2025, then O&M starts.
 - Gleason Wetland (270 acres) Ag-to-wetland conversion.
 - Investigation began in 2022 and design starts in 2026.
 - Canyon Marsh (349 acres) existing mix of wetland and ag-land
 - Investigation starts in 2028 with design starting in 2032
- Recreational Sites:
 - Goal:

- Reduce people's exposure to lead and other metals in recreational areas.
- Challenges:
 - Recontamination from high water events.
 - Remote locations, usage continuously changing.
- Examples of work:
 - Capping
 - Hard landscaping
 - Signage
 - Revegetation
 - Education
 - Cleanup
- Categories:
 - Primary public sites (2)
 - Public sites (35)
 - MODA sites (4)
 - Private sites (28)

Sharon Bosley wanted to know at Gray's Meadow who is going to manage the water control structures, does that fall to O&M.

- Dave Leptich answered that it is a Fish & Game property, and they will manage it.
- She asked how that was done – do they monitor the water levels.
- Dave said that wetlands are naturally dynamic, and you will want to bring the water level up some years and down some years, changing the nature of the soil and nutrients availability. F&G will have a long-term management plan to alter the water in the cells and will have particular objectives for managing nutrients in the soil and plant communities for the wildlife.
- Sandy asked if they had a plan in place written for that?
- Dave answered not for this year – the plan for the first five years will look different than the long-term plan as they get everything established.
- Eric added there is a general O&M, as they will work through the interim process for specific requirements.
- Dave added they will have the ability to manage the water over a six-foot range, most years it will be within a foot of that range to either drown vegetation or stimulate regeneration and new growth.
- Bob Steed also commented that one of the benefits of this project was the discontinuation of discharge into Black Lake which has been accomplished and quite an improvement.
- Eric said that it looks really good out there and he has been receiving positive feedback, especially from property owners.
- Rebecca stated there has been pumping during construction, but the goal is to close up that pipe.
- Dave answered in order to keep the wetlands dry during construction, a lot of the water can be shed during the winter and into the spring. There has been some summer pumping, but once we get to long-term management, we will be able to pump water at a time of year that makes the most sense and has the least impact on the river.
- Rebecca thinks that it is an important message to continue to relay to the public and they have been doing a good job with outreach – remediation and restoration take time.

Rebecca asked if anyone knew if the Springston gauge was still moving forward to get replaced in the near future?

- Lauren Zinsser stated the data is still being collected and is published periodically online. The measurement equipment is failing but hasn't failed yet. They were hesitant to put in a new piece of equipment because the bridge is scheduled to be removed. They are limping the current equipment along waiting for that to happen so they can install the new equipment in a different location. The bridge removal has been delayed but they are moving forward installing piers for the new equipment. This contract was just awarded, so will hopefully happen within the next year of low water (after this spring), but not sure exactly the time.

Eric asked Lauren if she wanted to highlight the Rose Lake gauge station that was installed and also the one at Cataldo?

- Lauren answered that real-time turbidity is being collected at Rose Lake which is super exciting - this data is available online. The Cataldo installation has been approved, and permits are in place. Weather delayed installation, but if the flow does not go up too fast, that should happen before too long.

Rebecca wanted to know if there had been any discussions on the Rose Creek Culvert – the road there will be affected by the Dudley Reach project when that starts.

- Eric believes Tyler Chatriand with EPA may be aware since he is working on Dudley Reach.
- Rebecca corrected her question; it will be the Canyon Marsh culvert. She asked if they would use that road as it is the only access from land.
- Kyle said it would depend how they dredge, where they take material out of the river and where we have to get material back to the river. The South River Road property that the Trust owns and if they put clean material on barges at Dudley Landing to go back upriver, they wouldn't have to drive up Tamarack Ridge past Canyon Marsh and may not have to have substantial truck traffic on that road.

