

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
August 15, 2018  
Pocatello, Idaho**

<b>ECC Members Participating</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Mark Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Lynn Van Every	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jim DeRito	Trout Unlimited
	Corey Lyman	U.S. Forest Service
	Cary Myler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	David Teuscher	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
x	Mike Kuyper	Bureau of Land Management
	Charlie Vincent	American Whitewater
	Hunter Osborne	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
	Kirk Rich	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Susan Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Kevin Lewis	Idaho Rivers United

<b>Others Participating</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Eve Davies	PacifiCorp
x	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
	Kelly Conde	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Greg Mladenka	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jeremy Jirak	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	Tom Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Jamie Tsandes, principal environmental	Bowen Collins
x	Tyler Seamons, project engineer	Bowen Collins

<b>Commitments Made during the August 15, 2018 Meeting</b>	
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broodstock ponds - Follow up on algae buildup in pond and water right proof</li> <li>• Updates needed on Mussler, Bitton, Kempton and Screen Tender</li> <li>• Find out about river crossing access for Oneida Bypass</li> <li>• Gather information from landowner regarding FWS conservation easement project, as directed by ECC. Keep ECC informed</li> <li>• Send SSLT annual funding request out for approval by email vote</li> </ul>
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope for adaptive management plan for Station Creek beaver reintroduction for presentation at the October ECC meeting</li> </ul>
Bowen Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop draft report on Alexander Bypass BCT spawning channel based on information gathered at this meeting for presentation at the October ECC meeting</li> </ul>
Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project scoping report for Egley for October meeting</li> <li>• Speak with Larsen, report back to ECC in October</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

### **Email Decisions Made Since last ECC Meeting**

- Approved draft ECC meeting notes.
- Approved budget correction to Oneida bypass spawning channel, bringing 2018 habitat enhancement funding for this project to \$10,337.
- Approved land and water funding in the amount of \$600,000 for a conservation easement with USFWS. This reflects a change from 40 percent funding to 50 percent funding but a reduction in total ECC funds requested for the project.
- Approved land and water funding for fee title appraisal of a 20-acre parcel at Alexander Reservoir.

### **Decisions Made at This Meeting**

- Stenberg will meet with landowner on behalf of the ECC regarding rejection of an offer for a proposed conservation easement with USFWS.

### **Agenda Review**

Updates on the following projects were added to the agenda:

- Paris Creek and Paris Creek Hydro
- Station Creek
- Stauffer Creek

The potential land exchange near Alexander was removed from the agenda as there has been no action since the last meeting.

### **Meeting Notes**

February and April meeting notes were approved by email vote prior to this meeting.

### **Updates**

#### **Station Creek**

ECC members visited this site during the June field tour. Stenberg said Jay Wilde's presentation on Birch Creek was impressive.

#### **Conservation Hatchery**

Teuscher reported that IDFG currently has about 25,000 Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) in production. He said the new broodstock ponds have worked out very well. Fish were the healthiest they've seen and this was their biggest harvest yet. There was some algae buildup at the outflow in late July but corrective action was taken and it shouldn't happen again. Stenberg said a PacifiCorp operator noticed the problem and acted to correct it right away. A lined outflow area may need to be installed to address this problem as well as potential problems with ice buildup, he said. Stenberg added that he is working with Rocky Mountain Environmental on proof for the water right claim for the ponds. This is due in October, he said. He said believes he can cover the cost of the spring survey but not the proof.

## Habitat Enhancement Projects

**Bushman** – Stenberg said \$10,000 in habitat enhancement funding remains for this project.

**Mussler** – Stenberg will get an update on this project from the proponent. Some of the funding was dispersed to Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, he said. He will get an update on status of those funds.

**Bitton Bear River Water Supply** – Stenberg said Chris Banks has been working with the landowner on this project. Stenberg will get an update from landowner.

