

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
June 30, 2016  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited  
David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service  
Blaine Newman, Bureau of Land Management  
Cary Myler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Kathy Rinaldi, Greater Yellowstone Service

**Others Present**

Aaron Swift Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Tom Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
Matt Lucia, guest  
Jeremy Jurik, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Tracy Casselman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ryan Beatty, Bureau of Land Management  
Ivars Stolcers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Babette Thorpe, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Stephen Smith, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

<b>Commitments Made at the June 30, 2016 Meeting</b>	
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring additional details on Oneida spawning channel from Cardo engineer to the next ECC meeting.</li> <li>• Bring 90 percent drawings of broodstock ponds to next ECC meeting. Speak to engineer about BMPs for outflow.</li> <li>• Project award letters</li> <li>• <a href="#">Arrange tour of Cove Reconnect for ECC members.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Check in with Bushman on additional fencing project. Provide update at next meeting.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Distribute Lyman’s email regarding Kackley Creek to the ECC.</a></li> </ul>
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Provide an update on the Davis Diversion as work proceeds.</a></li> </ul>
Action items in <a href="#">blue</a> have been carried over.	

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

- Approved edits to the ECC’s Streambank Stabilization Policy.
- Approved edits to project proposal and application forms.

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<sup>1</sup> See land and water fund updates for additional decisions.

## **Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Stenberg opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the day's agenda. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Oneida property short form review
- Final edits to the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy
- Twin Lakes' Bear River Narrows project Record of Decision

Newman noted that FERC has issued its Record of Decision for Twin Lakes' Bear River Narrows project. Twin Lakes has 30 days to appeal, he said.

## **Previous Notes and Action Items**

April meeting notes were approved with edits from Mladenka. Stenberg reviewed action items from the April meeting. Items carried over appear in blue in the action item table, above.

Stenberg requested that meeting participants send electronic materials that need to be viewed at ECC meetings to his email or by ftp with virus scan prior to the meeting rather than bringing jump drives. Alternatively, they may bring their own laptop to connect to the projector.

The ECC adjourned to closed session to discuss land and water fund updates.

## **Streambank Stabilization Policy**

Recent edits to the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy were reviewed with ECC members. ECC members approved the Streambank Stabilization Policy as edited. The updated policy will be posted to the ECC's website.

## **Harris Springs Project -Teuscher**

Teuscher said IDFG has held a meeting and site visit with the contractor for the Harris Springs project. The project should be done this summer/fall. He said IDFG is communicating with irrigators. They have asked for two weeks' notice and will be down for a month but are aware and supportive. Start date is not firm, he said. Stenberg asked who PacifiCorp should pay for the work. Teuscher said IDFG--they are paying the contractor. Thorpe addressed the land trust portion of the project. She said the attorney has said an easement amendment is needed and has told Union Pacific it has to be recorded before construction can proceed. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-July. Teuscher said August is more realistic. Sagebrush-Steppe will be responsible for monitoring the project three times a year for five years, Thorpe said. She said Union Pacific has everything they need from the land trust in order to proceed.

## **Grant Fund Updates – Stenberg**

**Oneida Bypass Spawning** – Stenberg showed a concept drawing of the project on a map projected overhead. He discussed a visit to the site after a 500 cfs release had occurred. He said that a lot of the gravel would be blown out of the middle channel in years similar to this year. He said he looked at one of the outer channels and noted the presence of gravel there (blue line on the drawing). He said the

channel could be isolated from releases below 1,500 cfs. Also, if gravels need to be supplemented in the future, it would be easier to access than the middle channel. The location is also easier to access for stocking and research. He said he thinks it's a better location. Teuscher asked about the ability to get flushing flow through the outer channel. Stenberg said yes, that is possible. Lyman said he was not able to picture the outer channel. He asked if it is braided. Stenberg said the middle channel is lower and there is also a third channel on the right bank. Mladenka described it as rocky and stepped and said it has lots of macrophytes right now. Flow is approximately 3-4 cfs. Lyman asked if there is a way to get the flows Teuscher asked about and asked if that would require building some type of structure. Stenberg said flows could be brought up to about 70 cfs in a controlled fashion. Van Every said it could be managed like a snowmelt stream using a gate or boards, and suggested putting some kind of a flow control structure on it. Stenberg said he thinks it is not a problem to get flushing flows at times when needed. Teuscher said it would have to be tested, otherwise we won't really know. Pipes would allow increase head during higher flows, and a larger pipe and board combo could be used. Mladenka asked how gravel would be distributed initially. Stenberg said a road and a path for a loader to use would have to be put in. Mladenka advised staying out of the channel. Stenberg said if gravel must be put back in, that will be a more difficult project. He said if gravel must be added later, it could possibly be put in at the top only and flushed into the system. Teuscher said the proper size gravel would be 2 ½ minus, not crushed. Stenberg said Lawrence Fox has suitable gravel and at his nearby pit. Stenberg said a high flow release could be used to distribute the gravel. Beatty said it seemed like flows would need to be managed more often than not. Lyman said the key to design is narrowing the channel. Stenberg said the channel is small. He said he will talk to the engineer about flows needed to move that size gravel if put in at the top. Mladenka said he expects to see it become something like Kackley, there will be some vegetation. Teuscher said he thinks there will be four or five spawning habitats, then lots of excellent rearing habitat. There will be about 10 miles of habitat for fish in this area. Mladenka said if flows get up to 1,000 cfs, it won't be possible to keep flows out of the channel. Stenberg said yes, it is possible. He said he has presented the concept to PacifiCorp internally to favorable reaction. He noted this project would likely require FERC approval. Stenberg will communicate the ECC's comments to the engineer, including adjust the flow, velocity needed to transport gravel, velocity for vegetation (keeping channel open), and maintenance flow. Stenberg will bring details from the Cardno engineer to the next meeting.

