



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program Board
 Meeting Minutes



Date: September 20, 2023

Location: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Trask Fish Hatchery, Tillamook

Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program

September 20, 2023

Board Member	Staff/Guests		
Dave Grosjacques – Representing Recreational Fisheries	Mike Gauvin	Robert Bradley	Marty Olson
Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Recreational Fisheries	Steve Emerson	Andy Spyrka	Scott Patterson
Yancy Lind – Representing Recreational Fisheries	John Spangler	Dylan O’Keefe	Kelsey Anderson
Ray Monroe – Representing Commercial Troll Fisheries	Robert Bradley		
Kay Brown – Representing the Public			
Susan Chambers - Representing the Fish Processing Industry			
Troy Laws – Representing Gillnet Fisheries			

Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Y. Lind called the meeting to order at 8:30AM. Board members introduced themselves and staff introduced themselves. Troy is new to the board and is representing the gillnet fisheries.

Agenda Approval

Motion: S. Chambers motion to approve, K. Brown second, pass unanimously.

March 2023 Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

Y. Lind and D. Grojacques said minutes were great. K. Brown commented nothing was missing from the minutes.

Y. Lind said there were some open items in the minutes needing comment when we met again. Any update on the STAC mini grant ask for more money? M. Olson said that STAC and Steve Janego are still talking about it. They are talking about if they need more money and what it would be used for, looking to revamp their request. D. Grosjacques said that as a member of the STAC he wanted to say that he didn’t support increasing mini grants limits and total money, at the cost of R&E funds decreasing. STAC’s opinion changed a little when they heard R&E allocated \$4M in cycle 1. Y. Lind said that R&E in his opinion would consider increasing funds with a good plan.

Y. Lind said R&E said yes to Astoria High School project if they got a professional engineering stamp on their plans, is there any update on that? M. Olson said he knows they are working on the project and not sure if Bryce Hansen has looked at the plans yet. T. VanderPlaat said he wanted an official stamp. Y. Lind wants to make sure that stamp is acquired before money is given out. T. VanderPlaat is asking if at the end of the meetings we can identify the action items. R. Monroe said at the end of his meeting minutes, he puts a list of action items.

Action item: At the end of meetings, compile action items and send out a list to the whole board.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve minutes, Susan seconded. Unanimously passes.

More comments on meeting minutes – Y. Lind said that part of hiring Bryce Hansen was a discussion of how his salary would be more than made up for in savings. In past cycles, there were good examples of that. Last time we didn't get that and would like to keep getting those updates about savings at meetings. D. Grosjacques commented that this is Bryce Hansen's second biennium, and the question was is \$300k a biennium worth it? The answer was, yes. He continued, we purchased some equipment, like the bobcat. D. Grosjacques agrees though that a summary of money saved would be very beneficial for the board each biennium. M. Olsen gave an example of rock donated for Yellowjacket lake that Bryce Hansen hauled, and it saved about \$70K. D. Grosjacques added that with projects going on all around the state, Kevin Herkamp couldn't keep up with all the projects. Mike Gauvin added that without Bryce Hansen, all the projects would have to go through our agency's engineering program which is incredibly swamped. Y. Lind reiterated that he supports Bryce Hansen's position, just wants updates. R. Monroe seconded that sentiment.