**Kempton Stauffer Creek** – Stenberg will get an update on this project from Lyman.

**Bartchi/Stauffer Creek** - Stenberg said he received an email update on this project from Lyman. Lyman requested time on the October agenda to provide an update to the ECC. He said Biota has developed goals and objectives for the project and data needs have been identified. The consultant is also digging into water rights issues in regard to removal of the dam. The project received a \$40,000 WINTI grant and Lyman has been using those funds to proceed. Stenberg said he liked the goals and objectives writeup and said he'd like to see other projects use a similar approach. DeRito agreed. He said the approach helps to get the project team and landowners working together.

**Station Creek** – As previously noted, ECC members visited the Station Creek site during the June field tour. Prior to viewing the Station Creek site, they visited an existing beaver restoration project on Birch Creek. The group also reviewed the state plan being developed for beaver restoration (modeling results) and met with adjacent landowners, although some landowners did not attend. Sam Smith expressed the most issues and concerns. His land is on the Bear River rather than Station Creek but he has had past problems with the canal that provides water to his property. At the June tour, he said he was not opposed to the project. However, when IDFG's wildlife manager spoke with him again he told the wildlife manager he did have a problem with the beaver reintroduction. Bouwles has suggested developing a beaver adaptive management plan for Station Creek as the next step. This will involve taking a step back from beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and engaging in a process similar to scoping. Adaptive management may involve elements such as trapping and moving beavers in areas where beavers block canals rather than lethal removal of beavers. Davies said she had some problem beavers at Cutler, and she worked with someone who trapped and moved them somewhere they were needed/desired. Teuscher said adaptive management would be a good process to go through but ultimately IDFG will be the ones who have to deal with any issues that arise. He said there isn't the kind of landowner support we were hoping for at Station Creek. He noted ebbs and flows of conflict in this area and suggested looking at an alternate location. He asked whether locating an alternative location might be part of the adaptive management process since some of the downstream landowners don't support the project. The canal is an ongoing concern, he said, especially for Sam Smith. DeRito said he thinks it's worth it to go through the adaptive management process. He said conflict is the very reason for going through the process. He also noted issues with beaver poaching on the Westerberg property, so patrolling would be required. He said he's hopeful that it's still possible to work through the issues. He said there is an approved project with a willing landowner who is not having his needs addressed if we don't move forward. Teuscher said he thought the project was not yet approved. Stenberg said it was approved with conditions that have not yet been met. Stenberg discussed piping the canal as a possible solution. Teuscher said IDFG would like to look for alternative sites. He said he doesn't think it's

possible to gain the support of adjacent landowners. DeRito said he would still like to go through the adaptive management plan process to try and address conflict. Stenberg said he would like to discuss the project further at the October ECC meeting, including alternative sites. He said proximity to Utah State University (USU) may be a concern in terms of alternative sites. He also asked what the scope of the adaptive management plan would look like. Stenberg said it appeared the project does not currently have the adjacent landowner support needed to move forward. He asked whether the path forward would be to cancel the project and move forward with adaptive management. Lucia said he believed the canal was the only issue and with that addressed landowners would be okay. Stenberg said piping the canal (i.e., fixing what's currently in place) could help address that concern but would require getting others involved.

Stenberg asked DeRito/Bouwes to bring a scope for an adaptive management plan to the October ECC meeting. He asked Teuscher to bring forward possible alternative sites. Teuscher said he won't be prepared to do so in October. IDFG is currently developing a plan for beaver, he said, and USU is providing a model of results for that plan in February. IDFG has a new biologist who will oversee the beaver program, he said. That could be a year down the road. DeRito said Bouwes could proceed with BRAT for the Bear River (alternative sites) and attend to discuss an adaptive management plan for October.

**Screen Tender** – Stenberg said he has not received an invoice for screen tender work this year. He will follow up with Teuscher.

#### **Review of Fund Balances**

Stenberg reviewed balances in the habitat enhancement and land and water conservation funds with the ECC.

#### **Habitat Enhancement Fund**

\$296,916 – Currently balance

\$197,000 – Unobligated grant funds

\$48,000 – Add Station Creek award back in

With the above and new funding, about \$470,000 will be available for habitat enhancement projects in 2019.

#### **Land and Water Fund**

\$1.457 million – Current balance

\$600,000 – Obligated for USFWS conservation easement

With the above and new funding, about \$1.864 million will be available for land and water projects in 2019.

