

## Memorandum for the Record

SUBJECT: Final Minutes for the Willamette Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting 28 March meeting.

The meeting was held in the Lobby Conference Room at USACE NWP HQ, Block 300. Portland, Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Buccola	Norman	NWP	<a href="mailto:Norman.L.Buccola@usace.army.mil">Norman.L.Buccola@usace.army.mil</a>
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	<a href="mailto:ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us">ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us</a>
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Ziller	Jeff	ODFW	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us">Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us</a>

On the phone: Couture, Dishman, Ernster, Garletts, Hart, Helms, Hudson, Kovalchuk, Kruzic, and Ziller.

## 1. Final decisions made at this meeting.

1.1. February meeting minutes were approved.

## 2. Action Items

2.1. [Mar 2018] Pinniped Update - ACTION: Couture will ask Reis if she can provide the update.

2.2. [Mar 2018] Genetic Samples - ACTION: Couture will email the cost estimates.

2.3. [Mar 2018] Summer Steelhead - ACTION: Traylor will find out how to formally let NOAA know when the HGMP has been approved by the COE.

2.4. [Feb 2018] Flow Update - ACTION: Walker will invite Khan to the flow meeting. *Status: Complete.*

2.5. [Feb 2018] Pinniped Task Group - Action: Kovalchuk will send an invitation to the FPOM Pinniped task group meeting to Mullan. *Status: Complete. Dishman would like to be added as well.*

2.6. [Jan 2018] 18OVE002 – Maintenance schedules – ACTION: Walker will send the maintenance schedule to NOAA. *Status: The maintenance schedules are an internal*

document only. Walker is waiting on BPA to see if it can be shared. Status: still pending. The action item will change to Spear from Walker.

- 2.7. [Apr 2017] Form task group to examine adult fish facility operations to incorporate into the WFOP (Walker). **Pending in the next couple of months. Add to task groups.**
- 2.8. [Jul 2017] Contact Art Armour regarding Minto TDG gage data uploaded to the website in a readily-retrievable form that is regularly updated. **Status: They purchased a new meter but are still encountering problems. Walker and ODFW are still assessing the cost benefit ratio of uploading to the web because the cost is higher than expected. This item will move to an update next month. Dishman said the RM&E team is thinking of doing a TDG study in the North Santiam and would like Walker to stay in touch with the RM&E team.**

### 3. Updates

- 3.1. HMT Updates – Fish health is good. StS smolts scheduled for release next month are being acclimated right now at Minto and S. Santiam. General maintenance concerns are being addressed. Updates have been made for storing chemicals to comply with Homeland security requirements. Crane recertification will be completed at Minto and Foster. StW collection has increased slightly since the HMT meeting.
- 3.2. HGMP updates – NOAA received four Chinook HGMPs from the co-managers about a year and half ago and have been in consultation on these programs since. One of the responsibilities of the federal government is to fulfill the NEPA obligation. They reviewed the previous NEPA documentation on hatchery programs but there wasn't much. NOAA developed an Environmental Impact statement for the hatchery programs and it is now out for public review. NOAA is requesting comments from the co-managers to help with evaluation. The comment period closes 07 May. Kruzic explained the five alternatives in the EIS. One of the purposes of the updated HGMP is to consider using wild chinook for brood stock for reintroduction and conservation purposes.
  1. No change - status quo at hatchery operations.
  2. Allows for some wild Chinook to be taken for brood stock under specific criteria. (This alternative is what was suggested in the HGMP.)
  3. Reduced hatchery production scenario where programs would only propagate for conservation purposes. For steelhead, all production would be for winter steelhead that would be released above the dams in the Santiam. This is a conservation/reintroduction alternative.
  4. Eliminating the hatchery program throughout the whole basin. This alternative addresses the biological, social and wildlife impacts.
  5. Increased hatchery production in the existing facilities.

After public comment period closes, then NOAA will revise the NEPA document based on the comments. In the meantime, NOAA is working on the new BiOP for the hatchery programs in the Upper Willamette scheduled to be completed in June 2018. The BiOp will give a new ESA Section 7 consultation. The EIS can be found on the web:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/hatcheries/hgmp/willamette\\_deis.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/hatcheries/hgmp/willamette_deis.html)

- 3.3. Research/FPT updates (Khan) – There are some ongoing studies at Foster and Lookout Point Dams. We will not be able to do a spill study at Lookout Point this spring because of the low water year and the reservoir is still below spillway crest. The team will be starting to plan FY19 studies soon. Couture asked about the middle fork pre-spawn mortality study. Khan said they are still talking to OSU researchers but no decision has been made yet.
- 3.4. Water Quality Updates (Buccola) – There are some ongoing studies to measure the amount of mercury leaching into the water from legacy mercury mining above Cottage Grove (Black Butte Mine site). Bottom feeders and higher predators are the main concern. Warnings are

