

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 22 April 2020 WFPOM meeting.

The meeting was held via conference call. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
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Ziller	Jeff	ODFW	Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us

1. **Final decisions and recommendations made at this meeting**
 - 1.1. March meeting minutes are pending.
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/**
 - 2.1. Agenda, Fish Passage O&M coordination team
 - 2.2. Coordination forms (MOC/MFR)

3. Action Items

- 3.1. **[April 2020] Leaburg counts** - ACTION: Wertheimer will set up a special call on Leaburg fish counts.
- 3.2. **[April 2020] Trout releases** - ACTION: Wertheimer will set up a call to discuss changes to the trout releases.
- 3.3. **[March 2020] Lebanon Counts** – ACTION: A special WFPOM call will be scheduled.
Status: Completed and the meeting minutes were distributed.
- 3.4. **[March 2020] Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie Leaburg Sorter**- ACTION: Ziller will send the design information to Jundt. *Status: Completed.*
- 3.5. **[January 2020] Water Quality updates** - ACTION: Taylor will provide Mullan some data from Kathryn Tackley on how much the TDG changes going downstream at McKenzie.
Status: Taylor sent Walker data and a draft report that Walker will share with the group.
Status: Completed. Walker couldn't find the report but sent a graph. Will try to locate report and send out.
- 3.6. **[January 2020] 19CGR05 MFR Unit Outage** - ACTION: Taylor will check on the status of the long term solution to this occurrence. Status: The set point for the auto gate opening under speed no load has been adjusted to 1'. Ziller asked what flow it is. Walker will look it up.
Status: According to Walker and the flow calculator, it would equate to ~250cfs below the project after the gate auto-opens.

4. Updates

4.1. North Santiam

- 4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery – Hatchery operations are going well. All 2019 Chinook fry have been ponded. Grenbemer has a conference call with USACE and the USACE contractor on the asbestos removal and a meeting next week.
- 4.1.2. Minto Fish Facility – StW 162 have been collected. Most females are ripe. Maintenance is looking at modifications to the walkways for the liberation truck. Intake screens were cleaned last week by USACE Detroit maintenance staff due to plugging. The truck and hopper system should be fixed by mid-May.
 - 4.1.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed – no update on the spreadsheet.
 - 4.1.2.2. Hopper operation.
 - 4.1.2.3. AWS gate

4.2. South Santiam

- 4.2.1. South Santiam Hatchery –. The CHS fry are doing well and will be split soon. Hatchery operations going well.
- 4.2.2. Foster Fish Facility – StW collection is at 70 and staff have been outplanting them above the dam. Hatchery StS returns are at 5.
 - 4.2.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed – ODFW has been working with Foster maintenance staff to develop lift plans and AHAs. They are also working on HECP trainings. Wertheimer requested e-copies of the AHAs.
 - 4.2.2.2. Ladder and Adult Collection Issue
- 4.2.3. River Bend Adult Release Site – no action taken, while bank erosion continues which will jeopardize this release location, pipe has been moved to get through this season
- 4.2.4. Foster Spill Operations – This summer, the fish weir will be used to pass surface water to warm up the water downstream. Since 2013, a weir has been operated into June/July to influence the new fish weir design. In 2018, the new weir was implemented but it was injuring fish. The weir was not used in 2019 and coincidentally

ODFW reported that no fish were returning. In late August, fish started to return after spill. Warm surface water is needed to warm the river water up downstream. With the low water year to fill the reservoir, they can't operate the spill all summer. After modeling flows, water management and Valley Corps staff met to come up with a plan. The strategy is to start spill operations with the fish weir on 01 June and operate until 31 July. If the reservoir isn't filling, they will reconvene. If they wait too long in the summer they will lose the ability to operate the weir. The plans were just finalized on Friday. Khan will write an MOC for the group to review.