Update on Leading Idaho Initiative Project SFK Sewer District project- Pete Stayton (SFK Sewer District)

Overview:

- South Fork Sewer District (SFSD) – serves most of the Silver Valley, established in 1965
- Serves 22 separate towns and communities with a population of 7,055
- 57 miles of pipe (18 miles of interceptor), 1,200 manholes, and 7 lift stations
- 2 wastewater treatment plants – at Page and in Mullan
 - The Kingston-Cataldo Sewer District is a separate district, but SFSD currently treats all their wastewater under an agreement. They will be building their own treatment plant over the next couple of years and will disconnect.
 - There is a separate treatment plant in Mullan that serves just Mullan.

Page WWTP Tertiary Treatment LI Project Plan:

- Tertiary treatment estimated to reduce phosphorus load by up to 7,015 lb/year (90% removal)
- Estimated project cost \$17 million

Project goals:

- Phosphorus reduction – target 80-90% removal.
- Improved heavy metals treatment – leverage phosphorus removal process for future compliance.
- Minimize operational complexity O&M costs – small operations staff, keep rates low.

Treatment Technologies – Solid Contact Clarifier (SCC):

- Large footprint and large settling volume.
- Simple mechanics and not enclosed in a building.
- Longer startup time after upset.

Jar Testing for metals treatment:

- Test chemicals for effectiveness and number of doses needed.
- Staff did a lot of testing – saved money and trained them on treatment technology.
- Test dosages for higher levels of removal.
- Achieve metals treatment – tested polyorgano sulfide with good removal results.

Pilot Study Objectives:

- Demonstrate phosphorus removal performance of a SCC treatment and provide data to full scale SCC bidders to facilitate their provision of a performance guarantee.
 - Target – 0.15 mg/l phosphorus
- Collect data to optimize chemical usage and investigate metals removal.

Sludge Handling:

- Bio-solids – sent to waste stabilization lagoon, breaks down and mineralizes, then dredge when needed.
- Chemical sludge – sent to southeastern lagoon, does not breakdown like biological sludge, once dredged it will be put in geotubes, once dewatered the solids will be put at the Page Repository.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place last October for the first phase of construction. General contractor bids will open March 5, 2025, with final completion anticipated August 2026.

Project budget:

- Phosphorus Reduction Grant - \$17M
- Davis-Bacon Wage Compliance - \$1.2M
- Smeltonville Annexation - \$3.2M
- Total Project - \$21.4M

Rebecca asked if any part of the work they are doing addressing the inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues that Ross Stout worked on for years or is that a separate issue.

- Pete replied they are always addressing that, but not on this particular project. It is an ongoing problem, but his crews work on this by doing testing.
- Bob Steed asked if I & I was the source of their metals?
 - Pete answered yes. There was a 20-year compliance period on future metals, and this was the reason why due to the groundwater coming in. Substantial progress has been made just not to the level they need to be at.

Status update on Prichard Creek Restoration Partnership Project- Todd Higen and Bob Steed (DEQ)

- Project background:
 - Prichard Creek is located on the North Fork of the CDA River near Murray.
 - Decades of mining severely altered the hydrology of Prichard Creek.
 - Dredge piles and mobilized substrate materials resulted in subsurface flows and loss of fish habitat.
 - Project began around 2020, and Phase 1 was completed in the summer of 2023.

- Idaho Forest Group placed 2,000 acres along Prichard Creek into a conservation easement with the Kaniksu Land Trust
- In 2025 we will begin exploring options for Phase 2.
- Project management:
 - TU partnered with IFG & DEQ to manage the project.
- Funding:
 - RP provided the funding for Phase 1 of the project and the initial development portion of Phase 2.

Phase 1

- Monitoring:
 - TU, DEQ, and IFG completed several monitoring projects to collect baseline data.
 - Fish surveys, temp loggers, groundwater monitoring, soil samples for metals, and DEQ BURP surveys.
- Construction:
 - Large wood structures and vegetative plantings were installed.
 - Structures are designed to create fish habitat diversity, secondary channels, and promote floodplain connectivity.
 - Plantings and structures are designed to help create point bars and side channels for off channel habitat.
 - Beavers helped with building dams and creating more side channel habitat.

