

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



**Date:** April 13, 2012  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Umpqua Discovery Center  
 409 Riverfront Way  
 Reedsport, Oregon 97467

<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
<b>STAC Members in Attendance:</b>	Lin Howell, Doug Ray, Pat Gefre, Gary Enoch, Brian Hudson, Rich Heap, Reese Bender, Tom VanderPlaat, Mike Brochu, Dave Dunahay, Jim Phelps, Leslie Wade
<b>Not in Attendance:</b>	Bill Hastie
<b>ODFW Staff:</b>	Laura Jackson, Greg Huchko, Kevin Herkamp, Debbi Farrell
<b>Public:</b>	Gary Lutman, Steve Miller, Jack Hoffman, Frank Paula, David Harris, David Teachout Jr., Ron Caputo, Peter Mazzini, Doug Buck

## Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

*Friday, April 13, 2012*

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- Area STEP Reports
- Restoration with Christmas Trees
- District Presentation
- Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP Propagation Project Renewal Review
- Volunteer Recognition
- Administrative Updates
- Public Comment
- Field Tour - Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP facility, Winchester Fish Trap, Camp Creek STEP Restoration Project

## Call to Order and Agenda Approval

Lin Howell, Vice Chair called the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Vice Chair Howell presented today's agenda for review. R. Heap requested to have a few minutes to discuss Ocean Salmon Season updates.

Motion: D. Ray motioned to approve today's agenda with requested modifications. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

Welcome to Jim Phelps, the new STAC member representing Eastern Oregon.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the January 27, 2012 meeting minutes.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve the January 27, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

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

The Committee agreed to review all the grant proposals prior to an official vote.

### **Mini-Grant 11-16 Portable Fish Dissection / Cleaning Stations**

B. Hudson provided an overview of the request for funding.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having these in the Aquatic Angler Education trailers. The tables would be the property of the STEP Biologist. The Committee requested that the applicant share the design of the tables once the kinks have been worked out.

### **Mini-Grant 11-17 Hatch House Improvements**

Kevin Herkamp shared with the Committee that he has discussed this request with the applicant. K. Herkamp stated that the UV light might not work correctly if the water continues to have sediment. He provided the applicant with a couple ideas of filtering the water to improve the effectiveness of the UV filter. He suggested that water system upgrades should be done concurrently or soon after the UV filter is upgraded. The Committee discussed the concerns raised by Kevin Herkamp and if the applicant had considered the suggestions.

Gary Lutman stated that he monitors the facility daily along with checking the water supply. The Committee asked the applicant if he felt the UV filter works. The applicant replied yes. Mr. Lutman responded they are designing system upgrades to address the sediment issue.

M. Brochu commented that he would prefer to review any changes/updates to the application prior to the meeting.

### **Mini-Grant 11-18 Mid-Coast Youth Angling Libraries**

K. Herkamp shared with the group that this project does support the Department's 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan along with the request to the STEP Biologists to "think outside the box."

The Committee discussed their concerns regarding replacement and maintenance of equipment. B. Hudson stated that there are currently several volunteers that oversee the equipment their group uses for various activities. Clever idea – lots of volunteer support. It might be beneficial to train library staff to identify equipment issues upon check-in and check-out of items.

The Committee would like the applicant to report back on the success of the project at their January 2013 meeting if possible.

### **Mini-Grant 11-19 Upper Rogue Project WET / Aquatic Wild Service Learning Workshops**

Peter Mazzini presented the project to the Committee. These workshops are for youth in Kindergarten through high school.

G. Enoch commented that this is "the whole package" as an educational tool. The Committee discussed the various educational materials available.

R. Heap commented that there appears to be a shift in priorities. He shared concerns that various groups

are influencing youth and their choice of participating in angling. G. Enoch agreed, but feels this program shares both aspects of the issue – conservation v. sport of angling.

**Mini-Grant 11-20 Munsel Creek Trap Improvements**

Tom Petersen presented the project to the Committee. Great education tool. There are some safety issues that have been in need of repairs for quite some time.

