



Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 20, 2012

Location: Clatskanie River Inn
- Meeting Room
600 East Columbia River Highway
Clatskanie, Oregon 97016

Current Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program (R&E) Board Members

Board Member

John Alto – Representing Commercial Troll Fisheries
Dixie Boley – Representing Fish Processing Industry
Bob Bumstead – Representing Recreational Fisheries
Jack Glass – Representing Recreational Fisheries

Board Member

Lonnie Johnson – Representing Recreational Fisheries
Bill Lovelace – Representing the Public
Gary Soderstrom – Representing Gillnet Fisheries

Members Absent: John Alto, Bill Lovelace

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Chair Jack Glass called the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program Board meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting agenda.

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

Meeting Minute Approval

The Board reviewed the April 20, 2012 R&E Program Board meeting minutes.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to approve the April 20, 2012 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

The Board discussed the issue of applicants remaining for the entire meeting and if there was an advantage. The Board agreed having the applicant present for project recommendations is advantageous to the applicant if there are any additional questions the Board might have. Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager stated that with declining budgets staff more than likely will not have the funds to attend meetings. The Board also discussed the importance of having all the documentation supporting the proposals prior to the Board Meeting. Having items distributed during the meeting does not allow for review by the Board Members prior to being required to make a recommendation. Materials distributed during the meeting creates issues.

Board Member Reports

Bill Lovelace announced his resignation from the R&E Board effective immediately and excused himself from the remainder of today's meeting.

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

Program Budget & Administrative Updates

Josie Thompson, ODFW R&E Program Coordinator provided the following information:

- Publicist contract & *FishWorks* Newsletter – distributed a survey to current recipients of the newsletter. The responses so far have been positive. Several comments about including more warm water fishing information. Board members have been requested to submit suggestions to J. Thompson along with the amount of funds the Board proposes for the contract.
- 2013 Meeting Dates – The Board discussed and proposes the following meeting dates. The meeting locations will be decided during the November 2012 meeting.
 - February 22, 2013
 - April 26, 2013
 - July 26, 2013
 - November 1, 2013
- R&E Project Application – distributed a draft copy of the R&E Project Application. Board members will discuss and provide comments at the November 2012 meeting. Would like to see the application finalized and functioning for the 2013-2015 biennium.

ODFW Fish Passage & Screening Program Presentation

Pete Bakke, ODFW Fish Screen Program Coordinator and Ken Loffink, ODFW Assistant Fish Passage Program Coordinator provided the Board with an overview of the two programs.

There have been over 1,000 fish screens implemented since the year 2000. ODFW currently has four screen shops.

The first fish passage law was put into place in 1848 – Oregon Territorial Law. In 2001 a bill was passed putting into place the “trigger event” which causes fish passage to be addressed. There has been some new information related to passage for lamprey.

It is difficult to find funding for the design phase of a project. A project usually has multiple phases and the various phases can become very expensive. The Fish Screen & Passage program must approve all screen/passage projects prior to implementation – sooner during the planning the better.

There are currently three engineers at ODFW Headquarters that both programs work with.

ODFW Fish Division Updates

Ed Bowles, ODFW Fish Division Administrator provided an overview of the Fish Division's mission/goals. The Department thanks the contributions by the Board – very much appreciated. Conservation Plans have been completed for 20 of the 22 anadromous species identified along with other species. The remaining plans are scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The Department is looking for ways to include the non-consumptive users in supporting the state's fish and wildlife. The number of anglers have been declining – public is losing the connection to fish. The R&E Program will be vital in reconnecting the public to fishing.

There was discussion on the Board's role. The Board has the duty to distribute funds on the public's behalf – putting personal opinions aside – can be a difficult task. The Board is not a policy making board. The decisions made by the Board should be transparent and open – keeping in mind the roles and responsibilities of the Board. The Board is urged to use staff as a resource – it is staff's responsibility to assist the Board in understanding the proposals. It is also staff's responsibility to determine if proposals are consistent with current management / conservation / hatchery plans.

Project Proposal Presentations

The following tabled projects were presented to the Board for consideration.

11-090 Trout Creek Acclimation Pond

Gary Wise and Todd Alsbury presented the Trout Creek Acclimation Pond project proposal to the Board. The acclimation pond would increase survival and benefit the fisheries. The fish would be held three to four weeks. T. Alsbury commented that this proposal is supported by ODFW and adheres to current plans – this is a good first step.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if 30,000 coded wire tagged fish would be enough for data collection. The applicant replied yes. The Board asked if staff would be able to tag more if they were available. The applicant replied yes. B. Bumstead shared that he visited this site and feels more comfortable with the request now. The reduction in strain on the fish might eventually help improve native fish recovery efforts. D. Boley commented that these fish will be released regardless of the acclimation pond; the pond will actually help with survival.

