



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes



Date: October 14th, 2025

Location: Tap Rock Restaurant, Evergreen Room – Grants Pass, OR

Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC)

Committee Members

Michael Calhoun – North Coast	Morgan Parks – North Willamette
Roger Lindquist – South Coast	<i>vacant</i> – South Willamette
Jessica Eubank – Mid Coast	Mindie Wilson – Tenmile, Coos & Coquille
David Grosjacques – Umpqua	Fred Cholick – Eastern
Carl Cole – Upper Rogue	

ODFW Staff

Marty Olson – R&E/STEP Program Coordinator	Michele Weaver – Acting Recreational Fish Manager
Sara Hart – R&E/STEP Program Assistant	John Weber – STEP Biologist, Lower Rogue
Monica Magdeleno – STEP Biologist, Upper Rogue	Becca Miller – Fish Health Lab, Madras
Mark Hereford – Klamath Fish Reintroduction Lead	

Guests

Richard Wehling – Public	Beau Murdock – STEP Volunteer
Nate Kinney – Rogue River Guides Association	Greg Carratt – STEP Volunteer
Carolyn Mason – South Willamette STAC, <i>pending approval</i>	

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

R. Lindquist, STAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:00am. We lead a quick round on introduction.

D. Grosjacques: Would like to add an update from R&E to the agenda. He can do that during his regional update. Would like to talk about criteria for funding mini grants. **M. Olson:** I will go over that before we start discussing individual grant applications.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve the agenda. F. Cholick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Discussion: **R. Lindquist:** On page 3, the number 150,000 should be 106,000.

D. Grosjacques: On page 1, creating a criterion for scoring mini grants was in the minutes action items, was that ever talked about? **M. Olson:** No, we have never done that for mini grants. Usually, we just discuss each one and vote, we do not score.

D. Grosjacques: Page 6, there were several applications that we reduced the amount from the original asking amount. Can we do that without the applicate present? How can we go about doing that? **R. Lindquist:** We can do that if we need to. **M. Olson:** We want to be careful reducing amounts or tabling applications too much. Most projects should either pass or fail depending on the projects' merit and fit with STEP.

R. Lindquist: If we have too many grants to discuss we could have a small special meeting just to discuss grants.

Motion: C. Cole motioned to approve the minutes with edits mentioned above. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

STAC Board Region Updates

D. Grosjacques - Umpqua: There are two STEP groups in the area - the Umpqua fisherman and the Garder/Reedsport/Winchester Bay (GRWB) STEP group which run the STEP hatchery. The North Umpqua had no summer steelhead fishery last year. Winchester Dam is owned by a group of landowners, dam repairs caused fish to die off and ODFW sued. Rock Creek is the only hatchery on the Umpqua, it was defunded. Some local legislators found some money to keep a fishery going for this year, but the future of the hatchery program is unknown.

M. Weaver: Several other entities were involved in the Winchester Dam lawsuit; it is still in litigation and there is no outcome yet.

R&E Board update: The STEP program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration Fund which is a federal grant. R&E is funded through Oregon fishing license dollars and they must work off a projection to fund grants. Our last meeting was two weeks ago in Redmond, we allocated about \$1 million at that meeting, which was our Cycle 2 meeting. The grants that we approve then go to the Commission who do the final approval in December.

R. Lindquist: R&E was originally set up to fund volunteers and sport fish programs. How much R&E funding goes right back into ODFW? **D. Grosjacques:** A lot of the money does go back to ODFW projects, but some does go to other outside programs. **R. Lindquist:** There are a lot of STEP hatcheries that need repairs. **D. Grosjacques:** They should apply for R&E grants. The STEP Mini Grants are funded by R&E, as well as STEP hatchery fish food.

R. Lindquist: ODFW already gets their budget why are R&E funds going to ODFW? Thinks that things like liberation trucks should be coming out of a budget line item for ODFW, instead of R&E. Perception from the outside is that R&E is just funding ODFW. **D. Grosjacques:** Most of the fish caught are from hatcheries, that is where angler money should be coming from. **M. Olson:** Any non-profit can apply for an R&E grant. All R&E projects must benefit the angler. If there is STEP hatchery that needs funding, they are highly incentivized to apply. **F. Cholick:** There is no budget to replace this stuff. If not for R&E money, how are these hatcheries going to function? They really rely on it. Put in a grant for STEP hatcheries, it would go toward the 'Restoration' side of the grant funding. We get a lot of 'Enhancement' projects that we are not able to fund due to a lack of money.

