

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



Date: July 17, 2009
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Sisters City Hall
 520 E Cascade Avenue
 Sisters, Oregon 97759

Type of Meeting:	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
STAC Members in Attendance:	Tom Petersen, Rosemary Furfey, Norm Ritchie, Tod Jones, Dave Dunahay, Mike Brochu, Armand Peña, Bill Hastie, Bob Rees
Not in Attendance:	Rich Heap, Sammie Mosley, Gary Enoch
ODFW Staff:	Shelly Miller, Debbi Farrell, Laura Tesler, Mike Gauvin
Public:	Bob Mullong, Theda Hastie, Paul Kay, Valerie Peña

Agenda

Agenda Items:

Friday, July 17, 2009

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of April 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Area STEP Reports
- R&E Board Update
- Legislative Update
- STEP Fish Food Program Analysis
- Volunteer Recognition
- Presentation: Salmonid Reintroduction Efforts in the Deschutes Basin
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- 2009 STEP Conference Update
- 2010 Meeting Dates & Locations
- Public Comments

Saturday, July 18, 2009

- Tour of Pine Nursery Park Pond, Shevlin Park Pond, Tumalo Creek large wood debris site

Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Approval

Dave Dunahay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Introductions were made. Shelly Miller the interim STEP Coordinator introduced herself and shared her job rotation is scheduled to last four months at which time a permanent decision will be made..

Chair Dunahay presented today's agenda for review. Agenda approved as written.

Approval of April 2009 Meeting Minutes

The April 17, 2009, STAC meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections were identified for the Lower Willamette and Eastern Oregon area reports.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to approve the April 17, 2009 meeting minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded

and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Area Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Tom Petersen – Mid Coast

An outstanding year working with the local schools. Scheduled to provide a presentation on working with multiple agencies.

Rosemary Furfey – Lower Willamette

STEP biologist coordinated five YAEP events within the district along with a Passport to Fishing event in June. In addition the STEP biologist provided angling instruction at Camp Angelos.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Attended an angler education training session a few weeks ago, felt the program would better fit under STEP. Also feels there was a lot of good information provided that could be used within the various STEP programs.

Tod Jones – North Coast

Visited Noble Creek Hatchery for fry-release event. Attended the R&E Board meeting in Newport to represent STAC's request for the STAC Mini-Grant Program, STEP Incubators, and STEP Fish Food (which were all approved). Met with WHARF, Inc at Warrenton High School to evaluate the water filtration system. Indicated that was asked to appear on public radio.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon

Jenn Luke welcomed a little girl. She and baby are doing great. Jenn is planning on returning to work towards the end of August. The Central Oregon Fishermen had signs made for redd identification which Prineville High School students assisted with placement; the principal visited the site thanking everyone for their work. In eastern Oregon, the invasive species problem is increasing and has been identified in several locations (tui chubs in particular).

Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Coho smolts released from Galesville net-pens. Approximately 171,000 fall Chinook salmon pre-smolts at the Canyonville Acclimation site were clipped and released into Calapooya Creek. Free fishing day events held throughout the county. The STEP biologist met with Glendale High School staff to reinstitute the fish hatchery program.

Armand Peña – Tenmile, Coos, Coquille

Free Fishing Day was a big success. The Coast Guard provided a demonstration to merchants in Lakeside. The Third Annual STEP Barbeque is scheduled for August 29th. The Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP group is hosting this year at Tugman Park. The Derby is scheduled for September 12-13 which is the groups major fund raiser for the program. The Coos Bay Chamber of Commerce will be participating in the Derby this year as a partner.

Ocean wild coho fishing has been great. The fall Chinook salmon numbers are relatively low in the area.

Bill Hastie – Mid-Willamette

Participating with the STEP Conference Planning Committee. Provided marine debris presentations at various events and workshops in the Mid-valley. Chaired the National Project WILD conference in Cannon Beach and the Northwest Aquatic & Marine Educators 2010 Conference.

Bob Rees – North Coast

The area is still without a STEP biologist, the position is currently being recruited for. Whiskey Creek Hatchery released early this year due to low water levels. There is concern over the low Chinook salmon numbers. Nehalem River will be closed for the first time due to diminished numbers. There are several angler groups wanting to know what can be done to increase the numbers in the Tillamook area.

Restoration & Enhancement Program Update

Bob Mullong, Restoration & Enhancement Program (R&E) Board member shared work being done in the area and how he became involved with STEP. Mr. Mullong was the first STAC member from Eastern Oregon, “What you do here in STEP is great.”

He also provided the background to how the STAC Mini-Grant Program was created. The program was created to alleviate some of the smaller projects from the R&E Grant Program’s application process. Requesting funds through the mini-grant program saves staff time and board member time along with the costs associated with the review process. The R&E Grant Program is approximately a six-month process from application submission to award of funds.

Legislative Update

Norm Ritchie provided an overview of the 2009 legislation session. The Hatchbox Bill is at the governor’s office for review and/or signature. Shelly Miller distributed a legislative update table and budget information sheet. The budget information is available online at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/>.

