

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 21 January 2016 Willamette FPOM meeting.

The meeting was held at USACE NWP HQ, Block 300. Portland, Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Burchfield	Stephanie	NMFS	Stephanie.Burchfield@noaa.gov
Casey	Joyce	NWP-PM-E	Joyce.E.Casey@usace.army.mil
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	Ryan.b.couture@state.or.us
Easton	John	NWP-OD-T	Johnathan.R.Easton@usace.army.mil
Fielding	Scott	NWP-PM-E	Scott.D.Fielding@usace.army.mil
Fritsch	Mark	NWPCC	Mfritsch@nwcouncil.org
Garletts	Doug	NWP-OD-V	Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil
Graham-Hudson	Bernadette	ODFW	Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us
Gray	Ann	USFWS	Ann_E.Gray@fws.gov
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Hart	Salina	NWP-EC-HR	Salina.N.Hart@usace.army.mil
Hatfield	Kim	NMFS	Kim.Hatfield@noaa.gov
Helms	Chad	NWP-OD-V	Chad.K.Helms@usace.army.mil
Jundt	Melissa	NMFS	Melissa.jundt@noaa.gov
Khan	Fenton	NWP-PM-E	Fenton.O.Khan@usace.army.mil
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-OD-TF	Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil
Meyer	Ed	NMFS	Ed.meyer@noaa.gov
Peterson	Erik	NWP-OD-V	Erik.S.Peterson@usace.army.mil
Robledo	Daniel	NWP-OD-V	Daniel.J.Robledo@usace.army.mil
Scullion	Mary Karen	NWP-EC-HC	Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Tackley	Kathryn	NWP-EC-HR	Kathryn.L.Tackley@usace.army.mil
Taylor	Greg	NWP-OD-V	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Traylor	Andy	NWP-OD-TF	Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil
Turner	Dan	NWP-EC-HR	Daniel.F.Turner@usace.army.mil
Walker	Chris	NWP-OD-TF	Christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil
Walker	Ricardo	NWP-PM-E	Ricardo.Walker@usace.army.mil
Withalm	Erik	ODFW – Leaburg Hatchery	

Jundt, Fritsch, Couture, Peterson, Grenbemer, Myer, and Withalm called in.

1. Finalized results from this meeting.

2. All documents may be found at http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination
3. **Action Items.**
 - 3.1. [May 15] Willamette water management strategy based on temp/flow. **STATUS:** Walker stated that there were duplicative efforts within PM-E and this action will be deferred to PM-E to carry forward. Rich Piaskowski will take the lead.
 - 3.2. [Oct 15] Leaburg Rollgate Repair. **STATUS:** Traylor updated the group on the latest message from McLaughlin. Gate 3 construction is scheduled to conclude late October. The schedule cannot be changed but will be expedited as much as possible.
 - 3.3. [Jan 16] Walker to update WFPOM distribution list.
 - 3.4. [Jan 16] Walker to check on availability of Block 300 lobby conference room for all future WFPOM meetings.
 - 3.5. [Jan 16] Mackey to send out a Doodle Poll to confirm which Wednesday of each month would work best for standing WFPOM meetings.
 - 3.6. [Jan 16] Walker will send out a Doodle Pool for the WFOP change form discussion meeting.
 - 3.7. [Jan 16] Traylor will convene a HMT working group meeting in the next couple weeks.
4. **Agency Organizational Structure Discussion.**
 - 4.1. Mackey briefly explained the various agency organizational structures, emphasizing that this forum (WFPOM) is at the technical level and not a policy form. Additionally, this forum is a fish passage, operations, and maintenance group. Design of future facilities or RM&E are handled in other groups. Representatives from those other forums will attend WFPOM to help bring awareness.
5. **WFPOM processes and protocols.** Mackey outlined the various processes and protocols, covering several major topics.
 - 5.1. Mackey elucidated the group on what a Memorandum of Coordination (MOC) is, and how it worked. Usually an MOC occurs when an outage is needed, whether for a study or emergency situation. If the outage is due to an emergency, a response by regional stakeholders will be expedited. However, normally a 2 week review period is standard. The core team of agency representatives is outlined in the WFOP and will be the primary recipient list of MOC notifications, but the larger group will also be notified.
 - 5.2. Mackey further explained Memorandums For the Record (MFR). These forms are usually just a notification of a prior action or event, and do not require comments back. Comments are not discouraged however, if agencies need to voice their concerns.
 - 5.3. Mackey noted that the website is updated with all the current documents pertinent to WFPOM discussions, meeting minutes from WFPOM and other working groups, MOCs, and MFRs. The website will be migrating to salmonrecovery.gov in the next couple months.

