

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
March 18, 2020
Online Meeting**

ECC Members Present		
	Name	Organization
x	Mark Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Lynn Van Every	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jim DeRito	Trout Unlimited
x	Corey Lyman	U.S. Forest Service
x	Matt Bringham	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	Carson Watkins	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
x	Ryan Beatty	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

Others Present		
	Name	Organization
x	Eve Davies	PacifiCorp
x	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Ryan Hillyard	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Taylor Payne (for Paris discussion)	

Commitments Made at the March 18, 2020 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long forms (project applications) are due to Stenberg and Hugentobler April 3, 2020. Subcommittee to review and rank by conference call, April 15, 2020. Current members: Stenberg, Davies, Beatty, Hillyard, Watkins, Van Every, Bringham, DeRito, Lyman.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email vote to expedite approval of the IDFG's broodstock pond netting. Obtain cost estimate for Mink Creek water right analysis. Update Paris Water Swap/Decommissioning Concept Paper (to include financial information in Section 2 and include BLM and USFS land on map). Distribute to ECC when complete.
Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects. Review priority projects with the ECC in spring. <u>Priority will be NRCS for B&R Ranch</u>
Watkins, Hillyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek. Summarize Twin Lakes data. Consider future sampling. Document repairs to fish screens funded by the ECC in the annual conservation hatchery report (yearly--going forward). Contact Chris Banks to discuss the possibility of a larger project with additional landowners on Steve's Creek and coordinate site visits. <u>Consider a site visit in June.</u> Conduct redd counts at Kackley Springs this field season. Consider electrofishing West Cache Canal.
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information on upcoming review of stream structures with ECC members. <u>Mink Creek upcoming</u>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Decisions Made by Email Since Last ECC Meeting¹

- Approved additional funding in the amount of \$12,519.43 from the land and water conservation fund for a long-term stewardship payment of \$37,500 for the Larsen Conservation Property.

Decisions Made at This Meeting²

- Approved draft January 2020 ECC meeting notes.

Action Items

Action items from the January meeting were reviewed. Items carried over appear in blue in the commitments table, above.

Calendar Review

Long forms (applications) for 2020 habitat enhancement projects are due April 3. The Funding subcommittee will meet April 15 to rank projects. The next regular ECC meeting will take place May 20. The ECC will vote on the subcommittee's recommendations at that time.

Review of 2020 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals

The ECC briefly reviewed 2020 project proposals (short forms) to identify any questions ECC members may have about the projects prior to ranking.

Fish Screen Tender

Project Sponsor: Hillyard, IDFG
ECC Sponsor: Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Funds Manager: Watkins, IDFG

This project is funded by the ECC annually for staffing of an IDFG employee to monitor fish screens funded and/or supported by the ECC. IDFG requested a funding increase to \$30,000 for the year 2020. Hillyard reviewed the proposal with ECC members. There were no questions from the ECC.

Fish Screen Repairs

Project Sponsor: Hillyard, IDFG
ECC Sponsor: Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Funds Manager: Watkins, IDFG

¹ Record of voting is included in Attachment 1.

² See Land and Water Fund Updates for additional decisions.

This project is an annual set-aside for repair and maintenance of fish screens funded by the ECC. The amount requested is \$5,000. Hillyard reviewed the proposal with ECC members. There were no questions.

Broodstock Pond Netting

Project Sponsor: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG
ECC Sponsor: Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Funds Manager: Watkins, IDFG

This project is for the purchase of netting to exclude predatory birds from the Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) broodstock ponds. The amount requested is \$13,750. Hillyard reviewed the proposal with ECC members. He said netting would be a longer-term solution and more economical than using an employee to control birds. He reviewed the effect of birds—primarily cormorants—on the ponds and noted that these effects increased during 2019. He said given the timeline for habitat enhancement project funding, the netting probably could not be installed in time to lessen predation by migrating birds this year. Lyman asked whether ECC funding for the project could be expedited. Van Every asked what type of infrastructure was needed for the netting. Hillyard said posts have already been installed and the netting would be connected with aircraft cable so that it doesn't sag into the ponds. Van Every asked about labor. Watkins said internal, hatchery, or ECC volunteers could install the netting. Van Every said he agreed with expediting funds for this project. Stenberg agreed to call an email vote for expedited approval of funding for the project immediately after the meeting. Stenberg asked if the whole pond was a priority, or just the area around the fish ladder. Hillyard said netting for the whole pond was needed to exclude cormorants. Smith asked whether the netting was removable for winter. Hillyard said yes.

