



Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2015

Location: Curry County Fair Grounds
(OSU Extension Office)
29390 Ellensburg (Hwy 101)
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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

Committee Member	Committee Member
Curtis Bennett – Representing Tenmile, Coos, Coquille	Brian Hudson – Representing Mid-Coast
Richard Bertellotti– Representing North Coast	L. Keith Miller – Representing Upper Rogue
Deborah Yates – Representing Umpqua	James Phelps – Representing Eastern Oregon
Dave Dunahay – Representing Eastern Oregon	Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Lower Willamette
Gary Stover – Representing North Coast	Jeff DeVore – Representing Upper Willamette
Ken Range – Representing Lower Rogue	Don Wenzel – Representing Mid Willamette
Lin Howell – Representing Lower Willamette	

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Chair Tom VanderPlaat called the September 24, 2015 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Introductions were made.

The Committee reviewed the September 24, 2015 meeting agenda, and the May 28, 2015 meeting minutes.

Deborah Yates suggested adding committee member reports to the agenda.

Motion: R. Bertellotti motioned to approve the September 24, 2015, STAC meeting agenda as amended, and the May 28, 2015 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by L. Howell and approved by the Committee 13-0.

Board Elections

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to recommend Jim Phelps as the Chair starting January of 2016. K. Miller seconded the motion, and the Committee approved 12-0. Phelps abstained from voting.

Motion: D. Yates motioned to recommend Brian Hudson as Vice Chair starting January of 2016. R. Bertellotti seconded the motion, and the committee approved 12-0. B. Hudson abstained from voting.

STAC Mini-Grant Application Review

Kevin Herkamp announced that Mini-Grant requests 15-11 and 15-12 had been withdrawn.

Mini-Grant 15-03 Key to Field Identification of Anadromous Salmonids in the Pacific Northwest

The Committee reviewed the revised budget for the project, originally presented at the May 28, 2015 STAC meeting.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve Mini-Grant 15-03 in the amount of \$589. J. Phelps seconded the motion, and the Committee approved 13-0.

Mini-Grant 15-13 Fog Incubator System

Yates provided an overview of the request. This would be the first Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) facility to use this type of system.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve Mini-Grant 15-13 in the amount of \$922 with the understanding that the Committee gain experience with this type of system before approving similar requests in the future. The motion was seconded by C. Bennett and approved by the Committee 13-0.

VanderPlaat commented on the need for STEP biologists and committee members to spread program awareness to the public to encourage volunteer groups to submit STAC Mini-Grant requests.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Other Business

Herkamp announced recent staff changes within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) STEP. Evan Leonetti was hired as the new STEP biologist for the Umpqua District. Katherine Nordholm will be acting as the South Willamette Watershed District STEP Biologist out of Springfield, while Shannon Richardson is on a job rotation. The Upper Roque will be filled soon.

The Committee expressed concern regarding ODFW recruitment and the need to open opportunities to the public.

Action: T. VanderPlaat will draft a letter to ODFW Fish Division Leadership regarding the need to unify the process for hiring STEP biologists, and request STAC member involvement in recruitment. The Committee will review the letter at the December, 2015 STAC meeting.

VanderPlaat commented STAC is expecting a presentation from Dan Avery regarding data comparison between helicopter and UAV surveys.

Meeting Schedule

December 3, 2015 – Salem (with ODFW STEP Biologists for morning)

April 28-29, 2016 – Bend

September 9-10, 2016 – Coos Bay

December 2016 or January, 2017 meeting information will be determined at the December, 2015 meeting.

The Committee commented they would like to have four meetings per year instead of three, and suggested at least one meeting every other year with the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

Herkamp announced the Propagation permits will be presented over the next year for their five-year renewals. STAC will review the plans batched by district. These renewals will be consistent with the Coastal Plan policies.

STEP Education Strategy Update

Herkamp discussed the continued partnership with Western Oregon University.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the lack of ODFW resources to assist with implementing the education strategy.

Action: T. VanderPlaat will draft a letter to ODFW Fish Division Leadership regarding prioritization and reallocation of department resources toward STEP, with the help of J. Phelps and D. Dunahay.

Motion: D. Wenzel motioned to approve the STEP Education Strategy with the minor changes as discussed. K. Miller seconded the motion, and the Committee approved 13-0.

STAC Member Reports

Committee members reported on STEP-related activities in their area. C. Bennett, D. Yates, and K. Range provided handouts with their reports, and G. Stover provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Goals and Objectives

The Committee reviewed and edited the draft document entitled STAC Goals for 2015-2016 "Increase STAC Effectiveness."

Discussion was held regarding increasing Mini-Grant funding level to \$3000 for individual projects, and also the need to promote information regarding how an organization becomes a STEP group.

Volunteer Recognition

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

- Tony Hobbs
- Dan Benson
- Jim Antrim
- Leonard Krug
- Aaron Duncan
- Mary Duncan
- David Sophusson
- Becky Sophusson
- Gary Underhill

Herkamp presented examples of recent volunteer recognition items ordered.

Publicity Update

Herkamp provided an update regarding program publicity, and suggested STAC members send information, such as G. Stover's PowerPoint, to ODFW staff to include in public outreach materials.

Action: STAC members will provide T. Hoge with any suggestions for the publicity contact list.

District Presentation

John Weber presented information regarding recent South Coast STEP Projects.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. and was followed by a tour of Indian Creek Hatchery and other local sites.