

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 28 February 2024 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

1. Introductions and agenda updates

Last Name	First Name	Email
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Walker	Chris	Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil
Wertheimer	Bob	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil

2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (January)

Approved.

3. Action Items

3.1 [Jan 24] COMPLETE: Walker – Provide a request for needed changes to the Fish Operations Plan. Changes Due by Feb 15th. Will consolidate changes to make consistent with the injunction measures. Walker will send once completed and give 2 or 3 weeks for review. Will discuss at the March WFPOM meeting and plan to publish in April.

3.2 [Aug 23] COMPLETE: Sachs/Piaskowski – FY 24 funding is available for genetic pedigree analysis. Contract is expected to be awarded next summer.

Mullan – Can Kathleen O'Malley present results in a WFPOM meeting?

Walker – O'Malley will present April 3rd or 4th at the Willamette Science Review at OSU.

4. Updates**4.1. North Santiam**

4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery (Grenbemer) – Have been getting snow at the hatchery and plan to pond Spring Chinook in a couple weeks. Fish health is looking good.

4.1.1.1. Marion Creek intake (Wertheimer) Jessica Kettelkamp with small projects is working on a design, likely looking at 2025 before starting in-water work.

- 4.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility (Grenbemer) – Last week 6 Winter Steelhead and 4 W. Steelhead this week. 161 over Bennett Dam so far.
- 4.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – The primary generator fuel test has come back good. Submitting the test to Pacific Power group to have them trouble shoot the generator. The rented backup generator will remain on site.
- 4.2. South Santiam**
- 4.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery (Boyd) – Still holding on to Spring Chinook smolts trying to get more growth, will likely release in a couple weeks.
- 4.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility – Ladder and presort pool are back online, the rest of the facility is still in annual maintenance, 17 total winter Steelhead for the year, all taken to River Bend and released.
- Mullan – Was a temperature reading taken at River Bend?
Boyd – Yes.
- 4.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. No update.
- 4.3. McKenzie**
- 4.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery (Loftis) – Have had only two staff on site, now have a new temporary tech. Released first group from Leaburg in mid-January, fish went out well. Planning on March 11th release for the next group. Have ponded brood year 2023. Fish look really good, and the thymine injections may have helped. (Sachs) Update from EWEB on the Cogswell Creek erosion, EWEB has removed some trees from the erosion area to prevent them from falling.
- 4.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery (Wertheimer) Setting up a meeting with contracting and real estate about the abatement pond pipe and who will be doing NEPA work. Will follow up with Couture.
- 4.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility – Walker – The facility will be opening in mid-March.
- 4.3.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – AWS and FWS pumps will be put in next week, facility will be operational by March 15th.
- 4.4. Middle Fork**
- 4.4.1.** Willamette Hatchery (Proffitt) – All fry have been ponded and are growing well. Have completed first release from Willamette being released at Pengra boat ramp.
- 4.4.2.** Dexter Fish Facility (Proffitt) – One of the pumps for the fish trap had a seal break and flooded the control room. Contractor has placed the bulkhead for the rebuild and shut the water off.
- 4.4.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Will be replacing limit switches.
Pierce – Will the electric panels in the control room be inspected?
Proffitt – The seals look to have held, when the contractor comes out, they will be testing.
- 4.4.2.2.** Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe Sachs – The pipe is leaking and is planned to be replaced.
- 4.4.3.** Fall Creek Fish Facility – Taylor – The project is operating differently under the injunction with a delayed refill. We have submitted to the court to do a different refill operation to try to open earlier. We will not be able to open on March 15th due to water levels this year.
- 4.4.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – Maintenance crew will have the facility ready to open by March 15th if water is available.
- 4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor)**