#### **Oneida Bypass Reach Spawning Channel – Bowen Collins**

Project consultants from Bowen Collins were present to discuss preliminary concepts for the Oneida bypass reach spawning channel and review site data. Tsandes (project manager) introduced herself and

Seamons (project engineer). She noted the project area was toured during the ECC's June site visit and showed photos.

Tsandes gave a Powerpoint presentation detailing channel alignment and access options for the project which she reviewed as a menu of options.

Access Road – Least expensive alternative

Bridge – Next least expensive

Cardno Alternative – Dam with bypass

Channel Alignment – Bowen Collins developed with alternative

Pilot Area – Try bringing in gravel and see if it will work for fish

Seamons said he looked at data from the gage just downstream, and the 1500 cfs flushing flow coincides with the 100-year flow at that gage. Van Every said he believes the 100-year flood is much greater in that area. Stenberg discussed 1983-84 flows, which were much greater.

Tsandes presented a map of the alternatives and reviewed estimated costs.

#### **Channel Alternatives**

Channel Alternative 1 - \$170,000

Channel Alternative 2 - \$115,000

Channel Alternative 3 - \$205,000

Potential Pilot Area - \$35,000

Stenberg asked about length. Seamons said all are about 750 feet.

#### **Access Alternatives**

Dam Access - \$410,000 – Tsandes said this alternative is not favored due to the level of disruption

New Access Road - \$75,000

Option 1 Culvert - \$100,000

Option 2 Temporary Crossing - \$25,000

Existing Access Extension - \$50,000

All told, the project is expected to cost \$200,000 to \$250,000

Stenberg discussed the recent cleaning off of the dam toe by PacifiCorp. He said at low flow it may be possible to drive equipment across the river. He will double check and let Tsandes know.

Mladenka said it is a lot of money if the fish don't like it. He said it would be good to try a pilot. He noted that fill would have to be cleaned on a regular basis by flows or it won't be usable. Stenberg said PacifiCorp does gate testing that could do it whenever these flows are needed as long as the reach is not

iced up. Teuscher suggested April for flushing flows. Mladenka asked whether attraction flows would be needed. Teuscher said other options may be bringing in eggs or fish.

The following points were noted:

#### **Flows**

- Flushing flows are required
- PacifiCorp can create these flows anytime, IDFG suggests April
- Attraction flows may also be needed

#### **Pilot**

- Move in wild BCT (source: Cub River) that are ready to spawn
- Prevent them from leaving, possibly using a picket weir
- Check to see if they construct redds

Mladenka said a structure may not be needed as much as directing flows and then managing water (i.e., flushing flows).

In regard to spawning, Tsandes asked whether a continual flow of fresh water was needed or flat water. Teuscher said 1 to 1 1/2 percent slopes are preferred. He said he thinks 0.5 percent slopes would not be used by BCT. Tsandes said the goal is to provide ideal conditions, including a complex of riffles and pools, dialing in slopes. Rocks or artificial structures will be used. Channel will be 6 to 8 inches deep. Teuscher said he would like to review the literature. He also noted BCT prefer to be close to cover. Tsandes said large rock could provide that. Teuscher said there would be less risk if something were constructed that could direct 20 cfs down the channel. The group discussed natural vs constructed channel and asked whether gate flow test releases could be gradual. The annual motor testing may be imperceptible vs full open tests that are required every five years. Tsandes suggested using rock vanes in the test area, then flush and see if it holds up.

#### **Summary**

##### **Channel**

- Everything in one channel - Their recommendation would be to keep it in the main, forcing low flows into the main.
- Two options – Natural floodplain vs. constructed structure with overflow channel.

Bowen Collins will further develop alternatives as discussed.

##### **Access**

- Temporary access, nothing permanent. Stenberg will check on access used for previous project.

Stenberg asked ECC members how they felt about the cost associated with access. Mladenka and Van Every said crossing the river for access should be okay if it helps keep cost down.

Stenberg said he likes the idea of a test but noted that a lot of the work would fall on IDFG. Mladenka said it wouldn't make sense to proceed and spend large amount of money without knowing whether it will work.

