

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 26 November 2019 WFPOM meeting.

The meeting was held in the Steelhead Room at the ODFW Office in Salem, OR. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	<a href="mailto:ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us">ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us</a>
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	<a href="mailto:Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us">Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us</a>
Kovalchuk	Erin	NWP-ODT-F	<a href="mailto:Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil">Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil</a>
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Reis	Kelly	ODFW	<a href="mailto:Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us">Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us</a>
Sachs	Steven	NWP-FFU	<a href="mailto:Steven.A.Sachs@usace.army.mil">Steven.A.Sachs@usace.army.mil</a>
Tidwell	Kyle	NWP-FFU	<a href="mailto:Kyle.S.Tidwell@usaace.army.mil">Kyle.S.Tidwell@usaace.army.mil</a>
Walker	Chris	NWP-ODT-F	<a href="mailto:Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil">Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil</a>
Wertheimer	Robert	NWP-ODT -FFU	<a href="mailto:Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil">Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil</a>
Ziller	Jeff	ODFW	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us">Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us</a>

On the phone: Grenbemer, Kovalchuk, Kremers, Mullan and Ziller.

1. **Final decisions or recommendations made at this meeting.**
  - 1.1. October meeting minutes were approved.
2. **The following documents are provided or discussed at this meeting. All documents can be found at: [http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/)**
  - 2.1. Agenda, Fish Passage O&M coordination team.
3. **Action Items**
  - 3.1. **[November 2019] Terms and Conditions of the BiOp** - ACTION: Mackey will look at how to fund fish counts, removal of hatchery fish at the Leaburg Ladder to both address pHOS as well as broodstock collection for the McKenzie, the short term water supply and brood stock issues, find out if spawning surveys above the dam is CRFM or O&M, see who will fund the analysis of the genetic samples and find out about the database management by the next meeting.
  - 3.2. **July 2019] Minto Fish Facility** - ACTION: Garletts will call Greg Eickmann about the compressor. Status: The compressor has not been returned yet. The question is does the Detroit crew still need the compressor. If they need the compressor all the time, they need to purchase a new compressor. Garletts will talk to Taylor today. Grenbemer brought up the maintenance of the compressor and hopes the PMs have been completed. STATUS: The compressor still hasn't been returned yet. WFPOM requests the compressor be returned by the end of the month. Status: The compressor still hasn't been returned. Still a couple of months before the compressor can leave Big Cliff. WVP will rent a compressor for Minto. Grenbemer has concerns about bringing the smolts to Minto without a backup source in the

event of a screen plug. *Status: Big Cliff is still using the compressor for the next two months. A compressor is supposed to be rented for Minto. Reis would like a solution. Mackey suggests elevating the issue to Steering Team. Walker and Mackey have passed the WFPOM concerns to the Valley personnel but no resolution has come forth. Big Cliff has bought a compressor but it can't be installed yet. Reis is very frustrated that this hasn't been fixed. Mackey will meet with Reis after WFPOM to discuss further options. Grenbemer has concerns about the pump going to the compressor. The pump has been making unusual noises and Grenbemer has been sending this information to Eikmann. Mackey would like this information going to Walker and Wertheimer too. Grenbemer has been including Walker on the pump information.*

#### 4. Updates

##### 4.1. North Santiam

##### 4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery

4.1.1.1. Valves – They are still looking for a contractor for pipe inspection

4.1.1.2. Asbestos – They have a contractor and a plan but Grenbemer has concerns that the plan is to scrape the pipe. They will have tents to contain the asbestos.

4.1.1.3. Hatchery operations – They will start otolith marking in a couple of weeks. About 5.5" of snow has already fallen.

##### 4.1.2. Minto Fish Facility

4.1.2.1. Compressor – see 3.1.

4.1.2.2. AWS gate – There is an AWS gate that is not functional. A motor spun without a limit switch but it has now been replaced. In the meantime, a motor broke for another AWS gate. Maintenance took another motor to repair it over a year ago but hasn't returned it. The gate won't function until the motor is returned. Grenbemer has been running the gates in manual to comply with the flows. Schlenker sent some flow models on how to run the gates since the facility was designed to run these in auto. Walker will start doing inspections once a month at each facility for accountability and documentation. An MOC will be coming soon for the Detroit drawdown for maintenance of the spill gates. Mackey said the MOC should have come out sooner to provide feedback for the fish impacts.

