

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

Subject: Final minutes for the 26 June 2024 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
Boyd	Chris	Chris.D.BOYD@odfw.oregon.gov
Braun	Mark	Mark.W.Braun@usace.army.mil
Buccola	Norman	Norman.L.Buccola@usace.army.mil
Cataldi	Sammy	Samantha.K.Cataldi@usace.army.mil
Couture	Ryan	Ryan.B.COUTURE@odfw.oregon.gov
Grenbemer	Greg	Greg.A.GRENBEMER@odfw.oregon.gov
Lessard	Matthew	Matthew.D.LESSARD@odfw.oregon.gov
Madson	Patricia	Patricia.L.Madson@usace.army.mil
Mullan	Anne	anne.mullan@noaa.gov
Pierce	Todd	Todd.M.Pierce@usace.army.mil
Reis	Kelly	Kelly.E.REIS@odfw.oregon.gov
Romer	Jeremy	Jeremy.D.ROMER@odfw.oregon.gov
Stewart	Jeff	Jeffrey.G.Stewart@usace.army.mil
Schwabe	Lawrence	Lawrence.schwabe@grandronde.org
Taylor	Greg	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Trachtenbarg	David	David.A.Trachtenbarg@usace.army.mil
van der Leeuw	Bjorn	Bjorn.k.vanderleeuw@usace.army.mil
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 (May)**

Approved.

**3. Action Items**

NA

**4. Updates****4.1. North Santiam**

**4.1.1.** Marion Forks Hatchery - Lessard – We are preparing for the marking trailer which will arrive soon. Ponds are being pressure washed and screened, and all high mountain lake stocking is complete. Mt. Hood Environmental has been taking fish for the screw trap efficiency trials.

**4.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility - Grenbemer – Fish collection is picking up, temps have picked up to 54 degrees so Chinook are starting to come in larger numbers. We have collected a little over 500 clipped fish and 150 un-clipped. We have collected 2,700 Summer Steelhead. We have 21 McKenzie brood Chinook on hand, they seem to be in good health.

Mullan – How many fish do we need to place NOR's above Detroit?

Grenbemer – Our plan is a 60- 40 split between fish above Detroit and Minto respectively, with a 200 fish target above Minto. The first 100 non marked fish have been placed above Minto. The weirs are now in at Marion Forks, and we will start outplanting a few NOR's above Detroit next week. We generally see 12 to 14% of the Willamette Falls NOR fish, and 70 to 72% of the Bennett counts, so we will keep tracking those. We have 5 collected for brood, 120 above Minto and 30 to 40 that will be outplanted next week above Detroit.

Couture – On the NOR integration letter ODFW sent last week, the numbers revolve around the number of fish needed to integrate into brood based on the HGMP. The outplanting above Detroit, there is no minimum numbers for outplanting above Detroit. If we hit 200 NOR's above Minto, the rest will be integrated into brood or outplanted above Detroit.

**4.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce – The tech is being scheduled to come and inspect the false weir pump. The gearbox for the crane is being shipped and will be installed with the crane motors. A screen cleaning is also being scheduled.

Grenbemer – We are also looking at having fittings for the newest air compressor as a backup. The permanently installed backup generator is now functioning and has been tested for two days.

#### 4.2. South Santiam

**4.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery - Boyd – We have received all Chinook from Willamette, there were some injury issues coming out of the marking trailer, so we have been treating the fish. RM&E fish continue to be picked up. Trout were being treated for parasites and have now all been released.

**4.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility – Boyd - 848 Chinook collected so far, 26 of those are NOR's. 2,023 Summer Steelhead collected, may be donating some of those. A total 416 Winter Steelhead collected, and all taken to the River Bend release site. We are starting to do some tagging for the Middle Santiam outplanting, we checked the gates and locks on the way to the release site yesterday. There is now a large log at the release site, we will work around it. The road will be closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July to replace culverts, we will try to have all MF Santiam fish outplanted before the road closes. As of now we are about 46% behind on Chinook Collection compared to last year. A few are starting to hold outside the ladder. We are receiving adult Chinook from Willamette hatchery; we are treating them with formalin, and they are looking good.

Mullan – Due to the turbines not operating we were thinking that the temperature issue may not happen this year until the turbine is back on in late July. Do you think the weir will need to be installed this year?

Boyd – Will be looking into taking temps. We may need the weir.

**4.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Boyd – A contractor has fixed a low spot on the release pipe at the River Bend release site. The formalin system is having issues switch between raceways.

Pierce – Nate will be scheduling a time to fix the formalin system.

#### 4.3. McKenzie

**4.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery Couture – Both facilities dewatered and ODFW is currently running the sorter at Leaburg Dam.

**4.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery

**4.3.2.1.** Abatement pond pipe. – Walker – We will complete a pipe inspection on Friday. We do have some funding to repair the pipe but it may not be enough.