- posted in the angler regulations not to consume these fish. This is the same case at Dorena. The mercury loads and food web issues are being modeled and should be completed this summer. The results will be presented to the group and there will be a comment period after. Cougar FSS – the team is working on the 90% DDR. The design is for 25’ depth from the forebay with a truck and haul downstream passage. Detroit SWS – the PDT is working on the 90% DDR with a 35’ depth for FSS. The Temperature Control tower will still be vertical. The FSS will be located between the tower and dam.
- 3.5.** Flow update – The reservoirs are about 51% full which is 15% behind the rule curve. The snow pack is at 80%. Most large reservoirs are below rule curve.
- 3.6.** Pinniped Update (Wertheimer) – The NOAA & States have a management plan for California Sea lions (CSL) at BON with a Section 120 letter of authorization (LOA) allowing the removal of individual CSL that meet LOA criteria. There is no current effective management plan for Steller sea lions (SSL). The number of SSL at BON has greatly increased and this species is now present at BON for about 11 months of the year. The USDA hazes Pinnipeds from the dam and CRITFC does boat based hazing. The USACE Fish Field Unit (FFU) monitors and collects data on the abundance, predation rates, and evaluates deterrent effectiveness (i.e., land based hazing from the dam and shorelines, boat based hazing, exclusion devices, etc). The USACE Pinniped Monitoring used to occur from January to May, but due to the increased seasonal presence and abundance of Steller sea lions, NOAA directed USACE to monitor during Fall, Winter, and Spring at BON. All the animals at BON are males. The animals can and do go rapidly back and forth between Willamette Falls and BON (e.g., less than days). The FPOM Pinniped Task Group chaired by Trevor Conder of NOAA reconvened in March to look at the current situation of pinnipeds on the Columbia and the path forward. The next FPOM Pinniped task group meeting is after the May FPOM (10 May 2018) meeting at BON.
- (ODFW) – This update is to make the group aware of the Willamette Falls activities and potentially coordinate with the BON group. Reis may be a good person to do this update. **ACTION: Couture will ask Reis if she can provide the update.**
- 3.7.** BPA updates – No updates
- 3.8.** Cougar Fish Facility – The facility started operating on Thursday. No bull trout have been collected so far. The rock slide is still blocking access.
- 3.9.** Fall Creek Fish Facility – Richards met with Jeff Brown from NOAA to review the fish ladder. He found four minor items to review. Commissioning started 27 March. The ladder should be up and running by April 16 but there is an MOC extending the start date until the 30 just in case the commissioning discovers any problems. There will not be any fish collection before the ladder opens. Garletts will keep the group posted on the presence of fish.

#### **4. Willamette Valley Contract Status**

- 4.1. Willamette Hatcheries (ODFW)** – Expect to award option year by 1 Sept 2018.
- 4.2. Trout (Desert Springs)** – Awarded option for base amount of 100K lbs for 2019 delivery.
- 4.3. Monitoring and Evaluation (spawning surveys)** – Not awarded. Expecting middle of April.

- 5. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion).** Mackey explained the purpose of the coordination process to WFPOM. She stressed that while the Corps is responsible for assessing risk and making final decisions, the purpose of coordinating to is make sure WFPOM has a voice and is heard. She explained that the Corps drafts the MOC with as much information that they have but looks to WFPOM and the varied expertise within the group to help fill in gaps or recognize other opportunities or conflicts that Corps bios may not be aware of. It is part of the responsibility of WFPOM members to acknowledge and address coordination requests. It is also important WFPOM recognizes that **all** comments, written or verbal, are part of the record. The Corps asks for input

because we want to engage WFPOM and we want the best ideas put forth to minimize impacts to our ESA listed species when deviations to the WFOP cannot be avoided.

- 5.1. 18BCL02 North Santiam Flows – The flow group will meet again on 28 March. Comments are due on 03 April. NOAA, ODFW, and Corps staff did a field site visit and will be sending comments.
- 5.2. 18FAL01 Fall Creek Fish Facility Delay – Comments are due 05 April.
- 5.3. 18FOS02 MFR Foster Dam Oil Release – Walker is still looking into the power outage reasons.
- 5.4. 18WVP01 Trout and M&E – Contract being awarded in April. Any comments need to be in soon.

6. **Fish Operations Plan:** WFOP homepage: [http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/WFOP/](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/)

- 6.1. Status of the 2018 WFOP – finalized for printing.
- 6.2. Change forms
  - 6.2.1. 18NS003 – Maintenance Periods (pending) – Big Cliff and Detroit maintenance periods are still pending and will be updated on the web version when finished.
  - 6.2.2. 18MCK003 – Fish Passage RO (pending) – This form is for the downstream passage at Cougar and Walker is still waiting on feedback from internal folks.
  - 6.2.3. 18NS001, 18SS001, 18MCK002, 18MFW001 – Genetic samples (approved). The change form has been approved but now the details of how to accomplish the genetic sampling has to be decided. Couture worked up some cost estimates. The sampling is not being done at Minto or Foster for StW or Chinook because it is not in any contract. In order to add this modification to the contract, Couture came up with a cost estimate. Most likely, due to budget shortfalls, this work will not get done and there will be data gaps. There are two ways of taking samples – individuals or do batches of fish. The batch samples are much cheaper. The cost is someone's time to sample, record properly, QA/QC and store with the other samples and some equipment. There was a suggestion to do batch sampling on outplant days. Individual sampling was ~\$75-100K and batch sampling 33-50K. This is to collect, inventory and storage. **ACTION: Couture will email the cost estimates.** NOAA has advocated for this type of study for many years and wants further discussion on how to get these samples.
  - 6.2.4. Willamette Falls Locks – The current protocols for exercising the gates do not take into account the best practice for steelhead. The access road is no longer part of the easement and the gates need to be cycled once a month. BON is responsible for the locks. A new WFOP change form will be coming with new procedures and one for the FPP as well.

7. **Task Group Updates.**

- 7.1. Summer Steelhead (Traylor/Taylor) – ODFW submitted a Summer Steelhead HMGP a few weeks ago to NOAA. The COE legal staff needs to review the ODFW HGMP before the COE can sign it. **ACTION: Traylor will find out how to formally let NOAA know when the HGMP has been approved by the COE.**
- 7.2. SWIFT, Flow task group (Piaskowski) – No updates.