STEP Fish Food Program Analysis

Tod Jones shared that all three STEP projects were approved for funding through the R&E Program. When presenting the STEP Fish Food project application discussion ensued regarding the evaluation of feeding schedules and the amount of fish food distributed at the STEP Hatcheries. The R&E Board was interested in the possibility of him evaluating the program for possible modifications. He’s been able to reduce the expenses associated with feeding by 40% in some hatchery settings.

Laura Tesler, R&E Program Coordinator shared that the evaluation would assist in projecting the budget.

Motion

N. Ritchie motioned for Tod Jones to proceed with evaluating the larger STEP facilities and if time is available the smaller ones and to provide a report with recommendations. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

STEP Annual Report Update

D. Dunahay along with Shelly Miller, Interim STEP Coordinator will present the 2008 STEP Annual Report to the Commission on August 7, 2009 in Salem. After discussion the group agreed upon highlighting a couple of the school programs and the effects of the budget cuts have had on them.

Volunteer Recognition

The Eastern Oregon District recognized Rod Juranek, Gary Gehlert, and Mark Reisinger.

Rod Juranek, Sunriver Anglers, for his work on fish dissection classes associated with Kokanee Karnival; Gary Gehlert, Sunriver Anglers, for his efforts to host a free fishing day for the youth in the Sunriver / La Pine area, removal of chubs from Lava Lake and his years as a volunteer for Kokanee Karnival; Mark Reisinger, Central Oregon Flyfishers for his many years of volunteering with the Kokanee Karnival.

Their contributions have been invaluable in the success of the programs. Their time and efforts are very much

appreciated by everyone.

Presentation: Salmonid Reintroduction Efforts in the Deschutes Basin

Mike Gauvin, ODFW Pelton Round Butte Mitigation Coordinator provided an overview of the work being done at the Pelton Round Butte project located on the Deschutes River. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a new 50-year project license to PGE and the Tribes on June 21, 2005. The multi-organization agreement for the re-licensing of Pelton Round Butte lays out a comprehensive fish passage program, including a solution to facilitate juvenile fish collection efforts in the Round Butte Dam forebay. The plan facilitates the return of spring Chinook and sockeye salmon to the Metolius River and steelhead to the Crooked River (to Bowman Dam) and the Deschutes River (to Big Falls near Redmond).

STAC Mini-Grant Review

Mini-Grant 09-01

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-01 “ELP Aquatic Invertebrate Monitoring Project.” This project is for an Aquatic Invertebrate Monitoring Program as one of the University of Oregon’s Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) future project offerings. This program would conduct studies of aquatic invertebrates for local watershed councils.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to approve MG 09-01 in the amount of \$707.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0-1.

Mini-Grant 09-02

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-02 “Eggs to Fry Equipment Purchase.” The project supports the Eggs to Fry education program in public schools around the Portland area which involves approximately 1,000 students.

Motion

B. Rees motioned to approve MG 09-02 in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-03

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-03 “Education Outreach to Younger Demographics.” This project is to evaluate the need to upgrade the Association of Northwest Steelheaders website to attract a younger membership through possible social networks (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc).

After discussion the Committee agreed that clarification was needed in regards to the objectives of the project, a clear description of deliverables, and the means of evaluating its success.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to table the application for MG 09-03 in the amount of \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-04

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-04 “Botanical Burrito Revegetation.” This project will involve students in the integration of aquaculture with hydroponic production of wetland plants. Paul Kay, Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners presented the project to the Committee.

The Committee is excited to see the outcome of the students work on this project. Mr. Kay will have the students provide a presentation to the Committee on their results.

Motion

B. Hastie motioned to approve MG 09-04 in the amount of \$1,750.00 The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-05

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-05 "Stream Restoration with Functional Art Structures." This project will construct structures for use in-stream habitat improvement. The structures will function as large wood to assist in reducing erosion, slow channel incision, provide fish habitat and filter pollution.

After discussion the Committee agreed they would like additional information in regards to the project's partners and monitoring.

Motion

M. Brochu motioned to table the application for MG 09-05 in the amount of \$600.00. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-06

The Committee reviewed Mini-Grant 09-06 "Morgan Creek Classroom Completion." This project will purchase chairs, tables, a projector screen and dry erase boards for use in the new classroom.

Motion

T. Jones motioned to approve MG 09-06 in the amount of \$1,990.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

2009 STEP Conference Update

The conference is scheduled for September 11 – 13, 2009 at the Oregon 4-H Convention and Education Center in Salem. Everyone attending must register to assist with meal planning. The planning committee agreed that any funds above expenses will be used for the next conference's "seed" money.

The major components have been finalized working on the logistics now.

2010 Meeting Locations

The Committee agreed on the following meeting locations for 2010. Dates will be determined when the commission's schedule have been released.

January 2010 -Florence
April 2010 -Forest Grove
July 2010 -Madras
October 2010 -La Grande

Administrative

Shelly will work on modifying the STAC Mini-Grant Application and the operating procedures.

T. Jones will be presenting an R&E Grant Proposal to the R&E Board for the Astoria High School program. The Committee is in full support of the R&E application and would hope it is funded through R&E.

Public Comment

Paul Kay thanked the Committee for the positive comments and support. He shared that the casual atmosphere was refreshing and the fact the mini-grants are available to the public is great.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.