**Mini-Grant 11-13 Fish Ecology & Aquatic Education Program: Roll-Out River Fishing Activity and Education Kit**

This application was tabled during the January 27, 2012 meeting. D. Dunahay has discussed this request with Jen Luke (Eastern Oregon STEP Biologist) and she confirmed she has these materials which could be loaned out to this group as needed.

The Committee agreed to the following:

**Mini-Grant 11-16 Portable Fish Dissection Cleaning Stations**

Motion: P. Gefre motioned to approve MG 11-16 in the amount of \$189. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

**Mini-Grant 11-17 Hatch House Improvements**

Motion: P. Gefre motioned to approve MG 11-17 in the amount of \$368. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

**Mini-Grant 11-18 Mid-Coast Youth Angling Libraries**

Motion: P. Gefre motioned to approve MG 11-18 in the amount of \$1,754. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

**Mini-Grant 11-19 Upper Rogue Project WET / Aquatic Wild Service Learning Workshops**

Motion: P. Gefre motioned to approve MG 11-19 in the amount of \$1,101. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

**Mini-Grant 11-20 Munsel Creek Trap Improvements**

Motion: P. Gefre motioned to approve MG 11-20 in the amount of \$1,966. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

**Mini-Grant 11-13 Fish Ecology & Aquatic Education Program: Roll-Out River Fishing Activity and Education Kit**

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to deny MG 11-13. The motion was seconded and the request was denied by the Committee 12-0.

**Introductions & Area STEP Reports**

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Doug Ray – North Coast STEP District

Pat Gefre – North Coast STEP District

Nestucca River has had some great fishing this year. The Nestucca Anglers have their broodstock captured. The local ponds have been stocked. Rhoades Pond will have their fin clipping party on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Enoch – Upper Rogue STEP District

Handout provided.

Brian Hudson – Mid Coast STEP District

The local Egg-to-Fry program is underway from Lincoln City to Florence.

Rich Heap – Lower Rogue STEP District

Indian Creek Hatchery sustained some water damage again from the last round of storms. Every third grade student in Curry County will attend Reel Fish Days at Arizona Beach State Park. Students will spend two hours doing riparian restoration and two hours learning to cast, tie knots and fish for rainbow trout. Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is the Port Orford Water Festival.

Reese Bender – Tenmile, Coos and Coquille STEP District

Eel Lake net pen had three flooding events – don't think they lost any fish. Fishing Day is tomorrow (Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>) at Empire Lakes – lots of volunteers and approximately 200-300 kids every year attend. In another week school kids will be bused in to finclip fish.

Tom VanderPlaat – Lower Willamette STEP District

Multiple Family Fishing Events scheduled. Egg-to-Fry program is going well.

Leslie Wade – Upper Willamette STEP District

Multiple fishing events being held in the area. Travel Lane County hosted an Open House which was a success giving away equipment and Cabela's Sporting Goods assisted with fly fishing demonstrations. Observed spawning at Letz Creek in February. There are some groups trying to revive the Salmon Watch program.

Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon STEP District

Bob Mullong "Captain Caddis" passed away recently. He will be greatly missed.

Mike Brochu – Umpqua STEP District

Handout provided. This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> year for the Derby AND they hit the \$1 million mark in fund raising efforts. Just released steelhead at the Canyonville site. Broodstock capture is almost complete and on target.

Jim Phelps – Eastern Oregon STEP District

### **Restoration Work using Trees**

Doug Ray provided a presentation on the use of Christmas trees for in-water habitat. Using the trees improves the bio film/ food web. In some cases fish were seen in the area of the trees within minutes of placement. The Committee discussed the various guidelines that would need to be created prior to implementation.

L. Howell asked Greg Huchko (Umpqua STEP Biologist) his opinion as a STEP Biologist. G. Huchko replied the project appears to have most of the work completed – would only need to locate and place the trees in an identified location.

STAC members will go back to their areas and explore the idea and report back to the Committee in June.

