

Memorandum for the Record

SUBJECT: DRAFT minutes for the Willamette Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting March 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
Chane	Ian	NWP	ian.b.chane@usace.army.mil
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us
Dishman	Diana	NMFS	Diana.dishman@noaa.gov
Fielding	Scott	NWP	Scott.D.Fielding@usace.army.mil
Garletts	Doug	NWP-OD-V	Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Hart	Salina	NWP	Salina.N.Hart@usace.army.mil
Helms	Chad	NWP-OD-V	Chad.K.Helms@usace.army.mil
Khan	Fenton	NWP-PM-E	Fenton.o.khan@usace.army.mil
Kovalchuk	Erin	NWP-OD-TF	Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil
Richards	Natalie	NWP	Natalie.A.Richards@usace.army.mil
Schwabe	Lawrence	Grand Ronde Tribe	Lawrence.Schwabe@grandronde.org
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Spear	Dan	BPA	djspear@bpa.gov
Taylor	Greg	NWP	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Traylor	Andrew	NWP-OD-TF	Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil
Walker	Chris	NWP-OD-TF	Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil

On the phone: Couture, Fielding, Garletts, Grenbemer, Helms, Richards, Schwabe and Sharpe.

1. Decisions made at this meeting.

- 1.1. Walker will add an action item for Greg Taylor about the frequency of temperature differences in outplanting throughout the year from Burchfield's comment on the January meeting minutes.
- 1.2. Spear is looking to see if a turbine unit can be run for 24 hours rather than just during the day to pass water and help keep TDG lower.

2. Approve January WFPOM minutes.

3. Action Items

- 3.1.[Jan 2017] HMT Updates. ACTION: NOAA needs to provide their list of low cost suggestions for the ladder so they can be incorporated into the study design. *Status: The list has not been provided.*
- 3.2.[Jan 2017] 16BCL03 - ACTION: Walker will discuss minimum gate openings with dam safety for February. *Status: Walker contacted dam safety. An engineers replied that the minimum gate openings are specifically to protect the equipment and they*

won't be changed to lower TDG. When the gate opening are reduced, it causes too much vibration. Burchfield recommends that if there are not any operational fixes then a structural fix needs to be looked at. O&M funds are short this year. TDG is a major problem but it doesn't mean a fix will be funded this year. Chane clarified that CRFM funding was used on the Columbia for spill issues because it is a fish passage route. The Corps can also use CRFM funds for the Foster spill weir because it also will be used for passage. In this case, at Big Cliff, the funding would have to come from O&M because it isn't fish passage-related. At Detroit, the unit was back online on Monday night but TDG levels are still high. The levels are slowly coming down but still bouncing around. Walker explained that there is still a lot of flow. Although the unit is back on, spill is still occurring. Burchfield suggested running the turbines for 24 hours at Detroit instead of day time only to help lower TDG. Spear is looking into it but said there are some issues with how long you can load the turbines. About 5,000 cfs is being released a day right now. The turbines are used only during the energy peak times but elevated TDG levels could be alleviated by generating instead of spilling. Hart said that two turbines could not be run for 24 hours because it would be too much water for Big Cliff pool but running one turbine could work. Chane pointed out that changing the operation at Detroit would have only a limited affect because Big Cliff is still causing the problem. Even if the operations change, the TDG level would still be over 110. Spilling at both projects compounds the problem. In addition to effects on naturally produced winter steelhead and Chinook salmon (incubating eggs, emerging fry, rearing juveniles) in the reaches below Big Cliff, there are biological concerns for the hatchery fish at Minto. Grembemer reported no obvious signs of trauma at Minto but released fish early to avoid problems. Five winter steelhead have returned and spawning has most likely started. The adult winter steelhead were recycled back downstream because of the TDG. This year, winter steelhead returns have been low, thus minimizing any impacts would be helpful to the run. Chane feels like the impact is more for the juveniles than the adult fish. It is unknown how far down river elevated TDG levels are observed. The current count of StW at Bennett is 31. Sea lions have been observed below Willamette Falls. There are also chronic exposure issues from several weeks of high TDG. NMFS noted that scheduled maintenance is not an emergency and it is critical to have this planned for the right times to minimize adverse effects on listed fish. Maintenance periods are in the WFOP.

- 3.3. [Oct 2016] 16DET06 MFR Minto Fish Facility Power Issues.** ACTION: Hall will check with electricians about the breaker setting levels. Status: The power analyzer has been installed. In order to understand the problem, the event would have to happen again. The maintenance crew doesn't have the capacity to investigate or complete moving the breaker. Most of the solutions involve a contract which makes it difficult. A hoist may be a good interim solution. This should be CRFM funding since it is a design deficiency. Status: No power issues have occurred. The power analyzer has been pulled but the results are not in. Since no event has occurred, the analyzer will most likely not produce any results. Walker is looking into funding a [hu]man basket in case the situation happens again. A bucket truck is parked there currently but it is not known for how much longer.

