

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 24 January 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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Wertheimer	Bob	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil

2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (September, October, December)

Approved.

3. Action Items –

3.1 [Jan 24] ACTION: Walker – Provide a request for needed changes to the Fish Operations Plan. Changes Due by Feb 15th. Will discuss at the March WFPOM meeting.

Garletts - Will forward for Fall Creek.

Mullan – Will change orders for injunction measures be able to be reviewed?

Walker – Yes, they can be reviewed and will be discussed at the March meeting.

4. Completed Action Items

4.1 [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 – Will look into having O'malley present.

4.2 [Oct 23] COMPLETE: 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 has been verbally agreed to with the Construction Contractor.

5. Updates

5.1. North Santiam

- 5.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery – No update, ODFW is at the annual fish production meeting.
 - 5.1.1.1. Marion Creek intake. Wertheimer – Ryan McCormick provided a report on the intake with a range of options. We will submit the FY26 execution plan in February and include at least funding for reinforcing the existing structure.
- 5.1.2. Minto Fish Facility – Pierce – Bi-weekly maintenance meetings will begin again next week.
 - 5.1.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 5.2. South Santiam
 - 5.2.1. South Santiam Hatchery – No update.
 - 5.2.2. Foster Fish Facility – Pierce – Facility will be out of service for annual maintenance from 30 Jan to mid Feb.
 - Mullan – When do steelhead start returning?
 - Sachs – The earliest steelhead in 2023 were collected in April.
 - 5.2.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – Annual maintenance period starting in January.
 - 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.
 - Walker – Working on the contracts for both outplanting and spawning survey's and expect to award soon.
 - Mullan – What is the date of the WSR?
 - Walker – Have not seen an email for it yet.
- 5.3. McKenzie
 - 5.3.1. McKenzie Hatchery – Sachs – Has any further contact or update from EWEB been given on the Cogswell Creek erosion? Sachs will contact EWEB.
 - 5.3.2. Leaburg Hatchery – Wertheimer – Setting up a meeting with contracting and real estate about the abatement pond pipe.
 - 5.3.3. Cougar Fish Facility - Helms – Preparing to open the facility on March 15th.
 - 5.3.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 5.4. Middle Fork
 - 5.4.1. Willamette Hatchery – No update.
 - Mullan – What is the status of RM&E fish for brood year 2023 given the low adult return and juvenile shortfall?
 - Sachs – Only the minimum number of fish contracted will be provided for RM&E. It will be a significant reduction in numbers, but some fish will still be available for RM&E.
 - 5.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility – Pierce – Bulkhead will be placed on Feb 6th and contractors will begin work at that time.
 - 5.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
 - 5.4.2.2. Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe – Sachs – USACE is determining if the pipe will be replaced as part of the rebuild or as a separate contract.
 - 5.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility – Garletts – Closed for the winter, planning on opening in mid-March. Hoping to have a in-ladder lamprey trap installed this season. High water this winter may help flush out wildfire debris and improve spawning conditions.
 - 5.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 5.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor)
- 5.6. WFFDWG/Research updates (Laird) – Feb 6th WFFDWG is cancelled as PDT's do not have significant updates. Research to evaluate the injunction measures on the Willamette Basin is ongoing and the RM&E team has been updated.
- 5.7. Water Quality updates – No update.

5.8. Flow update -

Stewart – Beginning refill on 1 February. Currently at 28% above rule-curve with water stored for flood risk management. The mainstem Willamette is close to bankfull and we do not expect to be able to move down to rule curve by the time we start refill.

Cataldi – The Foster nighttime Spring spill injunction measure is scheduled to start on February 1 and will go through June 15. This is the same spring spill operation that has been occurring at Foster for the last several years. An active tag study will be conducted to evaluate the nighttime spill operation, as has been in previous years.

Mullan – How was access with the ice storm?

Cataldi - We are working on establishing communications with Cougar dam. The ice storms did make it difficult to reach projects.

Thompson – Will Green Peter be where it needs to be for spring operations?

Taylor – We are a rain driven system in the Willamette, if we don't get consistent flow, we will not reach target elevations. It's still too early to know if we will meet target elevations.

NRCS has products you can use to help predict how the water year will be. We will make the first prediction around the beginning of April.

5.9. BPA updates – No update.**5.10. Pinniped Updates - Reis - No update for the Willamette. Wertheimer – There are only a couple Steller's below Bonneville at this time.****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) – The PIT antenna remains functional at this time.

Mullan – There have been readings downstream. Lebanon had hundreds of fish from both above Foster and Green Peter in December and January.

6.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) –

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 – If there is data for more than a five-year review, it would be good to include the most recent data.

Walker – Will talk to Rich Piaskowski about including the most up to date data.

Kruzic – The last discussions were about staggering the basins to get more real time information.

Walker – Will have discussions with Jon Rerecich about staggering again. There could be issues with being able to budget it.

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 – Walker – Contract OY3 will be awarded by Feb 28th and also working a SATOC, this could make it easier to issue task orders then try to mod contracts. Wertheimer – In the Willamette Contract OY3, we are not funding the 172,000 Chinook or 155,300 Summer Steelhead options.

Wertheimer/Sachs – 40k BY2022 Chinook were transferred to RM&E from Production due to escapement from Dexter. By2022 will still make production goal minimums, BY2023 Chinook have about a 30% shortfall.

7.2. Trout Production – Wertheimer – The base of 97,568 pounds of trout has been awarded. No additional funding is available at this time.

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

Ongoing:

8.1.21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (2024?)

9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT)

9.2. Green Peter Outplanting Task Group – Walker – Looking into adding the Middle Fork for 2024 surveys.

Reis – Is the Corps still trying to work with Giustina to get access.

Walker – Still working on issues related to the use of the road and will bring it to them.

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. Wertheimer – With Leaburg shut down as of June 1, fish have to move to another facility. For this year, space is available at Willamette hatchery. For 2025 it is still not known where these fish will go or if a new DEQ permit will be in place.

9.6. Willamette Basin Independent Science Review – Wertheimer – Scheduling internal meetings after annual reports are released. Will request WFPOM involvement when the proposal is available and before sending to ISAB.

10. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

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