

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 22 February 2023 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

1. Introductions and agenda updates

Last Name	First Name	Email
Boyd	Brett	Brett.H.BOYD@odfw.oregon.gov
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Ziller	Jeff	Jeffrey.S.ZILLER@odfw.oregon.gov

2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (December)

Approved.

3. Action Items – None**4. Updates****4.1. North Santiam**

4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery – Grenbemer - Everything going well, we had 9” of snow overnight and expecting more. All Chinook are ponded and are feeding well. Some research fish will be dyed next week.

4.1.1.1. Marion Creek intake - Wertheimer – There may be a way to use contract dollars to get an assessment of the intake.

4.1.2. Minto Fish Facility – Grenbemer - Have not seen any Winter Steelhead yet. 450k Chinook Smolts were released last week due to good flows and pathology concerns. Another 250k will go out in mid to late March.

- 4.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – Grenbemer - Having issues with compressor leaking, we used hatchery money and a contractor to test the system, the main issue is the compressor overheating, this is causing leaks and melted the backflow valve, water cooling is undersized and there is no air cooling. The contractor is looking at a quote for fixing or replacing. We are looking at new compressor that is at Detroit as a possible replacement. The AWS is also seeing issues and not running in auto. The presort valves have now been fixed as of yesterday. There have been some communication issues on the importance of the issues.
- Couture – The compressor has been an issue for the last decade. It should be taken as a serious issue.
- Kruzic – Things are getting to critical mass and could cause a major public issue if there is a fish kill.
- Pierce – We do have funding issues and the Detroit crew has been working on units at the dam. We need confirmation that the new compressor can be used to replace the old one.
- Walker – What is the largest issue?
- Grenbemer – The compressor is the main issue followed by the AWS.
- Wertheimer – We have had tight funding.

4.2. South Santiam

- 4.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery – Boyd – We have released all but 3,500 spring Chinook being held for trap trials. The March release group was early due to fish health issues. Steelhead and trout transfers have been delayed due to weather. An additional 20k Steelhead will be held for Contract requirements.
- New ponded steelhead fry have had some cold-water disease issues.
- 4.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility – Boyd - Winter maintenance complete, ladder is watered up on 2 Feb and is working but have not seen any winter Steelhead yet.
- Mullan – Are the winter steelhead late?
- Boyd – Typically we see the first steelhead in March.
- 4.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – Winter maintenance complete.
- 4.2.3.** Green Peter Dam outplanting/spawning surveys – Walker - Still planning on doing GP outplanting and spawning surveys, requesting private land access again.

4.3. McKenzie

- 4.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery – Couture - BY21 Chinook 1st group was released last week, 2nd group at McKenzie for release next month, 3rd group still at Leaburg. BY22 Has been ponded at McKenzie. Fish ladders are closed at both hatcheries this time of year.
- 4.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery – No update.
- 4.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility- Helms – We will be opening on March 15th - Pierce – We have ordered valves to operate 3rd post sort pool, will be in operation next year.
- Taylor – We will be doing some RO resurfacing and will cause the RO to not be able to operate. The RO is usually on Auto open back up for the unit but will not be operable. The diversion tunnel will have very cold water if it must be released. As such will be running the units with one in speed no load. There is risk of dropping below minimum flow requirement.
- Mullan – What is the effect of speed no load?
- Taylor – We can run a single unit down to 300 CFS, about 75 CFS with speed no load, if the single running unit goes off you will be at 0 outflow from that unit. The work is scheduled to be completed by end of summer.
- Ziller – June is more impactful than July for fish.

Wren – The window is from June 1 to September 1, worst case scenario would be similar to the wildfire, with both units tripped off, they may stay at speed no load but that may not happen the next time but if it did, you'd have 2 units at 75 CFS. Units will only run for 10 days before units shut down and there will be no flow out of the facility.

4.3.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.

4.4. Middle Fork

4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery Peck – Everything is going well. The BY22 Chinook have been ponded outside and is feeding well. Have released the first group of BY21 from Dexter.

Mullen – Where are the RST trial fish?

Peck – All BY21 brood has been given. For BY22 planning on having everything requested.

Trachtenbarg – Will follow up on remaining needs.

4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility Peck – Have released one group BY21 Chs from dexter and will release another soon.

4.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.

4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility - Garletts – Facility is in winter mode offline; we will be delaying opening because of keeping pool at 700 feet to mid-March.

Taylor – This is a requirement to operate the RO through the 15th of April due to litigation.