Phase 2

- The Dredge Piles:
 - Develop a Risk Assessment for working in the contaminated area and start conceptual restoration plans.

Kyle from the CDA Trust asked what the scale of contamination is, is it lead or zinc?

- Todd answered lead, cadmium and zinc.
- Kyle asked how hot it is.
 - Bob Steed answered one of the challenges is it is not hot enough to take it all to a repository. The marginally hot material seems to be mostly isolated in the fines.
 - Todd added that when they do the risk assessment, they will look at the contamination levels in more depth and decide what's best.

Rebecca stated in Phase 2 if there is a removal that needs to take place, there is a forest service repository upstream, which is all outside the Superfund facility. DEQ has a volunteer remediation program, and they have tried to get the landowners up there to participate. Do they think Idaho Forest Group would entertain this program that DEQ implements?

- Bob was unsure, but they have been proactive in wanting to get the right thing done to date. Idaho Forest Group ended up donating the wood they used which helped them come in under budget. They will look at design options for this second phase without damaging the benefits that are coming out of the creek now.

FY24 Restoration Partnership Accomplishments- Rebecca Stevens (CDA Tribe)

Cougar Bay stream & wetland restoration:

- Culvert replacement and 800 native riparian plantings
- Noxious weed treatment
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$3,267

Guł Hnch'mchinmsh - Native Willow Nursery for Support of Restoration Actions:

- Monitored growth and harvest of 7 native willow species for pole and whip availability for RP projects
- Invasive species control
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$1,872

Uł qhesu'lumkhw (land is good again): Cultural Significant Plant Restoration:

- Camas seed and bulbs harvested and replanted in additional areas
- Developing a horticulture program with partners
- Beaver surveys and dam reinforcements
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$154.00

Whelm khwa chatq'ele'et Monitoring and Modeling Coeur d'Alene Lake's Response to Restoration:

- Lake and lower CDA River WQ sampling (2 lake, 1 St.Joe, 1 Harrison) 13 events
- Data analysis and writing synthesis reports and BHSS Data Management Plan
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$8,359

Hepton Lake Wetland Restoration project:

- Completion of levee repair construction to allow for 1,350 acres of clean waterfowl habitat
- Culturally significant plantings and native seed regrowth
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$55,137

Gray's Meadow Wetland Conversion/Restoration:

- Continue to work with EPA and the Work Trust on remedial activities to prepare for restoration
- Nesting bird surveys and island building
- Water control structures, dike reinforcements, dust control, Lamb Peak water transfers, etc.
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$4,012,830

Gene Day Pond:

- Finalized ROW agreement
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$3,211

North Fork CDA River C.E.:

- IDFG continues to have conversations with the landowner about preserving the cold water refugia along the river
- Permanent protection of the natural floodplain communities and cold water hyporheic flow with a C.E.
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0

Canyon Marsh AG to Wetland:

- SOW development using baseline information
- Conceptual wetland restoration planning underway
- BEMP monitoring ongoing
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$8,695

Gleason's Marsh AG to Wetland

- Worked with INLC to develop baseline resource reports
- Worked with EPA on remedial investigations with remediation planned for 2025-2026
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$16,528

Lake Creek Watershed Restoration:

- Finalized restoration designs for stream enhancements, floodplain engagement, and culvert replacements
- Native plantings and LWD installations
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$76,980

Prichard Creek Planning and Phase 1 Implementation:

- Signed C.E. by IFG to protect 1,813 acres of upland forest and floodplains and provide wildlife corridors
- Project planning, invasive species management, and beaver dam analogs (BDA's) installed
- Phase 1 construction of floodplain connectivity and moved into Phase 2 planning
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$1,602,348