Water temperatures were discussed. Van Every will supply temperatures from IDEQ's HOBOS to Bowen Collins. Teuscher said the temperatures look a little warm for BCT. Ideal temperature for BCT is 12-14°C, he said.

Tsandes said she will add concepts discussed today and develop the preferred alternative. She will have a draft report capturing concepts in October. Stenberg asked what everyone thought about a test. He asked if it would end up adding \$35,000 to cost. Tsandes said a vane would be constructed for the test in the area ultimately proposed and access, etc. would still be needed.

Stenberg briefly discussed PacifiCorp's best management practices (BMPs) for working in/crossing the river (i.e., equipment would be clean, inspected, a boom would be put in place downstream, etc.).

#### **Next ECC Meeting October 17**

- Update on Bartschi/Stauffer Creek – Lyman
- Adaptive Management Plan for beaver reintroduction
- Oneida Bypass BCT Spawning Channel draft report, Preferred Alternative – Bowen Collins
- Revisit Mink Creek parcel (one of two under consideration)
- Project scoping report for other Mink Creek parcel
- USFWS conservation easement update
- Calendar, boater flow schedule

#### **Maintenance Notification**

Stenberg said a drawdown may be needed at Alexander for gate seals. He said he'll let the ECC know by email.

**Bear River ECC – Record of Email Voting  
Approval of Draft Meeting Notes, February and April 2018  
Vote Called by Hugentobler, July 16, 2018**

**From:** Miriam Hugentobler

**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 5:41 PM

**To:** 'Matt Lucia'; 'Cary Myler'; 'Charlie Vincent'; 'Dave Teuscher'; 'Hunter Osborne'; 'Jim DeRito'; 'Kathy Rinaldi'; 'Kevin Lewis'; 'Kirk Rich'; 'Lee Mabey'; Lynn Vanevery; 'Mark Stenberg'; 'Ryan Beatty'; 'Susan Rosebrough'

**Cc:** 'Corey Lyman'; 'Dan Miller'; 'Eve Davies'; Greg Mladenka; 'Jeremy Jirak'; 'Kevin Colburn'; 'Ryan Hillyard'; 'Warren Colyer'; 'Allison Michalski'; 'Kelly Conde'; Kuyper, Michael

**Subject:** Bear River ECC - Email Vote to Approve Draft Meeting Notes

ECC Members and Alternates:

No edits were proposed to the draft February or April meeting notes (attached). An email vote is requested to approve both sets of notes. Please respond by Monday, July 23.

Thank you,

Miriam Hugentobler

Bear River ECC

**Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting  
Approval of Draft Meeting Notes, February and April 2018  
Vote Called by Hugentobler, July 16, 2018**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	Lyman	USFS
	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
yes	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
yes	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
yes	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
	Myler	USFWS

**Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting**  
**Funding for Oneida Spawning Channel – Additional Funding Request**  
**Voted Called by Stenberg, September 14, 2018**

**From:** "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@pacificorp.com>

**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 at 2:35 PM

**To:** Blaine Newman <blaine\_newman@blm.gov>, "cary\_myler@fws.gov" <cary\_myler@fws.gov>, Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>, "Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com)" <hosborne@sbtribes.com>, James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>, "Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org)" <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>, Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>, "Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov)" <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>, "Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>, "Susan\_Rosebrough@nps.gov" <Susan\_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, "Teuscher,David" <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Aaron Swift (aswift@RMEF.ORG)" <aswift@RMEF.ORG>, Allison Michalski <amichalski@greateryellowstone.org>, "Beatty, Ryan" <rbeatty@blm.gov>, Bob Zimmer <bzimmer@greateryellowstone.org>, "Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>, "dan\_miller@nps.gov" <dan\_miller@nps.gov>, Eve Davies <Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com>, Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>, "Hillyard,Ryan" <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Jeremy Jirak (jeremy\_jirak@fws.gov)" <jeremy\_jirak@fws.gov>, 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, "Michael Kuyper (mkuyper@blm.gov)" <mkuyper@blm.gov>, Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>

**Subject:** Oneida Spawning Channel - Additional Budget Request Email Vote

Hello Everyone,

Jamie and I caught up about the tasks we have completed and what we heard the ECC members at the August meeting indicate they wanted to see at the October meeting.

