

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
December 7, 2016  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
 Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service  
 Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)  
 Cary Myler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Ryan Beatty, Bureau of Land Management  
 Kathy Rinaldi, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
 Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited, by phone  
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater, by phone

**Others Present**

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, by phone  
 Aaron Swift, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, by phone  
 Nick Janus, Cardno, by phone  
 Michel Ybarrando, Cardno, by phone  
 Babette Thorpe, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT)  
 Tom Lucia, SSLT  
 Steven Smith, IDEQ  
 Kelly Conde, SSLT

**Voting Proxy**

Teuscher's proxy > Mladenka

<b>Commitments Made at the December 7, 2016 Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send photos for annual report to Hugentobler</li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat enhancement project funding flyer</li> <li>• Check project ranking form for edits</li> <li>• Work with Vincent/AW to finalize 2017 WWBF calendar</li> <li>• Continue to work with Paris Relief on water swap</li> <li>• Email Cove springs plan to the ECC. Work with SSLT on an access agreement for construction.</li> <li>• Speak with IDFG about a Kackley Springs presentation in February.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Water right application for broodstock ponds.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Send legal description for Gateway allowed use to Myler</a></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> </ul>
Myler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an informational copy of the USFWS conservation easement to the ECC when it is final (coordinate with Stenberg)</li> </ul>
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to the ECC on fish stocking and populations at Kackley</li> <li>• <a href="#">Provide 2016 invoice and summary report for Conservation Hatchery to Stenberg.</a></li> </ul>

<b>Commitments Made at the December 7, 2016 Meeting</b>	
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Beatty to the Funding subcommittee</li> <li>• Post revised project ranking form to website/bring to meeting</li> <li>• Next agenda – schedule SSLT at the beginning of meeting</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

**Decisions Made at this Meeting**

See Land and Water Fund Updates.

**Decisions Made by Email since Last Meeting**

None.

**Welcome and Review of Agenda**

The following items were added to the day’s agenda:

- Bear River Nexus project update
- PacifiCorp lands in Oneida Canyon

Stenberg gave a brief update, based on his observations this year, on PacifiCorp lands in Oneida Canyon where grazing has been discontinued. He said the area has become decadent rather quickly without grazing and mule deer numbers have reportedly been down. A solution is being sought and may include intense, focused grazing. Lucia asked how many acres were involved. Stenberg said more than 1200 acres plus 300-400 acres of agricultural land (meadow). Mladenka asked whether the area has been evaluated for other uses, for example by migratory birds, etc. Stenberg said this has not yet been done. Davies said she agreed with maintaining grazing as a land management tool (not losing the option to graze), the land can always be rested for conservation purposes if need be. Mladenka said he thinks the situation needs a broader look before deciding to put cows on it.

**ECC Calendar Review**

Stenberg reviewed a draft ECC calendar for 2017 (see Attachment 1). No revisions were requested. He noted that edits were made to the project ranking form during the 2016 ranking meeting and said these should be checked prior to the meeting. Stenberg reviewed a draft whitewater boater flow calendar for 2017 as an information item. PacifiCorp will work with American Whitewater to finalize boater flow dates for 2017.

## **Project Updates**

### **Paris Plant Sale/Water Swap**

Stenberg said there was nothing new to report on this project. PacifiCorp's goal is to sell the plant sometime during 2017. He said he plans to check with Paris Relief but if there is no movement, an RFP for the plant will be issued right after first of the year. He said he will schedule some meetings with Paris Relief to keep the process moving. The sink hole is their biggest issue, he said.

### **Cove Broodstock Ponds - Stenberg**

Stenberg showed 90 percent engineering drawings of the broodstock ponds as an overhead. He noted some changes were made to the outflow since the last time the ECC saw the plans. Stenberg said the project will be going out for bid first of next year. Stenberg said cost has not yet been finalized but he believes there is not enough money to do both ponds at this time. He said the project would likely go forward with one pond, with the other to be built later. Lyman said it would be important to know cost before the 2017 project ranking meeting. Stenberg reviewed the details of the plan. He noted concrete details were still needed. Stenberg said he is still discussing materials, etc. with Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

### **Cove Springs Connection - Stenberg**

Stenberg showed engineering drawings of the Cove Springs Connection as an overhead and reviewed details with the ECC. He said he will email the plans to ECC members for further review. He noted that an access agreement with SSLT will be needed for construction.