Carl Cole - Upper Rogue: Recently completed our river cleanup project. The Middle Rogue Steelheaders brought a lot of volunteers; we have some other future projects coming up.

Monica Magdeleno – Upper Rogue STEP Bio: The local district fish biologist just retired and we just welcomed Frank Drake to the position. He was previously the assistant district fish biologist for the area. She is getting ready for Eggs to Fry in the classroom currently – they have 64 schools across the county. She was able to purchase more chillers and tanks this year. Blue Heron Park suffered a fire in 2020 and they are doing habitat restoration there. There is a culvert replacement happening, and they are working with the city to make it all possible. There has been lots of plantings and tree survival success. The steelhead net pen project to collect broodstock happened this year – there are also lots of volunteers to help with that. This year we had a bad break-in to that trap, they stole the trail camera. It had a tough impact on running the trap. Carcass tosses happened without issue, landowner approval was enthusiastic and volunteer opportunities were plentiful.

C. Cole: Oregon State Police were able to identify the people who broke into trap and caught them.

R. Lindquist: The radio tags that we funded previously, any data on that? How much did they cost? **M.**

Magdeleno: We only got reading off of two tags, while about 80% of tags failed and went dark, it was a fault with the tags themselves and the company who we purchased them admitted to that. Tags were \$4,000 each.

Jessica Eubank, Mid-Coast: The Salmon River Hatchery is closing at the end of the month. First place she volunteered, it is what made her want to get into fisheries. They donated lots of fish to food banks. The only salmon spawn they are doing this year will be happening soon. The important indicator fish stocks and treaty fish are raised here. Some fish are going to another hatchery, but there could be some complications about how the overlap of those fish runs are returning to Salmon River. It is the most expensive hatchery to run because of the pumps, but it also has the highest return rates. The Letz Creek STEP hatchery recently clipped fish that will be released in the fall. Alsea Hatchery is slow now but will get busy once the rain hits. Christine Clapp got funds to build the Schooner Creek footbridge and the Siuslaw High School hatchery program. There are water quality projects happening with local middle and high schools in the area and run in conjunction with the Eggs to Fry Classroom program. Salmon Watch field trips are starting at end of October and will continue through November. Siuslaw basin fisheries have been really good this year. There are also lots of big fish swimming into Salmon River Hatchery, but she is not sure how they are catching on the river.

Fred Cholick, Eastern Oregon: This is his first meeting as a STAC member. He works closing with Jen Luke, the STEP Biologist out of the Bend office. Eastern Oregon continues to be in drought conditions. He has worked with STEP for 9 years. They have Eggs to Fry in 58 classrooms all over central Oregon. Helped with upper Deschutes spawning surveys. Lava and East Lakes are continuing their chub removal program. They do a fall streamside education program and a fin clipping event with local youth. Last year they reached 2,000 students and had 50 volunteers from Central Oregon Flyfishers. He is also on the R&E Board and is looking forward to working with this group. Wants to note that anything we, as a Board, can do to enhance the image of ODFW is good.

Roger Lindquist, South Coast: Focuses on the Elk, Sixes and Chetco Rivers. Has participated in broodstock collection by flyfishing and hauling them to hatchery. Volunteers are very helpful. Fall Chinook are being held at the STEP hatchery, we are training volunteers on how to feed and do other tasks. The 'salmon rodeo' on the Chetco is happening this year again - large nets catch lots of fish and there have been some big fish this year. On the Rogue, Indian Creek STEP hatchery had a big flooding event happen last spring. We had to do emergency grants through R&E and STEP. Volunteers and private companies came together to help get things fixed. It is now fully functioning and set up for fish to return once we get some rain. Thanks to ODFW, the boards, companies and volunteers that helped with all the repairs this last spring. Spawning will occur in November – hoping for 100,000 fish production this year.

Morgan Parks, North Willamette: Eggs to Fry classroom deliveries are happening next week - 195 classrooms this year, which is an additional 30 from last year. 30-40 volunteers and ODFW staff helping with that. Northwest Steelheaders and Trout Unlimited bring in a lot of volunteers. She helps to coordinate volunteers and deliver eggs. Freshwater Illustrated is doing a 5-part film on the Eggs to Fry Program that should be done by next year. Will be available for free through their website and through other agencies. Buddy Phibbs been busy with fishing events this spring and summer, broodstock collections and surveys.

