



Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 22, 2012

Location: Chetco Community Public Library
405 Alder Street
Brookings, Oregon 97415

Current Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Members (STAC)

Committee Member	Committee Member
Reese Bender – Representing Tenmile, Coos, Coquille	Brian Hudson – Representing Mid-Coast
Michael Brochu – Representing Umpqua	James Phelps – Representing Eastern Oregon
David Dunahay – Representing Eastern Oregon	Doug Ray – Representing North Coast
Gary Enoch – Representing Upper Rogue	Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Lower Willamette
Patrick Gefre – Representing North Coast	Leslie Wade – Representing Upper Willamette
Richard Heap – Representing Lower Rogue	<i>Vacant</i> – Mid Willamette
Lin Howell – Representing Lower Willamette	

Members Present: Dave Dunahay, Mike Brochu, Brian Hudson, Tom VanderPlaat, Lin Howell, Reese Bender, Rich Heap, Jim Phelps

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Lin Howell, Vice Chair called the June 22, 2012 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Vice Chair Howell presented today’s proposed agenda for review. A request was received to include a short update from Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Manager along with a presentation from the local STEP groups.

Bill Hastie, Mid Willamette STAC member passed away May 3, 2012. He will be missed by all.

The Committee discussed the need to fill the Chair and Vice-Chair position.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to nominate Lin Howell as STAC Chair for the remainder of the year. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to nominate Tom VanderPlaat as STAC Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

Area STEP Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Rich Heap – Welcome to Brookings!

Mike Brochu – The Umpqua Fisherman Association (UFA) completed the release of 80,000 fin clipped winter steelhead. The UFA worked with ODFW to release 30,000 coho salmon into Cow Creek below Galesville Dam. Completed the fin clipping of 180,000 fall Chinook salmon at the Canyonville Acclimation Site which were then released into Calapooya Creek in Oakland. The Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby Grant Committee distributed over \$60,000 in grant funds with more than \$13,000 directly related to STEP projects.

Reese Bender – Eel Lake Free Fishing Day hosted approximately 350 kids this year with 10 stations for the kids to rotate through. Fin clipping has been completed at Morgan Creek Hatchery, Noble Creek Hatchery and Millicoma Interpretive Center. The STEP BBQ will be August 18, 2012 at Tugman State Park – Tenmile STEP Group is hosting this year. The Oregon Hatchery Research Center is conducting a lot of interesting research. The Annual Salmon Derby will be held in September.

Brian Hudson – Over 100,000 steelhead eggs were gathered at Whitaker/Green Creek traps and processed through the Munsel Creek Hatchery. A total of 43 classrooms successfully completed the Egg-to-Fry Program. An after school program in Depoe Bay raises 20,000 coho salmon in hatch boxes. Completed construction on the dissection tables – they were put into immediate use. The Angler Libraries program will initially be in Newport, Depoe Bay and Waldport.

Jim Phelps – Attended a couple fishing events. Very impressed with the volunteers.

Dave Dunahay – Reservoirs are full. Local fishing clubs doing a lot of work. Working on next fall's Kokanee Karnival program.

Tom VanderPlaat – Completed this year's Egg-to-Fry program – the program was recently shown on Grant's Getaways (Grant McOmie) program. Fin clipping complete at Rhoades Pond and Whiskey Creek Hatchery.

Lin Howell – Assisted with the video for the Egg-to-Fry program. LeRoy Schultz will be working on updating the Egg-to-Fry manual.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the April 13, 2012 STAC meeting minutes.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve the April 13, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

Presentation by Local STEP Groups

Tony Hobbs, Oregon South Coast Fishermen (OSCF) and Christine Underhill, Curry Anadromous Fishermen (CAF) provided an overview of the many activities the groups are involved with.

One of the activities both groups participate in is the Reel Fish Days program at Arizona Beach State Park where every third grade student in Curry County participates.

South Coast District Presentation

Todd Confer, ODFW District Fish Biologist provided an overview of the District's Draft Conservation Plan for Fall Chinook Salmon in Southern Oregon (south of Elk River) which was recently drafted for Commission review. An advisory committee was formed to assist with the public input portion of the Plan.

A lot of data collection going on by local volunteers – wouldn't be able to do it without the support of the volunteers. R. Heap shared that conducting monitoring activities has given him an appreciation of the situation. Salmon are complex, many factors play into their survival. STEP is providing a valuable resource.

Recreational Fisheries Program Update

Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager shared that angling regulations for 2013 are still in the process. The Commission will begin review of the proposals at their August meeting. A total of 12 public meetings were held state wide. Once the information is compiled staff will make it available on the website.

Indian Creek STEP Fish Propagation Project Renewal

John Weber, Lower Rogue STEP Biologist provided an overview of the Indian Creek STEP Lower Rogue Fall Chinook Salmon Fish Propagation Project renewal. The application is submitted by the Curry Anadromous Fisherman. The Indian Creek facility became a STEP project in 1984 as a full scale hatchery. The program has increased the bank angling opportunities at Indian Creek. Any excess hatchery fish are donated to the local food bank.

The request is to raise 90,000 smolts to release into Indian Creek, a small tributary to the lower Rogue estuary. Fish are released in late August in small groups based on the tide and are 100 percent marked. Both commercial and sport anglers benefit from this program.

