

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



**Date:** October 30 - 31, 2009  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Morgan Creek Hatchery  
 97155 Morgan Creek Lane  
 Coos Bay, Oregon 97459

<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
<b>STAC Members in Attendance:</b>	Norm Ritchie, Tom Petersen, Tod Jones, Dave Dunahay, Armand Peña, Rich Heap, Bill Hastie, Leslie Wade
<b>Not in Attendance:</b>	Mike Brochu, Gary Enoch, Rosemary Furfey, Sammie Mosley, Patrick Gefre
<b>ODFW Staff:</b>	Shelly Miller, Debbi Farrell, Gary Vonderohe, Russ Stauff, Rhine Messmer, Tom Rumreich
<b>Public:</b>	Rusty McElhaney, Dennis Marsh, Valerie Peña, John Ward, Damon White, Jared Waldien, Tyler Martin, Cliff Lance, Eric Farm, John Franzen, Paul Merz

## Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

### *Friday, October 30, 2009*

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval, Approval of July 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Administrative Updates
- STEP Conference Debriefing
- Mini-Grant Application and Report Revisions
- Eggs to Fry Chiller Costs and Options
- Area STEP Reports
- Volunteer Recognitions
- Implementation of 25-Year Angling Plan
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- Tour of Morgan Creek Facility

### *Saturday, October 31, 2009*

- Tour of Coquille High School Education Center, Noble Creek Hatchery, Millicoma Interpretive Center and Eel Lake

## Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Approval

Dave Dunahay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

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

## **Approval of July 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The July 17, 2009, STAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

### **Motion**

B. Hastie motioned to approve the July 17, 2009 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

## **Administrative Updates**

Shelly Miller, interim STEP Coordinator provided the following updates to the Committee:

- Welcome to Leslie Wade, who was recently appointed to the Upper Willamette STAC position.
- Patrick Gefre was appointed recently to the North Coast STAC position.
- Shelly assisted in interviews for the STEP Biologist position located in Newport.
- The new volunteer reporting form was emailed recently to everyone.
- Shirts, name tags and name plates will be ordered for each Committee member. Name plates and tags will include the STEP district each member is representing.
- John Spangler is the new Assistant District Biologist in Florence. John will be working with the Mid-Coast area STEP.

Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager shared with the Committee that interviews will be conducted in the later half of November for the STEP Coordinator position. If a member of the Committee would like to participate please contact him.

2010 STAC Meeting dates and locations were confirmed.

- January 8 - 9, 2010 in Florence
- April 23 - 24, 2010 in Forest Grove
- July 16 - 17, 2010 in Madras
- October 15 - 16, 2010 in La Grande

2010 Committee member officer nominations were conducted.

- Tod Jones will become Committee Chair
- Mike Brochu will become Vice-Chair
- Rosemary Furfey will be Secretary
- Leslie Wade will be Alternate Secretary

## **STEP Conference**

This years STEP Conference was a success with approximately 130 individuals attending. The location was a hit and the staff at the 4-H Center was wonderful. Thank you to everyone who assisted.

The Committee discussed the need to begin planning the next conference. It was agreed that having a staff person dedicated to the planning is essential to the conference's success. Laura Tesler was integral in the planning and logistics of this year's conference.

It was suggested that a table top display be created to be set-up at various functions to assist in advertising STEP in between conferences.

### **Mini-Grant Application and Report Revisions**

S. Miller updated the Mini-Grant Application and Project Completion Report. STAC member contact information has been added to the application packet to assist applicants in obtaining recommendations. Updates were informally approved by STAC. The revised application and report will be posted online along with the guidelines as discussed below.

The possibility of the application being converted to an online version was discussed. The format would be close to that of the current R&E online application.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to have staff investigate and proceed with creating an electronic application. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

The Committee discussed the importance of the Project Completion Report and the need to ensure reports are received in a timely manner. Also, the Committee agrees that any materials / curriculum created with STAC Mini-Grant funds should be made public property and available to those interested.

The request for administrative costs through grant funds was discussed. After some lengthy discussion it was agreed that the need to be flexible was important for those rare circumstances. S. Miller will work with interested Committee members to define those circumstances to be included with established Mini-Grant application approval guidelines.

Motion: T. Jones motioned that funds remain flexible for use to fund administrative, overhead and staff time and that the guidelines also be updated to reflect today's discussion. Until guidelines are developed, STAC mini grants will not be used to fund administrative or staffing costs. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 5-2-1.