Carolyn Mason, Mid/South Willamette (unappointed): No report.

S. Hart: Reed Fischer did the prison fishing event again this summer and it was another big success. He has about 130 Eggs to Fry classrooms, including a youth detention center.

Mindie Wilson, Tenmile/Coos/Coquile (absent): Report sent to Marty Olson.

M. Olson: In Coos Bay ODFW office they currently do not have a District Fish Biologist or an Assistant. Hopefully they will be hiring for that soon. Millicoma River Chinook have started to show up but fishing is slow. They are still looking for a camp host to be at Millicoma site. Nobel Creek STEP hatchery has had high eggs loss over the last few years, switched to egg boxes and that has helped, compared to the recirculating system that caused high ammonia. A new water system is being put in for the intake. The Tenmile River trap will be going in soon.

Michael Calhoun, North Coast (absent): No report.

M. Olson: The area has two propagation permits we will discuss later. They also have two R&E grants they are working on right now - replacement totes for carcass tosses, and angler access area repairs to several sites in the area. They were recently able to purchase more Eggs to Fry supplies for the area as well.

Fish Division Updates – Mike Harrington

Mike gave a talk and answered questions about fish divisions administrative decisions and updates: License fee increases are coming in 2026, as well as a saltwater endorsement. Federal funding is still up in the air with Mitchell Act funding the most in danger. The Legislative session was good for us - They passed a \$20 million bond for our hatcheries, which is very good, but probably could have used \$120 million to do all the repairs our hatcheries are needing. A lot of people came together to make that happen. We want to get that money on the ground as soon as we can and are currently working through prioritization on where that money is going. There are a lot of new water quality guidelines that have been made which make new hatchery repairs hard. New technology, the tour of the Umatilla tribe hatchery showed a hatchery that is brand new and much higher tech. There was a reduction in program funds, which closes the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC), which was already an issue with water quality and landslide dangers. Continuing that research at OSU to keep that program going. The Rock Creek closure had a lot of push back – there is a legislative report required to maintain hatchery opportunities in the Umpqua basin. Cow Creek tribe will be a big part of helping with that. There is an assessment being made on how to keep Rock Creek hatchery going or building a new hatchery site, or partnerships with others to be able to provide the same type of production in the basin. Salmon River hatchery had very little pushback, which was a surprise. They are going to maintain production from that facility by moving it to other hatcheries. The indicator stocks are moving to Trask, which means trap at Salmon River will have to remain open for a few years until fish are no longer returning to that basin.

The Mitchell Act lawsuit hit hard, Columbia River hatchery vs wild. Following HGMPs and Federal agreements, Oregon fared very well compared to WA. ODFW brought in someone to make sure we were following all our obligations, and we are doing well. We are going through a full hatchery audit. So far, we are doing a great job. Moving forward we may need to tighten up on following our HGMPs. Making sure everything is in writing. If STEP hatcheries are wanting to change their production, they will need to work closer with us to make sure we are following our HGMPs closely.

D. Grosjacques: Rock Creek insurance money and FEMA money, where has that money gone? ODFW only owns 14 hatcheries, what about the others? **Harrington:** We are funding only ODFW owned hatcheries. We are trying to work with the others to make some improvements to those hatcheries. Insurance money and FEMA money would go to ODFW, but we are still trying to figure out how to spend it in the smartest way. Water quality at Rock Creek is not good. Elk Creek water quality system cost \$50 million. So, at a certain point we need to make a business decision on how to spend that money. We cannot fund that hatchery in a smart way.

J. Eubank: Salmon River hatchery – are you concerned with the indicator stock and treaty stock with a 5-year overlap? Without the hatchery running all year long and firing up the trap just for a short time, it is going to be a problem.

Harrington: The engineering team is working on it, and may have to keep that pump running, which is expensive. But someone will be living there and maintain it. It is definitely a concern and was one of the first things that was brought up when a closure was discussed. **J. Eubank:** Info on the lawsuit with Siletz Angler on setting limits? **Harrington:** ODFW won that lawsuit. He is not sure what the end results were. These lawsuits are costing the department a lot of money which is taking a lot of money away from hatcheries and other programs.

R. Lindquist: Elk River, has two new raceways? **Harrington:** The request for bids came out a few years ago and failed, and then again recently, which also failed. We are taking a step back to re-look at how we are going to do the raceways and water quality improvements. It is still happening but need to reevaluate.

