

Minutes of the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC)



Date: April 17, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: United States Forest Service
 3106 Pierce Parkway, Room 213
 Springfield, Oregon 97477

Type of Meeting:	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
STAC Members in Attendance:	Rich Heap, Norm Ritchie, Sammie Mosley, Rosemary Furfey, Lauri Mullen, Mike Brochu, Tom Petersen, Bill Hastie, Bob Rees, Dave Dunahay, Tod Jones
Not in Attendance:	Armand Peña, Gary Enoch
ODFW Staff:	Rhine Messmer, Debbi Farrell, Laura Tesler, Erik Moberly, Jeff Ziller, Karen Hans
Public:	Larry Six, Jeff Corbett, John Nagy, Dan Raymond

Agenda

Agenda Items:

Friday, April 17, 2009

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of January 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Area STEP Reports
- PFMC Update
- Puget Sound Partnership Update
- ODFW Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program
- Legislative / Budget Update
- Volunteer Recognition
- Upper Willamette District Presentation
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- 2009 STEP Conference Update
- Public Comments

Saturday, April 18, 2009

- Tour of Delta Ponds and Cedar Creek

Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Approval

Dave Dunahay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Introductions were made.

Chair Dunahay presented today's agenda for review. Saturday's tour start time was moved from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Approval of January 2009 Meeting Minutes

The January 23, 2009, STAC meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections were identified for the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille area report.

January meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

Area Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Bob Rees – North Coast

The STEP biologist position was vacated by Tracy Crews in November. Michelle Long will be transitioning into the position July 1, 2009. Nestucca broodstock goals were met. Whiskey Creek fin-clipping was last week with a release date in August. Rhodes Pond cleaned and prepared for fall Chinook salmon rearing.

Bill Hastie – Mid Willamette

Project Wild Conference will be held in Cannon Beach this year. The Ducks Unlimited, Webfoot Program has 31 teachers registered to date, slots still available for the fall. Attended AFS in Bend, presented a session on 'No Kids Left Inside'. The Creeks and Kids program has 32 teachers signed up so far without any advertising.

Tom Petersen – Mid Coast

George Westfall is retiring at the end of the month. In February the Florence STEP group presented the City of Florence with an official thank-you for allowing the group to use city storage areas for equipment. The water treatment plant has teamed up to provide a tour of the facilities in conjunction with hatchery tours for local schools. Whittaker Creek third graders now also attend the program. The egg take number this year was 100,000 more than the goal, which gave them a total of 500,000. The school programs are busy; the kids in the area have expressed concern that the fear the program will be eliminated due to budget constraints.

Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Area schools are eliminating schools days along with teaching positions. Field trips have been cancelled due to transportation costs. Greg Huchko has been active with the local schools and was able to recruit two interns to assist him with local projects. Creels have been started in the North & South Umpqua Rivers.

Lauri Mullen – Upper Willamette

They are finding that more people want to volunteer; unfortunately with budget cuts they are lacking staff to coordinate volunteer efforts.

Rosemary Furfey – Lower Willamette

Working with the STEP Conference Committee.

Sammie Mosley – Eastern Oregon

The area has submitted a couple Mini-Grant applications to start up Egg to Fry Program. Excited about the prospect of getting the program started in the local schools.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Spending time planning the conference. There's a new acclimation site on the Clackamas. The Sandy River acclimation site hasn't been implemented yet. PGE and Oregon Wildlife Heritage have constructed an ADA access site on the Clackamas which was completed with volunteer help.

Rich Heap – Lower Rogue

Arizona State Park hosted its first Kid Fishing Day, OSCF donated rods to the schools. The middle school adopted a local stream to clear brush and plant trees, the kids are doing a great job.

Tod Jones – North Coast

Has spent a considerable amount of time with the programs at Astoria and Warrenton High Schools. A Deep Matrix Incubation System was donated and installed so the kids have a choice between eyed eggs or green eggs to conduct experiments – which the kids find exciting. The Warrenton site is still experiencing water quality problems, this summer a new system will be installed in hopes it will correct the issue.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon

Area schools are cutting school days and teaching positions. Field trips scheduled for the Redmond School District were cancelled; he will be meeting with school officials to hopefully find a solution. Working with third graders at a local pond in conjunction with classroom activities. Crook County High School students placed signs identifying redd locations in Crooked River below Bowman Dam with support from local volunteers.

Members discussed that it appears more individuals are finding time to volunteer which is replacing a good portion of the monetary donations.