Board Member Updates

D. Grosjacques: Dave contacts Dan Vandyke and Holly Huchko for updates about his area. Dan provided an update last night by email. The update was provided in writing to the board members. 5 dams have been removed. Asked how that dam removal has influenced the fisheries? He said it's in the report. Everyone in Gold Beach is celebrating because the Chinook run is the best it's been in 5 years. Half pounders are up a bit but still not where they were. Coho is doing good. Information comes from netting at Huntley Park. Plug for Rogue Watershed Council. Umpqua: there are three big issues. One is north Umpqua, closed from mouth to soda springs due to low steelhead numbers - World-famous fly-fishing river is closed. Asked Evan Leonetti if they got a lot of flak about the closure and he said most of the fishermen understand. Second issue is that Rock Creek Hatchery burned down. We were going to have a meeting there but then COVID hit, and it burned down. Future of Rock Creek is unknown. Third issue is Winchester Dam. Lawsuits pending. It was condemned in 1976 and it's still there. Some work was done in the past and concrete was spilled. Now they were given 3 weeks to do repairs, the company couldn't complete the work in that time, asked for an extension, it was granted, then they asked for another extension. Water is currently back up and ladder is operating. Question is why is dam there when there's no benefit for anyone but the 60-ish landowners above the dam. The issue is getting very heated. More on Umpqua – Outlook for Chinook, coho, and steelhead have been poor.

K. Brown: The other day, Kay tried to find out what the rules were on the Columbia River and wants to let the new rule coordinator Steve know that the rules are very hard to figure out. Kay said she is familiar with the rules, but they have got even more confusing.

S. Chambers: Most of Susan's work is on groundfish but they interact with salmon. This has been tough year because ocean salmon was closed. At the same time there is a whiting fishery which is a big fishery. One sector caught a lot of salmon and got their hand slapped by PFMC for it. The catcher processor sector has had some issues with shakeup. There are certain triggers when there is too much interaction with the sensitive species like Chinook to minimize bycatch. This year the council hasn't taken any action and are already looking forward to next year for ways to minimize impact. There is an 11K threshold of bycatch allowed this year. California fishers have asked for emergency disaster funds to support their industry with the big closure, no decision has been made yet. This would take something from congress. Ray Monroe added they are still waiting on 2018-19-20 funding for the industry.

T. Law: Harvest in gillnet has been good but market prices have been 1980 so not awesome. Net pen access has lost the causeway. The causeway needs to be addressed. Launching around Youngs Bay has been bad, needs improvement. Good returns coming back to net pens, the fish are there. Yancy Lind asked why the prices are low, Troy said he has heard that the market has been flooded with Canada and Alaska fish. Yancy said he hasn't

seen reduced prices in the store and Troy said he hasn't either, and fuel prices are up so it's very challenging to make it work. Kay Brown asked about anger around gillnet boats. Troy said that's Zones 4&5 and there were a few tule Chinook in the mix with the Upriver Brights URB, heard the Willamette is full of tule fish. Price difference between the two are 60 cents/lb. for tule and 4.50 bucks for URB.

Y. Lind: Central Oregon had a mixed fishing season so far. Impacted by drought still in a very big way. River levels are still historically low. Lakes, most are historically low in water levels. Up at East Lake last weekend and you couldn't even launch a boat. The end of the ramp was very far from the water. The only inlet is rain and snow. It's been that way for many years. Wickiup is extremely low, that is/was a very popular fishery. Crane Prairie very low too. Lots of fires and when the roads to the lakes get closed and the smoke is hazardous to your health it's tough. Got over 40 trout recently on a trip. Steelhead fishing on the Deschutes is open, but it's not good fishing. The fishery is above the critical abundance levels. ODFW has determined that every wild steelhead has been caught and released at least once. So, it's a mixed picture. Paulina Lake is full and fishing good. Yancy Lind still does the water blog, Dave Grosjacques wanted to let the new people in the group know about it. Yancy said it's his opinion, totally separate from this group. Klamath basin this has been weirdest fishing season ever. Tribe has the senior water rights and shut off all water to irrigators. Klamath Lake has been high and cold Williamson and Wood Rivers have been horrible because the fish are staying down in the cold water. Good for the fish, terrible for the fishermen. One of the four Klamath Dams came out, more to come. Largest removal project in history. Kay asked about high lake stocking, asked if the amount spent on that project is worthy of the number of people who go after those fish. Yancy said the board declined a project that would measure that recently. Mike Gauvin added that it has been done since the 60's and we do now about 350 lakes and the agency sees it as valuable. Said some districts have some data but the question is are we stocking the right places, an assessment needs to be done. Yancy said he supported the assessment project. A few board members said that they have helped with the high lake stocking. Gauvin pointed out that part of the reason the assessment project was denied was some staff time and biological sampling. He added that we have about 70 trail cameras and ideas about voluntary reporting online to get some picture of what's going on. It will be trailhead assessment because we can't get people out on the lakes. Ray asked if a survey has ever gone out with licensing info. Mike said it hasn't but that's another option.