Harrington: The work you guys do is very valuable. Please call or email if you have more questions.

Mini Grant Reviews

M. Olson reviewed the criteria for what qualifies for Mini Grant funding and how to navigate to the STEP webpage.

D. Grosjacques: Have we thought about limiting the amount of money we spend per meeting? **M. Olson:** No, but I would recommend being careful doing that, it could cause the board to hold funding from good projects now just to save money for later. **F. Cholick:** Agrees that we need to deal with what we have in front of us and not deny projects to

save money for the future.

C. Mason: Do we track money by region? **R. Lindquist:** We do track it, but don't approve or deny based on how much money a district has received. Some STEP Bio's are better about applying for grants than others so that can sway the applicant pool.

MG 25-01 Rogue River Cleanup

Asking for \$808.86 - Was tabled at the previous meeting and moved to this meeting. For the purchase of materials for river cleanup, including trash grabbers, bags, etc.

Discussion: **R. Lindquist:** It is nice to have a list of budget items. They are bringing in \$3,400 of match money. **J. Eubank:** Match money for volunteer hours is about \$34 per hour. **C. Cole:** The cleanup goes handles river banks from Baker Park to about 10 miles downstream. 40 volunteers or more float the river and walk the banks at boat ramps and parks. There is a big dumpster and a gathering at end. **C. Mason:** Great at getting people excited about keeping their local area clean. *Motion:* J. Eubank made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. F. Cholick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MG 25-02 Rain Suits for Watershed Exploration

Asking for \$1,722.00 - Was tabled at the previous meeting and moved to this meeting. Purchase of rain gear for educational groups.

Discussion: **J. Eubank:** They have a few but need more. The number of field trips and participants is growing and we would like to get these kids out in the field to see fish spawning and learn about it. If kids don't have the rain gear necessary, they should still be able to do these trips. **C. Mason:** How many times would they be used? **J. Eubank:** We had 10 classrooms last year, just for me, but there are more. We are asking for adult sizes as well for teachers and volunteers. **F. Cholick:** Is there matching funds? **J. Eubank:** I don't think so, but Christine Clapp may be bringing in some money. **R. Lindquist:** Also volunteer hours are considered matching funds. *Motion:* F. Cholick made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MG 25-03 North Coast Steelhead Satellite Tagging Survey

Asking for \$2,000 – Helping to purchase 1 satellite tag.

Discussion: **R. Lindquist:** How many total tags are they going to do? Application does not say. **J. Eubank:** They also do not state how many days until the tag detaches, just says that they come in either 60/90/120 days. More specific information would be nice. **D. Grosjacques:** This is beyond what this group should be funding. It is too much money for just one tag. **R. Lindquist:** We would only paying for ½ a tag. They are trying to look at migratory patterns of steelhead. **M. Magdeleno:** The tags are large, and tracks change in temp, location, pressure from predators, etc. This is the same company that was used before in the south coast study where a lot of the tags failed. **F. Cholick:** Can't support it when we don't know what the full picture is – we don't even know the full study expectations. **R. Lindquist:** Would like to table until next meeting when we can get more information. **J. Eubank:** They are probably planning to tag before our next meeting will occur.

Motion: D. Grosjacques made a motion to deny. F. Cholick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

R. Lindquist: We encouraged the applicate to come back with more information on what the bigger scope of the project is and re-apply.

MG 25-04 The Mayfly Project Bend Chapter

Asking for \$2,000 – for the purchase of educational packs, nets, practice casting rods, and wading boots for educational program.

Discussion: **F. Cholick:** Kate is modeling the Mayfly Project around what STEP does, but with disadvantages kids. These youth with troubled home lives get to get an experience they wouldn't otherwise, and it works wonders with trying to teach and steer these kinds in a different direction. It has a lot of support from the Central Oregon Flyfishers who provided a trailer for all her equipment. **D. Grosjacques:** Are they in school at the time? **F. Cholick:** Done mostly during

summer, but some in fall and spring on weekends. About 2:1 kids to mentors and have a vigorous training staff. The kids are gifted with a rod at the end of the program. C. Cole: ODFW has poles and other gear they could be providing. M. Olson: The Angler Education program does have gear but may not have a lot of stuff to give away, it would just be to borrow for a day or two event. R. Lindquist: He would like to see a breakdown of costs on different items. **D. Grosjacques:** If they don't spend the money exactly like stated on each line item, do we care? **M. Olson:** We can adjust line-item costs, but they must spend it on what was approved. **C. Mason:** Educational packs are probably labeled with the program logo, would like to see more specific budget details. **F. Cholick:** He just had to purchase kids wading boots for another program and they were \$95. Can we ask the applicants in the future to give more details? **R. Lindquist:** The STAC member that approves it can send it back to the applicant and ask for more info before they sign it. STEP biologists can also do this.