### **Oneida Bypass Spawning Channel – Stenberg and Cardno**

Stenberg said this is a longer term project--more survey data from the area is needed before proceeding and that can't happen until spring. He reviewed details of the plan. The project will include some kind of diversion structure. Concept flow is 1500 cfs. Stenberg noted that he has good internal support for this project. He said he has received comments from some ECC members, which he has shared with Cardno. Lyman discussed his comments. He said he hasn't been on site, but due to the long channel profile, he would like to see gradient structures. Cardno (Ybarrando) said they are placed at the head of the riffles. Lyman said be sure to oversize those structure and don't be afraid to go big. Ybarrando agreed. Stenberg asked whether Cardno wanted to be involved with the survey work or if he should just take care of it. Cardo said Stenberg could go ahead but they would like to have some input/be involved. Stenberg said he has also spent time talking with engineering about access and the bridge. He said it would be used for replenishing gravel and by IDFG for fish activities. An access road may need to be built. He said the project probably won't be built next year, as too much design work will be required and he thinks it will require FERC approval.

### **Kackley – Lyman**

Lyman said there is still has some funding remaining for this project. He said he visited the area with a hydrologist colleague, who thinks the area is somewhat out of whack. Lyman said he thinks more data is needed before proceeding with treatment (e.g., adding more length to system), including hydraulic modelling. He said he still wants to go out in December to survey and collect some data. He will then bring some recommendations to the group for spawning and gravel and habitat improvement (long

profile). Mladenka noted that a lot of brown trout have been removed from Kackley. He said he wondered how fish are doing there. Stenberg said Teuscher and Hillyard (IDFG) have information on fish populations in the area. He noted equipment will be down in the area for ECC projects in the spring. He said efficiency could be increased by doing some of this work at the same time. He also noted that Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) have sadly not been returning to Kackley. Stenberg said we should consider what we want Kackley to be, what is the vision? Do we want it to be a destination/ambassador for BCT fly fishing? Lyman said it's a great resource to have in the hands of PacifiCorp and SSLT. Stenberg said we should develop a vision for the area. He said he would like to have IDFG present information at the February ECC meeting.

**Mussler - Stenberg**

Stenberg said he spoke with Mussler the previous evening. He said he offered him rock from PacifiCorp's stockpile.

**Wheeler – Stenberg**

Stenberg said the project is complete. He said more rock was used than he was expecting to see. Mladenka said he keeps seeing this—maybe the ECC should clarify, perhaps include an elevation. He said he doesn't know who could require them to re-do it, and it's a delicate situation. He said it's better to prevent it from happening in the first place. He said perhaps the ECC should have someone on site when the projects are being built.

**Georgetown Summit - Smith**

Smith said it appears this project is moving after long delay.

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

**Attachment: 2017 ECC Calendar**

<b>Bear River ECC Calendar of 2017 Activities</b>	
Dec 7 (Wed)	Final ECC Meeting of 2015 – Pocatello
Jan 2 (Mon)	Email news release announcing availability of 2017 grant funds
Jan 11 (Wed)	2016 Annual Report to ECC for 30-day review
Jan 18 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting, may be converted to conference call. L&W and Habitat Enhancement Fund updates.
Feb 3 (Fri)	2017 grant funding proposals – short forms due from ECC sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler.
Feb 10 (Fri)	2016 Annual Report – end of 30-day review – ECC comments due
Feb 15 (Wed)	Regular ECC meeting, Pocatello. Includes preliminary review of proposals.
Feb 17 (Fri)	Print-ready copy of 2016 Annual Report due
Feb 28 (Tues)	2016 Annual Report due to FERC (electronic filing); Funding proposal long forms due from project sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler
Mar 15 (Wed)	Funding subcommittee ranking meeting – Pocatello
April 19 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello - ECC votes on Funding Subcommittee recommendations. Recommendations go to PacifiCorp for review/approval.
Jun 21 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Grace – Hear PacifiCorp’s decision on 2017 projects.
Other Potential Meeting Dates	August 16, October 18 and December 6 or 13, 2017.