Several questions and comments came up during this discussion including:

- 5.4. Jundt asked for an updated distribution list. **Walker to follow up.** Burchfield expressed some concerns about getting all pertinent NMFS personnel, up to 5 people, to these meetings. Walker and Mackey helped clarify that the Flow/Water Quality and hatchery specific work groups will still meet outside WFPOM as needed and not all NMFS personnel may need to attend every WFPOM. Meyer added that NMFS engineers and flow managers come and go as needed within the Columbia FPOM and are not critical for every meeting. However, the NMFS biologists do often attend every meeting.

- 5.5.** Easton added some remarks that with this diverse group, partnering is paramount and stressed that “project forward” thinking will aid in discussions and resolutions, instead of personal or agencies goals taking priority. Burchfield concurred and expressed that the Steering Team was set up with this goal in mind.
- 5.6.** Taylor asked how often this forum would occur and Mackey answered that the current plan is for monthly meetings. Task Group meetings would occur ad hoc. Sharpe noted that the Block 300 lobby room would be a preferable meeting location. **Walker to check on availability for all future WFPOM meetings.** The group generally reached a consensus that the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month would be most preferable. **Mackey to send out a Doodle Poll to confirm which Wednesday would work best.**
- 5.7.** Meyer asked about the finalization of the WFOP. Walked stated that the proposed date for finalization with all change forms addressed, is 1 April 2016. The goal is to get the WFOP into the hands of operators at various WVP dams before critical times throughout the year for fish passage. Meyer reminded the group that change forms can be submitted throughout the year. However, the review period for the change forms occurs during the fall/winter, with finalization for the spring of the following year. Mackey stated that the WFOP is a living document and will be hosted on the web. If there is a critical change that is needed mid-season, it could be brought to WFPOM and discussed, approved, and implemented if necessary. Mackey stressed that the WFOP is the guiding document for how the projects are operated throughout the Willamette, and comments for refinements are encouraged.
- 5.8.** Burchfield asked about outage periods throughout the year and if those schedules could be made available in the WFOP. Walked explained that the routine outage schedule is listed in the WFOP. Taylor explained that in the WVP, operations and maintenance teams build an outage schedule with input from WVP biologists. The plan often changes throughout the year and may take on 30 different versions as conditions change. Sometimes the plan can be changed to accommodate biological needs and other times it is impossible. Burchfield said that the WFOP listed power needs as the priority. Walked stated that this was not the case, and Taylor elaborated that fish needs have taken a much higher priority over the past years through the Willamette. He stated that power needs are often outcompeted by other needs, not the least of which are biological. Burchfield asked for how specific year outages and how regional agencies might see those. Meyer reminded the group that an appendix in the Columbia FPP includes the general outage schedule for the year, for research and operational needs. Taylor explained that the outage plans start development in October and are finalized in November and December. Mackey suggested that next October (2016), the USACE could provide a general outage schedule to the region. Burchfield expressed that this would help meet NMFS needs and provide adequate time for review.

6. Updates.

6.1. HMT Updates.

- 6.1.1. North Santiam:** Grenbemer explained that 2015 was a difficult year, with higher mortalities in broodstock, the highest in the last 3 years by far. Spawning activities went well, however a 28% egg loss did occur, but not all due to BKD. Smolts at Minto (about 266,000) have broken with BKD, and pathology is recommending an early release.
- 6.1.2. South Santiam:** No update.
- 6.1.3. McKenzie:** Withalm explained that fish at Leaburg Hatchery are generally healthy and routine operations are running smoothly.
- 6.1.4. Middle Fork:** No update.
- 6.1.5. HGMP updates.** Traylor explained that the working group has finished the McKenzie HGMP and work is on-going for the North Santiam HGMP. The South Santiam and

Middle Fork HGMPs will follow with hopeful completion of all 4 HGMPs within the next 3 months.

6.2. Research/FPT updates.

6.2.1. FPT is scheduled to meet in March.

6.2.2. Khan explained that several studies are occurring in the South Santiam including a downstream passage study. No passage study is current slated for the North Santiam. The Middle Fork work is on hold, pending funding for future work. For the McKenzie, no funding is allocated for a JSATS study but the PFFC would continue operations with the WVP biologists tagging and monitoring the trap. Burchfield and Graham-Hudson expressed some concern that this decision to not fund another JSATS study was a new and interesting bit of information. They were not aware and had heard the opposite, but were not necessarily opposed to the decision.