Motion: R. Lindquist made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MG 25-05 Owyhee Gravel Augmentation

Asking for \$2,000 – Purchase of spawning gravel for habitat improvement project.

Discussion: **F. Cholick:** This was previously not completed for circumstances that were out of their control. Increased spawning habitat in this area would increase that fishery. During high flow events, is that gravel going to wash away? **M. Olson:** Things are usually done to make sure the gravel gets settled before the dam washes it out. Project has great match money. **R. Lindquist:** Group may be out of state, but the project is taking place in Oregon. This benefits Oregon fisheries. **M. Olson:** Those Idaho residents will pay for an out of state Oregon fishing license.

Motion: F. Cholick made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

25-06 Cost Fork WC Restoration Tools

Asking for \$2,000 – For purchase of hard hats, other PPE, shovels and other tools, garden carts and tarps.

Discussion: **C. Mason:** She is not super familiar with this project, but they do a lot of work in the area and have a lot of great projects. **F. Cholick:** They don't talk about how many youths they work with.

Motion: D. Grosjacques made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. C. Cole seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

25-07 Middle Fork Salmon Watch Supplies

Asking for \$1,050 – For purchase of dip nets, DO readers, and education supplies.

Discussion: **C. Mason:** Has worked with this crew before. All 5th graders from all over Springfield/Eugene area. **F. Cholick:** Like the fact that they put the number of kids they work with. He works with a lot of volunteers and youth and knows how important this stuff is.

Motion: F. Cholick made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. J. Eubank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

25-08 Noble Creek Water Delivery Pipe

Asking for \$2,000 – For purchase of PVC pipe for hatchery intake.

Discussion: **C. Cole:** Would be nice to have a breakdown of how much pipe they are needing and what kind of PVC. **R. Lindquist:** Agrees, can they go with the cheaper pipe or do they need the higher quality? How much distance are they covering? **M. Olson:** They are coming all the way into the hatchery. **J. Eubank:** Lists other funds of \$300 but doesn't say where that is coming from or being used on. **M. Olson:** This is a STEP hatchery. **R. Lindquist:** With fittings and the cost of pipes this is not an unreasonable ask.

Motion: J. Eubank made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

25-09 Kalapuya Youth Waders

Asking for \$1,996 – For purchase of waders and wading boots for education program.

Discussion: **D. Grosjacques:** When you get waders and boots for the kids and they get to get in the water, it makes a big

difference from just looking at it from the bank. **F. Cholick:** Did not see number of students they are working with. Why not just get footed waders instead of buying separate waders and boots? **C. Mason:** Can be hard to find for youth. **R. Lindquist:** Agrees they are hard to find and may not have the variety of different size feet. **C. Cole:** Rubber bottom can be slippery, wading boots are better for ankles as well.

Motion: J. Eubank made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. R. Lindquist seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

25-010 North Coast STEP Hatchery Bundle

Asking for \$2,000 – For purchase of nets, long broom and handles.

Discussion: J. Eubank: Kyle Wilson works with a lot of volunteers and at a lot of events, this will help him greatly. **D.**

Grosjacques: Are these STEP hatcheries? **R. Lindquist:** Yes, all volunteers ran. Net prices listed are very reasonable. **M.**

Olson: Freight cost are an eligible expense.

Motion: R. Lindquist made a motion to approve for the full amount requested. C. Cole seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2023 – 2025 STAC Mini Grant Report-

Marty Olson presented an update on the 2023-2025 biennium mini grants.

Completed 34 projects for a total of \$48,907.89. Had \$1,092.11 in return funds.

F. Cholick: Why were Eggs to Fry supplies taken out of mini grant eligibility? **M. Olson:** There was a fear that all the mini grant money would go just toward that.

Klamath Dam Removal Presentation – Mark Hereford

First fish in Klamath basin since 1912. Basin has very diverse river systems. Very cold spring fed headwaters. Flows into lake which has seasonal water quality issues that are not good for salmon. Highest diversity of lamprey in the country. Lots of trout and native fish. Anadromous fish: Chinook, lamprey, steelhead, and coho which are listed.

