

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



**Date:** July 16 – 17, 2010  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Inn at Cross Keys Station  
 66 NW Cedar Street  
 Madras, Oregon 97741

<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
<b>STAC Members in Attendance:</b>	Norm Ritchie, Leslie Wade, Gary Enoch, Dave Dunahay, Mike Brochu, Tod Jones, Rich Heap, Armand Pena, Tom Petersen
<b>Not in Attendance:</b>	Pat Gefre, Sean Hastie, Sammie Mosley
<b>ODFW Staff:</b>	Kevin Herkamp, Jack Palmer, Mike Harrington, Debbi Farrell
<b>Public:</b>	Jim Yuskavitch, Paul Kay

## Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

### *Friday, July 16, 2010*

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of April 2010 Meeting Minutes
- Area STEP Reports
- 2011 STAC Meeting Schedule
- Administrative Updates, STEP Annual Report
- Project Update – Botanical Burrito Revegetation
- District Update
- STEP Program Publicity
- Volunteer Recognitions
- 2011 STEP Conference Update
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- STEP Fish Food Update
- Top STEP Questions / Answers, STEP Goals, STAC Duties

### *Saturday, July 17, 2010*

- Tour of Pelton Round Butte Fish Passage Project
- Tour of Round Butte Hatchery

## Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Approval

Tod Jones, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Jones presented today's agenda for review. Agenda approved.

## Area Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Bonneville Passport to Fishing was a huge success this year with a record number in attendance. A handout of activities was provided.

Leslie Wade – Upper Willamette

Several youth events have been conducted in the area. There was a Cedar Creek Planning meeting held in regards to a habitat restoration project.

Gary Enoch – Upper Rogue

Several issues continue surrounding the Savage Rapids Dam removal. The work at Gold Ray Dam has been put on hold while a couple groups attempt in halting its removal permanently.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon

Free Fishing Days were successful. Sunriver Anglers and Central Oregon Flyfishers are assisting in the removal of chubs in the area. Kokanee Karnival continues to expand which results in the need for additional volunteers. The Steelheaders have volunteered to assist.

Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Greg Huchko provided a handout of activities. Several student activities were conducted along with a successful steelhead acclimation resulting in three releases in the South Umpqua.

Tod Jones – North Coast

Working on an exchange program that would allow students from the Astoria High School and Warrenton High School fisheries programs to travel to Coquille High School's program. Coquille High Schools students would then be able to travel north to Astoria and Warrenton's programs. Working with the Astoria School Board to assist with finding a solution for future funding of the program.

Rich Heap – Lower Rogue

The groups along the south coast are nervous in regards to the future of STEP Fish Food funding. The Azalea Festival was a success. The Winchuk screw trap was put in place after a delay. It appears the arrival of salmon in the area is behind schedule, hoping they will arrive soon.

Armand Peña – Tenmile, Coos, Coquille

They broke the record at Free Fishing Day this year. The annual Salmon Derby is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Assisted with fin clipping in Gardiner, they had difficulty finding volunteers willing to perform the maxillary clip.

Tom Petersen – Mid Coast

A teacher in the area won a national award for curriculum creation. The Honeyman Park dock project completed. Free Fishing Day a success again this year. Took part in instructing individuals from around the world, these individuals spoke English as their second language. Cox Island is being restored as a wetland will affect approximately 400 acres.

Norm Ritchie shared that a project in the Tillamook area is getting to the root cause of the area's flooding problems. It appears a lot of the pasture in the area was previously wetlands and estuaries.

Tod Jones shared his appreciation for all the volunteer work everyone provides. His business's mission is to make a better product which improves fisheries. T. Jones shared with the Committee he recently supported two R&E projects that could have been perceived as a conflict of interest. He's prepared to resign from STAC if it's recommended by fellow Committee members.

G. Enoch shared that T. Jones resignation from the Committee wasn't needed in his opinion. Maybe in the future abstain from voting or participating in the discussion.