### **Fish Eggs-to-Fry Chiller Set-Up Costs and Options**

S. Miller provided information she gathered regarding the various chiller options available. Jen Luke, Eastern Oregon STEP Biologist, is planning to try out the Ice Probe chillers by Coolworks. This information will be provided to the STEP biologists and Fish Eggs to Fry participants to guide their decision making regarding appropriate materials for the classroom incubation program.

Motion: T. Jones motioned that an amount of \$500 be the Committee's standard amount of funds to be awarded for chiller requests. Associated materials (aquaria, filters, etc.) not included. If equipment priced above that amount is desired, funding will have to come from another source. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

These guidelines will be distributed to the ODFW STEP biologists, added to the Mini Grant application guidelines, and posted online.

### **Area Reports**

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Jeff Fulop provided a handout of activities.

Tom Petersen – Mid Coast

Recently spoke with county commissioners regarding the various school programs in his area.

Tod Jones – North Coast

Evaluating fish food usage at the STEP hatcheries, has spoken with Gary Vonderohe and John Weber some suggestions have been discussed. Met with Ron Rehn the new STEP biologist in Tillamook. Assisting Henry Balensifer on obtaining an R&E grant for a water filtration system at the Warrenton High School hatchery. Incubators have been distributed to groups to see how well they work.

**Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon**

Kokanee Karnival had a total of 14 classrooms this year. Thanks to Jen Luke there are incubators now in Klamath Falls and Lakeview. There are two lakes being treated with rotenone in Prineville to assist with invasive species problems, volunteers are eagerly waiting to assist. Many other high lakes in the region have invasive species issues (tui chub primarily) and will be difficult to treat.

**Armand Peña – Tenmile, Coos and Coquille**

This years South Coast STEP barbeque was a success with approximately 150 people in attendance including Roy Elicker. Coquille STEP will be hosting the August 7, 2010 barbeque. The Salmon Derby was in September with two-thirds of the profits going directly to the Morgan Creek Hatchery. This week the hatchery processed 1,800 fish and collected 50 broodstock females.

**Rich Heap – Lower Rogue**

The Curry Anadromous Fishermen have begun collecting and processing fish for the Indian Creek hatchery program. The Oregon South Coast Fishermen continue to work the Winchuck screwtrap, they have worked the trap for 17 years, the information gathered has been helpful to understanding the area's fishery. The new acclimation pond worked well, they were able to acclimate 10,000 smolts. Broodstock were collected on the Chetco last week. STEP volunteers have been the main source of data collection along the Chetco. Russ Stauff, ODFW Rogue Watershed Manager shared that the data gathered by the STEP volunteers in this area has been invaluable to the Department for forecasting.

**Bill Hastie – Mid Willamette**

Karen Hans provided a handout of activities. Creeks and Kids went well, every year it seems to get better. Erik Moberly did a great job filling in for Jenn Luke while she was on leave.

Rich Heap provided a PFMC update to the group.

Tom Petersen shared that the searun cutthroats on the Siuslaw have returned to the area. A lot of coho salmon are also coming through; it appears they're on the smaller size, also seeing several starry flounders, shiner perch and suckers.

**Public Comment**

Paul Merz was asked by the Committee to share the mission of the Klamath Basin Common Ground Alliance which he is a member of. The alliance was created in 2006 by a Newport fisherman who felt it was valuable to all those impacted to find common ground, he contacted local fisherman, farmers and local tribes. The board consists of two members from each group (fisherman, farmers and tribal members). The alliance isn't involved with litigation, their goal is to work to obtain consensus by focusing on things that the groups have in common. As an example of projects the alliance is involved with include researching infections of *Ceratomyxa shasta* in the Klamath River.

Gary Vonderohe the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille STEP Biologist shared that they've been working on data collection and monitoring which was a requirement of the Coos Propagation projects.

**Volunteer Recognition**

The Tenmile, Coos and Coquille District recognized Al Harker, Keith Christensen, Harold Collins and Richard Johnson.

Al Harker is a member of the Coos River STEP. Al has spent a tremendous amount of time with the upgrades at Noble Creek Hatchery and making sure everything runs smoothly.

Keith Christensen is the current Vice-President of the Eel Tenmile STEP. Keith is involved in various projects through out Coos County. He's a member of the Coos Amateur Salmon Derby Committee, working the trap at Eel Lake and assists at Morgan Creek and the Millicoma Interpretive Center.

Harold Collins and Richard Johnson both are vital to the programs at Morgan Creek. They have been a valuable resource to STEP.