Copco 1 Dam built in 1912 – 1918, they never built fish ladder which completely stopped upstream migration. Then came Copco 2, JC Boyle Dam and Iron Gate Dam. Until recently, Iron Gate Dam was the end of anadromy. All were built for hydro power. When permits expired in 2016, a lot of people were fighting for removal. All dams were removed in 2023 and 2024. Revegetation of reservoir areas is being led by local tribes.

Reintroduction implementation Plan: Mostly a hands off approach. The current existing population below dams are given a chance to repopulate without interference. Spring Chinook actively transporting fish, juvenile out migration investigations prior to reintroduction efforts. Lots of spawning habitat, above and below dam. Spawning ground surveys done below dam areas. Working with California to complete the water below the dam. Data used to estimate the Klamath River escapement. The first Chinook was seen only weeks after Iron Gate was removed. Estimate of run size for Oregon was about 500 fish below the Keno Dam. Total estimate was about 2,000 for the whole river. Sonar estimates were about 7,000 – we are trying to do that again this year to review data and get a closer estimate.

Coho returned in November and December in Oregon. About 117 fish above the old dam sites.

Above Keno Dam site: Periodic salmon habitats surveys and redband surveys. No salmon observed in 2024, however we did see fish in the fish ladder. Caught Pacific lamprey in fish trap in Spencer creek above JC Boyle dam site. In the fall of 2025, we put in video monitoring for presence/absence monitoring at Keno Dam. Video monitoring underwater at Spencer Creek. Video monitoring at Link Dam, above and below water. First Chinook was observed entering upper Klamath lake in early Oct 2025. We are radio tagging fish in lower river and stations set up around basin. Mobile tracking and found over a dozen fish on Williamson River. Found fish in the Sprague River as of October 14th, 2025.

Chinook salmon distribution has increased to above lake, so far coho only found below dam, but this winter we are looking forward to more monitoring. Pacific lamprey seen below lake as well.

F. Cholick: Do you think you will keep up with the hands-off approach? **Hereford:** Hard to say, probably for now for Fall run Chinook. But is not sure what the future holds. We have not been able to record Steelhead, the resident rainbow trout are almost as big, so it is hard to do surveys to observe, may have to find carcasses to determine.

STAC Initiatives

STAC Volunteer Awards:

Awards were presented to Beau Murdock from the South Coast District. Greg Carrat and Jim Ferguson from the Upper Rogue district.

Also recognized Rachel Ellison for her time on the STAC Board, she had to leave her position early due to moving to California.

It is important to recognize these volunteers that put in an extraordinary amount of time and effort.

STEP Propagation Renewals:

These proposals are for hatchery run by STEP and fit into ODFW's existing Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMP).

Astoria High School – Raising about 30,000 Chinook, 5,000 coho, and 500 rainbow trout. Facility is on school property. Everything has been approved and signed off by fish division leaderships and there are letters of support from the school district and local biologist.

D. Grosjacques: He would usually worry when one teacher is so invested in these programs, what will happen when they retire. Don't think they need to worry about that with this program because it has been around for so long and there is so much local support.

Warrenton High School – 20,000 fall Chinook, 6,000 coho, and 500 rainbow trout. This school uses a recirculating system that captures rainwater. They have ability to pull water from the river, but they do not prefer that since the quality is not as nice.

D. Grosjacques: These kids were really proud of these facilities and very cool to see on our tour last spring.

R. Lindquist: We don't have a say on whether these are approved, but we do have a say if something is trying to be revoked, then we can stand up and speak for these hatchery programs. That is not happening here, it is just good to know.

M. Olson: This does not just go for schools, but for any STEP facility. Lots of these STEP hatcheries propagation applications have expired, but they are moving to a system that mirrors the hatchery HGMPs that support these STEP facilities, so they do not have to apply as often. Or they will have to reapply if they want to change the scope or scale of the program.

R. Lindquist: That is good because there are lots of STEP facilities that are past their deadline for renewing, including Indian Creek STEP hatchery. These take a long time, but the forms have improved a lot recently.

M. Olson: Will have another one coming soon for Siuslaw High School. It hadn't made it all the way through the signature processes yet but will be soon. This was recently funded by R&E. J. Eubank: Their 'Stream Team' also helps with Whittaker Creek trap installation and monitoring. The teacher has been amazing in getting kids out to the site and organizing everything. She recently got a STAC volunteer award at a recent meeting.

