



# Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 5, 2014

**Location:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

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

### Committee Member

Reese Bender – Representing Tenmile, Coos, Coquille  
Richard Bertellotti– Representing North Coast  
Jeff DeVore – Representing Upper Willamette  
David Dunahay – Representing Eastern Oregon  
Patrick Gefre – Representing North Coast  
Lin Howell – Representing Lower Willamette  
Brian Hudson – Representing Mid-Coast

### Committee Member

L. Keith Miller – Representing Upper Rogue  
James Phelps – Representing Eastern Oregon  
Ken Range – Representing Lower Rogue  
Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Lower Willamette  
Don Wenzel – Representing Mid-Willamette  
Deborah Yates – Representing Umpqua

**Members Absent:** Pat Gefre

### Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Tom VanderPlaat, Chair called the March 5, 2014 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The STEP Biologists will join us for the morning portion of the meeting to discuss program needs. The regularly scheduled STAC meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Chair VanderPlaat presented today’s proposed agenda for review and introductions were made.

Welcome to our new STAC members.

- Deborah Yates will be representing the Umpqua STEP District
- Jeff DeVore will be representing the Upper Willamette STEP District

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the January 9, 2014 meeting minutes.

Motion: R. Bertellotti motioned to approve the January 9, 2014 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

### STAC Officers

It was agreed that Tom VanderPlaat will be chair for 2014 and 2015. Jim Phelps will be vice-chair.

## **Department Updates**

Kevin Herkamp, ODFW R&E/STEP Coordinator provided an update to the program budget.

Ed Bowles, Fish Division Administrator thanked the Committee for their work on STAC. Volunteers with the STEP program are essential to the success of the Department.

The External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) will begin review of the Department's budget – for the next six-year time frame for the fee increase. Several cost-saving measures have been implemented with additional efficiencies being identified. License sales are down – spending is being prioritized.

Rich Bertellotti will represent STAC on the EBAC.

### **Coastal Multi-Species Plan**

There have been several public meetings presenting the draft proposal. The Department found that there isn't a lot of support for wild steelhead fisheries. A couple proposed locations have been left in the plan. The final draft is scheduled to be released in April – with comments accepted through June 2014. The local STEP groups will be involved in the implementation of the plan in their area. The Committee shared concerns that if propagation programs were relocated we will lose volunteers and ODFW support.

The Committee shared concerns with the perceived lack of support from the Department for the STEP program. Ed Bowles replied that as a group the Committee needs to identify the root of the problem and see if it can be fixed. Everyone involved has concerns on the dwindling number of volunteers. The Committee was for suggestions on how to correct the issues and how to further support our volunteer programs. The Committee shared that it is critical that the STEP Biologists get the support needed – especially with the shrinking volunteer base. The recreational angler is being asked to financially support a lot of things – which is concerning with the lack of opportunity, increasing fees and the perceived lack of fishery management by the Department.

### **Update on License Restructure**

Chris Willard, ODFW Recruitment & Retention Coordinator provided an overview of the review process being done on the Department's licensing structure. Fifty-percent of the Department's budget comes from hunter and angler license dollars. Several options have been discussed. The Committee shared their concern for the impact to the STEP program if the age requirement for an angler license was lowered.

### **STEP Annual Report**

Tom VanderPlaat will present the STEP Annual Report to the Commission on April 25, 2014 in North Bend.

## **Education Program**

Chair VanderPlaat shared some of the discussion from the review of STEP publications and educational materials. Would like to see a 3 to 5 year plan for updating/creating materials. Would like to determine where to focus our resources.

Priority was given to:

1. Egg-to-Fry program
2. Creeks and Kids
3. Tying standards to our curriculum

District STEP Biologists identified the following obstacles.

- Need assistance with classroom support of aquariums
- Lack the needed funding and equipment

- Would like the curriculum standardized
- Training for staff
- Would like to see transportation funds available for field trips
- Would like to see more self-guided education material for those visits during after-hours – kiosks

The Creeks and Kids program was started in 1988 – to date approximately 590 participants. The program originally started out through STEP. It takes one-year to do the planning. The program was cancelled this year due to a lack of funding. The Committee discussed the various possibilities of obtaining secured funding for the program. Ron Rehn and Lin Howell with work together to determine funding options.

Education Committee (Priorities to be determined for June 2014 STAC meeting)

- Kevin Herkamp
- Shannon Richardson
- Christine Clapp
- Jenn Luke
- Brian Hudson
- Deborah Yates
- Jeff DeVore

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

The Committee reviewed the following Mini-Grant Applications.

#### **Mini-Grant 13-14 Mid Coast District Winter Steelhead Acclimation Program Supplies**

Trying to expand efforts at the Palmer Creek acclimation site. The site doesn't have power and is always muddy – hoping that with the improvements they can get more people coming out to help.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve MG 13-14 in the amount of \$1,817. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 13-15 Egg Sets**

K. Herkamp will look into using the materials that are on hand prior to purchasing additional supplies.

Motion: J. DeVore motioned to approve MG 13-15 in the amount of \$603. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0. (Condition that they are consistent with the current design)

#### **Mini-Grant 13-16 Hatch House & Circular Improvements**

The Committee asked if there was a long-term plan for the facilities water quality issues. This project would be a partial solution to the water quality issues. The facility is viewed more as a community project – not a significant fishery contribution.

Brian Hudson, Jeff DeVore and Kevin Herkamp will follow up with the Committee's concerns.

Motion: B. Hudson motioned to table MG 13-16. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 12-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 13-17 Mill Creek Steelhead Life-Cycle Monitoring PIT Tag Purchase**

This grant is to purchase tags only.

Motion: L. Howell motioned to approve MG 13-17 in the amount of \$1,950. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

### **Mini-Grant 13-18 Stream Keepers**

Motivated teachers – multi faceted program.

Motion: L. Howell motioned to approve MG 13-18 in the amount of \$948. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

### **Mini-Grant 13-19 Grady Westfall Riparian Restoration**

The watershed does a lot of work. This is an important tributary. Good match funds.

Motion: R. Bertellotti motioned to approve MG 13-19 in the amount of \$1,958. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-0.

### **Tasks**

- letter in regards to the Coastal Multi-Species Management Plan
- STAC goals (3 to 5 year plan)
- Education Program Development Team