To recap, we had authorized \$10,337 of funds to work through task 3.2.1. See task list at the end of the email. To date, data gathering, site visit, conceptual design preparation and conceptual design meeting was held with the ECC. Part of the hydraulic modelling was completed to prepare for ECC meeting. The partial look at hydraulic modelling is not in the tasks up to 3.2.1 but was needed to get the most benefit from ECC discussion.

I think the complexity of the project and alternatives, despite our best intentions in the development of a scope of work, has necessitated a more lengthy alternative discussion with an extra ECC discussion being needed. Relevant side note: I found out that our bridge is good to 29 tons not 10 tons as was my understanding. It was rated to 10 tons but we fixed the decking a few years back and that restored its rating. This change will help immensely with site access.

I am proposing that we authorize funds to cover the remaining tasks in section 3.2 (\$8,930) so the following work items can be completed and we can have the conceptual plan we are looking for:

- Finalize the hydraulic model
- Prepare a preferred alternative based on the ECC August meeting
- Attend the ECC October meeting to present and discuss the preferred alternative
- Prepare a memorandum with the final recommended alternative

See scope of work task table below. Highlighted tasks are completed, with the exception of the hydraulic model which is partial completed

**Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting  
Oneida Spawning Channel – Additional Funding Request  
Vote Called by Stenberg, September 14, 2018**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	Lyman	USFS
	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
	Van Every	IDEQ
	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
x	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
	Myler	USFWS

**From:** "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@pacificorp.com>

**Date:** Friday, May 11, 2018 at 3:11 PM

**To:** "Aaron Swift (aswift@RMEF.ORG)" <aswift@RMEF.ORG>, Allison Michalski <amichalski@greateryellowstone.org>, "Beatty, Ryan" <rbeatty@blm.gov>, Bob Zimmer <bzimmer@greateryellowstone.org>, "Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>, "dan\_miller@nps.gov" <dan\_miller@nps.gov>, Eve Davies <Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com>, Garry Ratzlaff <Garry@ddcllc.net>, Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>, "Hillyard,Ryan" <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Jeremy Jirak (jeremy\_jirak@fws.gov)" <jeremy\_jirak@fws.gov>, 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>, Blaine Newman <blaine\_newman@blm.gov>, "cary\_myler@fws.gov" <cary\_myler@fws.gov>, Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>, "Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com)" <hosborne@sbtribes.com>, James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>, "Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org)" <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>, Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>, "Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov)" <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>, "Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>, "Susan\_Rosebrough@nps.gov" <Susan\_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, "Teuscher,David" <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>

**Subject:** Follow up from 4.18.2018 ECC MTG

Good Afternoon,

At our last ECC meeting we had consensus on two items but we didn't notice a vote on the agenda.

The first item was a change in funding amount for the Fox Conservation Easement. The original approval was for \$1m. Because of the reduced appraised value of the conservation easement the amount requested from the ECC's Land and Water Conservation Fund is \$600k. This is a change from 40% funding to 50% funding but a reduction in total ECC funds requested for the project.

The second item is funding a fee title appraisal for the 20 acre Gunnel parcel at Alexander Reservoir.

Please respond to Miriam and myself with your email vote on these two items.

Best Regards,

Mark Stenberg, MBA  
PacifiCorp – Renewable Resources  
Hydro License Program Manager – Idaho  
208 547-730

<b>Bear River ECC  Record of Email Voting  Approval of Funding for Alexander Reservoir/Gunnel Appraisal  Vote Called by Stenberg, May 11, 2018</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
yes	Lyman	USFS
yes	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
yes	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
yes	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
yes	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Myler	USFWS

<b>Bear River ECC  Record of Email Voting  Approval of Funding for USFWS/Fox Conservation Easement  Vote Called by Stenberg, May 11, 2018</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
yes	Lyman	USFS
yes	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
yes	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
yes	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
yes	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Myler	USFWS