##### 4.2. South Santiam

4.2.1. South Santiam Hatchery – Hatchery operations are going well.

4.2.2. Foster Fish Facility – The ladder is open but only a few STS are returning. No STW have returned yet. Kruzic asked about the effort for the early broodstock for STS. Couture said that yes, the early spawners will be fish used for the Willamette Basin. The goal is to have the spawning complete in December but if they can't the later spawners will be sent out of the basin. Kruzic said that this early spawning helps to separate out the native STW spawning and has made a huge difference in the biological risk in the program. Mullan asked if the spill operation from Foster is still ongoing. The operation is supposed to go through December 15, water elevation is at minimum pool. This memo will be added to the list of ongoing MOCs to the agenda to keep track of the progress.

4.2.3. River Bend Adult Release Site – Walker has been tasked to set up a task group. Funding is problematic since the site is owned by the county. Mullan asked if there are any other sites to consider. The original group that decided on the sites focused on Federal land. There may, or may not be another site feasible that is lower like Riverbend. The Gordon Creek site (the site Walker was referring to) would put fish higher in the watershed bypassing available habitat. Wertheimer pointed out that the

reservoir is another potential site and the fish will hone to the spawning areas. Couture said that the River Bend Site can have a temperature problem in late summer and that the reservoir can have even higher temperatures. Wertheimer said that the fish will find the stratified cooler water. The temperature issues would affect CH more than STW due to the time of year but the main problem with this site is erosion and access issues. NOAA could have an issue with the permitting to shore up the River Bend site due to riprap problems. The major obstacle for repairing the site is funding. The initial problem with the permit was that ODFW was applying for it but the thought was since it is potentially a USACE project, USACE should move forward to alleviate permitting issues. Walker will gather the information for the January meeting. CRFM doesn't have a lot of funding to address. The Riverbend site was installed by ODFW.

#### 4.3. McKenzie

4.3.1. McKenzie Hatchery (water supply) – The recent rains have added water to the Cogswell Creek. The water elevation has been maintained for the most part and they are pulling in ~3cfs from the canal and flow from Cogswell Creek. In the spring, they were able to pull in up to 16cfs. EWEB has sealed the gates at the dam that feed the canal but there is still some flow. Eventually, the gates could seal completely. EWEB added sand bags to the canal wall on the opposite side of Cogswell Creek which creates a coffer dam and helps maintain the water level. Kremers will experiment to see how much water he can bring in for acclimating the fish. Fish health has been good. Kruzic asked what percentage of brood stock was collected at Leaburg dam compared to the hatchery. Half of the brood stock was collected at dam compared to the hatchery. A total of 1578 fish were collected – 768 collected at McKenzie, 506 at Leaburg dam and 304 Leaburg hatchery. The hatchery count is not sufficient to collect brood stock. Mackey said that the UFR was accepted and a PDT is funded to look for a new water source. Reis asked for the timeframe that the PDT has to come up with these options. Mackey said that she has stressed that the canal might run out of water and is requesting that the team come up with as many options as possible regardless of cost and work from there. Kruzic wants a plan for broodstock collection for next season which could require additional staffing and funding. The September rain saved their collection numbers this year but shouldn't be counted on for next year. The right bank passed considerably more fish than the left bank in September. Collecting at the left bank ladder reduces pHOS and helps with collecting broodstock so this is a very serious issue. Reis said that EWEB will have to approve any design that would modify their structure which will take additional time. Mackey wants to sit down with EWEB and ODFW to get something in place several weeks before it is needed. Kruzic believes that the left bank ladder modification will take some funding and time so this year to help with pHOS reduction. Kremers said that almost all the marked fish going to the left bank were removed but the right side passes more fish but they can't be removed. The right bank is the new ladder. Reis asked if this was a function of the EWEB gate usage. Kremers is not sure why but it was true for the whole summer. Ziller said that the usage of the right bank ladder is typical. Wertheimer said they need to design for greater entrance efficiency in the long term plan. Couture had talked to Whooshh about a possible solution but it would be expensive. Hatchery collection will most likely not be sufficient for broodstock next year. Ziller asked about the availability of funds for designing, permitting and construction of a sorting device to the ladder problem. Mackey suggested a contract mod since USACE expects ODFW to collect the broodstock needed but she is not sure if funds are available since the O&M budget is so tight. The time window is