T. VanderPlaat: Helped Nestucca anglers in Hebo release fin clipped Chinook recently. Roades Pond, off Three Rivers, runs into the Nestucca. Some of the volunteers worked on the handicap ramp access and made it accessible. Fish eggs to fry gearing up this fall and Tom wants to make a point that our STEP biologists are being put on job rotations and there aren't people getting filled into these positions to provide volunteer support to the STEP program. How are we supporting our volunteers who are some of the most valuable resources we have. Heard that SFR funds may be decreasing because the boom around COVID is over. This equates to budget reductions. Buoy 10 fished a couple of times in the marked fishery. It was challenging for some and fine for others. Tom said he didn't do very well and needs to work on his technique. Said there's a lot of fishing going on, on the Columbia. Said Robert has been dealing with fall Chinook Tillamook issues. This is where science and perception meet each other and there is some challenge there. Coho is great right now in Tillamook area. Two weeks ago, Tom went on hook and line sampling trip for bottomfish, was a blast. Got to catch about 6-8 fish. Garibaldi charters helped with it. You can sign up, but you must be quick on the response or you get passed over. General public has no idea how the agency gets estimates for how many rockfish are around.

R. Monroe: Roades Pond was looking for funding for storage facility. Came to Ray's Dorymen association for funding and there was already some funding set aside for them for another purpose. Told them to get match and they found \$59K, the association matched it, and they got the roof repaired. Ocean fishery coho 110K quota, only 19% caught in that. Nonselective opened and 21k were caught fast, then it was upped. Commercial catch has been low because they must locate the fish and have had trouble doing so. Season started off well in Pacific City but then it was spotty. More time is being put in to catch fish. Hake and trawl fleet are made on negative impacts. So, if salmon are being caught but impacts aren't being reached, then they are following the rules. Boats used to catch way more salmon as bycatch. 2K fish isn't a lot when guys used to catch 10K pounds of salmon in one pull. Impacts are down. Things are managed in the ocean a lot better than they used to be and that's obvious.

Hatchery Update

Scott Patterson gave an update. Last legislative session there was a pot of money to analyze hatchery resiliency. R&E also provided some money, thank you for that. The assessments were done across the state at other hatcheries using the same methodologies. Some of the effort is nearly completed. Next steps are that some hatcheries will have significant issues with temperature and flow. Trask will be one of those. Also, Nehalem and Alsea. Cedar Creek and Three Rivers will probably be okay. Rock Creek had challenges before, and it's hard to argue that it will get better. Many of these systems are going to struggle with temperatures. The hatcheries with spikes in the 70's are very tough, but the salmon do alright if the temperatures drop at night. We aren't seeing temperatures drop enough at night though in many areas. The higher temperatures are bad for the fish because it is good for the pathogens.

We are going to start looking at what we can do to keep fisheries and programs intact as much as possible. Chillers are expensive and may not be sustainable. In many cases that will be cost prohibitive. So, the question becomes how do you maintain production? Many questions about possible options that need to be analyzed. Not a lot of answers yet. Answer needs to be sustainable and affordable. Water at Rock Creek for example hasn't been below 60-70 degrees in months.