Self-Attestation:

M. Olson explained the new OARs for compensation for being a board member.

Form says to look at 2023 tax info. This may be an old form, we will see if there is a new one out there.

M. Weaver: This was recently brought to our attention; we still do not know the process for paying it out. It is taxable income, and it does come out of project funds.

M. Olson: Once he gets the forms, for the folks that qualified, we will start the I9 process and then they will have 3 days to get you to an ODFW office with documentation to get paperwork signed. J. Eubank: This could affect how much money the program will have to do meetings and other activities.

Workday:

D. Grosjacques: Does not like getting the emails from Workday, being constantly reminded to do trainings.

R. Lindquist: We need to think back about what Mike Harrington was saying about litigation earlier, the department needs to require these trainings so they are covered. M. Olson: We can do your trainings through a paper form if you are having issues with Workday or would prefer it that way.

Administration Discussion

Next Meeting:

D. Grosjacques: Would like to be in Salem again. **S. Hart:** The R&E Meeting is in Salem on March 5th, 2026, if you want another joint meeting.

C. Cole: Would like to get to the east side of the state.

M. Park: They have not had a meeting in the North Willamette district since she has been on the board and would like to.

J. Eubank: There are a lot of STEP activity in Florance and Reedsport areas. **R. Lindquist:** There is a nice facility in Winchester Bay at the RV resort. **J. Eubank:** There are a lot of fishing guides in area, might get a lot of public and would have to book a big room. There are also a lot of places in the Portland area to see.

M. Magdeleno: What about a STEP Bio/STAC combo meeting like we did last fall? **S. Hart:** We were thinking about doing that every 2 years, so maybe next fall.

F. Cholick: Seems like this group as lot been to the Portland metro area for the longest amount of time.

Motion: Fred motions for the next meeting to be in the North Willamette District. Morgan second the motion.

R. Lindquist: We haven't been in that area in a while. It doesn't have to be Portland specifically; it can be outside the area. **M. Parks:** Can check with Buddy Phibbs about areas that we would be able to tour. **S. Hart:** Having a broader area is nice for meeting planning purposes.

Motion passes unanimously.

Date:

It should be at least a couple of weeks after R&E Meeting. Around spring break might be tough. Group agrees to April 9-10, 2026.

Morgan would like to have the fall meeting on Oct 1-2 so she can attend.

Volunteer and Event Management System (VEM) Discussion:

R. Lindquist: Does anyone have any updates on the VEM system?

J. Eubank: She recently talked to Don Robinson about the possibility of working closely with him. During her office season she will come to Salem and learn the system so she can travel around to other arenas and teach volunteers. Only discussed not set in stone yet.

F. Cholick: At the Hunter Ed training this summer, they had a session on it but he could not attend. At our last event they had 18 students sign up but then had 5 walk ins and 6 who didn't show up. It was tough to figure out how to get those people fully signed up for the event. Jen Luke has also taken VEM training and has been helping people. He thinks they have most of the bugs worked out, but it is a matter of training. They should have done more beta testing.

J. Eubank: She signed up when it first started and there were a lot of errors. They are working on it. Getting people on the ground that have experience and can meet with people will be better to train more people.

R. Lindquist: Not sure what the volunteers' next step is after they sign up. There is nowhere to log your hours on the system. We are only catching about 10% or less of the actual hours worked.

J. Eubank: Having this position available would be the perfect in between for questions. **F. Cholick:** For Hunter Ed we are still using paper to log hours. **R. Lindquist:** But I should be able to go in and input my own hours. We have volunteers that go out and check traps all the time and they don't ever record their hours. **F. Cholick:** With Oregon Hunters Assoc. Bend Chapter there is a QR code for entering hours and activity. **M. Weaver:** What is the importance of entering hours?

R. Lindquist: Those hours go into the end of year reporting, which earns match funds. That should be recorded. Also, it seems like the data entered in VEM is going into a black hole. He has tried to talk to Don but has not got a lot of answers.

M. Parks: Don has been helping them a lot in the area, they have about 34 volunteers that are onboarding right now. Fish Eggs to Fry volunteers, once you get all the checks marked in the system, you are good for 8 years.

F. Cholick: As an event coordinator, I can look up who signs up, but you can't log hours, we do that on paper still.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.