closing soon. Designs and approvals would have to be in the next month for construction to be done on time and funding is not guaranteed. ODFW needs to have EWEB approve the design but not necessarily USACE. Mackey suggests putting the contract mods request in an MOC with a cost estimate so she can start working on the modification with a strong justification on why brood stock was met this year but ODFW doesn't think it will next year. Kruzic asked if the legislature funds for Leaburg could be used for this design. Couture said no because the legislature approved ODFW to use their own funds on Leaburg; additional funding was not given. Kruzic said that NOAA tried to negotiate with EWEB but the EWEB engineers were not willing to risk the safety issues of opening the gates. Wertheimer asked about the sorter that was going to be built. There were several designs out there but they were expensive. Mackey reiterated to ODFW to come up with a sorting device plan complete with cost estimate and submit it to Walker as an MOC so she can start on the contract mod. Reis reiterated that the time line is so tight. The next meeting is 22 January. Ziller said that (if we have to wait until after January 22 to design and get approvals from NOAA and EWEB) there won't be enough time to get approvals and have something built by May. Mullan requested that the design be reviewed by Jundt for NOAA prior to the EWEB review. Mullan asked about the steep pass. Ziller said there were several problems with the design. ODFW originally wanted something that can be set in the ladder (gravity fed) rather than have a pump system installed. The design was dropped when EWEB wanted outside engineer approval which would cost \$10K and there was no time left for this process to play out. To expedite the removal of fish from the Left Bank Ladder, ODFW obtained permission from NOAA to install the original trap near the top of the ladder and operate the device through the summer months to remove hatchery origin Chinook and to collect both wild and hatchery broodstock. Reis was still unsure of the path forward. The ODFW fish managers will get together and come up with a cost estimate for designing a ladder sorting device. This estimate will be sent to Walker in the form of an MOC for review at WFPOM and Mackey will start looking for funding possibilities.

- 4.3.2. Cougar Fish Facility – The facility is shut down and they are doing scheduled maintenance.
- 4.3.3. Leaburg Hatchery (lease/use) - Fish health is good. ODFW has the lease now. USACE is still working towards disposal.
- 4.4. Middle Fork
  - 4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery – Fish health is good. Spawning went well and egg collection goals were met.
  - 4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility – same as Willamette hatchery.
  - 4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility – The facility is shut down and they are doing scheduled maintenance.
- 4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub – This topic will be an update on the status of the contract and be given by USACE Valley personnel.
- 4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates – The next meeting is 03 December.
- 4.7. Water Quality updates – Elevated TDG levels were noted at Big Cliff due to the Detroit drawdown forcing spill at Big Cliff Dam.

4.8. Flow update –

Sub-basin	Dam	Minimum Flow (cfs)	Current Flow (cfs)	Primary Use
North Santiam	Big Cliff	1,200	1619	Chinook incubation
South Santiam	Foster	1,100	1132	Chinook incubation
SF McKenzie	Cougar	300	327	Chinook incubation
McKenzie	Blue River	50	50	Chinook incubation
MF Willamette	Hills Creek	400	685	Migration & rearing
MF Willamette	Dexter	1,200	1524	Chinook incubation
MF Willamette	Fall Creek	50	68*	Chinook incubation

\*The dam is passing the flow due to the drawdown. They went down to river bed last week and usually hold for a couple of weeks. Refill will start soon.