D. Dunahay shared that T. Jones has been up front every time.

M. Brochu shared that he didn't see a concern from the Committee regarding a conflict.

R. Heap shared that T. Jone's resignation wasn't needed, but felt it was appropriate to ask the group.

N. Ritchie shared that T. Jones has always been upfront, wouldn't like his work stopped because of a perceived conflict.

K. Herkamp shared that maybe state or clarify in the application his relationship to the project.

### **Approval of April 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The April 16–17, 2010 STAC meeting minutes were reviewed. Correction to Mid Coast area report was made.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve the April 16-17, 2010 meeting minutes with correction. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

### **2011 STAC Meeting Schedule**

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW STEP Coordinator provided a proposed 2011 meeting schedule incorporating the upcoming propagation project reviews. The following dates and locations were agreed upon.

Coos Bay	January 7 – 8, 2011
Tillamook	March 25, 2011 (in conjunction with the STEP Conference)
Eugene	June 24 – 25, 2011
Medford	September 23 – 24, 2011

### **Project Update – Botanical Burrito Revegetation**

Paul Kay from Rogue Water in Ashland provided a project update to the Committee for Mini-Grant 09-04 which was awarded one-year ago. The project proposes to restore riparian habitat and enhance water quality.

### **District Update**

Mike Harrington, ODFW Assistant District Fish Biologist for the Deschutes Watershed District presented an overview of the Deschutes Watershed District.

Jack Palmer, Hatchery Manager of Round Butte Hatchery presented an overview of the work beginning in Madras to create an urban fishing pond.

### **STEP Program Publicity**

K. Herkamp provided an update in regards to education/outreach and the propagation flow chart, however hasn't been able to put a lot together yet. Volunteers have been identified in reviewing/ updating educational materials.

## Administrative Updates

K. Herkamp provided the following information:

- The Lower Willamette STAC position is still in the works of being filled by the Governor's Office
- Still working on the SFR report, has received several requests from the Districts requesting additional funds in the S&S budget allocations.
- The STEP Annual Report will be presented at the September 2, 2010 Commission meeting in Hillsboro. The report was created by updating the new reporting period numbers.

The Committee asked how the numbers are gathered. K. Herkamp replied the numbers are provided by the Districts. The actual numbers are more than likely under reported / under estimated. It was agreed a better job was needed in tracking volunteer hours. It was agreed upon that the STEP Biologists need to be more vigilant at collecting the information. By reviewing the Annual Report and hearing concerns from groups that it appears propagation is the main focus of the program.

## Public Comment

No comments received at this time.

## Volunteer Recognition

The Eastern Oregon District recognized Rance and Nancy Kaster for their support of the Prineville Youth Pond's construction. In addition, the Kastars hosted youth fishing events at their private ponds.

## 2011 STEP Conference Update

K. Herkamp provided an update on the upcoming conference. Several handouts were provided. A couple conference calls were conducted so far. Teach Today – Fish Tomorrow was agreed upon as the 2011 theme, the conference will be held at the Twin Rocks Friends camp in Rockaway. It's been decided to have the conference held only on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

If the registration fee is set at \$30 there won't be any extra funds to assist with funding other portions of the conference. He would like to see some seed money left over after 2011's conference to assist with planning the subsequent conference. Will be asking the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation to assist with maintaining conference funds.

D. Farrell will work on defining conference tasks and seeking donations. Please forward any updates or information to Debbi while K. Herkamp is out of the office for the next several weeks.

## STAC Mini-Grant Application Review

The Committee reviewed the following grant applications. The Committee discussed the amount of funds remaining for Mini-Grants and the need to prioritize.

### **Mini-Grant 09-35 Egg Incubation Facility Water Quality Improvement**

This project was provided the funds to purchase a chiller from an R&E Emergency Request. This request will purchase the last of the items needed. The Committee commented on the lack of match funds. T. Petersen replied that the hours donated by volunteers are considered to be in-kind.