Y. Lind asked for Scott to talk about resiliency in terms of anadromous and non-anadromous – Scott said it's primarily an anadromous issue. Many of the facilities that are below reservoirs are doing well because they draw cold water from a large reservoir. Hatcheries with wells should be good for a while. There are other places where a series of reservoirs heat water up though. Most production on the coast are sub-yearling fish at release. Having to release earlier and earlier impacts survival. Yearly production schedules are tough because keeping fish over the summer is the most difficult. Y. Lind followed up with question about what happens when water is chilled in the summer and release the fish into hot rivers. Scott said where the water still drops at night they will do better. There are not a one size fits all answer.

K. Brown asked if the million dollars will be enough, and Scott said he didn't know. Scott said the money is under the discretion of Fish Division to decide how they will spend it. It is plenty of money for the amount of time they have to spend it. Will be bumping into the end of the biennium spending deadline as it is. It is a good chunk of money to deal with things.

D. Grosjacques asked if the million dollars to look at cost and benefits of hatcheries in Oregon. Asked how and who is going to measure the benefits of the hatcheries? Scott said is there more money being generated by the hatchery program than it costs to run. Answer has overwhelmingly been yes. A report 15-20 years ago showed there is incredible fiscal value provided by the hatchery program. Second question is where does the money for Oregon hatcheries come from? 20% of funds come from general fund and license, 80% from federal sources. Strings are attached to federal dollars because it is mitigation money for the lost fish due to dams. Federal funding has been more secure than state funding because the dams aren't going anywhere anytime soon. Money is legally obligated to follow it. Whether it keeps up with inflation and cost of everything is not clear. Third question, what about Rock Creek? Latest is we are working with the Cow Creek Tribe. They are putting forth ideas and proposals. Biggest question is how do you afford to raise fish there in the summer? Moving the fish out of the basin and bringing them back for winter and spring releases is what is working now. Long term plan is going through a process. Scott has given options to Fish Division and those will be announced eventually when decisions are made. There was Cantwell Act \$240B available for tribal projects and proposals, so there are opportunities for tribes to apply for some of that money.

Going forward with raceways at Elk River for raising trout. Elk River Hatchery released fish about a month early because of a level 3 fire evacuation. The fire is about a half mile from the hatchery. Another piece of the R&E funds, budget is being put together for Big Creek pipeline. Some repairs and improvements are being made with Mitchell Act funds as well.

Y. Lind shared that R&E has had a lot of faith in Scott and really appreciated the hatchery bundles and prioritization of projects. The group has had a lot of trust in Scott to use the money as he best sees fit, and that the next person will need to work to earn that same trust. Scott said that the next person will just need to be transparent like he has been and that that has been the easiest way to make this work smoothly. Being able to show what is important and why is important. K. Brown wanted to express the same sentiment that she really trusts Scott and appreciates the work he has done.

Budget Update, Emergency Grants, Project Modifications, STEP OAR Update

M. Olson gave a budget update, materials available online in the packet materials.

Motion: Y. Lind motioned to approve the Siletz Falls Carriage emergency grant, K. Brown seconded, passed unanimously.

Board discussed the issues around contracting timelines and how long it takes for contracts to be reviewed.

M. Olson gave a brief update that the STEP OARs have been approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and filed with the Secretary of State and are now official. D. Grosjacques added that there was criticism from both sides – close all hatcheries to stocking as many fish as possible. But with a lot of hard work and outreach and many public meetings, the rules updates were possible. K. Brown asked if anything that was done has any impact on this board, answer was no.

Board Elections

Y. Lind gave an overview of the duties of the chair.

Motion: K. Brown motioned S. Chambers seconded that Dave Grosjacques be made chair, passes unanimously.

Motion: R. Monroe nominated Kay Brown as Vice Chair, seconded by Y. Lind. K. Brown noted she is off the board in December of 2024. Pass unanimously.

T. VanderPlaat asked where we are at in recruiting for replacements for Y. Lind and R. Monroe. M. Olson shared that we have put out an announcement and are looking for someone from the east side of the state in particular, but we are waiting to see who applies.

Adjourn for Lunch – Trask Hatchery Presentation

Amy Bennett gave a talk about the hatchery.

