



Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2013

Location: ODFW – Tillamook Office
- Conference Room
4907 Third Street
Tillamook Or, 97141

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

Committee Member	Committee Member
Reese Bender – Representing Tenmile, Coos, Coquille	Brian Hudson – Representing Mid-Coast
Richard Bertellotti – Representing North Coast	L. Keith Miller – Representing Upper Rogue
Vacant – Representing Umpqua	James Phelps – Representing Eastern Oregon
David Dunahay – Representing Eastern Oregon	Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Lower Willamette
Patrick Gefre – Representing North Coast	Leslie Wade – Representing Upper Willamette
Ken Range – Representing Lower Rogue	Don Wenzel – Representing Mid Willamette
Lin Howell – Representing Lower Willamette	

Members Present: David Dunahay, Pat Gefre, Ken Range, Lin Howell, Brian Hudson, Jim Phelps, Tom VanderPlaat, Leslie Wade, Don Wenzel, Richard Bertellotti

Staff Present: Bruce McIntosh, Tom Stahl, Karen Hans, Shannon Richardson, Ron Rehn

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Lin Howell, Chair called the September 20 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Lin Howell presented today’s proposed agenda for review. Agenda approved by the committee 10-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the April 5, 2012 STAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Richard Bertellotti, chair motioned to approve the April 5, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim and approved by the Committee 10-0.

Area STEP Reports

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Administrative Updates

Bruce McIntosh, ODFW Assistant Administrator Inland Fish provided an overview. Budgets continue to be tight. There is a decrease in federal funds. Admin funds are down 12 % and costs are up resulting in a

need to cut costs by about 25%. This has resulted in some staff cuts including combination of the RE and STEP Program Coordinators. The intent has been to preserve field staff as much as possible. Will be assessing RE/STEP Coordinator duties and identifying ways to be more efficient with staff's time.

District STEP presentation

Ron Rehn, ODFW Tillamook STEP biologist provided a presentation on Rhodes Pond, Loren's Pond, Lake Lytle Dock Replacement Project, Family Fishing Events, Steelhead Telemetry, Astoria and Warrenton High School programs, and Whiskey Creek, Tillamook Anglers Food Bank.

Coastal Plan update/discussion

Tom Stahl, ODFW conservation and recovery program, provided an overview of the Coastal Multi-species Conservation Plan and angler survey...

- Lin states he wants the summary simplified as this document seems to talk in circles.
- Lin would like to know, what is driving this decision.
- Dave asked why we are proposing changes without data supporting it. Bruce responded that we need to be conservative with risk when the impacts are unknown.
- Lin asked how long we have hatcheries. Since the 1800 was the response. He asked how long we have clipped. 30 years was response. Lin and Pat questioned whether any "truly wild" genetic fish exist given that scenario. Without DNA from some historic sample for comparison, how do we really know? Bruce explained the concept is not whether we have hatchery vs. wild descendants but maintaining strong natural production in our current populations. Tom explained what constitutes a healthy naturally reproducing population. Tom explained that recent data shows that hatchery fish spawning in the wild can reduce the reproductive success of wild fish.
- Ken stated he likes the idea of the plan but wonders why there is not mandatory tag reporting to provide the information we are looking for. He was told we are exploring that option.
- Dave wanted to stress the importance of defining how each change will be implemented.
- Tom V. stated this is a tough and complex decision that will be inherently difficult. He hopes we are getting smarter with and hatchery contribution will increase over time. He wanted to know if OHRC is actually giving us the science to improve our hatchery operations. He stressed that we should not make drastic changes based on past practices but rather on the improved current and future practices.
- Pat was curious about the effect on fish when putting the eggs together instead of the fish naturally selecting one another. Bruce states there are studies being done on that topic.
- Ken questions why residents are subject to a limit of fish when a non-resident can buy as many one day licenses as they want effectively meaning they do not have a total limit. Bruce assures he is working on that issue.
- Pat questions why the sales have gone down. He believes the cause is closing of water bodies, the low number of 2 trout per day, and the complex regulations. Bruce's response is when they try to simplify the regulations it, it closes opportunities.
- Jerry- Expressed concerns over the lack of public access on the Wilson.
- Tom- Indicated he would like follow up on complaints of public access closures.
- Pat- Hesitant about ODFW opening wild Steelhead in the Nestucca because of "lack of information". Tom assures we do have data that tells them they do have a fair amount of steelhead. Bruce states ~ we are trying to ease into it as winter steelhead is doing fairly well across the coast.
- Don would like to see wired tags on Steelhead.

Kevin presented that the plan will affect STEP in the following ways

- (1) phase out hatchboxes and unfed fry will affect several non-educational programs over 10 years. The production will be replaced with smolts and pre-smolts
- (2) 100 % marking of smolts and pre-smolts & some changes to release locations

Whiskey Creek and Rhoades Pond STEP Propagation Renewals.

Ron Rehn provided an overview of proposal.

Tom asked if there was additional capacity at Rhoades Pond. Ron replied there is but he would recommend against it as it will increase stress on the fish.

David motioned to approve the renewal. The motion was seconded by Richard and approved by the committee 10-0.

STAC Mini-Grant Application Review

The Committee voted on the following Mini-Grant Applications:

- Mini-Grant 13-01- Oregon's Important Waters, Immanuel Lutheran School - Classroom watershed exploration supplies. Motion: Jim motioned to approve \$395. The motion was seconded by Richard and approved by the committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-02 –Shafer Creek Habitat, Monroe Grade School. Classroom watershed exploration supplies - Motion: Richard motioned to approve \$880.70. The motion was seconded by Tom and approved by the committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-03- Mosby Ck. Temperature Monitoring, Coast Fork Willamette WC -Temperature Probes. Motion: Jim motioned to approve \$1,475. Dave seconded the motion and approved by the committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-04- Rhoades Pond Restoration, Nestucca Anglers - Remote dialing alarm for pond. Motion: Dave motioned to approve \$2,000. Jim seconded the motion and approved by committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-05- Water Supply Back-up, Warrenton High School fisheries. Reservoir tank. \$2,000. David motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Leslie and approved by the committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-06 –S. Schooner Volunteer Work Shed, ODFW STEP Mid Coast. Kevin updated the board that this application had been withdrawn. .
- Mini-Grant 13-07- Whittaker Trap Improvements, Florence STEP group. Repair of fyke on Whittaker Creek trap. . Motion: Richard motioned to approve \$1,460. Jim seconded the motion and approved by committee 10-0.
- Mini-Grant 13-08-STEP conservation plan sampling supplies, Oregon South Coast Fishermen – waders, sampling gear, PFDs.. Motion: Richard motioned to approve \$2,000. David seconded the motion and approved by committee 10-0.
- STAC discussed the in-kind contributions and matching funds sections of the grant applications. The group agreed that they are good not required.

Administrative Updates-Kevin

- Travel policy changes
- R&E transition & changes to grant application (on-line) and grant cycle/meeting dates
- Suspend STEP Conference until staffing levels rise and interest/public participation improves
- Creeks and Kids
- Egg to Fry Guide and education kit updates

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Tour to local field sites (Lorens Pond, Whiskey Creek) started shortly after meeting and concluded near 6 PM.