Ziller – Will the trap not be opened to the 15th of April?

Taylor – Yes, due to the injection.

Mullan – Is there any data from the RST bellow Fall Creek?

Taylor – There was a year class failure at Fall Creek, we will be speaking to at the Science Review.

4.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – Gate indication has been installed on all 9 of the fish horns, this should help track if the gates are functioning properly.

4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) – Still working on the contract for bull trout, Chub will be done with the 9-year post delisting in December, will likely have a smaller contract after.

4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates (Laird) – No updates. U of I study; an outplant simulation program was built and comments are being addressed and hopefully will be shared once available.

Mullen – Is there a contract for FY25 to review data from the North Santiam?

Laird – The goal is to analyze data every 5 years. Will follow up on dates for data release.

Trachtenbarg – We should have a new award for bulk marking, RST and reservoir distribution in the next week.

4.7. Water Quality updates (S. Hart) – Buccola – There is nighttime spill OPS at Cougar and Foster, will slightly increase TDG but we are trying to stay below 110.

Flow update (S. Hart)

Taylor – The Willamette system is about 3% full and should be 35% full. Things have been very dry, and we are behind the rule curve. Some projects are not filling at the moment due to precipitation. Will have some impact on operations, such as spill operations.

- Ziller – When will we have flexibility away for the 75-year-old rule curve?
 Taylor – The future operations in flexibility forecast operations is a long-term plan, however the planning is only just starting in the Willamette. For now, it is only a tool that is being assessed.
- 4.8. BPA updates – No update.
- 4.9. Pinniped Updates – Wertheimer – Bonneville is at zero right now, expecting them to arrive as fish numbers pick up.
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) – No update.
- 5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) Wertheimer – The PIT antenna is installed. If we are going to do counts will have to design around it. We should further discuss. Will provide an update in March.
 Mullen – Counts would be helpful.
 Walker – Will add discussion to the agenda.
- 5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) – No update
- 5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River - Leaburg sorter - Couture – have been talking with Whoosh about using automated sorting tech. They may do some data and design testing in 2023. Will not change current sorter but would add the automated 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)
 Kruzic – We have had two reports over the last year, and they should be discussed.
 Walker - We should set up a task group for outplanting.
- 5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams
- 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. Walker – It has been submitted this week and will be sent out to the group.
6. Willamette Valley Production Contracts
- 6.1. Willamette Hatcheries - Walker – Working on getting on the next set of option years awarded. With the Mod for using hatchery fish for RM&E there is some funding available. Some options in the contract will not be exercised.
 Couture – We will have to make a decision on the disposition of the unfunded fish in the next few days. It appears that the Corps. is choosing to fund RM&E fish but not production.
 Walker – The funding issue is due to allocations from Congress, we cannot switch funds between allocation types.
 Wertheimer – We should work a plan for release straggles to get the best value, we will set up a contract meeting.
 Ziller – We should have been consulted on which fish to cut.
 Walker – These fish were chosen due to the dollar amount in the CLIN, the other options were larger.
 Kruzic – We should have future discussions.
 Mackey – When we send out an MOC we are looking for input and comments. We will try to give a longer timeline for comments in the future.
- 6.2. Trout Production – Was awarded at the end of the FY.

Wertheimer – We are still outplanting trout in Quartzville Creek along with outplanting Chinook. We should have an expert panel comment on this.

Walker – We will figure out a path forward.

Kruzic – Most of our data is on Winter Steelhead. Please include me on this topic.

Ziller – We have talked with Idaho and others on putting together a scientific panel on looking at impacts of trout on salmon. It would be a good one to fund.

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

Ongoing:

7.1. 21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (2024?) - No update

7.2. 22DEX02 MOC Fish Facility Rebuild IWW periods – No update

New:

7.3. 23WVP01 FY23 FW budget shortfall

9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) Walker – There could be turbidity issues with the drawdowns.

9.2. Green Peter Outplanting Task Group

9.3. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT)

9.4. Hatchery Non-routine maintenance/repairs (PDT)

9.5. McKenzie Water Supply Task Group/PDT Walker – PDT was funded with only a small amount of funding. EWEB has provided a timeline for Leaburg dam removal.

Couture – Is there a plan to put the task group back together?

Walker – Management is aware of the issue but there is not funding for a PDT currently.

Kruzic – We should continue to discuss even though the timeline is years out due to the magnitude of the changes.

10. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

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

Walker – Updates will be posted to the web.