Project Proposal Review & Recommendations

The board decided to stick to past practice and ask questions of the applicants but not allow presentations. The board reviewed the following project proposals.

23-017 Siletz River Basin pHOS Study

Questions

K. Brown asked if this is an ongoing project and if so, will it require funding in future years. Dylan O’Keefe said that it is intended to be a 4-year study. This request is for 2 years, and they would come back next time for another two years.

R. Monroe asked what would happen if they didn’t get funding next time. Dylan said some data is better than no

data and it would still help advise actions.

D. Grosjacques asked what strata level monitoring is. Dylan said the monitoring done now is done at the Siletz Falls trap and there are some ongoing spawning ground surveys done by OASIS out of Corvallis Research Lab. Want to be able to bolster and verify the OASIS data. John Spangler added that strata level means, for example, mid-coast. Strata level is not basin specific.

K. Brown noted that the IRT gave this project a 1.1 score.

R. Brown asked what the ultimate goal is. Dylan said to get a confident pHOS level to inform management decisions to reevaluate or bolster smolt release levels. Follow up question: if this means more or less fish will be released. Spangler said it depends on what pHOS level is found. If we are over the 10% pHOS limit, then smolt increases will need to decrease. If it's under, they can increase. Spangler said they wouldn't want to decrease smolt release any further but instead find ways to remove more hatchery fish.

Y. Lind asked if there are federal guidelines and Spangler said no because these aren't listed fish. Follow up question: why the target on the Siletz pHOS was 10%. Spangler said it's what the district decided on at the time.

D. Grosjacques asked if this is appropriate use of angler dollars. IRT said minimum positive impacts to the angler and asked Dylan and Spangler for a response. They said that there is potential to increase smolt release or ways to remove more hatchery fish and trap a higher proportion of hatchery fish. Dylan said there is a certain amount of pressure from guides to increase smolt release, but we don't have data to say why we can or can't. Spangler added that since 2014 there have been guides looking for increased smolt releases. Guides think pHOS is low, agency thinks it's right where it needs to be, the data is needed to figure out where we really are.

T. VanderPlaat asked if the angler association was asked for money for this. Spangler said they had not. Follow up question: if there is hatchery capacity to raise more fish for release. Spangler said yes, the hatchery ponds could produce more. Second follow up: what the result will be long term after 4 years of monitoring if it results in the ability to release more smolts. Won't monitoring be needed after more fish are released? Spangler said calibration at the trap would be possible once there is a relationship between the SGS and trap numbers during these 4 years.

T. Laws asked about angler access to utilize more fish. Spangler said above moonshine ramp it's all bank access fishing. Public boat launches below Moonshine. Susan said there are several landowners to work with and some are tribes, have they been asked for funding for this project? The Rock Creek tribe is doing other work in the same basin that supports this fishery.

Y. Lind asked if there are any other potential funding sources. Spangler said no. Susan said that looking at IRT questions about number of personnel and trucks and that it still said 4 trucks. Spangler said the funding amount was updated but not the number of trucks, number of trucks was reduced.

Discussion

Average score was 2.4 of 5.

D. Grosjacques said he will vote no, though recognizes the importance of pHOS. Said he agrees with IRT that this is not the best way to spend angler dollars because it is far enough removed from immediate positive effect on anglers. K. Brown agrees with Grosjacques, opposes project because she doesn't feel it has a strong connection to the angler. It is a generic connection in decision making but not sure the amount of money is worth the effort. T. VanderPlaat said he knows the people who are making the district's lives miserable. There is an opportunity to make partnerships in the community and with the angler groups that are pushing for additional smolt releases. Said that when you look at the number of fish released in the Tillamook area, the Siletz is one of the lowest release rates in the area. The department isn't collecting data it should be collecting to answer the question this project seeks to answer. VanderPlaat says it does have a connection to the angler because if you put more fish in the river, there is more opportunity to catch fish in the river, and that is a direct benefit to the angler. Hatchery fish are a key component of the river systems. This is key info for the department to make decisions. Without the data, a good decision cannot be made. This gives the department opportunities to change the CMP. No data means what is happening stays the same. Flip side is what if the pHOS is 50%? Then does the department just ignore the data? It's a risk. VanderPlaat supports the project. Doesn't think the department has enough data to support the management decisions that are being made. Data is expensive. One of the frustrations with the CMP was how big of decisions were being made with such little data. S. Chambers said she's on the fence. Direct

