

Meeting Minutes of the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program Board

Date: August 12, 2011
Time: 9:00 am to 5:30 pm
Location: Crook County Library
175 Meadow Lakes Drive
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Type of Meeting:	Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program Board
Board Members Present:	Gary Soderstrom, Bob Bumstead, Terry Learned, Dixie Boley, Lonnie Johnson, Bill Lovelace
Board Absent:	Jack Glass
ODFW Staff:	Jeff Yanke, Terry Shrader, Kelly Reis, Seth Morgan, Ron Rehn, Tim Bailey, Shivonne Nesbit, Josie Thompson, Rhine Messmer, Debbi Farrell
Public:	Jim Yuskavitch, Dan Kleinsmith, Steve Meshke, Matt Swanson, Russell Bassett, Ron Byrd, Ed Keene, Elise Hammer, Aaron Simons, Dan Delaney

Agenda

Friday, August 12, 2011

- Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Approval
- Approval of April 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Board Member Reports
- Selection of New Commercial Troll Fishing Representative, Staff Update, Terry Learned Retirement
- Recent or New Emergency Requests, Amendment Requests, Completion Reports
- Administrative Update
- 2009-2011 Budget Status
- 2011-2013 Budget Update
- Project Presentations
- Project Recommendations
- Public Comment

Saturday, August 13, 2011

- Tour of Crooked River, Bowman Dam & Prineville Youth Fishing Pond (Mike Harrington, Tim Porter)

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Dixie Boley called the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

Meeting Agenda

The Board reviewed the proposed agenda.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

Approval of April 28-29,2011 Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the April 28-29, 2011, meeting minutes. One correction made to page 3 of the April 28th minutes.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to approve the April 28-29, 2011, meeting minutes with correction. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

Board Member Reports

Board members reported on restoration and enhancement activities in their area.

Gary Soderstrom – Representing Gillnet Fishing

Bob Bumstead – Representing Sport Fishing

Terry Learned – Representing Troll Fishing

Dixie Boley – Representing Seafood Processing

Lonnie Johnson – Representing Sport Fishing

Bill Lovelace – Public-at-Large Member

Lonnie Johnson shared that he and Jack Glass have been invited by Debbie Colbert, ODFW Deputy Director of Administration to be a part of a review of the Department's Budget. The first meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2011 in Salem.

Selection of New Commercial Troll Fishing Representative, Staff Update

Josie Thompson, Acting R&E Program Coordinator provided the following updates:

- One applicant was interviewed for the upcoming vacancy as the Troll Fishing Representative. The Commission confirmed John Alto's appointment as the Troll Fishing Representative on the R&E Board at their August 5, 2011 meeting. L. Johnson shared that he was very impressed with the applicant.
- Jack Glass and Dixie Boley were both reappointed to second terms by the Commission.
- Laura Tesler accepted the permanent position as the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Staff Biologist.

Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreation Fisheries Manager shared with the Board that the R&E Program Coordinator position will be reopened to fill the position permanently. R&E Board members will be invited to assist with interviews once the applications have been received and reviewed. Interviews will more than likely be conducted in late September. The Board shared their desire to be a part of the selection process.

Emergency Requests, Amendment Requests & Project Completion Reports

The Board discussed recent emergency and amendment requests approved through the Board and Program Coordinator. The Board requests to be kept up to date on all requests approved by the Program Coordinator. The Board and program staff discussed the need for communication when project applicants will not be utilizing all of their funds in addition to project completion requirements.

The Board stated that they would like to see more follow-up of projects approved through the program. (For example – projects that R&E funded for the design of a project.) A follow-up would be nice to see how successful the project was.

The Board stated that they would prefer that emergency and amendment requests wait for the

next meeting to allow Board discussion prior to a decision. Most requests should be able to wait for the next scheduled Board Meeting. Recent requests didn't allow for adequate Board discussion. In the future it was requested that the Program Coordinator set-up a telephone conference call for emergency requests requiring Board approval prior to a scheduled meeting. A recent request put Board members "on the spot" with equipment on the ground, members felt pressured to agree to the funding.

Rhine Messmer stated that he will discuss these issues with staff to address Board concerns raised today. It was agreed by staff that future emergency requests will be reviewed/evaluated more thoroughly when received.