6.3. Water Quality/Flow Updates.

6.3.1. Turned noted that recently there was high TDG at Detroit and Big Cliff due to high flows and spill during flood management. He noted that due to the rapids downstream of Big Cliff, the TDG often off-gases before too long, decreasing by some amount before it reaches Minto. Graham-Hudson expressed some concerns that high TDG still does reach Minto and could cause mortality of juvenile fish held there. Grenbemer stated that when TDG reaches 140% at Niagara, it's often close to 118% at Minto. Burchfield reminded the group that NMFS has previously suggested flip lips at Big Cliff to help negate TDG. Khan mentioned that there is a study to look at depth compensation and TDG effects at Foster that is likely to be funded. These results could inform the situation in the North Santiam.

6.3.2. The group further discussed what would be helpful for future WQ/Flow updates. Without duplicating efforts with the WQ/Flow working groups, a general update on whether typical operations would occur would be helpful. If there are deviations from this, an update would be helpful for the larger WFPOM group.

6.4. Pinniped Update.

6.4.1. Graham-Hudson updated the group that the hiring process is occurring for the pinniped monitoring group at ODFW. Traylor added that a few years ago, pinniped predation was actually higher below Willamette Falls than it was below Bonneville Dam.

6.5. Critical Infrastructure.

6.5.1. This item was not discussed in depth, but may be a discussion point in future meetings. Taylor stated that the WVP is putting together a list of long lead-time items that would be needed for critical replacements. However, he added that some very expensive items, such as pumps that cost \$100,000 may not be realistic at this time.

6.6. BPA updates. No updates at this time.

7. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

7.1. 15CGR03 Outage of Cougar Units.

Taylor reviewed the issue, starting with annual maintenance activities that discovered woody debris in the units during the summer. To ensure some safety moving forward in operations, the wicket gates were fixed at a certain position to effectively act as a trash rack for the units. As the reservoir began to draw down, issues with the units became more pronounced. Some work was completed on a temporary trashrack to help alleviate the problem, but the exact location of where the debris was entering was still unknown. In a recent ROV inspection, it was discovered that 3 trashracks in the penstock bypass had fallen from their original locations, leaving several large openings for debris to enter. The racks weigh up to 300 lbs each. Possible solutions could include dewatering the cul-de-sac to access the tower and penstock to replace the racks and remove the wood. This would obviously involve many considerations that will need to be examined in the coming weeks. Burchfield asked why this work couldn't be done in the dry.

Taylor and Scullion helped explain why this would not be possible for a number of reasons. Burchfield then asked why this opportunity couldn't be used to also build the downstream passage structure. Taylor responded that a long-term solution could potentially involve some synergy with construction of a downstream passage structure. Gray humorously stated that, for the record, USFWS did not tamper with the trashracks to facilitate a drawdown or passage structure considerations. Taylor added that operations, specifically operating the units are critical for capturing adults at the Cougar Fish Facility. He reminded the group that this is still a moving target and remains to be determined. If the short-term plan is advanced, it would entail an extremely aggressive schedule and mobilization of many forces within the USACE and other agencies. The WVP will make a recommendation to USACE management by the end of the week. Further direction for moving forward will be forthcoming.

7.2. Khan added that part of the reason the USACE is not looking at proceeding with the JSATS study at Cougar is due to these issues, and the possibility of moving the PFFC from its current location.

8. Fish Operations Plan The Current 2015 WFOP is online at:

8.1. A date needs to be set to discuss approval or disapproval of submitted change forms. Sometime in February was suggested. **Walker will send out a Doodle Pool for the meeting.** NMFS and ODFW have submitted comments, but comments are still not received from USFWS.

9. Task Group Updates.

9.1. Hatchery Management Team (Traylor): **Traylor will convene a meeting in the next couple weeks.**

9.1.1. Team members include: Couture, Boyd, Garletts, Grenbemer, Helms, Kelley, Kremers, Kruzic, Peck, Sharpe, Traylor, Walker, Withalm, Ziller

9.2. Summer Steelhead (Traylor/Taylor): This group will be on-hold until current HGMP work is completed.

9.3. Flow Management: Meeting scheduled for week of 25 January.