impacts to the angler, she sees the points that have been made and that there is impact a few steps removed. Also understands that data is important. If you don't have data, you must be precautionary. Better data leads to better management. Concerned with it continuing long enough to see trends. Cautiously supporting at this point. T. Laws is also on the fence. Senses that harvest isn't being met on the current hatchery production so how do you increase effort and access for the anglers to help meet the goals? You must have the effort out there to get the data as well. Would be happier if it was more of a partnership with other groups. More hatchery fish caught would help with the PHOS numbers so why make more fish if they aren't being caught? Grosjacques reiterated, is it a good project? Yes. Do we need PHOS data? Yes. Is it appropriate use of angler dollars? No. Lind said he's torn on this project because he's not really a pro hatchery guy. He would be much happier with healthy runs of wild fish. Also is a data guy. Said he wanted to come back to how this is a lot of money without match, and it's being driven by guides who are making a living on these fish but don't have any skin in the game. Not happy that R&E is being asked for all the money. Said he's 50-50 on it. Thinks it is important data.

Motion: R. Monroe motion to approve. T. VanderPlaat seconded. Yes Votes: Monroe, Chambers, Laws, VanderPlaat. No Votes: Lind, Brown, Grosjacques. Passes 4-3. Y. Lind said he wanted to see match money.

R. Monroe said that last night he was going to vote no on this, but his mind was changed because of the respectful discussion on the project. The group agreed that what makes this board so good is the respect and honest open discussion.

23-018 Vernonia Lake Fishing Docks

Questions

T. Laws asked if there has been an attempt to go to federal surplus to acquire docks. Josette said no. Marty added that through our program, we've never done that because our docks go through engineering. Y. Lind asked where the docks come up in surplus, T. Laws said they have gone to surplus to get docks in his past work. Lake Billy Chinook recently sold off their almost new docks.

K. Brown asked if the applicant had looked into additional funding sources. Josette said they are preparing an application for the OSMB for the walk on dock. Application can't be turned in until October 2. Also looking at putting one in with the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund which also doesn't open until January.

Y. Lind would like to have a better feel for the importance of this pond/lake to the local economy. Is there some way to quantify it better? Josette said the lake is primarily used in the summer season by tourists. Tons of anglers come up to fish it because the parking is close. In the winter it is also used a lot for fishing, but it is used for community exercise. When it was purchased from the mill, the town paved 8' wide paths around the area for recreation, fishing, walking, exercise. They have put in a campground and have received additional grant to put in another campground. All the parking fees helps fund the park program. It's used hugely by the community and in the summer, it is stocked and fished heavily. Very popular. R. Monroe asked what was meant by exercise, Josette clarified that the paved path around the pond is used for exercise, not the docks.

S. Chambers asked if Bryce Hansen has looked at this as the IRT suggested, and Marty said no, partly because it hasn't been approved and the engineering would be on the applicant. K. Brown asked about the ADA of the project is being adhered to, will the dock be wheelchair accessible? Josette said that yes, the paved path and parking lot are all ADA and the grating proposed for the dock ramps is ADA compliant and the slope will also meet ADA standards. There will also be aluminum railings that are lowered in some areas for wheelchair access.

Discussion

Average score was 3.8 of 5.