“Bus School Kids from School to Lake Selmac” Emergency Funding Request

The Middle Rogue Steelheaders submitted an emergency request in the amount of \$3,500 to assist in the funding of transportation of school kids to participate in fishing events at Lake Selmac. L. Johnson shared that this program gets kids out fishing and the school district provides a large amount of match funds.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board discussed the implications of funding this project. It could open the door to additional requests since schools are in the same situation state-wide.

R. Messmer shared that STAC (Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee) has determined they won't fund transportation costs.

“South Twin Rotenone – Bullhead Removal” Emergency Funding Request

Rhine Messmer provided an overview of the emergency request for \$65,000 to purchase Rotenone to treat South Twin Lake. A similar grant was awarded in the 2009-2011 biennium which will be combined with this to treat South Twin Lake. This proposal will also treat one smaller pond near Crane Prairie.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if Wickiup and South Twin were connected – the reply was no. The Board asked if the lake was being stocked. The applicant replied yes but with legal size rainbow trout to maintain a fishery. The Board asked why it was going to take so much to treat this water body. The applicant replied that it takes more Rotenone to treat bullhead trout than tui chub. The Board asked how much of the Rotenone had been used from the first request and the applicant replied none, this request will be combined with the last request. The Board asked if any other funding had been sought – the applicant replied that they were searching but without any luck. L. Johnson shared that he doesn't like the idea of using this as a management tool, need to focus more on preventing introductions.

Administrative Updates, 2009-2011 Budget Update, 2011-2013 Budget Overview

Josie Thompson shared the following:

- Figures are still being finalized for the 2009-2011 biennium. It appears so far that a minimum of \$500,000 was remaining unspent for the biennium. The Board will be given an update at the November 2011 meeting in Roseburg.
- Current revenue projections for the R&E Program during the 2011-2013 biennium are \$5.2 million, with a spending limitation of \$5.8 million. The spending limitation was the same as last biennium, but so far revenues are lower than predicted.

The Board requests an update of the dollar amount in the R&E Program Fund, including revenue received for July 2011. The Board also requests that the Department continue to prioritize funding requests for Department hatcheries.

The Board and program staff discussed OAR and ORS regarding project approval by the Board versus the Commission.

Tabled Project 11-032

11-032 North Fork Gordon Creek Fish Screening

Josie Thompson provided a project status update. ODFW Fish Passage staff have scheduled a meeting to discuss passage for this project. Dan Kleinsmith was available to answer questions and provide additional information regarding the project.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was some urgency in getting this project going – the answer was not more than likely since the situation has been this way for quite some time. The Board shared the concern that this request is premature, and would like to see more information. Passage is still missing from the project and there isn't a plan in place. The applicant shared that the design has been drafted up.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to deny Project 11-032. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Board 6-0.

Crooked River Redband Trout Research Presentation

Shivonne Nesbit, ODFW ESA Coordinator presented an overview of the information found through the project. Once the results have been published she will share it with the Board.

Project Presentations

11-034 Taylor Lake Access Road Improvement

Terry Shrader presented the Taylor Lake Access Road Improvement project proposal to the Board.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was any angler hours documented for the lake. The applicant replied not but there is always someone there fishing. The Department's six-year plan includes working with the Oregon Marine Board to include a boat ramp at the site.

11-048 South Coast Fall Chinook Spawning Surveys 2011

Matt Swanson presented the South Coast Fall Chinook Spawning Surveys 2011 project proposal to the Board for Steve Mazur.

11-049 Upper Floras Creek Restoration Plan Development

Matt Swanson presented the Upper Floras Creek Restoration Plan Development project proposal to the Board.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if agriculture uses of the creek are screened. The applicant replied yes, all irrigation draws were upgraded. The Board asked about the line item for grant writing staff personnel costs.

11-050 Wallowa Lake Food Web Study

Jeff Yanke presented the Wallowa Lake Food Web Study project proposal to the Board.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked at what level the nets were being used in the lake. The applicant replied on the bars. The younger lake trout are quite elusive no one has been able to net any yet. The applicant shared that the isotopes accumulate in their system so they'll be able to evaluate long term food sources.

