

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



Date: October 15-16, 2010
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: America's Best Value Sandman Inn
 - Meeting Room
 2410 East R Avenue
 La Grande, Oregon 97850

Type of Meeting:	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
STAC Members in Attendance:	Norm Ritchie, Armand Peña, Pat Gefre, Sean Hastie, Tod Jones, Mike Brochu, Richard Heap, Leslie Wade, Dave Dunahay
Not in Attendance:	Gary Enoch, Lin Howell, Sammie Mosley, Tom Petersen
ODFW Staff:	Michelle Schuiteman, Bruce Eddy, Tim Bailey, Kevin Herkamp, Debbi Farrell
Public:	Blanie George

Agenda

Agenda Items:

Friday, October 15, 2010

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval, Approval of July 2010 Meeting Minutes
- Administrative Updates
- STAC Officer Nominations
- Area STEP Reports
- Presentation: Avian Predation, Hazing & Smolt Research
- District Update
- Public Comment
- Volunteer Recognitions
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- 2011 STEP Conference Update & Award Nominations
- STAC Member Duties and Responsibilities
- STAC Goals and Priorities the Top STAC Q&As
- 2011 STEP Propagation Project Reviews

Saturday, October 16, 2010

- Tour of Ladd Creek & End Creek Restoration Projects

Call to Order & Introductions

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

Approval of Agenda & July 2010 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jones presented today's agenda for review. Agenda approved with addition of presentation by Warrenton High Fisheries.

The July 16-17, 2010 STAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: T. Jones motioned to approve the July 16-17, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Administrative Updates

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW STEP Coordinator provided the following information:

- Laura Tesler has accepted a job rotation in the Wildlife Division as the BPA Mitigation Coordinator K. Herkamp will be filling in as needed.
- An order for more fish ID cards has been made, contact K. Herkamp with requests.
- Approximately fifty-percent of the STEP Fish Food account has been spent.
- K. Herkamp suggested that STAC members attend local R&E Meetings when possible.
- Presented the STEP Fish Food R&E Project Amendment to the R&E Board in August. The request was approved, however the R&E Board made several suggestions for STAC to consider in regards to future STEP fish food requests.
- Would like to see the STAC Member Duties & Responsibilities formalized to assist in capturing the knowledge of the current members. A significant amount of members will be in transition soon and finalizing the duties, policies and procedures would assist in a smooth transition.

STAC Officer Nominations

The following STAC members were nominated to:

- Mike Brochu rotates to Committee Chair
- Sean (Bill) Hastie was nominated as Vice Chair
- Leslie Wade will continue as Secretary

An alternate secretary was not identified; if a need arises the Committee will respond at that time.

Area STEP Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern

Kokanee Karnival along with several angling clinics went well. Some area lakes have been treated for chubs.

Leslie Wade – Upper Willamette

Drafted STEP and STAC Top Questions / Answers

Rich Heap – Lower Rogue

Handout provided. Last week 17,000 fish released at approximately 11 per pound. Numbers down in the area especially steelhead (estimate of 40% less than average).

Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Greg Huchko provided a handout of activities. Two-weeks ago 40 volunteers worked the South Umpqua fish trap. The goal is 96 pair. The Steelhead Derby is scheduled for February;

approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 is raised to go towards grants to restore the Umpqua River.

Tod Jones – North Coast

Worked on the chum reintroduction proposal. The student exchange is scheduled for November 12th; Warrenton and Astoria students will travel south to tour Morgan Creek, Noble Creek, Coquille High School and Millicoma Interpretive Center. In December Coquille students will travel north.

Sean (Bill) Hastie – Mid Willamette

Assisted with carcass placement – had a blast. Delivered eggs to area schools last week. Located a stream table not in use to be transferred to a kindergarten teacher to be used in the classroom. Working on the upcoming STEP Conference.

Pat Gefre – North Coast

Fin-clipping had the best turn out ever at 140 volunteers clipping 105,000 fish in four hours. There were 40 youths ages ranged from 5 to 12, which were all given a rod & reel to take home. The BBQ that same day was able to raise \$5,000. The North Coast Salmon Rendezvous is coming up in November which benefits the North Coast Salmon & Steelhead Enhancement Fund. Rhoades Pond collection efforts are approximately fifty-percent away from goal.

Armand Peña – Coos, Coquille & Tenmile

The STEP BBQ was a huge success. The Annual Coos Basin Amateur Salmon Derby held in September had a great turn out. The winning catch was made by a youth with a 38-pound Chinook salmon. Fishing in the area has been great; approximately 70% of those caught were 3-year old fish.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Handout provided. Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Manager presented a proposal to streamline the regulation process at a recent meeting.

Presentation: Avian Predation, Hazing & Smolt Research

Michelle Schuiteman, ODFW Avian Predation Coordinator presented an overview of avian predation management in Oregon. The Florence STEP Group assisted with a recent project along the North Coast.