Paris Creek Diversion Design

Project Sponsor: Jim DeRito, TU
ECC Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Funds Manager: Corey Lyman, USFS

This project is for planning, design, and construction of a new point of diversion for irrigation canals on Paris Creek. Amount requested is \$71,500. Prior to review of the proposal, Stenberg provided an update on Paris decommissioning. Stenberg said he has updated the concept paper and it will serve as the decommissioning plan with the Forest Service. PacifiCorp is currently updating the economic analyses, which should be complete within the next month. Stenberg will distribute it for review, then proceed with an agreement building from the concept paper. He said if the ECC approves it at the May meeting, this should coincide with PacifiCorp's internal regulatory process. Out-of-action projects are subject to approval by May 20, and the project could begin late this year or early next year. Stenberg said the canal company is working on the stock watering piece of the project and is also coordinating with NRCS. They plan to seek funding from NRCS for stock watering.

Taylor Payne (Paris Relief) joined the meeting. Stenberg asked about current thinking on point of diversion on the Forest. Payne said Paris City has a point with an overflow. They would like to connect at that point to reduce cost. Also, some elevation would be gained for a gravity system. So far, this is just a proposed idea and permissions would be needed. If this option fails, they will look at other options.

DeRito reviewed the diversion design proposal. He said the first step would be to identify and talk to any landowner(s). Next, an engineering firm would be hired and meetings would begin. He said he would want to make any diversion fish friendly, providing both upstream and downstream passage.

Smith noted that Chris Banks is applying for a BOR grant for Paris Relief that may help with this project. DeRito asked if stock watering could be tied into the BOR grant. Payne will inquire.

Mill Hollow Aquatic Organism Passage

Project Sponsor: Lee Mabey, USFS

ECC Sponsor: Corey Lyman, USFS

Funds Manager: Lee Mabey, USFS

This project is to enlarge a road/stream crossing to enhance fish passage to 0.5 mile of Mill Hollow. The project will also allow for continued beaver expansion throughout the drainage, improving BCT habitat. The request is \$40,000. Lyman reviewed the proposal with the ECC. He said the project is located in a beaver restoration area on National Forest land. It would replace the culvert that drains Mill Creek into Birch Creek, which is tributary to Mink Creek. He said \$40,000 in complementary funding has already been awarded by the USFWS National Fish Passage Program. There were no questions.

Kackley and Cove Springs Riparian Habitat Restoration

Project Sponsor: Jared Meyers, SSLT

ECC Sponsor: Ryan Beatty, BLM

Funds Manager: Matt Lucia, SSLT

This project is proposed in follow-up to recent Russian olive removal in this area. The goal is to replace non-native vegetation with native riparian species, providing shade and cover for BCT and allowing for expansion of native vegetation. The request is \$26,000. Lucia reviewed the proposal with the ECC. He said the in-kind match is largely volunteer labor. BLM is contributing plant material, transportation, and some labor. The project will include an irrigation system. Lucia said the site is prepped and ready, but the project has been delayed until fall. Beatty noted that some banks will be challenging to plant. Hillyard asked about the plan for incised banks. Lucia said equipment would be brought in (i.e., an auger). Hillyard asked if there had been any thought to bringing in beaver dam analogs (BDAs). Beatty said not currently.

Cottonwood Creek Habitat Enhancement

Project Sponsor: Kurt Iverson, LDS Church

ECC Sponsor: Lynn Van Every, IDEQ

Funds Manager: Franklin SWCD

This project is to restore 250 feet of streambank on Cottonwood Creek by installing toe rock and willow clumps. The request is for \$13,500. Smith reviewed the proposal with ECC members. Beatty said land use at this location doesn't appear to be light. Smith said there is currently camping with vehicle access to water's edge. He said this area could be fenced and boulders added as a buffer. Stenberg asked who would do the permitting for the project. Smith said he would help. DeRito said it is a good project—there are lots of cutthroat in this area. It was noted that a bridge in the immediate area needs to be redone. DeRito advised keeping that project separate but recommended it for future consideration. He said pool habitat here should be retained.