4.9. Pinniped Update (ODFW) – Reis did not ask for an update from ODFW’s pinniped staff, but the last she heard that there were no sea lions present. Tidwell said there is a camera trap but no observers at Willamette Falls. Tidwell has been analyzing the Bonneville tailrace data collected from 20 Aug- 31 Dec. The Chinook and Coho predation rates were at ~3% consumed and the Winter Steelhead run was at ~22% consumed. Comparing the typical observing timeframe from 01 Jan- 31 May, the consumption rates are similar to past years. Over half of the CSL were removed and therefore, predation by CSL was way down compared to past years but the SSL predation rates increased. Tidwell will present at AFEP but hasn’t been asked to at Willamette Science review. More sturgeon have been consumed during the fall than the spring. In past years, spring predation rates on sturgeon were much higher. Tidwell points out that the monitoring period has increased/changed but that the spring predation rates have definitely changed.

4.10. Fish Counts (Bennett/Leaburg) – no update

4.11. BPA updates – no update

4.12. Hatchery BiOp/ME activities – Mackey said that besides spawning surveys, no other terms and conditions are in her current FY20 budget. Reis said that ODFW will also have to do some internal juggling to fund their items as well.

Terms and Conditions:

1a. Production of hatchery spring Chinook salmon – this is already in the contract.

1b. Biometrics of hatchery salmon – this is already included in the contract. Couture said that length and age is a subset based on coded wire tag recovery. Kruzic said that this is not intended for every fish but as a representative of the program. ODFW will propose changes to tag program in the Santiams in FY21 in order to redistribute the tags.

2a. Use of natural-origin salmon for broodstock – based on fish returns. Kruzic suggests submitting a proposal based on the forecast but also have real time updates reflecting the number of fish that actually return. The proposals need to be reviewed by NOAA prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Run size estimates will come from the fish counts. Couture asked Ziller if he feels that they have the tools available to forecast the wild/hatchery run size. Ziller thinks they can use some fish counts but will have to use some predicting as well.

2b. Count salmon at Bennett Dams – ODFW is doing this currently but will not after 31 December. Based on language in the BiOp, ODFW believes that USACE should fund the counts to the proportion of Chinook production in the North Santiam (from the BiOp: “The funding of this action between the Corps and ODFW will be allocated according to the cost sharing for this entire program ..., or as otherwise mutually agreeable between these

agencies.”). And since USACE pays for 100% of the production, then ODFW believes that USACE should pay for 100% of the counts. Mackey asked how much the counts are currently costing. Reis thinks it is \$76K per year for salary, vehicle and propane for the generator. Mackey said if this goes to a contract then there is the potential for a small business instead of ODFW to do the work. Couture asked if there could be a sole source justification because of the BiOp or a contract mod to the production. Reis asked if the counts are for the purpose of production, why they aren’t linked. Mackey does not think that the fish counts can be tied to the production contract because the counts are used for a variety of purposes. Couture said that ODFW does the counts currently to fulfill the BiOp requirements. The counts are also used for estimating pHOS. Mackey doesn’t think that Office of Counsel and contracting would not be supportive of combining the contracts. All of the fish counts might be combined but it is unlikely to be combined with the hatchery production contract.

2c. Count salmon at Lebanon Dam – there are no current fish counts taking place at Lebanon. Mackey asked if fish counting will be part of FERC relicensing but not all the dams have hydropower. Bennett doesn’t have any FERC license tied to it. Lebanon received a FERC exemption. Fish passage is tied to water rights application. Mackey was thinking that the owner of the dam should be responsible for the counts showing the ladder is functional. Kruzic said that the counts are for the fish runs not for evaluating the ladder. Mullan said that Bennett’s owners were able to show that fish were passing without the counts. Lebanon Dam will take more cost, planning and upgrades to get the fish counts up and running. Mackey asked about cost sharing with ODFW. ODFW’s cost share would be 37% based on production. Mackey has briefed management but has not broken down costs yet.

2d. Count salmon at Leaburg Dam – this will be funded by USACE since production at McKenzie is 100% USACE funded. Currently, the count window is videotaped at Leaburg but no counting is occurring. EWEB owns the server and someone has to download the fish passage recordings.

2e Reduce pHOS in the McKenzie River – Most of the actions have been completed like the improvements to the fish ladder entrance and smolt production reductions. Since 2017, hatchery fish have been removed at the Leaburg ladder. However, only the left bank has a trap at the top. No hatchery fish are removed from the right bank and most of the fish used the right side. Mackey thinks it will take a separate PDT to come up with engineering and options for the right bank. This topic will go to WFFDWG. Kruzic thinks that when the water supply issues are resolved then this might only be a short term issue. The water supply should be taken care of first. Ziller has concerns that EWEB may never return the canal to the former status.