Public Comment: Christine Underhill shared that the facility has some new equipment to assist with water issues. The land has been owned by a local family for generations who are still involved with the hatchery today.

The Committee asked if there were any anticipated problems with the land title. The applicant replied no – they have a lease and the land is under a family trust. The Knox family is a big part of the community. The facility receives a tremendous amount of support from the community.

K. Herkamp provided an overview of the staff recommendations/comments. T. Confer confirmed there isn't any conservation issues anticipated. R. Heap stated that the project would only receive positive comments – they're involved for the "fish" not necessarily for fishing.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to recommend for renewal the Indian Creek STEP Lower Rogue Fall Chinook Salmon Fish Propagation Project. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.

Volunteer Recognition

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

- Rich Heap
- Tony Hobbs
- Tom Tostenson
- Chris & Gary Underhill

Letz Creek STEP Project Update

John Spangler, Mid Coast STEP Biologist provided the Committee with an update for the Letz Creek propagation project. The District supports continuing the project. Currently marking is at about 85% - would like to see that improved.

STAC Mini-Grant Application Review

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

- Mini-Grant 11-21 Lower McKenzie River Trout Movement Study
Controversial area – strong emotions. The District needs the data collected.
- Mini-Grant 11-22 Schooner Fish Trap Bridge Repairs
Safety issues – caused by wind damage.
- Mini-Grant 11-23 Mid Coast Utility Cart
The STEP Biologist transports a lot of equipment – not a formal STEP group in this area. Budgets are tight.
- Mini-Grant 11-24 Using Restoration Signage to Raise Awareness of Stream Restoration in the South Santiam Watershed
No connection to STEP or fish.
- Mini-Grant 11-25 Central Linn Youth Watershed Education Spring Outdoor Camp
Application doesn't make a connection to STEP. A lot of these programs being conducted – the Committee doesn't have the funds to begin funding all of these projects.

The Committee agreed to the following:

- Mini-Grant 11-21 Lower McKenzie River Trout Movement Study
Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-21 in the amount of \$1,900. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.
- Mini-Grant 11-22 Schooner Fish Trap Bridge Repairs
Motion: R. Bender motioned to approve MG 11-22 in the amount of \$427. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.
- Mini-Grant 11-23 Mid Coast Utility Cart
Motion: T. VanderPlaat motioned to approve MG 11-23 in the amount of \$128. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 8-0.
- Mini-Grant 11-24 Using Restoration Signage to Raise Awareness of Stream Restoration in the South Santiam Watershed
Motion: R. Heap motioned to deny MG 11-24. The motion was seconded and the request was denied by the Committee 8-0.
- Mini-Grant 11-25 Central Linn Youth Watershed Education Spring Outdoor Camp
Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to deny MG 11-25. The motion was seconded and the request was denied by the Committee 8-0.

Public Comment: Dixie Boley, R&E Board Member commented that the R&E Board has also struggled with the dilemma of transportation for these programs. Some of these have been approved in the past – however there isn't enough money to cover everyone's need. Would prefer to see the money used for something other than gasoline/transportation. If you offer an activity people will find a way to get there. The ODFW Trailers are a big draw.

Administrative Updates

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW STEP Coordinator provided the following information:

- Bus Transportation Update – R&E decided not to fund.
- STEP Conference Update – Conference will be April 6, 2013. Registration will begin in October or November 2012, closing in March 2013. The Association of Northwest Steelheaders has agreed to manage the financial part of the conference. The Conference Fund is starting out with \$7,300 – with hopes of having an ending balance after the conference of \$5,000. Next conference meeting will be in August.
- Conference Award Nomination – Distributed a Draft Volunteer Nomination Form. After some discussion the Committee agreed that recognizing our volunteers is our goal. It's such a small token for so much being completed.
- 2010-2011 STEP Annual Report – the draft has been distributed. The Committee discussed the importance of highlighting the benefit of volunteers. Would like to see more support for our current volunteers and staff.
- Angler Education Trailers – R&E agreed to fund additional trailers including stocking the trailers with equipment.
- 2013 STAC Meeting Schedule – There has been some interest in having an informal get together of STAC and the R&E Board. Would like to have a joint meeting in January. The Committee discussed the idea and agreed that an informal gathering on Thursday evening prior to the regular Friday meeting to discuss general items of interest.

The Committee tentatively agreed to the following 2013 schedule:

- January 25-26, 2013 Salem or Corvallis
 - April 5, 2013 Roseburg
 - July 12-13, 2013 Newport
 - September 20-21, 2013 Tillamook
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- Restoration Work using Trees – some logistics to still work out. Some positive feedback.
 - Egg-to-Fry Program Update – Video completed along with a first draft of the manual.
 - *FishWorks* Newsletter – Working towards electronic distribution. The contract will be expiring at the end of June.

Public Comment

No comment at this time.

Other Business

R. Heap shared his frustration with a recent interaction with the Department and the process used for public input. There appears to be a disconnect and lack of communication. Perception was the Department didn't put enough importance on the public input process and the comments they received, it appears there are individual decisions being made not "Department" decisions. The South Coast fisheries are very important to the local communities and receive a lot of public support– not sure the Department understands how important.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Saturday June 21, 2012 – Field Tour

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Tour of the aerators at the Port of Brookings, the screw trap on the Winchuk River screw and the Indian Creek Hatchery.