

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



Date: January 27, 2012
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Location: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
 3406 Cherry Avenue NE
 Salem, Oregon 97303

Type of Meeting:	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
STAC Members in Attendance:	Lin Howell, Gary Enoch, Leslie Wade, Brian Hudson, Tom VanderPlaat, Mike Brochu, Reese Bender, Dave Dunahay, Rich Heap, Doug Ray
Not in Attendance:	Bill Hastie, Pat Gefre
ODFW Staff:	Shannon Richardson, Jeff Fulop, Karen Hans, Ed Bowles, Kevin Herkamp, Shahab Farzanegan, Debbi Farrell
Public:	Melissa Leoni, Courtney Shaff, Gary Lutman, LeRoy Schultz

Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

Friday, January 27, 2012

- Call to Order
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of September 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Introductions and Area STEP Reports
- Future of STEP & 25-Year Plan Discussion
- OWEB Restoration Grant Presentation
- Volunteer Recognitions
- Egg-to-Fry Deliveries
- Egg-to-Fry Updates & Criteria Review
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- Administrative Updates
- Public Comment

Saturday, January 28, 2012

- Tour of St. Louis Ponds, Walter Wirth Lake, Gateway Park, Capitol Auto & Pringle Creek Community

Call to Order and Agenda Approval

Lin Howell, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Vice Chair Howell presented today's agenda for review.

Motion: M. Brochu motioned to approve today's agenda as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

Approval of September 2011 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the September 23, 2011 meeting minutes.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve the September 23, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

Introductions

Kevin Herkamp, STEP Coordinator introduced three new STAC members:

- Brian Hudson – Representing Mid Coast STEP District
- Reese Bender – Representing Tenmile, Coos & Coquille STEP District
- Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Lower Willamette STEP District

Committee members introduced themselves and shared information on their background.

The Committee discussed how STEP is a great example of a volunteer program and that having the program written into law has allowed it to continue through the years. Volunteers are invaluable to the Department especially during time of budget shortfalls.

D. Ray shared that the Seaside Boy Scouts gathered Christmas Trees as a fund raiser. A few of the trees were gathered and used in an off-channel wetland. The trees provide habitat, protection from predation and assists in the creation of bio-film. Permits are not required for this sort of project due to the smaller size. Would like to see a state-wide program created to work with various groups doing this sort of work. D. Ray agreed to draft a bullet list outlining how to get this sort of project started for each area.

R. Heap shared that Indian Creek Hatchery sustained some damage recently to the hatchery's water supply and access road.

Administrative Updates

K. Herkamp provided the following information:

- If you haven't already please review and forward suggestions/comments regarding the handouts. Eventually there will be 5 different flyers/handouts to be used at various events, District Offices and when meeting with groups. A spot was left on the handouts for the individual STEP groups to add their group information. T. VanderPlaat shared the increased importance of social media as a tool.
- The Northeast Oregon STAC member position still hasn't been filled.
- Bus Transportation - OWEB isn't option, maybe R&E
- Will provide an overview of the STEP Fish Food / Propagation process in the morning before the tour for those individuals interested. The presentation will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Future of STEP and 25-Year Plan Discussion

Ed Bowles, ODFW Fish Division Administrator provided a presentation to the Committee on the importance of STEP and the 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan.

STEP is a unique program, not common in other parts of the nation. The future of the program is connecting people to fish and mentoring our youth to enjoy the outdoors. With the current focus on creating jobs and improving the economy we have a perfect opportunity to benefit our rural area fisheries. Angling and wildlife viewing is a great economic benefit to local areas. The national campaign "Take Me Fishing" has seen some success in recruiting anglers. The Department is currently identifying ways non-consumptive users of our natural resources can assist in financial support – not

everyone is going to purchase a license. A larger portion of Oregonians are connected to non-consumptive / viewing. A change in mindset is required; it isn't all about angling.

The 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan focuses on "Connecting People with Fish."

1. Simple and low tech opportunity - Uncomplicated regulations, lots of fish
2. Close and easy access - Creeks and ponds close to urban communities, bank access, safe setting
3. Mentoring – Family fishing events, angling assistance program, networks and partnerships

STEP volunteers and biologists will be vital to our success. All aspects of STEP are important – working towards a common goal. We need to find ways to connect our youth; they are our future.

Shahab Farzanegan, ODFW Angler Education Coordinator shared with the Committee that he is currently working with 4-H and the Boys and Girls Club to identify opportunities. Need to link opportunities with mentors. The Outdoor Skills Program is offering training on how to fish and what to do with your fish once it's caught. A pilot course will be held in Newport for near shore fishing basics.

The Committee discussed the importance of a continuous / ongoing message to our youth. The current volunteer force is aging – retention and recruitment is a challenge. Non-consumptive opportunities can inspire other activities.

The Department is working with the Governor's office on the Oregon Plan to address some of these concerns. Won't need to reinvent the wheel, we already have a lot going to make this successful.