Upper Little NFK CDA River Restoration:

- Large Woody Debris sourcing and initial work in Hudlow Meadows
- Multiple partners and funding sources through cost share which supports the longevity of this work
- Survey work for design over Iron Creek (FSR 1532)
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$34,506

Upper St. Joe Bull Trout Habitat Restoration:

- Initiated NEPA on survey and design work for replacing bridge over Red Ives Creek
- Stream survey and wood unit reconnaissance
- Survey work for design over Iron Creek (FSR 1532)
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$8,915

Beaver Creek:

- Multi-year and multi-phased project initiated in the headwaters
- Cost share options explored
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0

Miesen Creek Fish Passage:

- Completed hydraulic modeling to aid in design
- Numerous parties contributing matching funds
- Section 106 of NHPA initiated
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$23,946

Benawah Creek Stream & Wetland Restoration in Drought:

- Infrastructure and survey/design work
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0

Lake Creek Corridor Protection & Enhancement:

- Tribal staff and leadership coordinated with INLC & landowner
- Finalizing contract documents
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0

Big Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal:

- Tribal staff, USFS, BLM, Sunshine Mine, and Engineer held numerous coordination meetings
- Site surveys and CR investigation complete
- NEPA DNA/CATEX underway
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0

Aquatic Organisms Passage (AOP) Surveys at Stream Crossings:

- Completed QA/QC plan
- Contracted with Trout Unlimited for field surveys
- Fish passage barrier data uploaded to <https://interagency-bil-fish-passage-project-1-fws.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Total expenditures in FY24: \$0 with \$43K anticipated

Twenty projects underway
Total expenditures in FY24: \$5,856,748
Future project idea solicitation in 2026

Bob Steed thinks the creation of funds for O&M is important and will help everyone in the future know what the limits are to how much we should pay for O&M, and how long it will last after the RP is done.

Sandy Treccani says it's stunning the massive volume of work that is being done.

Jocelyn Carver added a comment on the Big Creek Dam removal – they will need to connect later this summer for the BCR/BCRA repositories sampling when construction begins.

- Rebecca answered absolutely.

Elections

Andy opened up the discussion for the election of the TLG Chair and Vice Chair. Sharon Bosley nominated Rebecca for the Chair position. Jamie Brunner asked about the official TLG members, and Rebecca named off organizations that were represented. Discussions around the room on who can be nominated for chair positions, and the consensus that they could not be the general public. The TLG charter follows the governments representing the Basin Commission. Jamie seconded the motion for Rebecca to be the Chair – Rebecca accepted, and the motion passed, all approved **M/S/C**.

Next discussion was for the Vice Chair position – is anyone interested. Jamie asked whose names were on the TLG Roster and the requirements. Discussions around the room with input and reading of names of who were eligible. Sharon nominated Jamie for Vice Chair, Dave seconded – the motion passed, all approved **M/S/C**.

Updates from other agencies –

- Jamie announced staff changes at Coeur d’Alene DEQ.
- Corey from NRCS stated all their funding was on hold stopping payments to projects, even those that have been completed. Rebecca heard today that the funding freeze was uplifted, more updates to come.
- Eric Nicolai stated for the TLG Roster that he would replace Tyler Chatriand for the EPA, and that Jocelyn would co-represent.
- Kyle announced that a new trustee has been appointed to the CDA Trust. Dan Silver retired effective January 1st, and CDA Environmental has been selected, their president is Roberto Puga. He will give an update at the March BEIPC meeting. The Trust funds are still managed by Black Rock, and they budget for \$30 million/year, with a goal of reaching 95% of that.
- Sandra stated that Washington State Ecology hired a new director that started in January.
- Eric also stated EPA has hired a new Regional Administrator – Emma Pokon.

Other and schedule future meetings – hopefully set date for October.

Adjourn – Andy motioned to adjourn –second by Sandy – adjourned 3:34pm