Volunteer Recognitions

Blanie George and Moe Linzel were recognized for their work conducted at Phillips Reservoir. Their dedication and hard work as volunteers is appreciated and valued by everyone.

Presentation: Warrenton High Fisheries, Inc

Henry Balensifer presented Mini-Grant 09-49 Rain Water Supplementation & Water Quality Monitoring System Repair to the Committee.

The project proposes to install a 900 ft. drain line from Warrenton High School to a new filtration reservoir adjacent to WarHF, Inc. to increase the amount of fresh water.

Questions/Comments from Committee:

The Committee asked what the water quality data will be used for. The applicant replied to evaluate restoration projects by monitoring water quality of ‘nature vs. hatchery’ which also provides an educational component. The Committee asked what the quality would be of the water draining off roof. The applicant replied that after three-years the chemicals have usually been flushed away.

After some discussion the applicant agreed to provide the Committee with its long-range goals. The applicant along with ODFW staff will schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss issues brought forward today.

Action Item: K. Herkamp will contact Ron Rehn, North Coast STEP Biologist to schedule a meeting with Warrenton High Fisheries Inc. to discuss the long range goals of the STEP Project.

District Presentation

Tim Bailey, ODFW La Grande District Biologist provided an overview of the activities in the District.

Public Comment

No comments

STAC Mini-Grant Review & Approval

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 09-46 Fishhawk Lake Fish Ladder Sign Board

T. Jones toured the area, it's a popular public lake located next to a housing division.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to table MG 09-46. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-47 Goat Island Volunteer Riparian-Restoration Project

The Committee discussed how this project was related to previously awarded mini-grants. Several plantings/projects have been conducted over the last several years.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to deny MG 09-47. The motion was seconded and the application was denied by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-48 Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program Video Project Phase 1

The Committee shared the concern over the budget item titled "misc." appears to be high. The Committee stated that the applicant has a significant amount of match funds. Also, this project should be marketed to optimize its educational benefit.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-48 in the amount of \$867. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-49 Rain Water Supplementation & Water Quality Monitoring System Repair

The Committee reiterated the importance of the long-term plans for the Project.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-49 in the amount of \$1,500. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-50 Salmonberry River Macroinvertebrate Survey

This would assist in determining the overall health of the river. The Committee hopes this project assists in strengthening partnerships.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approved MG 09-50 in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-51 Canyonville Acclimation Site

This project improves the facilities used by students and volunteers.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-51 in the amount of \$1,113. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

Mini-Grant 09-52 Fish Carcass Toss for Stream Nutrient Supplement

The fish are held until after the spawning surveys are complete. The Committee asked what other options are there if any. A concern was shared in regards to the amount of work being spent on extra carcasses and the program's effectiveness.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-52 in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 9-0.

2011 Conference Update & Award Nominations

B. Hastie is working on the conference schedule line-up; please identify your choice of possible topics (see handout).

All funds need to be directed to Debbi Farrell; with checks addressed to "STEP Conference Fund."

Award Nominations are due to Debbi Farrell by December 15th. All nominations must provide a paragraph to support the nomination. STAC will vote on award winners at the January 7, 2011 meeting.

STAC Member Duties & Responsibilities

R. Heap presented an updated draft copy of STAC Member Duties and Responsibilities. The Committee agreed that the percentages of time should be removed and the list of duties be placed in order of priority. Finalizing the list would assist in maintaining consistency with member changes. The Committee requests to have meeting minutes drafted and distributed within a short time following the meeting. Distributing minutes sooner would allow members absent and those present to be up to date on issues.

Action: R. Heap will update STAC Member Duties and Responsibilities handout for review at January's meeting.

Action: STAC Meeting minutes will be distributed within 2-weeks following a regularly scheduled meeting.

After some discussion the Committee inquired to the possibility of obtaining an OWEB Grant for the Committee to distribute for restoration work within the various watersheds.

Action: K. Herkamp will research the possibility of obtaining an OWEB Grant and report back at January's meeting.

STAC Goals/Priorities and Top Questions/Answers

K. Herkamp was unable to finalize the STAC Goals and Priorities document. B. Hastie will assist in compiling a draft copy to present at January's meeting.

Action: K. Herkamp & B. Hastie will complete a draft version to review by January's meeting.

Top Questions/Answers will be placed on the list from basic STEP information to more specifically

focused questions.

2011 STEP Propagation Reviews

K. Herkamp provided an update along with a handout identifying the STEP Propagation Projects that will need to be reviewed in 2011. Was unable to complete the propagation flow chart, it appears that STAC will review the project renewals later in the process than previously believed.

There has been mention by the Department of purchasing a trailer to assist in fin-clipping at the various STEP hatcheries. The Committee is in support of pursuing this possibility. Also, the Committee suggests that the trailer be equipped to handle coded wire tagging for monitoring efforts.

Action: The Committee supports the purchase of a trailer to be used for fin-clipping.

K. Herkamp shared that the revised Conservation & Recovery Plans will include multiple species; reviews will begin in the North Coast District.

Public Comment

No comments.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.