OWEB Restoration Grant Program Overview

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Grant Program Coordinator and Melissa Leoni, OWEB Policy Coordinator provided a brief overview of the grants available through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that is led by a 17 member board from the public, tribes, federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

Funding for the program is from the Oregon lottery, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue.

Volunteer Recognition

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

Kate Widmer from the Long Tom Watershed Council. Kate is the lead volunteer for the cutthroat study through the watershed council.

LeRoy Schultz commitment to STEP and in particular the Lower Willamette Egg-to-Fry program is a large part of its success and growth in the greater Portland metro area. For years LeRoy has often gone out of his way to help a classroom in need of emergency assistance.

Egg-to-Fry Deliveries

The Committee assisted in delivering fish eggs to local area schools for participation in the STEP Egg-to-Fry program.

Administrative Updates

K. Herkamp provided the following information:

- Distributed a draft proposal for standardizing Egg-to-Fry aquarium setups. Comments and

- The volunteer guide is still on track. Bill Hastie was contracted by the Association of Northwest Steelheaders to work on the guide.
- STEP tattoos were distributed to the districts for distribution at youth activities.
- Aquarium tank labels – labels were purchased to assist in the tracking of aquarium set-ups. The labels will be distributed to the districts who will then track who and where the aquariums are placed. Set-ups not purchased through STEP aren't required to use the label.
- Egg-to-Fry Displays – A third of the spring Chinook salmon egg displays have been completed. Will be distributed to the districts which will provide a display with the aquarium setups. Funds were provided for the displays through the Department's fish food coin operated machines at various hatcheries.

R. Heap commented that it will be important for the Department to monitor the Egg-to-Fry program due to its connection to propagation.

STAC Mini-Grant Application Review

Mini-Grant 11-08 Egg-to-Fry Equipment of Crow-Lorane School District

K. Herkamp shared with the Committee that at the September 2011 meeting Mini-Grant 11-08 was approved with funding conditions. The applicant declined the funds due to a couple concerns.

The Committee stated it wasn't their intent to make the process more difficult. The intent was to ensure that once the set-up wasn't being used anymore it would be returned to the STEP biologist to be used somewhere else.

Gary Lutman shared with the Committee the complications caused by the funding conditions. Would like the Committee to reconsider the request.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-08 in the amount of \$1,743, without the conditions previously stipulated. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

The applicant agreed to attach a STEP aquarium numbered tag to the equipment.

Mini-Grant 11-11 Printing of STEP and Mini-Grant Brochures

K. Herkamp shared that due to budget reductions it will be difficult to go ahead and reproduce the brochures. The Committee shared that staff time hasn't been considered in the past as match funds. The Committee asked what the tablecloths previously purchased would be used for. K. Herkamp replied that each angling education trailer will be provided with one to be used at the various events along with the digital frame.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 11-11 in the amount of \$1,850. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

Mini-Grant 11-12 Expanding the Educational & Outreach Potential at Eel Lake

R. Bender shared that he has visited this location many times; it's a valid request.

Motion: G. Enoch motioned to approve MG 11-12 in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board 10-0.

Mini-Grant 11-13 Roll Out River Fishing Activity / Education Kit

A modified application was distributed to the Committee. The Committee shared that STAC has contributed to this program in the past. D. Dunahay shared that Jen Luke has one of these that could be loaned out; would rather the funds support a STEP activity.

Motion: M. Brochu motioned to table MG 11-13. The motion was seconded and the request was tabled by the Committee 10-0.

Mini-Grant 11-14 Youth Waders

The Committee discussed the possibility of placing youth sized waders in the angling education trailers. A concern was raised that everyone would need to be aware of possibility of spreading invasive species. K. Herkamp shared he’s working on an R&E Grant for purchasing waders for the trailers.

Motion: R. Bender motioned to approve MG 11-14 in the amount of \$600. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

Mini-Grant 11-15 Fish Dissection Kits

Motion: R. Bender motioned to approve MG 11-15 in the amount of \$398. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 10-0.

2013 Angling Regulation Process

Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Program Manager provided an overview of the process that will be used for the 2013 angling regulation review. An outline of the process is available on the Department’s website, along with the form to be used for submitting proposals.

The Committee asked if the Department had considered conducting public meetings in additional areas. R. Messmer responded that if there is interest or a large number of proposals are received from an area adding meeting sites will be a possibility.

A list of proposals received will be available at the August Commission Meeting. The Department encourages individuals to contact District staff prior to submitting proposals. In some areas decisions will be placed on hold in anticipation of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan.

The Committee asked if Oregon State Police was involved in reviewing the proposals. R. Messmer replied yes, OSP is involved in the review along with staff and they’re consulted if any enforcement issues come along.

2013 STEP Conference Update

K. Herkamp distributed a handout with the Committee’s progress. The Conference Committee will discuss suggestions at their next meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.