## **Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP Fish Propagation Renewal**

Greg Huchko, Umpqua STEP Biologist provided an overview of the Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay (GRWB) STEP Fall Chinook Salmon Fish Propagation Project renewal. The GRWB program uses an adipose and ventricle clip. The fish are fed during acclimation by volunteers. Coded Wire Tagged (CWT) fish have been caught in Washington and Alaska including Winchester Bay. The program hasn't recently used CWT due to the expense. Overall contribution is 2,500 returning fish. The program is improving data collection efforts. Exploitation rates need to be increased. Laura Jackson, Umpqua Watershed District Biologist shared with the Committee that a lot of good things are going on - they're not seeing any hatchery fish in the estuary according to their data collection efforts through seining and spawning ground surveys.

1995-2004 = 100% finclipped  
2005-2007 = 20% finclipped  
2008-current = 100% finclipped

The Committee discussed the carrying capacity of the watershed and the importance of the fishery to the local economies. Great program – great economic boost. R. Heap commented that one of the biggest challenges will be for the program to increase catch rates – the fish being released need to be harvested. K. Herkamp shared that the Commission doesn't need to approve this application since it isn't 100,000 fish. Once the number hits 100,000 approval needs to be obtained by the Commission.

Public Comment: Dave Harris has been with the program since 1994. The community over the years has asked why the group isn't releasing more fish. The group wouldn't mind increasing their numbers but they're also not capable of raising a large amount (for example 250,000 fish). The question was raised of why it's so horrible to have strays. Kevin Herkamp responded that it can have impacts on native fish.

Thank You to all the volunteers for their support and dedication.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to recommend for renewal the Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay (GRWB) STEP Fall Chinook Salmon Fish Propagation Project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

The following individuals were recognized for their contributions furthering the mission of STEP.

Gary Slay, Darrell Tufly, Jim Parkin, Dave Phillips, George Rummel and Larry Phillips are members of the Umpqua Fishermen's Association who have watched over eggs at the Barrett Creek facility everyday since January. This project could not be completed without these men's dedication.

The following Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay (GRWB) STEP members have contributed greatly to the fall Chinook salmon program, building and facility maintenance, youth education, attending various meetings, grant writing, data collection and many other activities that assist with ODFW program goals.

GRWB members: Virgil Gabel, Dave Teachout, Jack Hoffman, Bob Brown, Steve Godin, Doug Buck Jr., Adam Nash, Frank Paula, Bill Taylor, Ron Stumpf, Dave Harris and Jim Edd.

## District Presentation

Laura Jackson, ODFW District Fish Biologist of the Umpqua Watershed District provided an overview of the District and the various activities being conducted.

The District wouldn't have the staffing to accomplish all of the work being done without the help of the volunteers. Thank you volunteers.

## Ocean Salmon Seasons

Rich Heap shared that there will be a recreational ocean Coho salmon fishery in July and September. Haven't had a season in a while – the hatcheries are the main reason.

## Administrative Updates

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW STEP Coordinator provided the following information:

- STEP Annual Report – Any projects you would like highlighted please contact Kevin.
- Bus Transportation Update – Have looked into what options there are for transportation grants. The Committee discussed the concept and their concerns. Guidelines and criteria would need to be developed prior to implementation. L. Howell, D. Dunahay and D. Ray volunteered to assist in creating the criteria.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned not to pursue this unless a source of money is identified. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-2 (Howell & VanderPlaat).

- STEP Conference – Anyone interested in helping out please let Kevin know.
- Angling Education Trailers – Requesting additional funds from the Restoration & Enhancement Board to purchase an additional six trailers. The Committee agreed to support the grant request.
- STEP Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Overview – Distribution of funds to STEP Biologists will be adjusted slightly this next go around.
- Website – Still working on updates.

R. Heap shared his frustration of the Department's prioritization of "dream" projects over the basics of gathering data.

## Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

## Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 from the Umpqua Discovery Center and will continue on to the field tour.

## Field Tour

The Committee continued on to tour the:

- Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP Facility
- Winchester Bay Net Pen
- Winchester Bay Trap
- Camp Creek STEP Restoration Project

The field tour adjourned at 6:00 p.m.