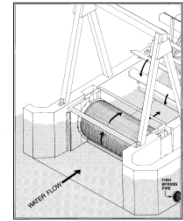




Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

Meeting Minutes



Date: November 9, 2022
Time: 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Location: ODFW Salem Headquarters and Teams Virtual Meeting

Task Force Attendance:

Members	Representing	Present In Person	Present Virtually	Absent
Greg Harris	Agriculture Interests		X	
Kristin Bishop	Fishing or Fish Conservation	X		
Alexis Vaivoda	The Public		X	
Marc Thalacker	Agriculture Interests		X	
William Freeland	Fishing or Fish Conservation	X		
Darin Olson	Agriculture Interests		X	
Judith Barkstedt	Fishing or Fish Conservation	X		

ODFW Staff in Attendance:

Katherine Nordholm, Fish Screen and Passage Coordinator
 Alan Ritchey, Fish Screen and Passage Program Manager
 Greg Apke, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
 Josh Kelsey, Central Point Screen Shop
 Pete Baki, ODFW-ODOT Fish Passage Liaison
 Rich Kilbane, Central Point Screen Shop Coordinator
 Kevin Stertz, Assistant District Fish Biologist
 Jason Wunschel, Central Point Screen Shop Manager
 Charles Barr, District Fish Biologist

Members of the Public in Attendance: **members of the public may have joined virtually throughout the meeting.*

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Katherine Nordholm called the meeting to order at 1:32 in chair Thalacker’s absence and performed introductions.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Nordholm asked the Task Force for comment on the previously distributed draft of the meeting minutes. There were no comments or edits.

Motion: Kristin Bishop motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Bill Freeland seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved with a vote of six approving the minutes and none opposing (*Thalacker absent at this time*).

- **Discuss Meeting Minutes Format**

Nordholm discussed the meeting minute format and proposed moving to a simplified format for future meeting minutes. She proposed capturing high-level notes for most informative presentations and discussions and more detailed notes for discussions around action items or Task Force decisions. (*Marc Thalacker joined the meeting during this discussion.*) The Task Force raised no objections. The meeting minutes will be simplified for Task Force meetings from now on.

- **Review Meeting Agenda**

Chair Thalacker moved on to the review and approval of the meeting agenda.

Motion: Greg Harris moved to approve the agenda; Kristin Bishop seconded the motion. Agenda approved with a vote of seven approved and none opposed.

Task Force Member Round Table (all)

Members of the Task Force discussed issues around fish, water, fish passage, and screening within their geographic areas and representation.

Drought Funds and ARPA Update

Alan Ritchey gave an update on the use of the recent \$8 million drought fund package. All \$8 million have been allocated to address ~96 barriers that will improve passage to over 500 miles of habitat when implemented. Ritchey also discussed upcoming funding opportunities for fish screens and passage projects, including \$5 million in ARPA funds.

2:00 Public Comment

The drought fund and ARPA updates were paused at 2:00 to allow for an opportunity for public comment. There were none.

Central Point Screen Shop Update

Josh Kelsey presented background on the Central Point Screen Shop. He showed examples of recent projects and presented information on the projects implemented by the screen shop.

Fish Passage Rules Revision

Greg Apke discussed the fish passage rules revision process, presented information on the major updates to the current rules, and discussed the timeline and process for the next step of taking the proposed rules to the ODFW Commission.

5-minute break

**Alexis Vaivoda left the meeting at 2:50 PM*

State of the State

Katherine Nordholm gave an update on the numbers of cost-share, tax-credit, and inspection-only projects the fish screening program has facilitated over the last 10-12 years. Nordholm also discussed the upcoming unscreened diversion prioritization and the statewide fish passage barrier prioritization.

Task Force Operations Document

Nordholm proposed updates to the Task Force Operations Document, last updated in 1999. Proposed updates are focused on guidance to comply with recent changes in the state's public meeting requirements and to allow for additional virtual participation from the public and members of the Task Force.

The Task Force discussed the updates and proposed adding options for having more than two meetings a year. Members wanted the department to consider a combined meeting with the Fish Passage Task Force when possible. Members also mentioned a desire for more than two meetings a year and suggested more frequent and shorter meetings, including additional virtual meeting options.

Action items:

- Task Force to return comments and edits to Nordholm by December 1st.
- Nordholm will update the document with suggestions and circulate a new draft by the next meeting.
- Task Force will consider new language at their next meeting.

Fish Screen Exemptions Guidance Document

Nordholm presented information on fish screening exemptions. She discussed the different ways a diversion can be exempted from the requirements to meet fish passage and the small number of exemptions that had been proposed in the past. Fish passage exemptions where the diversion owner is making alternative arrangements to protect fish must go to the ODFW Commission for approval. The Task Force makes a recommendation to the Commission.

During the Commission hearing for the last proposed exemption, the Commission asked that the screens program develop guidelines or rules on how to evaluate future exemption proposals. Nordholm proposed that the Task Force work on developing exemption guidelines. She had sent out some initial draft language to the Task Force to review before the meeting.

Freeland asked for clarity on some of the terms in the statute, like adding a definition for "appreciable damage."

Olson suggested drafting a document to be a guidance document for water users as well as the Task Force and the Commission.

Harris requested the addition of language in the guidance to clarify that current screening levels could be considered during the evaluation process.

Action Items:

- Task Force to review guidance document and return notes and suggestions to Nordholm before December.
- Nordholm will incorporate suggestions into a new draft with updated language for water users to use as guidance.
- Nordholm will send out a revised draft to the Task Force to review before their next meeting.

Fish Screen Task Force Updates

•Marc Thalacker’s Last Meeting

Nordholm announced that this was Marc Thalacker’s last meeting and thanked Marc for participating on the Task Force and serving as the Task Force chair for multiple years.

•Elect New Chair and Vice Chair

Nordholm told the Task Force that Thalacker’s departure meant the position of chair was open and discussed that there was also no currently elected vice chair. She proposed that the Task Force elect a new chair and vice chair and showed that the longest-serving member on the Task Force was Greg Harris, appointed in 2018, and Kristin Bishop, appointed in 2019.

Motion: Kristin Bishop motioned to appoint Greg Harris as the next Task Force chair. Thalacker seconded the motion and called for a vote. The motion passed with six votes in favor and none opposed.

Motion: Greg Harris motioned to appoint Kristin Bishop as the vice chair of the Task Force, Darin Olson seconded the motion. Thalacker called for the vote and the motion passed with six votes in favor and none opposed.

•Volunteer Training

Nordholm reminded the Task Force to take their yearly volunteer training. She will check compliance in December and reach out to members who still need to finish the training.

Action Item: Task Force Members to take their volunteer training.

•Meeting Schedule

Nordholm discussed the schedule for next year’s Task Force meetings. Primarily the plan is to have a field trip to the Three Sister’s Irrigation District and Bend/Sisters area in June of 2023.

Action Item: Nordholm will send out more details toward the beginning of 2023.

4:44 Adjourn