11-044 Charleston Transit Tie-Up

Elise Hammer and Aaron Simons presented the Charleston Transit Tie-Up project proposal to the Board. The applicant shared that they are still seeking other funds for the project.

Questions/Comments from Board:

D. Boley shared that this is needed but the request is for a lot of money.

11-036 Luger Pond Handicap Fishing Access Development

Tim Bailey presented the Luger Pond Handicap Fishing Access Development project proposal to the Board. The applicant shared that they weren't able to complete the project during the 2009-2011 biennium. If this project was approved it would be the first ADA accessible fishing spot in the Blue Mountains.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked how large the pond was. The applicant replied approximately one-acre. The Board asked why this location was chosen. The applicant replied that the opportunity came up and felt it was a worth while project.

11-039 Quartz Creek Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration

Dan Delaney presented the Quartz Creek Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration project proposal to the Board. The applicant shared that the project will ultimately stabilize the bank but that isn't the intent of the project – the intent is to restore fish habitat.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if fishing was allowed in this area. The applicant replied no, it's spawning habitat. The Board asked if there was a land agreement and the applicant replied yes, but it isn't a conservation agreement. If the property were to be sold the agreement would not transfer.

11-041 Adult Salmon Holding Pond and Spawning Shed

Steve Meshke presented the Adult Salmon Holding Pond and Spawning Shed project proposal to the Board. The applicant shared that 90% of the SAB's caught were from their fishery. The sponsor is continuing to look for funding partners. The project will begin next summer.

11-038 Rhoades Pond Restoration Project

Ron Byrd and Ron Rehn presented the Rhoades Pond Restoration Project proposal to the Board. This is a STEP facility that currently releases 100,000 Chinook salmon. They have approximately 300 volunteers for their fin-clipping party which took them approximately 4-hours to complete this year. The Nestucca angler creel shows a 20-25% contribution from the Rhoades Pond facility.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked why they chose to go with concrete and not replace the liner. The applicant replied that a new liner would last approximately 15 years. The Board asked if the concrete estimate will increase next year. The applicant replied no – the bid is from a local contractor that

will stand by the bid he gave for the project.

11-037 STEP Classroom Incubator and Chiller Units

Ron Rehn presented the STEP Classroom Incubator and Chiller Units project proposal to the Board for Kevin Herkamp. This project is “where it all starts.”

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked how many aquarium units are currently in use. The reply was it is unknown at this time. The program is working on a plan to inventory and monitor those set-ups that are in use statewide. The program is very popular – the kids love it.

11-035 Ocean Fish Preservation and Enhancement

Edmund Keene presented the Ocean Fish Preservation and Enhancement project proposal to the Board. The release devices are made in the USA and are stainless steel so they will last.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if the group was partnering with any of the fresh water groups. The applicant replied no, that the group’s initial charter states they will focus on salt water fisheries. The group’s charter also states that they will work with the ODFW and Oregon State Police to educate the public. The Board commented that the Board shared last time the request was heard that they would need to seek funds other than through the R&E Program. The Board asked if they knew how effective the release was for Red Rockfish. The applicant replied they don’t have any data currently, but with seabass survival rates are around 75%.

11-045 Fish Eggs to Fry Program Volunteer Guide

Russell Bassett presented the Fish Eggs to Fry Program Volunteer Guide project proposal to the Board. The original budget has been modified (updated version distributed). The partners for this project are STEP, STAC and the Association of Northwest Steelheaders.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board commented that they thought the ANWS group was all volunteers. The applicant replied that his position (Executive Director) was a paid position. The Board asked if the completed guides would be available statewide. The applicant replied yes, it would supplement what is currently being used. The video would be distributed through STEP and would be preapproved by STAC before distribution.

11-011 Hills Creek Reservoir & Upper Middle Fork Willamette Creel

Kelly Reis presented the Hills Creek Reservoir & Upper Middle Fork Willamette Creel project proposal to the Board.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked how well the PDAs were holding up that were purchased. The applicant replied they are a bit finicky but they’re working and have been used by several different offices/areas. The Board commented that having this sort of data to assist in making management decisions is great. Also, the interaction with ODFW and the public is positive during these creels.