Public Comment:

Gary Wise of the Molalla River Alliance commented that the group doesn't oppose acclimation ponds/facilities but they feel this project doesn't improve native fish runs or follow the basin plan.

Bill Bakke, Native Fish Society commented that the group's objection is it isn't designed to recover Chinook salmon and isn't based on good science. Steelhead and trout runs have improved, Chinook salmon have not. The group believes this isn't consistent with the Native Fish Conservation Policy – need to bring native fish back not harm them.

11-101 Upper Spout Creek Fish Passage Improvement

Stacy Polkowske and Jason Kirschner presented the Upper Spout Creek Fish Passage Improvement project proposal to the Board. Staff is ready to go if funding is approved.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked what would happen if this project wasn't funded. The applicant replied nothing would happen at this point. The project would increase angler access. The Board asked what the gradient was. The applicant replied it varies between 1 – 3%.

11-105 Lakeview District Forest Boat Docks

Rachelle Huddleton-Lorton on behalf of Kimberly Conley presented the Lakeview District Forest Boat Docks project proposal to the Board. Four popular lakes, docks are currently in poor condition and non-

ADA compliant. They have received several public requests for improvements. This project would improve angler access.

The following projects were presented to the Board for consideration.

11-126 New River Tributary Fish Passage

Matt Swanson presented the New River Tributary Fish Passage project proposal to the Board. The R&E funds would be used for materials and supplies.

Dixie Boley stated a possible conflict of interest. Her daughter-in-law works for the watershed and was the person to create the maps.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was bank angling available in this area. The applicant replied there is access in some spots, but these sites are on private land. D. Boley commented that lamprey are also an important species in this area.

11-115 Filet Table at the Port of Port Orford

The applicant was unable to attend. J. Thompson read aloud a letter submitted by the applicant in support of the project.

Questions/Comments from Board:

D. Boley commented that she has visited this site and they do need a table.

11-127 East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection

Nicholas Scheidt presented the East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection project proposal to the Board. Over 10 miles of habitat is available above the oxbow that could be accessed. There are ten-times more fish below the oxbow than above. Weyerhaeuser will be a large contributor towards this project. The applicant predicts this will be a high priority project state wide and they have received a lot of support.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked what will happen if the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) doesn't provide funding. The applicant replied that the R&E funds would then be used for design work and then used as match funding for OWEB.

11-122 GRWB STEP Hatchery Water Filtration System

Steve Godin and Greg Huchko presented the GRWB STEP Hatchery Water Filtration System project proposal to the Board. Their egg loss has been between 20-50%. ODFW will be conducting water testing in the reservoir next month. The group has tried several different things but hasn't found a solution that eliminates the water problem. The group received a grant for a water chiller through Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby fund. The group's STEP Fish Propagation Project Renewal was just approved for an additional five-years for 100,000 fall Chinook salmon. The volunteers put a lot of work into this.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was a commercial fishing benefit. The applicant replied not sure – maybe 10-15% benefit commercial fisheries.

11-125 Spray Riverfront Park

David Kartak presented the Spray Riverfront Park project proposal to the Board. The park was formed in 2002 by volunteers. The current boat launch gets washed out every year. The area is becoming very popular – people are coming from the Deschutes River to fish here.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was bank angling available. The applicant replied there is approximately 1,000 feet available to bank anglers.

11-119 West Fork Smith River Instream Restoration Phase 3

Matthew Ruwaldt presented the West Fork Smith River Instream Restoration Phase 3 project proposal to the Board.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if OWEB funding would be approved. The applicant replied it is looking favorable.

11-120 StreamWebs Student Stewardship Network

Ryan Johnson presented the StreamWebs Student Stewardship Network project proposal to the Board. The studies show that youth and young adults spend an average of 10 hours a day on their electronic devices. This project would connect the field work currently being conducted by students with data collection. The information that is gathered would be entered into this system and allows the data to be shared among groups. There are currently 350 registered users to the system.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked what their long-term funding goals were. The applicant replied they have contacted multiple options – they will need to obtain funding since technology is constantly changing.

11-121 Salmon River Weir Replacement Project

David Welch and Ryan Terrill presented the Salmon River Weir Replacement Project proposal to the Board. The weir was destroyed in the 1996 floods and has received damage every year since then. Doesn't require a lot of design work for the weir – planning on using aluminum. Would like to begin project September 15 and finish by September 30th. Construction of the fish ladder wouldn't begin until next year.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board commented on the lack of a budget break down of the project. The applicant replied that the majority of the funds would be used for the fish ladder. It is more important to get the weir functioning. The Board asked if there were any barriers. The applicant replied no, fish are still able to pass. The Board asked how many fish they release. The applicant replied they have a 200,000 production goal which is part of the United States/Canada Treaty.