Motion: T. Petersen motioned to approve MG 09-35 in the amount of \$1,064. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

### **Mini-Grant 09-39 Hatchery Improvements**

The question was asked if this was a private hatchery. The reply was yes it is located on private property. The Committee asked if a UV filter was appropriate for this situation. It was shared that the feeders were previously purchased and the group is lacking the needed bases to actually put the feeders in use.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve MG 09-39 in the amount of \$350.31 to purchase the feeder base and the pond fence. As far as any major improvements the Committee requests a Hatchery Management Plan be reviewed prior to approval. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-40 Classroom Waders for Watershed Exploration**

The Committee shared concern over a lack of match funds and felt clarification was needed prior to approval. The Committee recommends the applicant contact a local retailer to inquire on receiving a wholesale price versus a retail price.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to table MG 09-40 recommending to the applicant to re-apply in the next biennium. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-41 Eggs to Fry Classroom Project**

Great application, like the fact a parent has volunteered in securing the funds.

Motion: G. Enoch motioned to approve MG 09-41 in the amount of \$540. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-42 Equipment to Assist with Charleston STEP Projects**

It was agreed that youth need a smaller size of waders. The Committee inquired if the waders would stay with the STEP Biologist and the reply was yes.

Motion: L. Wade motioned to approve MG 09-42 in the amount of \$1,060. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-43 2011 STEP Annual Conference**

The funding if approved would be handled by the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Motion: A. Peña motioned to approve MG 09-43 in the amount of \$2,000 with the understanding that if the funds are not needed they will be returned. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-44 Education and Water Testing with a Hach Company HD40d Dual Input Multi-Parameter Digital Meter**

The application doesn't indicate any volunteer activities, concern this cornerstone of STEP isn't included.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to deny MG 09-44. The motion was seconded and the application was denied by the Committee 9-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-45 From Our Tank to YouTube: Students as Digital Environmental Ambassadors**

Cool project, a lot of effort being put into this – like it.

Motion: G. Enoch motioned to approve MG 09-45 in the amount of \$290. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

## **STEP Fish Food Update**

K. Herkamp provided an update to the R&E Grant Amendment request for STEP Fish Food. At the May 21, 2010 R&E Meeting the grant application amendment was tabled.

K. Herkamp will be attending the August 13, 2010, meeting in Gold Beach to available to address any concerns the R&E Board might have. Several additional handouts will be provided to the R&E Board to identify the increases.

Discussion by the Committee included that without the Fish Food account the STEP Groups wouldn't be able to continue. The south coast groups are concerned with the outcome. The Committee stated that the only funds contributed by the Department for the various STEP Projects is the STEP Fish Food Grant which is awarded through the R&E Program which is funded by license dollars.

R. Heap will be attending the meeting to present an application submitted by the Oregon South Coast Fishermen. If there are questions by the Board he will be available to assist in responding to their concerns.

## **Top STEP Questions/Answers, STEP Goals, STAC Duties**

K. Herkamp provided a handout on the top questions received by Committee members. Would like to see the list finalized and posted on the STEP webpage along with creating handouts to distribute. It was agreed that some answers will address more than one question. The objective of the list was to create an informational brochure to distribute to the public and post online.

L. Wade volunteered to put the list together of the top questions along with the answers.

R. Heap distributed a handout he created to identify STAC member duties and responsibilities to assist new members. After discussion modifications will be made and redistributed to the Committee by R. Heap.

K. Herkamp provided a handout on STAC Goals identified at the April 2010 meeting in Forest Grove. Having the goals finalized will assist in addressing any concerns that the R&E Board might have in regards to the STEP program direction. All modifications and suggestions should be routed to D. Farrell in K. Herkamp's absence the next few weeks.

## **Public Comment**

Paul Kay thanked the Committee for their support and work. When in the Medford area he would be happy to provide a tour of his projects.

## **Saturday Tour**

Meet at the Pelton Round Butte office by 9:00 a.m. tour will be provided by Jim Bartlett at PGE.

A tour of the Round Butte Hatchery is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. the tour will be provided by Jeremy Puckett.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.