

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 16 December 2020 WFPOM meeting.

The meeting was held via conference call. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Bengtson	Dustin	NWP-ODV	Dustin.E.Bengtson@usace.army.mil
Boyd	Brett	ODFW South Santiam	Brett.h.boyd@state.or.us
Buccola	Norman	NWP-ENC-HR	Norman.L.Buccola@usace.army.mil
Budai	Chris	NWP	Christine.M.Budai@usace.army.mil
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	Ryan.B.Couture@state.or.us
Eppard	Brad	NWP	Matthew.B.Eppard@usace.army.mil
Gallion	Darren	NWP-ODT-FFU	Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil
Garletts	Doug	NWP-ODV	Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil
Gramlich	Nancy	DEQ	Nancy.H.GRAMLICH@state.or.us
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW M.F. & Minto	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Hudson	Mike	USFWS	michael_hudson@fws.gov
Jundt	Melissa	NMFS	Melissa.Jundt@noaa.gov
Laird (Neuenhoff)	Rachel	NWP	Rachel.D.Laird@usace.army.mil
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-ODT-F	Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil
McClain	Nathan	NWP-ODT-F	Nathan.A.McClain@usace.army.mil
Reis	Kelly	ODFW	Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us
Scullion	Mary Karen	NWP	Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil
Tackley	Kathryn	NWP-ENC-HR	Kathryn.L.Tackley@usace.army.mil
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Walker	Chris	NWP-ODT-F	Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil
Wertheimer	Robert	NWP-ODT-FFU	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil

1. Introductions and agenda updates (Mackey)

2. Approve October W-FPOM minutes (Walker)

2.1. Melissa Jundt (NOAA) asked for more time to approve minutes so Anne could look at them this week. Group was ok with that.

3. Action Items

3.1. [November 20] Lebanon Counts - ACTION: Wertheimer will set up a meeting to see if a counting system can be installed by 01 May. **STATUS:** Completed. Update will be provided under item 5.4.

3.2. [September 20] Trout HGMP - ACTION: Kruzic will update trout HGMP. No update.

4. Updates

4.1. North Santiam

4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery

4.1.1.1. Grenbemer – Half the smolts transferred to Minto. Resolved issues with the alarms and auto dialer. Collection has been slow. Waiting for replacement parts

- 4.1.2. Minto Fish Facility –
 - 4.1.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 4.1.2.1.1. Waiting on funding.
 - 4.1.2.2. **Wertheimer** asked about final deposition of adult Coho. They were either recycled, used of stream nutrient supplementation, or thrown out. Currently not passed above the facility.
- 4.2. South Santiam
 - 4.2.1. South Santiam Hatchery
 - 4.2.1.1. **Boyd** - Fish health is good, fall releases of juvenile Spring Chinook complete ~300k mid November. Received fish remaining fish that Willamette hatchery was holding and will release those in mid February.
 - 4.2.2. Foster Fish Facility – Finishing up spawning summer Steelhead.
 - 4.2.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 4.2.2.1.1. Annual shut down scheduled for 19th of January for winter maintenance work
 - 4.2.3. River Bend Adult Release Site – No update
- 4.3. McKenzie
 - 4.3.1. McKenzie Hatchery **Couture** -Spring Chinook eggs moved to Willamette and Marion Forks to spread the risk, concerned about debris and turbidity causing water supply issues post fire. No fish at McKenzie other than eggs / embryos. Brood year 19 scheduled Spring Chinook for release in 21 were released during the fire in September a few months early from Leaburg.
 - 4.3.2. Leaburg Hatchery – **Couture** - No fish on station, released or died during the fire. Working on temporary power and water system that will allow staff to return to live on station. County inspection soon.
 - 4.3.3. Cougar Fish Facility – **Garletts** – prematurely closed due to fire. Able to get all the fish out. Winter maintenance outgoing. Coordinated with ODFW as they replaced burned out PIT tag antennas so they can detect bull trout again.
 - 4.3.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 4.4. Middle Fork –
 - 4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery - **Couture**. – Fish and eggs are doing well. Incubating about 1/3 of the McKenzie production.
 - 4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility
 - 4.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility – **Garletts**. closed mid-October as usual. Winter maintenance has begun. Water supply pipe line contract in process. Reservoir held to ~710 feet to facilitate that contract. OR State Police cited several poachers at the Upper Fall Creek spawning grounds (Chinook). I was able to work with OSP & US FS to remove a log jam to allow adults access to more spawning area.
 - 4.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) – No update
- 4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates. **Neuenhoff** - No FFDWG updates, one proposal out for comment. Pedigree work, waiting for USGS to send funds to OSU. One of our researchers, RM&E & Willamette EIS looking for info on Leaburg screw trap, please send info to me.
 - 4.6.1. **Reis** – What info do you want from the screw trap? **Neuenhoff** – I think they are just looking for counts to inform the research efforts in WATER and the EIS. Wasn't clear if Luke was the POC for Leaburg screw trap data. **Reis** – Luke's shop runs the screw trap when it's going.
- 4.7. Water Quality updates (S. Hart) – Norm **Buccola** – Night time spill operation at Detroit, watching TDG downstream of Big Cliff. Working with Mary Karen & Yamen using new tool to manage TDG. Around 110% right now with increasing flows this weekend. **Scullion** – we do have this big atmospheric river storm coming in. At flows above 3,000 cfs have to use

