Stewardship and Community Engagement Committee Update

July 2019
Mission and Goals

- **Mission:** Maintain the health of the Escalante River through the engagement of local and visiting communities in stewardship/volunteer projects and education programs.

- **Goals:**
  - Develop a consistent and well-designed volunteer program that increases the capacity of the ERWP to maintain the watershed over-time.
  - Develop a collaborative model for working with local schools and other non-profits (e.g. science center) to incorporate information about the ecology of the Escalante River into their curriculum/content.
Committee Members

- Chair: Kristen Jespersen, RiversEdge West
- Nicole Croft, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
- Amanda Boston, Glen Canyon Conservancy
- Joe Zelman, Utah Conservation Corps
Strategies

- **Near-Term**
  - Reach out to the three federal agencies to find out what their priority and volunteer-appropriate projects are.
  - Develop an approach for coordinating and staffing 2 to 3 volunteer events in the next year.
  - Work with GSEP to fundraise for and support the hiring of a Volunteer Coordinator that could contribute modest capacity to this effort.
  - Work with Conservation Corps to figure out how and whether we can use their crew leader to oversee volunteer events.

- **Long-Term**
  - Establish regular volunteer events for local community members and visitors e.g. “Service Saturdays”.
  - Work with hotels, guide services, etc... to outreach these events and bring in visitors.
  - Work with local schools to pair STEM education with youth volunteer event opportunities.
  - Outreach to universities and other education programs to identify complimentary volunteer/field work opportunities.
Possible Funding

- Sorenson Legacy Foundation
- National Park Conservation Association
- National Environmental Education Fund
- STEM grants
- George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation?
- Apply for VISTA to oversee the program?