



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fish Screening Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Fish Screening Task Force Attendance:

Members	Representing	Present In Person	Present Virtually	Absent
Greg Harris (<i>Chair</i>)	Agriculture Interests			x
Kristin Bishop (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Fishing or Fish Conservation			x
Alexis Vaivoda	The Public		x	
Robert (Bob) Durham	Agriculture Interests	x		
William (Bill) Freeland	Fishing or Fish Conservation	x		
Darin Olson	Agriculture Interests		x	
Judith Barkstedt	Fishing or Fish Conservation		x	

ODFW Staff in Attendance:

Greg Apke, ODFW Fish Passage and Screening Program Manger
 Josh Kelsey, ODFW Fish Screening Coordinator
 Toby Schuyler, ODFW Fish Screening Coordinator
 Katherine Nordholm, ODFW Fish Passage and Screening Coordinator
 Benjamin Campbell, ODFW Hydropower Coordinator
 Jason Wunschel, ODFW Screen Shop Manager

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Nell Scott, Trout Unlimited
 Charlie Erdman, Trout Unlimited
**Additional people may have joined virtually throughout the meeting*

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Nordholm called the meeting to order. She discussed that the current chair and vice chair of the Fish Screening Task Force were absent and that there was a need to elect a chair pro tem for the duration of the meeting. Nordholm asked for nominations or questions. Bill Freeland nominated Bob Durham to be chair pro tem for this meeting. Bob Durham accepted the nomination. Bob Durham will be the chair pro tem for the meeting.

Motion: Bill Freeland

Second: Judith Barkstedt

Vote: Four Task Force members present. All approved - Passed

Review and Approve Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

The next item of business was reviewing and approving the meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes. Bob Durham moved to approve the minutes and agenda, seconded by Bill Freeland.

Motion: Bob Durham

Second: Bill Freeland

Vote: Four Task Force members present. All approved - Passed

Task Force Member Round Table

Each member of the Task Force gave updates related to their area of representation and interests. Bob Durham asked about habitat and what kind of work protects lamprey. Greg Apke discussed a recent lamprey story map that is currently being reviewed by the Department and suggested that the finished project should be emailed to the Task Force.

Action Item: Email the Task Force the link to the lamprey story map when it is published.

Screening Program Update (*Greg Apke*)

Greg Apke shared Fish Screening and Passage program updates with the Task Force. The Commission is considering two candidates for a new ODFW Director at the upcoming Commission meeting. Greg Apke is now officially the new Screens and Passage Program Manager. Mac Barr is on a job rotation filling the vacancy in the Fish Passage Coordinator position.

The program is working to fill two additional vacant positions: the Assistant Fish Passage Coordinator and the ODFW Assistant Fish Passage Liaison. Interviews for both positions will be held in a couple of weeks.

Apke also shared that the agency is facing some budget challenges, and there will be more details to share at a future meeting.

Public Comment

The public comment period was opened at 1:30. There were no public comments online or in person.

Central Point Screen Shop Projects (*Josh Kelsey*)

Josh Kelsey shared an update about the screen program and projects out of the Central Point Screen Shop. He shared some of the history of the screen cost-share program and examples of the different screen types that ODFW cost shares with water users. He also shared some recently completed projects and some issues facing the screen program out of the Central Point Shop, including challenges finding funding for non-anadromous areas and continued maintenance on older screens.

Trout Unlimited Projects in the Klamath (*Nell Scott and Charles Erdman*)

Charles Erdman with Trout Unlimited presented on projects in the Klamath basin and partnerships with the ODFW Screen Shop. He shared some history of the Upper Klamath basin and the land use history and impacts on the streams before fish screening. He shared some examples of fish passage and some fish screening projects and some information on their future plans and upcoming projects.

Cost Share Project Spending Limits (*Nordholm*)

Nordholm gave an update on the spending limits associated with ODFW cost-share fish screening projects. Currently, the Department needs Fish Screening Task Force approval to spend over \$75,000 on a screen program cost-share project.

Darin Olson asked where the spending limit came from and how long it has been in place. He asked if there was a need to increase the spending limit with the cost of projects rising over time.

The group discussed the cap on funding, the average cost of screens, ways to increase funding, and if there was a way for the public to voluntarily contribute to the screens program.

Annie Creek #7 (*Josh Kelsey*)

Josh Kelsey from the Central Point Screen Shop presented information on Annie Creek #7. Annie Creek #7 is a planned screens and passage project in the Klamath Basin. The project is in partnership with Trout Unlimited. The screen is a planned cost-share project between ODFW and Trout Unlimited. Kelsey discussed the plan for the screen and the cost of installing the project. ODFW's planned cost to install the screen will exceed the \$75,000 spending cap and requires approval from the Fish Screening Task Force. Kelsey discussed the various reasons project costs have been increasing and the likelihood of ODFW's share of cost share projects reaching the \$75,000 limit happening more frequently. The current estimate for ODFW's share of the Annie Creek #7 screen is \$165,319

Bob Durham asked if the project was funded, would it take money away from other projects. Jason Wunschel discussed the screen shop's upcoming projects. Funding this project does not delay or cancel any projects currently planned. The money covering the shop's time would be an expense anyway and the other large component of the cost is travel to and from the screen site.

Bob Durham said he thought the Annie Creek project sounded like a good project that built on a lot of investment in the area. Darin Olson asked about the likelihood that the project would exceed the requested amount.

Darin Olson first moved that the Task Force recommend that the fish screening program exceed the \$75,000 cap for the Annie Creek project - to not exceed \$170,000. This was seconded by Bill Freeland. The Task Force discussed motion. Apke asked the Screen Shop how confident they are in the cost estimate on \$165,319 and what are the chances that the project may exceed the \$170,000. Bill Freeland suggested adding a limit that could be amended to the recommended amount if needed. Darin Olson suggested giving the chair the ability to increase the limit to a certain amount and amended his motion.

Motion: Darin Olson moved that the Task Force recommend that the fish screening program exceed the \$75,000 limit for the Annie Creek project to not exceed \$170,000. If the project cost exceeds that amount, the chair of the fish screening task force can approve recommending an additional \$20,000 for a total recommended spending cap of \$190,000 for the project.

Second: Bill Freeland

Vote: Four Task Force members present. All approved - Passed

Action item: Add a discussion about increasing the spending limit to a future Task Force meeting. Look into options for voluntarily donating to the fish screening program.

Task Force Operations Document (*Nordholm*)

Nordholm shared that the Fish Screening Task Force had been working on updating the Task Force Operations Document. She incorporated the updates from the last meeting and circulated the updated draft. She asked if there were any comments or concerns or if the Task Force was prepared to vote to approve the document.

Bill Freeland clarified the language around the ability to send a proxy to represent members.

Motion: Bill Freeland motioned to accept the Task Force Operations Document as edited.

Second: Darrin Olson seconded the motion.

Vote: Four members present. All approved. Motion Passed.

Fish Screen Task Force Recruitment (*Nordholm*)

Nordholm announced that, with the end of Greg Harris's term, there was an upcoming Fish Screening Task Force vacancy. The vacant seat would be for an agricultural representative. She encouraged the Task Force to consider if they knew of anyone who would be interested in the position and to circulate the opening or reach out if they knew of anyone who would be interested.

Section 106 (*Nordholm*)

Nordholm gave an update on the ongoing development of a programmatic agreement between NOAA and OWEB that would cover section 106 requirements for fish screening projects and maintenance funding with PCSRF funds.

Adjourn at 4:10