11-043 High Lakes Database Development

Kelly Reis presented the High Lakes Database Development project proposal to the Board. The office manager created an Access Database and this project would expand that effort by creating a more advanced database. The Springfield Office has gone back through filing cabinets and entered the data which is now available to staff electronically. The Database Developer would be a temporary employee.

11-046 Leaburg Hatchery Salmon Viewing Access

Seth Morgan presented the Leaburg Hatchery Salmon Viewing Access project proposal to the Board. The Hatchery hosts approximately 70,000 visitors a year.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked how long it took an individual to walk down the path. The applicant replied approximately one-minute.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Project Recommendations**11-011 Hills Creek Reservoir & Upper Middle Fork Willamette Creel**

Good project, shows promise – would like to see expanded.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-011 in the amount of \$39,788 as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-034 Taylor Lake Access Road Improvement

Good bang for the buck.

Motion: T. Learned motioned to recommend project 11-034 in the amount of \$15,196 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-035 Ocean Fish Preservation & Enhancement

Great program, enthusiastic. Would like to see other funding, the original intent of the Board was to provide seed funding to get the program started.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to recommend project 11-035 in the amount of \$4,500 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-036 Luger Pond Handicap Fishing Access Development

Great match funds, estimate appears to be firm. Like to see anglers getting hooked on hatchery fish – also great for ADA access.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-036 in the amount of \$19,980 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-037 STEP Classroom Incubation and Chiller Units

More integrated, thought out approach to standardize.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-037 in the amount of \$25,000 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-038 Rhoades Pond Restoration Project

A lot of community involvement and support. This approach makes more sense than replacing the liner.

Motion: T. Learned motioned to recommend project 11-038 in the amount of \$75,250 as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-039 Quartz Creek Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration

Great project, great match. Like the plan – the applicant saved money by doing the plan themselves. Outstanding opportunity.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-039 in the amount of \$26,542 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-041 Adult Salmon Holding Pond and Spawning Shed

Project won't happen this year, but without this funding they won't be able to get the project started. The applicant stated that the building isn't needed at this point, could add the building at a later point.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-041 in the amount of \$141,000 as a sport/restoration project (\$44,000 was removed for the spawning building). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-043 High Lakes Database Development

Enthusiasm is great. Have concerns with funding position. This project would help access, education and management of the fisheries.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-043 in the amount of \$29,567 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-044 Charleston Transit Tie-Up

Not a lot of use by those groups contributing to R&E funding. R&E isn't the appropriate funding source for this sort of project.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to deny project 11-044. The motion was seconded and the project was denied for funding by the Board 6-0.

11-045 Fish Eggs to Fry Program Volunteer Guide

Like the revised budget rather than the original. Dovetails with STEP and gets kids involved. Concerns with funding position – in the past this group has been turned away for personnel costs. Would like to ensure what's being created can be used statewide – message is the same. Glad to see that there is a Committee working on this project.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-045 in the amount of \$10,274 as a sport/enhancement project (\$4,000 was removed for personnel costs). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-046 Leaburg Hatchery Salmon Viewing Access

Lots of visitors each year. The applicant did a great job breaking out the budget.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-046 in the amount of \$8,360 as a sport/enhancement project (funding is for asphalt and signs). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-048 South Coast Fall Chinook Spawning Surveys 2011

Good match.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to recommend project 11-048 in the amount of \$4,700 as a

commercial/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

11-049 Upper Floras Creek Restoration Plan Development

Administration costs high. Have concerns with design, nothing on the ground. Great idea.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to deny project 11-049. The motion was seconded and the project was denied for funding 6-0.

11-050 Wallowa Lake Food Web Study

Great information. Great management of fisheries.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-050 in the amount of \$3,200 as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

Emergency Request

South Twin Rotenone – Bullhead Removal for \$65,000

This area gets a lot of use. Concern with the large amount of money. Concern with using this as a management tool.

Motion: T. Learned motioned to approve the South Twin Rotenone Bullhead Removal emergency funding request in the amount of \$65,000 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-1 (Ayes – Soderstrom, Bumstead, Learned, Boley, Lovelace; Nay – Johnson)

Motion: T. Learned motioned to transfer \$75,000 to the R&E Enhancement Emergency account. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 6-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.