### **25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan**

Shelly Miller and Rhine Messmer provided an update to the 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan. The STEP component of the plan which includes promoting youth angling has been a part of STEP for some time. Each STEP District is unique in the programs conducted. The STEP Coordinator will work with each STEP biologist and identify the programs offered in the various areas. Evaluation of the various programs will be important to determine success.

R. Messmer shared that the Department will look at what programs are working in the various areas. If the programs are doing well and need financial assistance we'll seek funding to enhance the program. The Department isn't looking to re-create programs if they're already in place and successful. R. Messmer is contacting other agencies to see what programs are being currently offered to identify duplication of efforts or to create partnerships.

S. Miller shared that Ed Bowles would like to see simple, low cost opportunities made available. R. Heap stated he would like to see more peer-to-peer and educational based programs.

### **STAC Mini-Grant Application Review**

#### **Mini-Grant 09-07 Art Education for Stream Restoration**

Originally Mini-Grant 09-05, application slightly modified. B. Hastie would like to see before and after project pictures.

Motion: B. Hastie motioned to approve MG 09-07 in the amount of \$750 with the understanding that the local STEP biologist will monitor the project and that a report will be provided to the Committee upon project completion sharing the project's success. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7 - 1.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-08 Boots for Educational Opportunities**

Damon White, Jared Waldien and Tyler Martin students from Coquille High School presented the project proposal to the Committee. The Coquille High School hatchery program currently has 23 students. The program has only approximately 6 pairs of waders for use that do not have holes.

T. Jones shared his concern that the match identified on the application isn't related to the purchase of waders.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to approve MG 09-08 in the amount of \$1,500 with the understanding that the funds will be used wisely to obtain as many pairs as possible. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-09 Salmon/Trout Classroom Hatchery Project**

Motion: R. Heap motioned to table MG 09-09, notifying the applicant to resubmit in January upon submitting Mini-Grant Project Completion Reports for previous awarded grants that have not yet been received. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-10 Salmon Watch**

The Committee discussed that curriculum created using Mini-Grant funding should be made available to the public and there was concern that the funds weren't going to assist "volunteers" directly. In addition concern was expressed over the request for more than one set of equipment and what happens to the equipment if it's not needed pending the completion of this pilot.

Motion: T. Jones motioned to approve MG 09-10 in the amount of \$650 (one-third of request) to purchase one set. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Committee 3 - 5.

**Mini-Grant 09-11 Newton Creek Wetlands Spring Stewardship Field Day**

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to deny MG 09-11. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-12 Molalla River Snorkel Surveys**

N. Ritchie discussed the application with the applicant and the line item for 2 Patagonia wetsuits was decreased from \$980 to \$490.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to approve MG 09-12 in the amount of \$1,060. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-13 Nestucca Connections Equipment**

A concern for a lack of match funds was expressed. Also, the justification for the equipment was considered poor.

Motion: A. Peña motioned to deny MG 09-13. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Committee 8 -0.

**Mini-Grant 09-14 Wild Winter Steelhead Broodstock Collection Equipment**

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-14 in the amount of \$1,500. The motion was seconded and was approved by the Committee 7 - 1.

**Mini-Grant 09-15 Student Stewardship Education**

After discussion over the amount requested for life jackets, Gary Vonderohe agreed to research a better price for life jackets.

Motion: T. Jones motioned to approve MG 09-15 in the amount of \$1,988. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7 - 1.

**Mini-Grant 09-16 Automatic Feeders**

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to approve MG 09-16 in the amount of \$1,630. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-17 Estuary Improvements**

The question was asked if monitoring takes place to determine how well the plants survive.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-17 in the amount of \$790 with the understanding that a follow-up report be provided by the applicant documenting the survival of the plants. The motion was

seconded and approved by the Committee 8 - 0.

**Mini-Grant 09-18 Hanging Scales and Tripods**

The question was asked why there was a need for 2 scales and the justification of the expensive choice of scale.

Motion: ??? motioned to table MG 09-18. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 8 - 0. If the applicant needs the equipment prior to the January 2010 meeting, staff is requested to send out for vote the request prior to the meeting for review. Shelly will coordinate with the applicant to answer STAC questions.

**District Presentation and Tour of Morgan Creek Facility**

Tom Rumreich, STEP Biologist provided an overview of Morgan Creek and Millicoma Interpretive Center.

A tour of Morgan Creek Hatchery was provided to the Committee and public in attendance.

**Public Comment**

No comments at this time.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.