Group discussed where the pond was and how far from Portland. K. Brown said she highly supports the project because it is specifically focused on fish, fishermen and will have direct benefit. Y. Lind said he is opposed to it because he would like to see the city pay for some of it and not have R&E pay for it entirely. Said he thinks it's a

great project but that there should have some match. We used to have a rule of thumb that \$2 outside money for \$1 R&E. R. Monroe said he agrees with Brown and Lind, except that R&E application doesn't require match. S. Chambers said she thinks it's a great project but, in the past, we have voted to fund at a lower level and tell applicant to apply for some funds from other sources as well and it sounds like the applicant is seeking other funds in the near future too. Asked the group if they would entertain the idea of partial funding. Y. Lind said that he would motion to deny but instruct to come back after finding some other funding sources. T. VanderPlaat countered with the fact that we have a person from the city who has spent time to craft this application and we aren't recognizing the contribution that has been made with that person's time and wants to consider it as part of the match. D. Grosjacques supports the project because it is right down the line of enhancement improving angler access and that match isn't that important. This fits exactly.

Motion: K. Brown moved to approve this request for full amount. D. Grosjacques seconded. Yes Votes: Grosjacques, Brown, Chambers, VanderPlaat. No Votes: Lind, Laws, Monroe. Motion passes 4-3. R. Monroe wanted to clarify that his vote was because there would be time for them to come back and that is why he voted no, not because he wasn't supported of the project.

Future Meetings and Locations

Gauvin said we should consider meeting in Salem or virtual because there is only \$5k left. M. Olson said there may be \$200K returning from Scott and the hatcheries. Y. Lind said that it would be nice to be able to travel to the sites of potential projects but now that the money has been spent it may not be needed. D. Grosjacques said if we say we want to have teleconferences because there is no money to spend that sends the message that the board only meets to spend money and that is not true. Supports a meeting in Salem and then in another location later. These meetings allow the board to look at potential future projects and is an opportunity for the public to attend and speak to the R&E board. The program can afford meetings. Olsen pointed out that the meeting funds are separate from the project fund of 5k, so if we save money on the meetings, we could spend that money on projects. D. Grosjacques has contacted Central Point and Roseburg, and both said they would be willing to host R&E a year from now. T. VanderPlaat said he retired because he hates zoom meetings. K. Brown seconded. T. Laws thirded. T. VanderPlaat said he's happy to do zoom if they have to be but with two new members coming on, face to face would be better. This is the first time he has met T. Laws and that needs to happen with the new members as well. People work better together if they know each other and have a relationship. T. VanderPlaat sees real value in those face-to-face relationships. D. Grosjacques said that when we had teleconferences, we were saving \$5k each time, so ODFW should be more willing to have face to face meetings. Gauvin said that money went back into the pot for R&E and was never reallocated for other purposes. Money saved on virtual meetings stays with R&E. Group must decide what it is they want to do. Sounds like we want to get together in person, but what do we do as far as solicit for more projects when there is only \$5k in the pot? Do we have presentations? Do we work on the operating guidelines? Do we do a long tour? Do we have a cycle 3 project application process at all or skip it until cycle 4? Y. Lind said that if he was still around, he would advocate for a meeting to discuss how to broaden the applicant pool. How does the marketing component fit into it? We have a roadblock in diversity of projects. The money is going to ODFW or other agencies. He remembers when there used to be more watershed project proposals and things like dam removal projects. We used to create relationships with the marine board, and we could discuss those things at a future meeting. Clearly, we have no problem spending the money, but can we work on the diversity of the projects? So many people haven't heard of the program at all. K. Brown said she supports a meeting in person at Salem in March. Would be beneficial for the new people. Agrees with VanderPlaat about not liking virtual meetings. She joined the board to travel around Oregon looking at and assessing projects and helping pick the best ones for the public. S. Chambers said it would be nice to get to eastern Oregon like Ontario, La Grande, etc. Y. Lind said the trip to Enterprise was phenomenal. It was expensive but it was great. S. Chambers wanted to also get more project applications from eastern Oregon. Y. Lind said there was some grief about how much the trip to eastern Oregon cost, but it was important.

