

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 12 December 2023 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

**1. Introductions and agenda updates**

Last Name	First Name	Email
Blair	Erin	Erin.K.Blair@usace.army.mil
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Walker	Chris	Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil
Wertheimer	Bob	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil
Ziller	Jeff	Jeffrey.S.ZILLER@odfw.oregon.gov

**2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (September- October)**

Edits have been included. Request for more time to review.

**3. Action Items –**

**3.1 [October 23] ACTION:** Sachs/Piaskowski – FY 24 funding is available for genetic pedigree analysis. Contract is expected to be awarded next summer. Staggering of sample analysis is TBD. Mullan- Would like a time to be set up for O'Malley to present a review of the South Santiam analysis results. Walker will look into setting up a presentation.

**3.2 [October 23] ACTION:** Sachs/Rerecich – 2026 availability of the new Dexter Fish Ladder. The new fish ladder should be available for use in 2026. The expanded collection window in 2024 and 2025 is being confirmed with Construction and the Contractor.

**4. Completed Action Items**

**3.1 [Aug 23] COMPLETE:** Khan – Updated on Lebanon PIT: The PIT antennas are operational and functioning.

**5. Updates****5.1. North Santiam**

**5.1.1.** Marion Forks Hatchery – Sachs – Brood year 23 juvenile Chinook are beginning emergence and will be ponded in a few weeks.

**5.1.1.1.** Marion Creek intake. Wertheimer – Inspection completed on 29 November. Funding is available for a Small Projects write up of the inspection. We will share the report once it is available. We are looking at what can be done to get the facility fully functional.

- 5.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility – Sachs - 4 ponds additional ponds of brood year 22 Chinook have been brought to Minto from Marion Forks bringing the total to 7 of the planned 8 ponds being held at Minto.
- 5.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – Running fuel injector cleaner through the backup generator, running longer run times with a load seems to improve the run time before it shuts off. Pacific Power Group is being contacted to examine the generator. Walker – Should we run the generator more as part of a preventative maintenance plan. Pierce - We are changing the maintenance requirement to run the generator for longer periods of time with higher loads, which should improve its reliability.
- 5.2. South Santiam**
- 5.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery – Pierce – The intake screen is having to be cleaned due to high turbidity, likely due to the draw down. Wertheimer – Water quality is having an effect on fish growth. Mullan – Is South Santiam usable for Summer Steelhead eggs? Sachs – The South Santiam stock Summer Steelhead eggs are being held at Willamette Hatchery due to current water quality and will be transferred back at a later date.
- 5.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility
- 5.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – No update.
- 5.2.3.** Green Peter Dam outplanting/spawning surveys – Draft spawning survey report is being worked on by EAS. Will be presented at the Willamette Science Review.
- 5.3. McKenzie**
- 5.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery – Sachs – With the recent heavy rainfall the intake is having to be cleaned frequently to keep it open due to high turbidity in Cogswell Creek.
- 5.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery – Wertheimer – A tree fell on the truck shed, ODFW is having the tree removed and will tarp the building for the time being.
- 5.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility – Helms – Facility is shut for the winter, planning on opening March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 5.3.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – Continuing to work on the propane backup generator. Planning to purchase 3 more VFD's which will complete the AWS rebuild. Walker – Did we get any backups for the VFD's? Pierce – The electrical side is controlled by the VFD. A few years ago, the VFD's overheated and melted, thus they had to be updated. One spare VFD will be on site and available in case of breakdown. Mullan – Have any steps been taken to improve the PIT data transfers? Helms – Garletts has been working on it. Garletts – There is a Wi-Fi unit available, a password will have to be requested every week. Mullan – The rotary screw traps crews could use the Wi-Fi to put in data. Garletts – We are making progress but have a few technical challenges.
- 5.4. Middle Fork**
- 5.4.1.** Willamette Hatchery – Sachs – The last egg take of the season had low quality and we may end up closer to 30% short for the brood year 2023 Chinook. Water quality issues at Willamette hatchery are due to wildfires over the summer and a possible landslide.
- 5.4.2.** Dexter Fish Facility – Wertheimer – Turbidity on TDG's have been affecting fish growth and health. With the brood year 2023 shortfall, only the minimum contracted number of RM&E fish will be available.