- 4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates – Mullan - Bi-annual Willamette report will be out at the end of the week and be sent to the court. Willamette Fisheries Science Review April 3rd and 4th.
- 4.7. Water Quality updates Mullan - 3/21 there will be a water quality management meeting.
- 4.8. Flow update (Taylor) – We are at or near rule curve, except where we have injunctions, Cougar, Fall Creek. If we get the water to refill will determine if we can carry out all injunction measures.
Stewart – Posting Bi-annual reports to publicly available website. Once posted will provide a link.
Green Peter spill will start in a week for downstream fish passage and will go for two months, PNNL will be conducting an active tag study during the operation. An active tag study is also planned for Lookout Point this year. Spill operations are also planned for Lookout Point and Detroit once the water level reaches the spillway crest.
- 4.9. BPA updates – No update
- 4.10. Pinniped Updates – Reis – No update. van der Leeuw – We have not seen a sea lion in the last two weeks.
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)
- 5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) – Walker - High flows have caused part of the antennas to go offline, will not be able to inspect until lower flows later in the year.
- 5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) – Sachs – Both cameras are operational as of 27 Feb.
- 5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River
- 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) – FY 24 funding available. Walker – Looking at having a contract out in summer.
- 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 2025.
6. Willamette Valley Contracts
- 6.1. Willamette Hatcheries
- 6.1.1 OY3 (March 1, 2024-February 28, 2025) Walker - Awarded
- 6.1.2 ODFW SATOC (Willamette Hatcheries, bull trout) Walker – Planning on award in June for bulltrout work. Will be able to issue task orders.
Wertheimer – We had contractual issues awarding contracts last year, this is a new strategy for getting work awarded.
- 6.1.3 Wertheimer/Sachs – 40k BY2022 Chinook transfer to RM&E from Production,
- 6.1.4 BY2023 Chinook shortfall and CWT tag purchase.
- 6.2. Trout Production (new contract) – Will be awarded FY24 for trout stocking (in 2026), will be a competitive contract.
- 6.3. Green Peter Outplanting Walker – Was awarded last week.
Mullan – Is there temperature data from previous outplanting?
Walker – Will send temp data.
Mullan – Are there samples from previously outplanted fish?
Walker – Yes, we will look at incorporating samples in coming genetic pedigree review.
- 6.4. Green Peter spawning surveys Walker – Issuing a task order and awarding by April.

Mullan – Is this for both the Middle Santiam and Quartzville Creek?

Walker – There will be surveys in Quartzville Creek similar to last year and on the Middle Santiam above Giustina resources land.

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

Ongoing:

7.1.21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (FY??)

New:

7.2.24CGR01 Outage of Units - Walker – No comments received. Thompson – Have not seen this in email. Walker – Will resend.

7.3.24FOS01 Outage of Turbine Units – Walker – Have received comments on temperature impacts. Last year's temperature at this time was 52°F, so it should not be a concern.

Taylor – The primary driver on temperature is going to be the South Santiam early in the season, later in the season Green Peter will be the main influence. Due to the injunction, we will be spilling early, before temps are too high, later we will be pulling water from deep within the reservoir. It is unlikely the temps will be too warm. At Foster, historically adult Chinook migration has been delayed due to cold temperatures. TDG's could be an issue later in the season later as the flows drop. There will also be false attraction issues, however due to the late run timing due to historically cold water, we should still be able to collect broodstock. Tompson – Have there been any issues with juvenile fish egress when the turbines are not operating?

Taylor – They are separated by a wing wall.

Pierce – We will have a weir in place for part of the time as well.

Taylor – In 2019 we had a problem collecting broodstock, and the weir has helped to collect fish. There will still be some false attraction due to spill.

Mullan – Are we using more than one spillway?

Taylor – The weir will be in gate 4 which is closest to the powerhouse, and we will open gate 3 which is closest. The weir cannot meet them minimum flow requirement if operated by itself.

Pierce – The weir will provide about 300 cfs, we will start operating it June 16th.

Taylor – Late collection has been an issue for some time and is why we are doing the Foster fish ladder improvement project. In the future we hope to be able to skim water off the surface and warm the ladder.

9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT)

9.2. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT)

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

9.4. McKenzie Water Supply Task Group/PDT – Mackey – PDT funding request included in FY26 budget. Walker – Working on trying to get funding sooner.

9.5. Willamette Basin Independent Science Review Wertheimer – We have been getting our list of questions together and will have a Task Group meeting after the March meeting.

10. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

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