4.3. McKenzie

- 4.3.1. McKenzie Hatchery - all releases have been completed for the spring and went out on a good flow.
 - 4.3.1.1. Water Supply – Cogswell Creek had been at 18cfs in April and dropped down to 5cfs but is trending upwards with the rain. The fish ladder opens 01 May. Two unmarked chinook have passed over Leaburg. EWEB will close the waste gate sometime in May which will help keep a little more water in the canal. The canal has half the flow of last year. The river is also much lower than last year which may help with the attraction of fish. Walker asked about a siphon, a potential project that EWEB is planning. Kremers said it would not happen this year. Kremers would like to see the gate open like last year but doesn't believe it will happen.
 - 4.3.2. Cougar Fish Facility – One bull trout was captured and transported above the dam since March. The facility was shut down on Monday due to a unit problem and line outage by BPA. The facility will reopen on 23 April. All units are scheduled to be back in service on 01 May. The only water flow is coming out of the RO currently.
 - 4.3.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 4.3.3. Leaburg Hatchery – Brood year 19 CHS should be moved in June from McKenzie. The plan is to fin clip at Leaburg. Kremers will test the ability to run the fish ladder at McKenzie Hatchery next week and make sure that water isn't pulled from the fry ponds. There are three ponds with fry. The valves used for collection are the lowest point at the facility so they pull water away from the fry ponds.
- #### 4.4. Middle Fork
- 4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery – The fry are ponded and doing well. Hatchery operations are going well.
 - 4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility – The facility is shut down. The trap will reopen in the middle of next month.
 - 4.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility – Garletts reported the first ChS returned on 20 April and 49 StW were collected and transported. The facility will be dewatered tomorrow to make some repairs and should be back online on Friday.
 - 4.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- #### 4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) – They are making final edits and should be sending to Easton (IGE signatory) soon.
- #### 4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates (Neuenhoff) – no update
- 4.6.1. Minto juvenile release pipe – The Corps had an internal meeting on 21 April. The Corps is reviewing the EDR/DDR to make sure that the existing pipe and facility was made to NMFS criteria. The new pipe will not be installed. Mackey noted that there doesn't appear to be a major problem with returning adults. After downstream passage has been completed and wild fish are being released then a more thorough evaluation of conditions will be done. Reis asked for a reminder of the actual issue in the response from the Corps. Under certain conditions, fish are released in turbulent water and the impacts to this are unknown. The Corps will be reviewing the

operations to see if the hydraulic conditions can be improved. Grembemer said he believes the facility was built to criteria but it didn't predict that the release pipe would put the fish into poor hydraulic conditions. He thinks instead of cutting back flows that the pipe should be extended into the tail race. Couture thinks that using adult returns as an indicator for release efficiency is an unacceptable way to see if there is a mortality issue for juveniles considering all the other factors at play. ODFW first brought this topic to the Corps attention in 2015 requesting flow modifications for releases. The request was denied so they released into poor conditions causing mortality of ESA listed juvenile CHS. Mackey feels that a team can still discuss what operational changes can be made. She doesn't have good documentation of the former discussion.

- 4.7. Water Quality updates (S. Hart) – TDG is elevated below Big Cliff. Kelley asked about the turbine units that went out at Detroit. One unit came back on line on 22 April and it is now generating. It was a scheduled annual maintenance. The second unit that had an unscheduled outage, isn't back online yet, and don't have a timeline for it yet.
- 4.8. Flow update (S. Hart) – The team meets weekly due to low water year. A couple of memos have come out about not holding BiOp mainstem flows. The N. Santiam is at 1200cfs; the S. Santiam is at 1100cfs.
- 4.9. Pinniped Update (ODFW) – As of Tuesday, eight CSL and up to three SSL have been observed in the area of Willamette Falls. Due to COVID-19, ODFW is not actively trapping but they are monitoring. For comparison, these numbers are low compared to the last 5 years. At BON, there are over 20 SSL. A couple of CSL have been observed but have left. Wertheimer reported fewer CSL in comparison to past years. As the temperatures warm up, he expects more SSL to show up soon.
- 4.10. BPA updates – no update

5. HGMP BiOp T&Cs

- 5.1. Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.
- 5.2. Use of natural origin broodstock. – Kruzic asked if there will be a proposal this season. Couture said that for the McKenzie and Middle Fork, it would be similar to last year. All unmarked at Dexter would be incorporated. Without the counting at Lebanon, it will be hard to know the numbers of unmarked fish for incorporation into brood. He is not expecting enough unmarked fish to return to the S. Santiam. For the North Santiam, they did pass the threshold for unmarked fish escapement last year. If the numbers are good enough again then they would be integrating at the minimal level of incorporation. The numbers on the N. Santiam are low. For the McKenzie, ODFW needs to see how many unmarked fish return before they can make any decisions. Last year, 2800 unmarked fish passed Leaburg and 85 were taken for integration plus the additional 80 unmarked that returned to the hatchery. Kruzic wants the documentation before integration. Next month, they should know more.
- 5.3. Bennett Counts (ODFW) – Mackey is working with office of counsel to get an MOA with roles and responsibilities laid out. The counts as of 21 April are STW 851, STS 12, CH 5 (3 Hatchery, 2 non-marked).
- 5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) – Wertheimer is working with the city of Albany to dewater in early May. The Corps team is looking at the south ladder. Currently they are trying to figure out how to deploy the cameras and equipment. Each weir has two orifices and a notch. They are still unsure if Weir 6 or 8 would be easier and still give the best counts. Kelley asked about lamprey. Through the orifices, they can count lamprey. However, through the notch, it would be hard especially if the water was turbid. They have a limited number of cameras. FFU is looking at how to best deploy the limited equipment. It is too late to order any more equipment.