Bear Creek Water Right

Project Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

ECC Sponsor: Jim DeRito, TU

Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

This project would fund a comprehensive water rights report for all diversions on Bear Creek. Stenberg said the request on the proposal was incorrect, the correct amount is \$2,500. This is a planning project, he said, so it may be difficult to rank. The information obtained will be used to inform and improve projects current and future projects on Bear Creek. There were no questions from the ECC.

Bear Creek Conservation

Project Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

ECC Sponsor: Cary Myler, USFWS

Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

This project would fund a comprehensive design report and installation of beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures, and wood additions to two streams. The request is \$42,000. Stenberg reviewed the proposal. He said beaver were present in this area up until the 1990s, and a lot of fish were present at that time. However, the beaver dams were blasted out. This project would build on work by Westerberg on Station Creek and has the potential to benefit the downstream reach through increased water supply. Stenberg noted that [landowner] Fellows would like to update/improve irrigation design on this property. There were no questions on the proposal.

Summary – Stenberg

Project proposals this year total \$245,000. The amount available for 2020 habitat enhancement projects is \$481,000 (amount currently unobligated in the habitat enhancement fund). Stenberg noted this means the ECC has proposals for about half the available funding.

Follow-up Item: Beatty noted he did quick check on land ownership at the bridge on Cottonwood Creek. It is owned by the county. He said BLM has no right-of-way with them.

Attachment 1 – Record of Email Voting

Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting
Larsen Property - Long Term Stewardship Payment Budget Increase
Voted Called by Stenberg
January 23, 2020

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

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 10:43 AM

To: Allison Michalski <amichalski@greateryellowstone.org>, "Beatty, Ryan" <rbeatty@blm.gov>, "Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>, "dan_miller@nps.gov" <dan_miller@nps.gov>, Eve Davies <Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com>, "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>, 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>, "Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, "Mathew Bringhurst (matthew_bringhurst@fws.gov)" <matthew_bringhurst@fws.gov>, Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>, "Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov" <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, "Watkins,Carson" <carson.watkins@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: Matt Lucia <matt@sagebrushlandtrust.org>, Kelly Conde <kelly@sagebrushlandtrust.org>

Subject: ECC Email Vote - Larsen Conservation Property Long-Term Stewardship Payment

Hello ECC Members and Alternates,

The approved budget in the Larsen Conservation Property Project Scoping Report (PSR) is \$219,811, we have paid \$10,049 for due diligence, \$179,000 for closing and \$4,780 for final closing and due diligence expenses. This leaves a balance of \$24,980. The PSR budget had a line item for \$19,555 for property management/taxes/maintenance.

Kelly and I sat down in December and updated the lump sum payment calculator for long-term stewardship funding and came up with \$37,500 needed for the long-term stewardship funding lump sum payment for this property (*See background about lump sum long-term stewardship payments at the end of this email*).

This leaves us \$12,519.43 short in the PSR budget of making the needed lump sum payment for long-term stewardship. Please respond to this email with your vote of approval, or not, of additional funding of \$12,519.43 so a long-term stewardship payment of \$37,500 can be made for the Larsen Conservation Property. Please let me know if you have questions.

Background for new people – Way back...the ECC agreed to a two-prong approach to cover annual monitoring and maintenance costs for properties (both fee title and conservation easements) purchased from the land and water fund. The first component was agreement to pay on an annual basis the monitoring and maintenance costs incurred by the Land Trust through the term of the Bear River Hydro License. We settle up on these once a year and make a payment. The second part is a lump sum payment that is made to our D.A. Davidson account. This lump sum payment is calculated to account for inflation and potential earnings and hopefully result in amounts in the long-term stewardship fund at license expiration that will allow the Land Trust to monitor and manage the properties using the earning from the fund going forward.

Mark Stenberg, MBA
Senior Operations Project Manager
PacifiCorp – Renewable Resources
(208) 547-7305

Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting Larsen Property Long Term Stewardship Payment Budget Increase Vote Called by Stenberg, January 23, 2020		
	Name	Organization
x	Lyman	USFS
x	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
x	Van Every	IDEQ
x	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
x	Watkins	Idaho Fish and Game
x	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
x	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
x	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Bringhurst	USFWS