R. Monroe asked about surplus docks and if we can even use those with the new rules these days? There's grating standards and other limitations. The surplus may cost money plus the money it may cost to retrofit it to meet today's standards. T. Laws said he feels it should be looked at, not saying he thinks we have to do it, but worth looking into. Olsen said that if we purchased a dock, we would have to pay to transport it, then store it, then install it. Gauvin said that when Bryce Hansen first started, he got some docks from PG&E and retrofitted them. Noted that Hansen got a free excavator from Forestry. Also, he got I-beams to put in cantilever docks all over the state. Olsen said he doesn't think it would be wise to get an old creosote dock or pressure treated dock but where we can pick up, I-beam or other raw materials it may totally make sense.

Proposal is to have a meeting in Salem then Southern Oregon.

Motion for that passes unanimously.

Administration Discussion

Discussion of dates:

Friday March 22nd.

Action Item: ODFW Staff reach out to ODFW staff down South and see what date works best between September 15-26th.

Ray Monroe and Yancy Lind had parting words for the group.

Gauvin presented Lind and Monroe with plaques recognizing their outstanding contributions to the fish resources of Oregon.

Y. Lind said that it's been a wonderful experience for the last 8 years and said this has been the most pleasurable. He talked about the ability to disagree and listen to each other and at the end of the day vote their conscience was so great. He heard about fights and screaming and walking out in groups past. Reiterated that the respect among the group was amazing. This board in his opinion spends too much time on marine and anadromous issues when ODFW is driven by trout fishing. Y. Lind said he would love to fish for nothing but steelhead, but this is a trout agency and not enough time is spent on trout. Our importance decreases every year as has been for a long time because the funding allocated to R&E is flat. Inflation makes R&E less and less relevant. We need to watch every penny to have the most effect. A corollary to that is that this group was created by the legislature to have citizen input to counter ODFW. It's R&E's job to have their own opinion and make sure that the public is represented. Represent our constituents.

R. Monroe said his mission in life isn't just to survive but to thrive and to do it with compassion and style. He is going to miss everyone and that it has been a great time. This group has done so well because everyone worked together, voted their conscience, respected each other and at the end of the day they get together and visit. He has served on boards that have people that don't talk to each other afterwards. He is grateful for the last 8 years to grant money for restoration and enhancement projects that benefit people and fish. Is grateful for the team, considers staff part of that team as well. He always knew that everyone meant nothing but good. Said he learned so much from each person as well and enjoyed putting money on the ground for good things. Appreciates the people who came before him on the board to build this great program. Appreciates what the ODFW team brings to the table for the board. Advice for the board: do something that your future self will thank you for. Do little things that will turn into big things. Millions of trees are planted in this world by squirrels who bury nuts and forget where they did. Do good things and forget about it and don't expect a pat on the back, it will pay off. Make sure everyone in your boat is rowing and not drilling holes when you're not looking. Know your circle of people. Great grandma used to say don't look back because you're not going there. This is about you guys, thank you for volunteering on the board and bringing your passion and intelligence, it has meant a lot, and he

appreciates that everyone on the board has volunteered. He said they'll all be friends until they are old and senile, then they will be new friends.

D. Grosjacques said that they don't get off the board unless the group lets them. Wants them to agree to a few things first. One, come to a meeting or lunch with board. Be available for water questions in your area in the future. Third, stay involved in Oregon and fish and water because your expertise and opinions are needed. It's been great to have you guys on the board and hope that we can find replacements that are at least as good as you guys.

K. Brown said that she appreciated Y. Lind's advocacy for trout because it's such a big part of fishing in Oregon. She appreciates Lind pointing out that the power of R&E dollars has decreased with inflation and that she hopes to keep that in the forefront for advocating for good stewardship of the money. About Ray's comments that she appreciates his time on the board and how valuable his time on the board has been to Oregon.

Private Forest Accord Presentation

Andy Spyrka gave a presentation on the PFA.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:48PM.