- 5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) – FFU is working with Andrew Janos. They have a meeting scheduled to learn the down loading procedures but can't yet due to COVID safety precautions. Kremers has an employee reviewing the counts – 2 unmarked CHS using the right bank and 7 STS (6 using the right bank). FFU will be downloading the video and process the counts back at the office. Ziller asked if he was going to count all fish. Wertheimer said the scope is spring chinook. Mackey said the terms and conditions of the BiOp is spring chinook but they can have a conversation about enumerating the rest of the fish or having ODFW go through the video again. **ACTION: Wertheimer will set up a special call on Leaburg fish counts.**
- 5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River - Leaburg sorter – Walker is pulling together information for the contract modification and working on the IGE.
- 5.7. Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery – This has been added to the stimulus funds request list and remains a budget submission. Mackey still needs to write a charter to create a PDT.
- 5.8. Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW) – no update
- 5.9. Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers. (ODFW) – no update
- 5.10. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after) – The Corps is working on funding pedigree analysis starting this summer. They have requested proposals from researchers. The contract should be in place by the end of the summer.
- 5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams – The soonest this work could be incorporated into the O&M budget is FY21. O&M is not funding surveys above the dam. Couture asked if any surveys would be completed. Unknown whether CRFM might be able to fund surveys.
- 5.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams – At the River Bend site, Boyd moved the pipe to a better location. CRFM might still be funding. Kremers asked about out planting some fish in July rather than holding them. ODFW spawning crews have previously identified some underutilized spawning grounds. Kruzic has protocol for the out planting program. They do not want to go over the number of hatchery fish outplanted. The concern is not knowing how many natural origin fish will be using the area before the run is complete.
- 5.13. Willamette Chinook Salmon Database.
- 5.14. Three year report for NMFS SFD. Report due 2022.

6. Willamette Valley Production Contracts

- 6.1. Willamette Hatcheries option year – Mackey expects to award in August.
- 6.2. Trout Production – Mackey expects to award in September. Kelley thought there would be a change in the trout contract. Mackey said it would be discussed under 7.6.

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

- 7.1. 20CGR01 Water supply Issues and Broodstock Collection at McKenzie Hatchery (ongoing) – Ziller reported than an ODFW engineer is working on the design of the steepass sorter. The final prelim drawings should be sent out to EWEB and NMFS. ODFW had been coordinating the drawings throughout the process. Once the drawings are approved then construction will start. He is expecting it to be in place at the beginning of June.
- 7.2. 20WVP02 MOC_CHS CoastFk_LittleFallCr2020 (ongoing) – ODFW did release fish into the Little Fall Creek this year from Leaburg Hatchery. To reduce the amount of straying into the McKenzie, ODFW wants to use fish from Willamette instead of McKenzie for next year. ODFW wants to do this operation for three years to evaluate the fish ladder and the potential for natural production in Little Fall Ck. Reis asked what the decision making process is.

Mackey said that this action requires a contract modification and requires an internal discussion. Reis would like to note that ODFW is waiting for the Corps to make a decision.

Couture suggested adding it to the option year, as it might be a good time to make the change.

- 7.3. 20WVP05 Mainstem Flow April 1-15 (ongoing) – another meeting is scheduled next week.
- 7.4. 20FAL01 Fall Creek Adult Fish Facility Outage (new) – an outage is scheduled for 23 April. There is a significant water leak that has to be repaired. The facility should come back on line on Friday.
- 7.5. 20CGR01 Cougar Dam Unit 1&2 outages - AFCF outage (new) – There was a forced unit outage which cause the fish facility to shut down. Since the units were already off, it was good time to do a line outage. All flow is coming out of the RO. Low fish collection expected during this outage.
- 7.6. Current trout releases – Wertheimer said that ODFW sets the stocking schedule but once it is set and in the contract then all changes to the releases need to go through the Corps. He also expressed the importance of the trout releases to support trout fisheries in the Willamette Valley. If a change incurs a cost, the contractor can ask for reimbursement which hasn't been authorized. Due to COVID-19, there are some production issues with size. Desert Springs wants to make some changes to size and number. Wertheimer will write an MOC to work with ODFW on any changes to the release schedule. **ACTION: Wertheimer will set up a call to discuss the changes to the trout releases.**

8. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/

- 8.1. Fish facility inspections and reporting – Walker is working with Pierce about consistent reporting at fish facilities. The fish facility counts will be updated once a month on the WFOPM website.

9. Task Group/PDT Updates – Mackey said that due to the amount of work needed to be done at the hatcheries, these PDTs might be organized differently.

- 9.1. Safety and Environmental corrections- The PDT is working through the list of deficiencies found in the Operational Conditions Assessments (OCAs).
- 9.2. Asbestos abatement – The PDT will be on site next week to do abatement at Marion Forks and Willamette Hatcheries.
- 9.3. Marion Forks pipe and valves – Small projects has been looking into replacement. There is still a question on whether or not small projects is the appropriate group to work on this task. Couture reminded everyone that abatement could damage the pipe/valves due to their poor condition. The thought had been to install isolation valves. But this conversation just goes round and round. If the abatement does damage the valves, it would be an emergency. The pipe needs to be inspected but assumed to be in poor condition. Couture reiterated that is if it's assumed the pipes are in poor condition, they should be replaced rather than abating the asbestos, which will likely cause further damage to the pipes.
- 9.4. McKenzie Water Supply – there is a PM assigned now for this task and the Cole M Rivers water supply. Spencer Narron is the PM.