PFMC Update

R. Heap shared with the group that one of the largest marked coho fisheries was approved with an 110,000 quota set for this summer. There was a lot of discussion on the various issues impacting the declining fisheries in the Sacramento River, habitat being the major component in the decline.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

R. Furfey provided an update to the group. The focus is on restoration, recovery plans have been created with an eco-system focus from the agencies. A new agency was created in 2007 “Puget Sound Partnership” to continue the plan. An executive director was chosen along with the formation of an advisory committee and science advisory group. The Action Agenda is currently available on their website for public comment.

ODFW Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program

Laura Tesler, R&E Program Coordinator presented an overview on the Department’s Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program. The program is funded by a \$2.00 surcharge on licenses sales including commercial and seafood processing fees. The Board is comprised of seven members, which award grants for projects totaling approximately 3.2 million every biennium. The program provides funds for the STAC Mini-Grant Program in addition to the STEP Fish Food Grant and STEP Chiller Grant fund.

Legislative / Administrative Updates

Rhine Messmer, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager provided an update in regards to the STEP program. The STEP Coordinator position vacated by Tom Friesen is currently on hold until July 1st. When the time comes for recruiting the committee will be asked what attributes they’d like to find in a candidate for the position. Laura Tesler will be filling in as needed; Rhine will support the program as usual which will include attending meetings to maintain continuity for the program. Laura has been assigned to assist with the STEP Conference planning. Assistance from the STEP Biologists will be requested on various projects including the STEP Annual Report. Once the report has been completed it will be distributed to the committee for review.

The STEP Coordinator position will more than likely be modified to include the 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan which is closely related to STEP. The Coos/Coquille review is a priority, Mary Buckman will assist in the review. Mary Buckman will also be working with the STEP biologists on implementing the 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan.

Norm Ritchie provided an overview of the workgroup which is reviewing the Department’s budget. The workgroup has reviewed the fee increases and will be reviewing the remaining agency budget for 2009-2011

at their next meeting. Norm reported on the status of several bills related to fisheries and invasive species.

Volunteer Recognition

The Upper Willamette District recognized Darlene Kline-Dolby, Bob Rasmussen and Robby Fuit for their dedication. These volunteers are invaluable to the success of the STEP Program their support is greatly appreciated.

District Presentation

Erik Moberly, Upper Willamette STEP Biologist provided an overview of the district's attributes and accomplishments.

STAC Mini-Grant Review

Mini-Grant 07-52

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-52 "Multiple Project Volunteer Expense Reimbursement."

Motion

T. Jones motioned to deny MG 07-52. The motion was seconded and the request was denied by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-53

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-53 "Acclimation Site Alarm System." M. Brochu clarified that there is a low water alarm currently, this additional alarm would monitor water level to assist in monitoring the minimum acceptable level.

Motion

R. Heap motioned to approve MG 07-53 in the amount of \$750.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-54

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-54 "Cunningham Creek Hatchery." This project would provide funds to purchase chest waders to be used by students working at the Cunningham Creek Hatchery.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to approve MG 07-54 in the amount of \$700.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-55

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-55 "Water Quality Sampling Empire Lakes." This project would provide funds for supplies for students at the Harding Learning Center to collect water samples from Empire Lakes.

Motion

B. Hastie motioned to approve MG 07-55 in the amount of \$415.19. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-56

Mini-Grant 07-56 was withdrawn by D. Dunahay

Mini-Grant 07-57

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-57 "Trout for Summer Camps."

Motion

M. Brochu motioned to deny MG 07-57. The motion was seconded and the request was denied by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-58

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-58 "Spring Stewardship Field Day." Karen Hans shared this is for six camps which will have approximately 745 kids attend. The Outdoor School will maintain the equipment, if for some reason the program is eliminated the equipment would be returned to the STEP program.

Motion

T. Petersen motioned to approve MG 07-58 in the amount of \$750.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-59

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-59 "Fish Eggs to Fry." If approved this would be one of the first in the area.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to approve MG 07-59 in the amount of \$713.99. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-60

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-60 "Eggs to Fry / Relocation Project."

Motion

R. Heap motioned to approve MG 07-60 in the amount of \$277.79. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-61

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-61 "Temp & D.O. Monitoring System."

Motion

N. Ritchie motioned to approve MG 07-61 in the amount of \$750.00; however clarification is requested on the budget portion of the application prior to releasing funds. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-62

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-62 "Replacement Chiller Unit for Stafford Primary."

Motion

D. Dunahay motioned to approve MG 07-62 in the amount of \$450.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

Mini-Grant 07-63

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 07-63 "Salmon Hatching Equipment for Athey Creek Life Learning."

Motion

D. Dunahay motioned to approve MG 07-63 in the amount of \$450.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 11-0.

STEP Conference Update

N. Ritchie provided a conference status update. Laura Tesler will be working with the group, the next meeting is scheduled for April 27th at the ODFW Clackamas Office at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment

No public comment

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.