

**Lakes Commission  
October 19, 2005 Meeting  
Minutes**

**Meeting commences at 9:05 a.m.**

Present:

Ford Elsaesser  
Linda Mitchell  
Craig Hill  
Susan Martin  
Curt Fransen

Absent:

Marc Brinkmeyer  
Brent Baker

Notes taken by Darla Kuhman

\*Ford has to leave early (11:10 a.m.)

**AGENDA:**

Introduction-Ford Elsaesser

Army Corps of Engineers-**Mathew Walden** gave update on water levels

Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game-**Chip Corsi** gave update on predation in Lake Pend Oreille

Presentation by Revett Minerals

Presentation by Rock Creek Alliance

Discussion

Executive Session-Employment

Adjourn

1. Introduction: Working on getting help for Commission, office, website, etc.
2. Update on Water levels (Matt Walton of COE): September water levels high. High winter level on Lake Pend Oreille (2055), same as “operating request” asked.
3. Update on predation in Lake Pend Oreille (Chip Corsi of IDFG): Lake and Rainbow trout #1 killers of kokanee. Encouraging Anglers to harvest both. Experts from Canada and Great Lakes recommend “aggressive approach” to keep Lake Trout population down. Grad student from Wisconsin doing research on Lake Whitefish (not much is known about local species). Corsi suggested that the Commission “might want to take an active role” in this issue and its management, as “we are really at a critical point with the kokanee population.”
4. Revett Minerals, Inc. presentation commences at **9:15 a.m.**
  - Bill Orchow (president/CEO of Revett Minerals, Inc) introduces Carson Rife, VP of Operation, and Doug Parker, Hydrologist.
  - Carson Rife gives PowerPoint presentation of information regarding to the proposed Rock Creek Mine and the existing Troy Mine (finished by **10:00 a.m.**)
  - All three guests answer questions, first from Commission, then audience.
  - Commission Questions (with answers from Revett):

Ford: “Where is the permit process at now?” Revett: Waiting for Record of Decision which depends on the Biological Opinion (there is currently a lawsuit regarding the Record of Decision).

Ford: “Why is it necessary to have the tailings so close to the Clark Fork?” Revett: It was where the land was available and appropriate for the facility.

Linda: “Clarify when you became Revett.” Revett: There was another mining company w/same name (“Sterling), became Revett in 1999 (named after the rock formation of the proposed mine). Mary Mitchell intervened to clarify which Sterling Linda was referring to and commented that there are “certainly some associations with failed mining ventures and bankruptcies in the past.”

Ford: “Who are the large shareholders?” Revett: There are 90 million shares; large shareholders are R.A.Hansen, Geiger Constructions, Hobart Teneff (of Pegasus Gold), and the rest in Canada. Kennecott owns 3 %, and ASARCO owns 5%, Robert Duval is a shareholder also.

Linda: “What do you intend to do with [grizzly habitat] property? Revett: Gets given to FS or conservation group, either way it’s off limits to exploitation (exploration, mining, etc).

Craig: “Would you drink the treated water?” Revett: “Yes.” Craig: “So it could be bottled and sold?” Revett: “Yes.” Craig: “Does it just dump into the river?” Revett: Because of bull trout issues there, the pipe is perforated and spans the width of the entire river.

Linda: “If that water is so pure, why is that necessary? Revett: Potential for affecting aquatic life (bull trout may be able to tell that treated water is different).

Craig: “Is there any smelting around the Rock Creek area?” Revett: No. It is shipped away by rail to a smelter elsewhere (not sure of location yet).

Susan: “What is the life of the mine?” Revett: 25 years, up to 35 including the whole process. Susan: “And you are not anticipating any acid mine drainage?” Revett: Studies conclude that it is not likely (the example of Troy, years of testing by the companies and state/federal agencies regarding chemistry of material. Neutral ph, not acidic.

Curt: “Are there any thermal issues with discharge?” Revett: It will be pretty cold water coming out of the mine; there is a thermal limit in the permits that hasn’t raised any flags yet. Curt: “Did you mention that the IDEQ approved something?” Revett: Not making decisions, but as a consulting agency, yes.

#### **10:30 a.m.:** Questions/comments from audience

#### **5. Presentation by Rock Creek Alliance (rebuttal) commences 11:00 a.m.**

- Mary Mitchell, Executive Director introduces the “community-based organization” and proceeds to give small presentation.
- Impacts on water quality and the health of Lake Pend Oreille, concern about metal levels listed in EIS, 10-year storm event, storm water retention ponds (untreated water), questioned water treatment system, leaky tailings impoundment of concern (“it is designed to leak”).

#### **6. Discussion of proposed Rock Creek Mine**

- Several members of the audience had questions/comments.
- Marcia Phillips of the Bonner County Board of Commissioners commented that her group has written a resolution in opposition to the mine (6/26/03), as they feel Bonner County is the “recipient of the negative impacts of what [Revett is] proposing.

#### **7. Meeting adjournment 11:45 a.m.**