11-124 Clemens Mill Pond

Dale Doig presented the Clemens Mill Pond project proposal to the Board. The land was purchased 11 years ago – total of 54 acres. In 2008 the lodge was built and now the focus is on the pond. The site is located within the city limits of Philomath. The pond would only allow non-motorized boats. The man made pond is approximately 14 acres in size. Access is currently difficult. There are western pond turtles in the pond, one of their projects will be to improve turtle habitat also. They also have a beaver dam that regulates the flows.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The Board asked if there was public access to the pond. The applicant replied yes for specific activities, but not open access.

11-116 Big Creek Hatchery Maintenance Bundle

Chris Lauman presented the Big Creek Hatchery Maintenance Bundle project proposal to the Board. The grant amount requested has been reduced to \$26,300.

11-123 Dam Removal in Oregon: Guidebook and Symposium

The applicant was unable to attend.

11-128 Indian Creek Interpretive Site

Kelly Sparks presented the Indian Creek Interpretive Site project proposal to the Board. The project site is along Highway 101, great bank access but not visible. Great location, adjacent to the STEP Indian Creek Hatchery.

Questions/Comments from Board:

D. Boley commented that there is also a wetland trail that is used by the schools and has a large parking lot – that has enough room for buses to turn-around.

11-118 Chetco River Winter Steelhead Creel 2012

Kelly Sparks on behalf of Steven Mazur presented the Chetco River Winter Steelhead Creel 2012 project proposal to the Board. Popular spot – great fishing. The highest pressure is from bank anglers. Creel surveyors also check fishing licenses – they’ve noticed a lot of non-resident license holders and day licenses. They’ve also noticed good compliance with the invasive species boat permits. The creel would be conducted from the middle of November through the end of March.

Questions/Comments from Board:

D. Boley commented she had visited this site two-weeks ago – premiere area. Would like to see additional data collected.

Project Proposal Recommendations

11-090 Trout Creek Acclimation Pond

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-090 in the amount of \$31,750 as a sport/enhancement project (includes an additional \$5,000 in order to purchase a total of 50,000 coded wire tags). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 4-1 (Soderstrom).

11-101 Upper Spout Creek Fish Passage Improvement

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-101 in the amount of \$23,800 as a sport/enhancement project (funding only provided for Priority 1 & 2 projects). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-105 Lakeview District Forest Boat Docks

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-105 in the amount of \$15,000 as a sport/enhancement project (funding only provided for Dog Lake & Cottonwood Lake). The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-115 Filet Table at the Port of Port Orford

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-115 in the amount of \$5,000 as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-116 Big Creek Hatchery Maintenance Bundle

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to recommend project 11-116 in the amount of \$26,300 as a commercial/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-118 Chetco River Winter Steelhead Creel 2012

A lot of money. Important project.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-118 in the amount of \$38,219 as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-119 West Fork Smith River Instream Restoration Phase 3

Great project.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-119 in the amount of \$75,000 (removing funding for administrative costs). The motion was seconded and received a vote of 3-2 (Johnson, Glass).
*The vote failed due to not receiving the required 4 affirmative votes.

11-120 StreamWebs Student Stewardship Network

B. Bumstead declared a possible conflict of interest. He is currently working with Salmon Watch which is tied to this project.

Expensive project, don't have enough funds this biennium.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to deny project 11-120. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Board 5-0.

11-121 Salmon River Weir Replacement Project

Lack of budget breakdown – unable to evaluate what the funds would be used for. A lot of money to not know what it's being spent on. Incomplete application.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to recommend project 11-121 in the amount of \$35,000 (funds for repairing weir only) as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 4-1 (Boley)

11-122 GRWB STEP Hatchery Water Filtration System

Good match funds. The system is needed.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to recommend project 11-122 in the amount of \$10,681 as a commercial/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-123 Dam Removal in Oregon: Guidebook and Symposium

Would like to see a presentation.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to table project 11-123. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Board 5-0.

11-124 Clemens Mill Pond

Concern with lack of public access. The application was modified without the Board having an opportunity to review prior to today. The applicant commented that the lack of public access is due to the facilities access road – which is owned by a gravel company. Individuals are still able to walk into the pond.

Motion: B. Bumstead motioned to deny project 11-124. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Board 5-0.

11-125 Spray Riverfront Park

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to recommend project 11-125 in the amount of \$10,000 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-126 New River Tributary Fish Passage

Good lamprey habitat. Increasing spawning area is great.

Motion: L. Johnson motioned to recommend project 11-126 in the amount of \$30,145 (removing funding for administrative expenses) as a sport/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 4-1 (Glass).

11-127 East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection

Good project.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to recommend project 11-127 in the amount of \$23,290 as a commercial/restoration project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

11-128 Indian Creek Interpretive Site

B. Bumstead commented it would be good to add Native Americans to the sign.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to recommend project 11-128 in the amount of \$13,212 as a sport/enhancement project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 5-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Saturday June 21, 2012 – Field Tour

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Tour of Big Creek Hatchery, Blind Slough Net Pens and Gnat Creek Hatchery.