- 4.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility – Pierce – Collection so far of 27 non marked Chinook and 27 Summer Steelhead, 11 of which are recaptures. 12 Bull Trout collected.
- 4.3.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. - Pierce - On Monday we will swap out one of the FWS pumps with the spare, the facility will only be down for a couple hours.
- 4.4.** Middle Fork
- 4.4.1.** Willamette Hatchery – Couture – No issues at the hatchery.
- 4.4.2.** Dexter Fish Facility – Couture – Collecting has started out slow, as of yesterday a total of 888 Chinook adults moved to Foster. Will be moving more this week, hoping to have enough before the ladder is shut down due to construction.  
Ziller – What is the window for fish collection?  
Couture – I believe it will be shut July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.4.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.
- 4.4.2.2.** Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe
- 4.4.3.** Fall Creek Fish Facility – Pierce – 155 NOR Chinook collected, 78 Winter Steelhead and 2 lamprey.
- 4.4.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – Pierce – Will be cleaning screens and installing a darker shade cloth to slow algae growth.
- 4.5.** Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor)
- 4.6.** WFFDWG/Research updates - Walker – No updates.
- 4.7.** Water Quality updates – Buccola – Working with Pierce, we have shifted to the middle tier fish horns for release. Water temp dropped to 49 – 50 degrees. We are looking at temps throughout the basin. Downstream of Dexter is a little warm be below 60 degrees. Once temps increase, we will shift flow to lower them based on the injunction. For TDG’s downstream of Foster and Dexter we are at about 110%.  
Ziller- What are your thoughts about keeping cooler water in Fall Creek to be available for later in the year?  
Buccola – This year is looking better than last for water.  
Taylor – We are infrastructure limited. If anything, we may have waited a little too long, temps last week were up to 65 degrees. We also have a 20-foot limit we must respect. We should not be anywhere near last year’s temps. We generally try to keep temps at 61 degrees and below. The other question is what is the release site temp at? As we do not want a large difference when releasing fish.  
Ziller – Do we have something to show temp distributions in the reservoir.  
Buccola – This year we have a temperature string from USGS. I will share a link.  
Mullan – For Green Peter, it looks like there isn’t spill going on, would that affect Foster ladder temps.  
Buccola – We had a few issues that prevented continuing spill from Green Peter, so we have been using turbines since mid-June. We are hoping to start spilling at Green Peter again in mid-July.  
Stewart – We will wait until Foster units come back online to stop spilling.  
Cataldi – Mid July the ERU work should be completed, and we can go back to spill at Green Peter.
- 4.8.** Flow update – Stewart - Overall in the Willamette we are at 83% full and 17% below rule curve. We don’t expect any issues meeting targets.
- 4.9.** BPA updates
- 4.10.** Pinniped Updates – Wertheimer – Currently we do not have any pinnipeds in the Bonneville tailrace. We are waiting on the Steller’s to return in July. van der Leeuw – ODFW

has posted their numbers for 2024 for removals, at Bonneville, 27 California and 17 Steller's were removed and at Willamette Falls 3 California removed.

Reis – Staff will continue to monitor at Willamette Falls but do not expect to see anything for several months.

## 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) – Couture – We have found funding and will keep counting through October. Funding after October is uncertain.

5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) – PIT antenna update – Walker – An inspection has been completed; all spillway antennas were damaged. Waiting on a estimate to get them fixed.

5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) Romer – We are close to catch up on counts.

5.6. Reducing PHOS in the McKenzie River – Romer – We have collected 24 HOR Chinook and passed 74 NOR's. We have had a total of 240 NOR Chinook and 23 HOR Chinook have passed Leaburg. 1,150 Summer Steelhead have passed the dam. We have started floy tagging Steelhead to get an idea of fall backs.

Ziller – We are hoping to run double shifts once we have an additional staff member start. A couple years ago we had a later run in July, we are hoping for the same this year, otherwise it may be a low run of Chinook.

Mullan – If I could get timing data that would be great.

Ziller – Will share graphs of timing data for the last few years.

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 – Funding is still not available at this time.

Mullan – Having staff at the lab will be difficult without confirmed funding. This is a requirement of the HGMP and Bi-Op, we are very concerned.

Walker – There is concern that funding lapses could have longer term impacts such as retainin staffing at the lab for future needs.

5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams. – Walker – This is included in the FY25 budget. Will have an update next month.

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

6.1.2 ODFW SATOC (Willamette Hatcheries, bull trout PO) – Walker – We are delayed on getting a SATOC in place. Will be using existing contracts until it is in place.

Reis – Last minute contracts create issues with staffing.

Walker – Unfortunately we tend to award contracts at the last minute, it is stressful for us as well.

Couture – For Cole Rivers, will the next option year be used instead of the SATOC?

Walker – Yes, because of the delay, we will be using the option year.

6.1.4 BY2023 Chinook shortfall and CWT tag purchase, otolith removal from contract?

Walker – We are working on a Mod for the shortfall and providing funding for the CWT's. We ae waiting on a response from NMFS that we can remove otolith marking from the contract.

- 6.2.** Trout Production (new contract) – Award FY24 for trout stocking (2026) Walker – We are working on an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) for trout stocking in 2026, we are working on getting on full funding.  
Wertheimer – If screw traps below release locations, we try to avoid catching trout. We have worked with ODFW to mod the release schedule to avoid issues between the RM&E and production contracts.  
Trachtenbarg – On the North Santiam at Coopers Ridge, the screw trap is immediately below the trout release site.  
Wertheimer – We want to have maximum value from both contracts.
- 6.3.** Green Peter spawning surveys – Walker – The task order has been awarded.

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

NA

**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 – This PDT will need to expand due to the Leaburg Dam being removed.  
**9.5.** Willamette Basin Independent Science Review – Wertheimer – We are holding for NMFS to provide feedback.  
Reis – We will be providing feedback as well.

**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 – I have received feedback on the changes. We will have further discussion on the incorporation of language into the plan.