spill gate and TDG increases. Expecting increased TDG due to storm. **Tackley** – There is some construction work going on, do we also have to maintain the reservoir at a specific level? **Scullian** – yes, but there is still quite a bit of storage. **Tackley** – If and when ODFW collects TDG data at Minto we could continue to build on the model Norm developed to help predict TDG. **Group** - General conversation about spill and spreading across Big Cliff spillway. Also, TDG data collected at Minto to feed model and help predict TDG at Minto & Niagara. Folk have pushed to publish TDG data online for several years. Some pushback from the state & feds to publish that data out due to firewalls, communication issues and lack of funding. **Tackley** – we should work on automating this as new equipment becomes available. Until then could you please email it to Buccola?

4.8. Flow update (S. Hart) – No Update

4.9. Pinniped Update (ODFW) – **Reis** – Willamette Falls to St. Johns bridge 11 Dec found 5 Stellar Sea Lions (SSL), 2 above I-205 bridge, 3 below. Public reports of large group but ODFW monitoring has only recorded a max of 5.

4.10. Bonneville – **Wertheimer** - 35 SSL in the tailrace, ODFW started removal 15 November, removing 6. Done for the season but we do have a path forward. The pattern is to go downstream and feed on Chum and they also hit winter steelhead twice, on the way up

4.11. BPA updates – No update, no rep.

5. HGMP BiOp T&Cs

5.1. Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.

5.2. Use of natural origin broodstock.

5.3. Bennett Counts (ODFW) - **Walker** – I kept all three of these on here just to keep the MOA on the radar. **Reis** - Bruce did retire we have Shaun Clements filling in and I can send you his contact information. **ACTION: Reis will send Clements contact information to Walker.**

5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) – **Wertheimer** – Last WFPOM we were at a decision point, we requested to rack or block some orifices to force fish through the Vaki counter, the group did not want that. Looked at upstream of ladder but that pushed the schedule out too far. KB described the current proposal. **Walker** – I sent out diagram of current proposal. **Jundt** – concerned about changing hydraulics in the fish ladder. Do you have any information about that? **Wertheimer** – we are trying to get to our preferred alternative so we can dig deeper and get you the hydraulic information you want. Working to get to an acceptable design and install by May 1st, but it is difficult. We plan to address your concerns. **Walker** – if there is something specific in regards to calculations or models please send it out and I'll pass it to the engineers. **Reis** (ODFW) – Can the newer Vaki systems detect clipped fish? **Gallion** – I've explained to FishBio what our goals are, and they were confident. **ACTION: Gallion will reach out to FishBio and ensure that is the case.**

5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) **Wertheimer** – we have been working with ODFW to finalize the counts. There was an issue with the sorter so we are working it. **Couture**. – regarding the Leaburg sorter, ODFW is prepared to operate the sorter in Feb. 2021 for collection of adult Spring Chinook for brood stock and out plating above Cougar. Funding operation in year 2 operation (2021) needs to be firmed up. **Mackey** – Walker is working on a contract modification for you.

5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River - Leaburg sorter

5.7. Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery

5.8. Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW)

5.9. Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers. (ODFW)

5.10. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after)

5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams – **Reis** – are there plans to conduct spawning ground surveys above federal dams next fall? **Mackey** – Not at this time. They were previously funded by CRFM, and now need to come out of the hatchery budget. As of now the hatchery program budget is short. We may have to prioritize what we want. Spawning surveys, fish counts, or hatchery production. **Reis** – Thank you for that

clarification, it's a bummer. **Walker** – we plan these things two years out, so when we got the BiOp we tried to incorporate them but again, it is two years out.

- 5.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams.
- 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** – Option year awarded, expires the end of August. We will have a new contract in place by then, hopefully a longer contract.
- 6.2. Trout Production – This has gone to Purchase Orders funded on an annual basis awarded towards the end of September. **Couture** – a one year procurement will be very challenging to do for ODFW. Essentially we are working two years out as we are collecting eggs now. Because we are releasing two year old fish, contracting two years in advance, would have us or another contractor on the hook for thousands of pounds of fish. **Mackey** – could you please document the difficulties so we can forward them to our contracting department so they can understand the details? **Couture** – so then are we being paid in 2021 for release in 2022? **Walker** – It was payment upon delivery. **Wertheimer** – The Corps pays for progress or deliverables. However I need to take a closer look at this contract and see if we can provided a revenue stream to keep the contractor solvent and able to deliver. I've got to go over this more.

