

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



Date: September 23, 2011
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: LaQuinta Inns & Suites White City
 2020 Leigh Way
 White City, Oregon 97503

Type of Meeting:	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
STAC Members in Attendance:	Sean (Bill) Hastie, Rich Heap, Mike Brochu, Norm Ritchie, Dave Dunahay, Leslie Wade, Lin Howell
Not in Attendance:	Doug Ray, Pat Gefre, Gary Enoch
ODFW Staff:	Chuck Fustish, Kevin Herkamp, Debbi Farrell
Public:	Dave Grosjacque, Bill Jackson, Ed Chapman, Janos Olan

Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

Friday, September 23, 2011

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of June 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Administrative Updates
- Area STEP Reports, Committee Reports
- Vision of STEP in the Upper Rogue “Year of the Rogue”
- Volunteer Recognition
- District Presentation
- Munsel Creek STEP Propagation Project Review
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- General Business
- Public Comment

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Tour of previous Gold Ray Dam site, Bear Creek Tributary projects, Crooked Creek, Jackson Creek, Crater High School

Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Approval

Mike Brochu, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and introductions were made.

Chair Brochu presented today’s agenda for review.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to approve today’s agenda as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

Approval of June 2011 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the June 24, 2011 meeting minutes. One correction identified under the Eastern Area STEP Reports.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve the June 24, 2011 meeting minutes including the identified corrections. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

Administrative Updates

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW STEP Coordinator provided the following information:

- Have not received notification from the Governor's office on the selection of the new STAC member appointments (Mid Coast, Tenmile/Coos/Coquille, Lower Willamette, Eastern)
- Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) supplies/services funding was reduced by 5% - there is a possibility it could be restored
- The STEP Classroom Incubator & Chiller Units R&E Grant application was submitted & approved by the ODFW Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Board at their August 12, 2011 meeting. The Project if approved by the Commission will be distributed to the districts differently this biennium. Vendors for the aquarium set-ups will be solicited for bids/price agreements which could also be offered to various organizations for the contract price.

The Committee discussed the current procedure for purchasing set-ups along with awarding Mini-Grants which are used to purchase set-ups. After some discussion the Committee agreed future purchases of aquarium/chiller set-ups through Mini-Grants will be awarded with the condition that it will be returned to the STEP Biologist once no longer being used to raise salmon or trout eggs.

Numbered identification stickers/labels have been purchased to be used state-wide to assist with tracking the aquarium/chiller units. K. Herkamp will distribute the labels to everyone once they've been received.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned that the STEP Classroom Incubator & Chiller Units R&E Grant be the first choice for purchasing aquarium/chiller units. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

(The STEP Biologist will issue the set-ups instead of STAC awarding funds to the various entities to purchase individually. Special requests would still come to STAC.)

L. Howell volunteered to assist with the aquarium/chiller inventory tracking project.

- Fish Egg Life-Cycle Displays – 350 units will be assembled to be distributed by STAC & the STEP biologists
- Tattoos with the STEP logo have been ordered to be distributed to youth at various events
- STEP hat pins were purchased for distribution to volunteers recognized by STAC at their meetings. They words “recognition for outstanding volunteer service” are inscribed around the central circle of the STEP logo.
- K. Herkamp will work on putting together a presentation that will be viewed on a digital picture frame – it would be a way to highlight various activities at events without the need to setup a laptop
- STEP tablecloths will be distributed to each district to be used at events

Upper Rogue STEP District Presentation

Chuck Fustish, Upper Rogue STEP Biologist provided an overview of the District's vision for STEP.

Volunteer Recognitions

Chuck Fustish recognized the following volunteers for their various contributions to furthering the mission of STEP.

Illinois River STEP Volunteers Janet Walker and Gary Enoch for running hoop traps in the Cave Junction area for the last two years, cleaned up 2 pickup loads of trash from 300 feet of Tributary A, and helped gather information on fish barriers, helped map and capture fish species present in streams within the town of Cave Junction.

Grants Pass STEP Volunteers Ed Chapman, Janos Olah and Bill Jackson have ran the hoop trap in the Grants Pass area on three different streams for the last three years, they run a trap and haul program on Jones Creek when the Grants Pass Irrigation District canal goes in, they collect fishing line and tackle from monofilament recycling bins throughout the upper Rogue River, and they check fish passage at culverts and fish ladders in the Grants Pass area.

Area STEP Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Lin Howell – Lower Willamette

Attended the Egg-to-Fry Committee meeting. Was a presenter at Creeks and Kids this year.

Leslie Wade – Upper Willamette

Erik Moberly is no longer the Upper Willamette STEP Biologist; a replacement should be in place soon. Toured the Letz Creek STEP facility – they're doing a great job, the facility looks good.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern

Trapped approximately 12,000 chubs in East Lake this year. In 2013 the Department is planning to release Blackwater Trout into East Lake in hopes of impacting the increasing chub population. Most of the lakes in the area now have a chub population. The local Fly Clubs have agreed to help fund the trapping operation by utilizing a couple students from Oregon State University. The Klamath Falls program continues to expand.

Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Handout provided.

Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Handout provided. Thank you to Bill for attending the Commission meeting to present the STEP Annual Report. Working with the watershed to inventory culverts that are fish barriers.

Rich Heap – Lower Rogue

Handout provided Recently went fishing in the Coos River, it is a great show of the impact STEP can have.

Sean Hastie – Mid Willamette

Handout provided. Looking into outreach possibilities to increase the number of activities in the Salem area, there doesn't appear to be much going on.

Botanical Burrito Project Presentation

Paul Kay, Bear Creek Watershed Partners provided the Committee with an update to the Botanical Burrito Project currently under way at Crater High School.

STEP Propagation Project Proposal

Florence STEP Group - Munsel Creek STEP Hatchery Program for Coho Salmon

K. Herkamp provided a brief overview of the Munsel Creek STEP Propagation Project. This application is a renewal for the current program.

Public Comment: No public comment received

Motion: S. Hastie motioned to recommend the Munsel Creek STEP Hatchery Program for Coho Salmon STEP fish propagation project renewal to the Commission. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

STAC Mini-Grant Review & Approval

The Committee reviewed the following grant applications.

Mini-Grant 11-06 Whittaker Creek 2011 Trap & Weir Rebuild

This project will repair a fish weir that was damaged by multiple high water events along Whittaker Creek. The ten-percent administrative fee included in the grant request was discussed by the Committee.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-06 in the amount of \$1,751. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0. (The \$175 for administrative fees was denied)

Mini-Grant 11-07 Noble Creek Hatchbox Upgrade & Replacement

This project would purchase an additional hatchbox and a dissolved oxygen meter to be used at Noble Creek Hatchery by the Coos River STEP Association.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-07 in the amount of \$1,500. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

Mini-Grant 11-08 Eggs to Fry Program Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District

After discussion the Committee felt it wasn't an unreasonable request to stipulate that the equipment purchased through this grant would remain ODFW equipment – which would need to be returned if no longer used to raise salmon or trout eggs.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to approve MG 11-08 in the amount of \$1,183.36 with the condition that the equipment be returned if no longer being used to raise salmon or trout eggs. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0. (The \$560 for bus transportation was denied)

Mini-Grant 11-09 Claggett Creek Riparian Enhancement Partnership

Claggett Creek Middle School students with this grant would purchase native plants to plant along Claggett Creek. The students will also monitor the site for plant survival, re-establishment of invasive vegetation, fish/macro invertebrates, as well as water quality.

Good project, involves several students – great partnerships. The school should look into the Egg-to-Fry program if they aren't involved currently.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-09 in the amount of \$980. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

Mini-Grant 11-10 Chiller Unit for Raising Salmon & Trout Eggs

Sauvie Island Academy third grade students would like to purchase a chiller unit to raise salmon eggs in the fall and trout eggs in the spring. All students in the school will have daily access to view the fish

developing in the tank.

As previously discussed by the Committee, the chiller unit would be required to be returned to STEP once it is no longer being used to raise salmon or trout eggs.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-10 in the amount of \$650 to purchase the standard aquarium/chiller unit which would remain the property of STEP. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 7-0.

General Business

The following items were discussed by the Committee.

Committee Officer Positions for 2012

- Sean Hastie – Chair
- Lin Howell – Vice Chair
- Leslie Wade – Secretary

2012 STAC Meeting Dates & Locations

- January 27-28, 2012 in Salem
- March 15-16, 2012 in Reedsport
- June 22-23, 2012 in Brookings or Gold Beach
- September 21-22, 2012 in Enterprise

K. Herkamp will be working on making the tours more meaningful & activity related. If possible he will schedule opportunities to work with local volunteers at various activities.

STEP Brochure – K. Herkamp will finalize the STEP brochure distributed today. Once complete they will be disseminated out to the districts along with STAC members to be handed out at public activities. The brochure will be a part of the larger marketing efforts to get STEP more visible to the public.

STEP Conference

- The Seven Feathers Casino and the Grants Pass Event Center was toured yesterday to evaluate the possibility of the STEP Conference being held there.
- The Conference Committee agreed to pursue the facility at the Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville for April 2013. If possible K. Herkamp will reserve the location.

Motion: L. Wade motioned to pursue the Seven Feathers Casino facility for the 2013 STEP Conference. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 5-2 (No-Dunahay, Howell).

Conference Awards – the Committee discussed the volunteer recognition award selection process used for the conference awards. The Committee agreed to form a small group of members (Howell, Hastie, Heap) to review the nomination/award process and report back to the full Committee.

Bus/Transportation Grant – K. Herkamp will research what options there might be of obtaining a grant to assist in providing funds to schools for transportation costs associated with STEP projects/programs. The findings will be reported back at the next meeting.

Fish Food Grant – it was discussed that this update will be scheduled for the next meeting when the new members are appointed and able to attend. This information would be valuable to those members.

Next Meeting items for Discussion

- 2013 STAC Meeting schedule
- Confirm 2013 STEP Conference location
- Busing/Transportation Grant findings

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.