**CENWP-OD 14 July 2016**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 14 July 2016 FPOM Avian Hazing Task Group meeting.**

The meeting was held at the CRITFC office, Portland, OR. In attendance:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Agency** | **Email** |
| Fredricks | Gary | NOAA | gary.fredricks@noaa.gov |
| Griffith | Denise | NWW | denise.s.griffith@usacea.rmy.mil |
| Johnson | Bobby | NWP | bobby.johnson@usace.army.mil |
| Kovalchuk | Erin | NWP | erin.h.kovalchuk@usace.army.mil |
| Morrill | Charlie | WDFW | charles.morrill@dfw.wa.gov |
| Setter | Ann | NWW | ann.l.setter@usace.army.mil |
| VanDyke | Erick | ODFW | erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us |
| Zorich | Nathan | NWP | nathan.a.zorich@usace.army.mil |

On the phone: Johnson, Griffith

1. **Decisions made at this meeting.**
   1. MCN has recognized several problems in the hazing program. For 2017, the project will address the specific issues to improve the hazing program while still using the water cannons, existing avian lines and modified sprinkler to address avian predation.
2. **Task Group Updates.**
   1. MCN avian current situation. Several issues plagued the success of the hazing program.
      1. There was a lack of communication between APHIS and the project. APHIS did not know that they had access to certain areas of the BRZ for boat hazing.
      2. Hazing was not allowed near a training center due people with PTSD symptoms.
      3. The physical fitness of the hazers also limited where they were able to go.
      4. Access to bypass outfall was considered a safety issue and unavailable
      5. When Boat hazing was occurring, there was no land hazer.
   2. For the 2017 season, the project plan is to improve the hazing program combined with the existing avian lines, cannons and a modified inverted sprinkler head system. **A meeting is scheduled for July 18 between the project and APHIS.** The BRZ issue will be discussed and clarified for the next year. A new training facility is scheduled to be erected in 2018 but next year, the training center will still pose a problem for 2017. Setter suggested hazing from the other side of the spillway but the elevator doesn’t work and the hazers are not physically fit enough to walk down the stairs. **The project needs to require the APHIS contract to hire personnel who are physically fit to do the job.** COE is changing the period of performance so that APHIS will get their money on time and hopefully allow them to keep employees working. In the past, the money was received up to four months late.
   3. Johnson presented graphs of bird populations, indicating boat and shore hazing, at MCN and included some JDA bird populations. Using these graphs, Johnson is trying to see which techniques work the best so that they can implement these strategies for next year. Fredricks cautioned not to strictly use this data because of extraneous situations like the die off of the Crescent Island gull population which changes the dynamics for this year. Juvenile shad can skew the bird counts so September was not included.
   4. A video was shown of the modified sprinkler system.
   5. Lessons learned from JDA avian grid need to be understood before a new system is designed for MCN. Avian lines are preferable to increased hazing because they are passive and aren’t prone to budget constraint cuts. APHIS confirmed that they can be contracted for line installation and maintenance. The TG would like to advocate for CRFM money to start a design for an avian line grid. Setter said that MCN will use the results of the 2017 to assess the need for an avian line grid.
   6. Johnson is expanding the graphs to include fish passage numbers and will distribute when completed.