

**Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee
Final Meeting Notes
September 17, 2008
Grace, Idaho**

Commitments Made at the September 17, 2008 Meeting	
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek consensus on Kackley and Cove Conservation Easement Management Plan via email. • Circulate MOA to ECC members for approval when edits are complete. • Circulate draft declaration of trust between Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust and PacifiCorp to ECC members for review and consensus. • Check with Shrier regarding BCT Restoration Plan information needs/whether it is clear which database information should be removed from the plan. Send GIS information on fish barriers to Shrier (it may be necessary for Teuscher to facilitate) • Speak with Gangemi about participating in the upcoming (Nov. 19) Black Canyon monitoring subcommittee meeting by phone/preparing a powerpoint presentation. • Speak with landowner Hopkins about an additional culvert project on Bailey Creek during 2009.
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with Jeff Horsburgh of USU Water Lab about attending an ECC meeting to discuss adding information on the ECC's conservation projects to the WIS database.
Shrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise BCT Restoration Plan based on ECC comments and additional information provided by ECC members.

*Items in blue have been carried over from previous meetings.

ECC Representatives Present:

Mark Stenberg, Environmental Coordinator, PacifiCorp
 Cary Myler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (participating by telephone)
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater (participating by telephone)

Others Present:

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp
 Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Brent Nichols, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Deb Mignogno, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Miriam Hugentobler, Project Coordinator

Decisions Made at this Meeting

- Approve purchase of a conservation easement on the Henderson property in the amount of \$420,000 + endowment (for a total cost not to exceed \$498,000) and authorize Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust to move forward with the purchase.

Review of Agenda and Notes from Previous Meeting

There were no additions to the day's agenda. Notes from the July meeting were approved without changes.

Review Action Items from July Meeting

Action items from the July meeting were reviewed. Items carried forward are indicated on the September commitments (above) in blue.

Updates

Long-Term Stewardship Funding

Stenberg updated ECC members on on-going discussions with Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) regarding long-term stewardship money. He said PacifiCorp will agree to be a signatory on an account for long-term stewardship funds. SSLT has drafted a declaration of trust. He said he will be asking for consensus from ECC members on managing the funds in perpetuity.

Black Canyon Monitoring

Stenberg said Oasis Environmental will be conducting monitoring in Black Canyon in early October (Oct. 6). Black Canyon monitoring subcommittee members will meet in conjunction with the November ECC meeting to discuss hypotheses for testing. The subcommittee will look at the study in terms of metrics set up in previous subcommittee meetings. Mladenka asked whether Gangemi (Oasis Environmental) could prepare a Powerpoint presentation or participate in the subcommittee meeting by phone. Stenberg will contact Gangemi.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Remand Decision – Cary Myler, USFWS

Myler updated the ECC on USFWS's recent decision not to list Bonneville cutthroat trout as threatened or endangered at this time. The decision was made public and noticed in the Federal Register on September 9, 2008.

Grant Projects

Stenberg updated the ECC on the following on-going grant projects:

- Wallen - 80 percent done
- Matthews - Stenberg will be meeting with Matthews. A lot of work has been done, with payments to be made as items are completed
- Clegg – Bolin has completed the Vegetation Plan.
- Wheeler – Work is ongoing, will keep at it until it is done.
- Harris – proceeding with work on an application to the ACOE for a 404 permit.

Stenberg informed ECC members of the availability of lava rock that PacifiCorp has available for conservation projects. He said ECC members may use the rock for projects if transport is feasible.

Alexander Site Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Alexander Site Plan is going forward, Davies said. Leases are now being redone. Surveyors will be out this month, marking property. Some seeding will be done. Native shrubs will be planted in coming years through partnerships. Buffers and fencing are going in. A map of the implementation area was shown and plans for future years were discussed.

Whitewater Boating Flow Ramp Rate Study

Stenberg said he has received the final report on the study. He has reviewed the report and returned it with comments. The final report will be available soon, he said, and will be distributed to ECC members via email.

IDFG Irrigation Diversion Inventory

Teuscher updated ECC members on the irrigation diversion inventory. He said data for the irrigation diversion inventory are in but have not been proofed. Teuscher said he will circulate the GIS information when it is complete.

Alexander and Oneida Reservoir Drawdowns

Stenberg informed ECC members of planned reservoir drawdowns at Alexander and Oneida during 2009.

The Alexander planned drawdown is scheduled to take place during October or November 2009, after irrigation season. He said it is anticipated that it will take 8-20 days to pull the reservoir down and described the procedure for drawdown. Stenberg said the last drawdown was in 1976. No problem with sediment was reported then, he said, but historical records may not be complete. He also told ECC members that because the reservoir would refill slowly, it will likely be down all winter and frozen.

The drawdown at Oneida would be take place during September or October 2009. The reservoir would be drawn down below dam crest (~13 ft), Stenberg said, and then refilled.

ECC members discussed a possible field reconnaissance during drawdown, which would include Stenberg, IDEQ, and IDFG. Stenberg said he would work on arrangements and will keep the ECC informed.

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust Project Updates– Joselin Matkins, SSLT

Harris Project

Matkins said the Harrises would like to place a conservation easement on their entire parcel, while SSLT and the ECC are interested in lower portion only. Matkin said SSLT has not yet made an offer. She said the Harrises do not seem to want to split the property. She said the tentative timeframe for this project is 2009. She said SSLT will continue to explore compromise, options, and perhaps entities that may be interested in upland portion.

Henderson Project

The appraisal for a conservation easement on this property has been completed and the easement appraised at \$622,000. Matkins noted there is development pressure in this area, which includes a cottonwood gallery. She said the landowner would be open to fencing off the river. Matkins said she has discussed the possibility of donating part of conservation easement with the landowner, and they would be willing to donate \$247,000. That would bring the ECC's portion to \$375,000 + miscellaneous costs to equal \$420,000. Total cost, with endowment, etc. would be ~\$498,000.

Stenberg asked to ECC to consider whether to approve the purchase amount and authorize SSLT to go forward.

Van Every asked about the West Cache Canal Company and whether there are any concerns regarding their easement on the property. Conder said there may not be a written easement. Matkins said she will look into that issue. Matkins then reviewed projected project cost from the draft purchase agreement (see cost spreadsheet, attached separately).

Stenberg said revisions to the MOA are currently under internal review and he will route the revised MOA to ECC members once that is complete.

Stenberg asked for a round table on whether the ECC would like to approve the purchase amount for the conservation easement, at a cost not to exceed \$498,000, and authorize SSLT to go forward.

Van Every – no further questions, in favor

Mladenka – in favor

Berglund – in favor

Mylar – in favor

Teuscher – in favor

Stenberg asked for consensus. A vote was taken and unanimous consensus to proceed was reached.

Next ECC Meeting

November 19, BLM offices, Pocatello, Idaho

Stenberg told ECC members to expect email from him regarding the Conservation easement and management plan, purchase agreement, declaration of trust, and MOA.