

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
December 9, 2015  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited  
 Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
 Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service  
 Cary Myler, U. S. Fish and Wildlife (Teuscher’s proxy)  
 Blaine Newman, Bureau of Land Management  
 Kathy Rinaldi, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

**Others Present**

Greg Mladenka, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Ryan Beatty, Bureau of Land Management  
 Steven Smith, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Tom Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 Babette Thorpe, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 John Sigler, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

**By Phone**

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

<b>Commitments Made at the October 2015 Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Share photos for the 2015 Annual Report (email to Hugentobler)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Turn in monitoring forms for any ECC projects members are responsible for monitoring.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Consider revision or amendment of the Comprehensive BCT Recovery Plan to include new information from Mabey. Schedule meeting time as needed. Invite Mabey and add to the ECC’s agenda.</a></li> </ul>
Funding Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Review state and ECC BCT plans prior to the upcoming ranking meeting.</a></li> </ul>
Mladenka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Review the ECC’s Streambank Stabilization Policy for possible updates.</a></li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Call email votes on Bushman fencing, 2016 whitewater boater flow calendar,</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Check in on Sweers habitat enhancement project. Provide update at next meeting.</a></li> </ul>
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Coordinate presentation on Cub River Channel Restoration in early 2016.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Provide an update on the Davis Diversion as work proceeds in spring.</a></li> </ul>
Action items in <a href="#">blue</a> have been carried over.	

### **Decisions Made at This Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

- Approved draft notes from the October ECC meeting.
- Approved the ECC's 2016 calendar.
- Approved revisions to the habitat enhancement project forms.

### **Email Decisions since the Last Meeting**

None

### **Items Added to the Day's Agenda**

- Update on Bushman fencing
- ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy
- Email from Lyman & Mabey regarding Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Plan priorities
- Funding subcommittee membership update
- Twin Lakes' Bear River Project Update
- Oneida Bypass spawning
- Grace Temperature Probe Data

### **Twin Lakes' Bear River Narrows Project**

Stenberg acknowledged ECC members who submitted comments on Twin Lake's Bear River Narrows draft EIS and said the group should continue to monitor the process. If there are inaccuracies in responses to the comments submitted, that should also be addressed during the process. Stenberg said a final decision on the project is expected from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in March 2016.

Stenberg noted that PacifiCorp has submitted its application for a boundary change (enlarging the FERC boundary) for Oneida to FERC. Also, FERC has recognized changes to the Oneida Site Plan. Van Every noted that a FERC notice was issued for the change in license to reflect the proposed boundary change. The deadline for comments is Dec. 30, 2015.

### **Meeting Notes**

October meeting notes were approved with edits from Teuscher and Stenberg.

### **2016 Calendar**

A draft 2016 ECC calendar was reviewed as an overhead. The draft calendar was discussed and finalized. A copy is included as Attachment 1.

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<sup>1</sup> See Land and Water Updates for additional decision making

## **Update to Project Application Form**

Proposed additions to the ECC's project forms were reviewed regarding overhead costs. The additions were made to show overhead cost and to identify the fund manager (for setup as a vendor). The updated forms were approved by the ECC.

## **Grant Project Updates**

**Davis Diversion** – DeRito said the Department of Lands' land use permit for the project was received. The contractor went up to the site on the Monday after Thanksgiving but the creek was already frozen. Work on the project will take place next spring.

**Cove Spring Reconnect** – Stenberg said the contractor reviewed revised plans and refused to build it as revised. He said the contractor believed it would fall apart. Stenberg said he had hoped to complete the project this year but work on design is continuing.

**Spawning Channel** – Stenberg noted that Oneida doesn't have habitat for all life stages of BCT. He said approximately 1000 feet of spawning channel will be built in Oneida Canyon above the plant, as approved last year.

DeRito will check with the contractor on **Cub River** work for a January presentation to the ECC.

**Bushman** – An additional \$27,000 in funding is needed to complete this fencing project. Initial estimates didn't include fencing both sides of the stream. Myler requested more information from the original project. Stenberg will compile feet of fence, new footage, and sources of funding, etc. The ECC will vote on additional funding via email.

The ECC adjourned to closed session to discuss land and water projects.

## **Boater Flow Calendar**

ECC members reviewed and discussed proposed 2016 dates for whitewater boater flows:

March 26, 27

April 8 & 9

April 23 & 24

May 6, 7 & 8

Stenberg said should any flows need to be cancelled because of low flow, they could be bumped to April 14 & 15 or April 21 & 22.

Myler asked about possible issues with bird nesting on the banks at earlier dates. He said he will ask refuge personnel and let the group know of any concerns within a week. He will also coordinate with Teuscher (IDFG).

Beatty asked about tie-ins with cottonwood, etc. Stenberg noted that whitewater boater flows don't go over the banks. Van Every asked if there would be issues with ice on Alexander during March flows. The ECC will decide on final dates by email vote.

### **Broodstock Ponds**

ECC members agreed to form a subcommittee to consider broodstock pond options. Members include Teuscher, Lyman, Myler, Stenberg, and DeRito.

### **BCT Plan Update**

Lyman said the Forest Service would like to get a working group together to prioritize. Mabey is interested in the Nounan reach, he said. Lyman said he wasn't informed on ECC's BCT study plan, and was more familiar with state plan. He asked when the ECC reviews and sets priorities. After 10 years? Work on the state plan and the ECC plan during same year? He said he thinks just an update is needed to include what we know now, etc. He said that would also help inform grant project ranking.

Action item: all ranking subcommittee should review state and ECC BCT study plan prior to ranking meeting.

### **IDEQ Temperature Data and Streambank Stabilization Policy**

Discussion was deferred to next meeting.

**Attachment 1: ECC's 2016 Calendar**

<b>Bear River ECC Calendar of 2016 Activities</b>	
Dec 9 (Wed)	Final ECC Meeting of 2015 – Pocatello
Jan 4 (Mon)	Email news release announcing availability of 2016 grant funds
Jan 13 (Wed)	2015 Annual Report to ECC for 30-day review
Jan 20 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting, may be converted to conference call. L&W and Habitat Enhancement Fund updates.
Feb 5 (Fri)	2016 grant funding proposals – short forms due from ECC sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler.
Feb 12 (Fri)	2015 Annual Report – end of 30-day review – ECC comments due
Feb 17 (Wed)	February 17, regular ECC meeting, Pocatello. Includes preliminary review of proposals.
Feb 19 (Fri)	Print-ready copy of 2015 Annual Report due
Feb 29 (Mon)	2015 Annual Report due to FERC (electronic filing); Funding proposal long forms due from project sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler
Mar 18 (Fri)	Funding subcommittee ranking meeting – Pocatello
April 20 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello - ECC votes on Funding Subcommittee recommendations. Recommendations go to PacifiCorp for review/approval.
Jun 15 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Grace – Hear PacifiCorp’s decision on 2016 projects.
Other Potential Meeting Dates	August 17, October 19 and December 7 or 14, 2016.