**Cove Broodstock Ponds** – Stenberg showed a conceptual site plan drawing from Cardno as an overhead and said the goal is to build the ponds this fall. He described some of the details. Van Every asked about outflow. Stenberg said it would be put into the river, or onto the ground. Van Every said some type of best management practices (BMPs) should be applied to the outflow. He suggested a finishing wetland. Stenberg said he will talk to the engineer about this. He noted that it drains toward Gilbert and needs to be kept on PacifiCorp property. Teuscher said IDFG would like to rely on natural production for food, with a supplemental feeder, so it would not be a traditional aquaculture facility. He noted there is already a depression below the pond and said a wetland could be enhanced there. Mladenka asked if the pond would have bottom gravel. Teuscher said a liner and bigger rocks, 3-6 inches, would be used so fish don't try to spawn there. Stenberg said he will bring 90 percent drawings to the next ECC meeting (or sooner if available).

**Cove Connection** – No update was available for this project.

### **2016 Habitat Enhancement Projects (PacifiCorp Review and Approval)**

Stenberg said PacifiCorp chose not to fund the two out-of-action-area projects, Cub River and Paris Creek. He said the company did not outright turn down the projects but added conditions to the

approval. Stenberg said he will work on award letters for approved projects next week. Proponents can expect to see them soon. Teuscher asked if he worked with the irrigation companies, could he still get approval for telemetry tags this year. Stenberg said yes.

### **Project Forms**

Stenberg reviewed changes to the project application and proposal forms. An additional edit was made at the meeting and the ECC approved the forms as edited. Final forms will be posted to the ECC's website.

### **Conservation Hatchery – Teuscher**

Teuscher provided an update on the conservation hatchery program, including numbers as of today. He said IDFG had spawned 27,351 eggs over the last 30 days. There are 16,000 live eggs now and there has been no culling for disease. He said they are still having trouble with fish spawning in the pond, so they are dealing with those types of issues, but are getting by. He said 30-40,000 fish had been released. IDFG backpacked fish into Black Canyon, into good water high in canyon. He said Hillyard will be monitoring river populations. He said it was the biggest year yet at the Kackley Springs trap. He said they are not seeing as many BCT as hoped for initially, but numbers are growing. Van Every asked if they had seen any wild rainbows. Teuscher said he didn't know, they kill them. He said IDFG electrofished and removed non-BCT (brown trout) last year and are planning to do it again this fall. He said they have taken some steps at the trap to keep fish from jumping over, but anglers may be helping them over. He said the biggest problem is still non-sterile rainbows in the Black Canyon but noted the new hatchery owners are doing a better job at following protocols.

### **Paris Creek – Stenberg**

Stenberg said it was good to look at this project even though it is not going forward. There just isn't enough water there, he said. Stenberg said he is still waiting for PacifiCorp management's decision on what to do with the plant. There has been no word as yet. If the decision is decommission, he said, water may not be left there. Paris relief is interested in piping. Pioneer wants to continue to take from the tailrace. Stenberg said he found out that rights from the forebay have not been used for a long time. He said he had Baldwin analyze this. He said drought has resulted in even less water to the plant. He said he has told PacifiCorp management that the proposed water swap is off. Stenberg is waiting for management to tell him the schedule to dispose of the plant.

### **Next Agenda**

The next ECC meeting will be held at Grace and will include site visits (Kackley restoration). Agenda items include:

- Funding request for Sagebrush Steppe's executive director position
- Oneida parcel update
- Oneida bypass spawning channel
- Broodstock Pond 90 percent design

A field day to include sampling at Dead Horse Springs was proposed for September 21.