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

Ongoing:

- 7.1. 20FOS04 Passage Enumeration at Lebanon Dam – Walker – See above.
- 7.2. 20DET05 Downstream Fish Passage Operation – Spilling from 6:00 – 10:00 in the AM & PM. Did received comments from ODFW about lack of monitoring and TDG concerns. **Reis** – Can you clarify, we are expecting the fish to sound over 100' to go through the regulating outlet and there is no monitoring taking place, is that accurate? **Eppard** – That is correct there is no monitoring of this operation at Detroit. We intended to get screw traps below Big Cliff, for many reasons it did not work out. We agreed with NMFS and BPA to this operation. We think this could be a benefit, as while not all fish will pass the RO, but without this operation nearly all fish will pass through the turbines at Detroit. So it will provide some benefit, even though we won't quantify it. **Reis** – there are also some potential risks, potential turbine mortality, TDG, and closing the turbines while asking fish to dive. Limits fish to one passage route and from what we know, fish can't be expected to sound that far. **Jundt** – NOAA agrees with ODFW's concern about TDG and the lack of monitoring. It will be difficult for fish to sound that far, without monitoring, the Corps will need to help NMFS understand if the trade-offs are worth it. We would like to have further discussion on this and potential of looking at different operations considering lack of monitoring. **Eppard** – From a passage standpoint, any way to prevent turbine passage would benefit fish. We were unable to get a contract in place to measure the benefit, but from the research we've done fewer fish will go through turbines during this operations. On the TDG side, the majority of exceedances occurs during involuntary operations due to flood risk management. **Hudson** (USFWS) – I'd like to echo ODFW & NOAA, there are a number of interim operations to benefit downstream fish passage. Some monitored, some not. Understand the contracting difficulties, fear that without good monitoring we won't have definitive answers to the benefits of these operations. **Walker** – If NMFS and USFWS could send written comments on this that would be helpful. **Hudson & Jundt** agreed to send written comments. **Gramlich** (OR DEQ) – I can't approve anything ODFW does not approve, will agenda item 4.7 be incorporated into the SOR? **Tackley** – should we send these actions sent to ODFW or to Oregon State DEQ? **Reis** – please send to both, thanks. **Jundt** – The monitoring is a critical piece of this for us and the lack of monitoring changes our perspective on this. **Walker, Jundt, Reis, and Gramlich** The conversation continued about coordination and updating the

SOR. ACTION: Walker will update the memorandum/SOR to reflect there is no screw trap monitoring.

New:

7.3. 20BCL05 MFR Spill Gate miss operation – Walker – In November, the spill gates open too far and increased TDG. **Reis** – we really need ODFW to be informed by a call down stream. If instream flow was increased on Saturday, we were not informed until Monday. Is there guidance in place currently to inform ODFW? **Walker** – Right now I don't know, but I will dig into it, it should be an action item. **Grenbemer** – When I showed up at the hatchery Sunday morning there was no water. Due to the fires there are downed trees everywhere, high flows will continue to be a problem. If there were (juvenile or adult) fish on site I don't know if we could have saved them. ACTION: Walker will follow up to determine the process, send to ODFW & Grenbemer.

7.4. 20CGR05 MFR Downstream Fish Passage Operation **Walker** – open for comments until December 31st. **Reis** – We do plan to comment on this. ODFW is on record requesting monitoring previously for this operation as well. Are there ever plans to monitor this operation? **Walker** – we were planning to put one or two screw traps downstream to monitor, but we had problems awarding screw trap contracts. **Eppard** – We had problems getting them awarded, and are still experiencing challenges, but we will continue to push to get the contracts out. There is every intention to get screw traps deployed below locations with interim operations.

8. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

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

Walker – I will be sending out a formal call for changes in the plan. It can be changed any time during the year. **Hudson** – Relative to the Cougar [20CGR05] MFR, you said that one did not really need an MFR because it was in the WFOP. Could you provide more detail? **Walker** – Yes, it is described in an appendix. Previously it had been described as research.

9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

9.1. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT) – **Walker** – There were several site visits already made, PM working on funding.

9.2. Hatchery Non-routine maintenance/repairs (PDT) **Walker** – Again working on funding but it has been slow going with the PDT.

9.3. McKenzie Water Supply (PDT) – **Walker** – No water supply at the hatchery with the canal down, further complicated by the fire.

Mackey asked for additional agenda items or questions, there were none.

Next meeting the end of January.