4. Updates

- 4.1. HMT Updates – Chris and Andy were the only ones at the HMT meeting. They went over all the change forms for the WFOP and left the changes in Track Changes so anyone can look at them.
 - 4.1.1. North Santiam – No hatchery updates.
 - 4.1.2. South Santiam
 - 4.1.3. McKenzie
 - 4.1.4. Middle Fork
- 4.2. HGMP updates – Same status on Spring Chinook. A notice of intent has been filed for summer steelhead production, collection and transport of wild winter steelhead from Foster.
- 4.3. Research/FPT updates – The team is in the planning phase for FY18 studies. At Minto, all the antennas were modified and at Foster all but the lower antenna were modified due to high water. The antenna can still collect data but hasn't been modified to collect the lamprey data.
- 4.4. Water Quality Updates – See above.
- 4.5. Flow update - Lots of flow
- 4.6. BPA updates – No updates.
- 4.7. Cougar Fish Facility – Opening the facility today or tomorrow.
- 4.8. Fall Creek Fish Facility – Construction is continuing and working through some issues with the contractor. Collection for steelhead started on 20 March but none have shown up.

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

- 5.1. 17BCL04 MFR turbine unit outage – The unit outage was scheduled but couldn't get the unit back online and caused high TDG.
- 5.2. 17DET01 Minto Ladder Outage – This was to modify the antennas and is completed.
- 5.3. 17CGR01 MFR Unit Outage Plate Cooler Install – This was a scheduled outage at Cougar. There was concern of high TDG and it was about 105-106. Since it was a deviation from the WFOP, Walker sent out a notification. NMFS commented that this outage could have been delayed by one month. Walker needs to find out about the communication breakdown.
- 5.4. 17DOR01 Dorena Dam RO Failure, Delayed Refill, & Drawdown – The project did not need to do the drawdown to make the repair. NMFS requested water quality tests if the drawdown was going to happen. Another repair will be scheduled again but no drawdown is expected.
- 5.5. 17HCR01 MFR Hills Creek Delayed Refill – There is plenty of water so the refill will happen.
- 5.6. Cougar – Dishman asked about the flows at Cougar. Hart said that the project is reducing outflows to help with flooding on the Columbia so the reservoir is filled higher than they would like.

6. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage: http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/

- 6.1. Status of the 2017 WFOP.
- 6.2. Change forms (several pending)

- 6.2.1.** 17OVE16 – NMFS will confer with ODFW and resubmit one form.
- 6.2.2.** 17OVE 19 - Item 1.1.2. Walker will propose new language and remove “predetermined locations”.
- 6.2.3.** 17NS008 – Traylor and Walker added language at HMT but could not find the changes. Add language: “use best judgement to avoid releasing ripe fish under adverse conditions using release site with the most suitable conditions.”
- 6.2.4.** 17NS012 – Walker will put together a work group to figure out the best time for scheduled maintenance.
- 6.2.5.** 17SS013- Still pending but the language will be added.
- 6.2.6.** 17MCK008 – Walker will look at a table. NMFS recommend to add this to the overview section. Pending but will add that language.
- 6.2.7.** 17MCK012 – Recommendation to include PFFC operation in the WFOP. Not a standard operating facility. It is for research only. Denied.
- 6.2.8.** 17APA002 – Proposed revised temperature operations for North Santiam. Currently, it is documented in an MOC. Next year, revisit this issue and whether to include it in WFOP.
- 6.2.9.** 17API002 – Be explicit about which deviations will be reported to WFPOM. Add all of these plus any others will be reported. Say which items will be reported as an MFR and which will be an MOC. Aim to send an MOC for any future events/ MFR for all unexpected actions. NMFS recommended a single table in the Overview or an appendix of planned annual maintenance, turbine outages, spill, RO, fishway repairs, etc for all dams so that WFPOM members can better plan for modified operations and try to minimize effects on listed species.
- 6.2.10.** Hatchery operations and temperatures – Comments that were not actual change forms Walker and Traylor tried to respond to.
5.2.2.7/5.2.2.10/5.2.2.17/18 – Adding language regarding the frequency of hauling adults to outplanting sites, but Corps would like to form a small group to come up with more appropriate language perhaps basin by basin.

7. Task Group Updates.

7.1. Active Task Groups.

- 7.1.1.** North Santiam temperature targets (Walker) 2017 – Walker had a couple of meetings with stakeholders and came up with water quality ranges for the N. Santiam below Big Cliff. Burchfield asked if the Detroit PDT is aware of the new temperature targets to design the tower for. Walker has email correspondence to show that the PDT is aware. Walker will send one more Memo to give time for anyone to provide written comments one last time.
- 7.1.2.** Flow task group/workshop (Piaskowski) – Nothing to report.

7.2. Not yet Active Task Groups.

- 7.2.1.** Summer Steelhead (Traylor/Taylor)