2f. Improve broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery – The adult holding pond has been on the critical infrastructure list and has been in the budget but hasn’t been funded. The amount in the budget is for \$0.5 million. It will continue to be submitted and try to tweak the justification so it rises in priority.

2g. Analyze steelhead genetics – ODFW funded

2h. Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers – ODFW funded

3a. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon – The collection of the samples are funded through the contract. No funding or plan is in place to store, inventory or archive the samples. The next step is not addressed yet. ODFW has the samples currently. Kruzic said that it is a high priority to analyze this data. O&M funds the collection and CRFM paid for the previous analysis. Mullan said that at RME, they believe that O&M should fund it because it is in the BiOp. Kruzic was hoping that Rich Piaskowski could find some funding. Mackey said that previously the work above the dam was CRFM and below dam was O&M.

3b. Assess spawning above dams – Mackey said this should move to CRFM. Mullan said the funding has already been decided for this year and therefore, won’t be funded this year.

Walker said the spawning surveys wasn't a high priority because it probably was not on the RM&E list. Mackey said that an internal discussion will take place to see where funding is available. Spawning ground surveys below dams is not as high a priority to inform Hatchery BiOp needs. Mackey will see if M&E funds can be used for spawning surveys or fish counts. Kruzic is trying to set out the higher priorities because funding is limited. Data collected up to this point have shown trends and patterns over the last twenty years that can help moving forward. pHOS estimates may be possible from just the fish counts.

3c. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams – Reintroduction plans for above the dams are the responsibility of both ODFW and NMFS.

4a. ODFW's Willamette Chinook Salmon Database – the spawning survey contract is written so that they provide similar data as ODFW for adding to the database. Managing data requests and maintaining the database would in addition to ODFW's current work load. There will be an internal meeting next week on how to maintain the database.

4b. The ODFW, in collaboration with the Corps, shall provide a report to NMFS SFD every three years on the implementation of the spring Chinook salmon HGMPs, –this is basic information on integration. Mullan pointed out that the physical address may change.

**ACTION:** Mackey will look at how to fund fish counts, removal of hatchery fish at the Leaburg Ladder to address pHOS and broodstock collection, the short term water supply and brood stock issues, find out if spawning surveys above the dam is CRFM or O&M, see who will fund the analysis of the genetic samples and find out about the database management by the next meeting. Kruzic asked about the timeframe when USACE will be able to say what can be funded. Mackey will attend an internal fish meeting on December 10 and inform management of the priorities discussed at this meeting.

## 5. Willamette Valley Contract Status

5.1. Willamette Hatcheries (ODFW) – Ziller is requesting a change in the number and location of hatchery spring Chinook releases into the Coast Fork Willamette and Little Fall Creek. NOAA requires the notification of changes in the release schedule and will be reviewing the proposal soon. Wertheimer suggests focusing on the justification for modification to the contract and explain why this change will benefit the Federal Government. The change should be presented in an MOC and vetted at WFPOM before the contract modification is made.

5.2. Trout (Desert Springs) – The final option will be awarded by the end of the calendar year and a new contract will be in place by the end of the fiscal year. The contract will be going out for open competitive bid again.

5.2.1. McKenzie River Boat Stocking – Walker thinks it went well but there is only anecdotal information that the fishing was good.

5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation (spawning surveys)

5.3.1. USACE/ODFW Coordination (Wertheimer) – The data is being processed right now and will be ready for the Willamette Science Review.

## 6. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

7. **Fish Operations Plan:** WFOP homepage:

[http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/WFOP/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/)

7.1. Status of WFOP

## 8. Task Group Updates.

- 8.1.** SWIFT, Flow task group (Piaskowski)- The next call is on 10 December to follow up on some expert salmonid additions to the model.
- 8.2.** Minto Juvenile Release Pipe (Walker) – The TG met last week. Walker is going to write up a summary but is waiting on analysis from water management on operations during the time period when they release fish.