Mullan – Has water quality improved with the recent rain?

Sachs – Doug Curtis at Dexter has reported that water quality has improved over the last coupe weeks, however it is still very turbid.

5.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.

5.4.2.2. Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe – No update.

- 5.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility – Garletts – Closed for the winter, opening mid-March. ODFW and Garletts – ODFW and I conducted spawning surveys above Fall Creek reservoir, I did not record any Chinook redds, the wildfire has had dramatic negative effects.

5.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.

#### 5.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor)

- 5.6. WFFDWG/Research updates (Laird) Mullan – As of Mid-November we have seen that there are several hits on fish leaving South Santiam, 167 tagged fish have been recorded at Lebanon, 9 tags were from Quartzville Creek. There were also fish recorded at the river kilometer 70 array in the Columbia.

Wertheimer – Is the river kilometer 70 array a pile dike array?

Mullan – Yes, it has been running since March 30<sup>th</sup>. The NOAA team that works on the arrays are going to be speaking to RM&E.

Wertheimer – There is also a push to update and modify pile dikes throughout the Columbia.

- 5.7. Water Quality updates (S. Hart) – No update

- 5.8. Flow update (S. Hart) – No update

- 5.9. BPA updates – No update

- 5.10. Pinniped Updates – Wertheimer – There are only a handful of SS below Bonneville, less than 5 at this time.

Reis – ODFW completed a river boat survey on the Willamette on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and recorded 1 SS, they have not seen any California sealions this fall.

Mullan – Are there annual reports for Bonneville available?

Wertheimer – Pinniped Reports:

<https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Task%20Groups/Task%20Group%20Pinnipeds/>

## 6. HGMP BiOp T&Cs

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

6.2. Use of natural origin broodstock.

6.3. Bennett Counts (ODFW)

6.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) Khan – Will provide further updates regarding the PIT detection system and detections at later WFPOMs.

6.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) Sachs – New count system remains operational.

Ziller – We are considering running the trap later next year and capture some of the Coho and place radio tags to see where they are going in the upper basin.

6.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River –

6.7. Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery

6.8. Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW)

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

6.10. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after) – FY 24 funding available.

Mullan – Fall Creek should be available after the South Santiam report.

6.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams.

6.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams.

6.13. Willamette Chinook Salmon Database.

6.14. Three-year report for NMFS SFD. Report due 2022.

**7. Willamette Valley Production Contracts**

- 7.1. Willamette Hatcheries – Wertheimer – SATOC to align the contract more closely with the biological cycle is being worked on. Walker – A task order should help to get contracts into place in a more timely fashion and will be easier to mod if necessary.
- 7.2. Trout Production – Wertheimer – The base of 97,568 pounds of trout has been awarded. If more funding is found through December, additional CLINs could be added. Walker – We may use a task order for future trout contracts, still being discussed.  
Ziller – Is this for 2024 or 2025 fish deliveries?  
Walker – This is for 2025 fish.

**8. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)**Ongoing:

- 8.1.21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (2024?)
- 8.2.23BCL04 MRF Heli-Saw operations fire. – No additional comments.

**9. Task Group/PDT Updates.**

- 9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) Mullan – There were surprises with the level of turbidity. The combination of data types, PIT, active tag and screw traps, has been helpful during the drawdowns.
- 9.2. Green Peter Outplanting Task Group – Walker – Looking into adding the Middle Fork for 2024 surveys. Working on the logistics for a scope of work for an award in April next year.
- 9.3. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT)
- 9.4. Hatchery Non-routine maintenance/repairs (PDT)
- 9.5. McKenzie Water Supply Task Group/PDT – Mackey – PDT funding request included in FY26 budget. Walker – Working on a charter for a PDT knowing the water supply issues in the basin.
- 9.6. Willamette Basin Independent Science Review – Wertheimer – This is on the back burner until 2023 reports are generated for other projects. Will have a further update in January.  
Mullan – Will this be similar to the ISAB?  
Wertheimer – Yes; in other programs, a review is required every 5 years.

**10. 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/)

Walker – Will send an Email requesting any needed changes in the Fish Operations Plan.