

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

Subject: Final minutes for the 27 March 2024 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

**1. Introductions and agenda updates**

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**2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (February)**

Approved.

**2. Action Items**

NA

**3. Updates****3.1. North Santiam**

- 3.1.1.** Marion Forks Hatchery (Lessard) – We have ponded the North Santiam brood year 2023 spring Chinook fingerlings, the mortality rate has been very low. The last of the BY 2022 fish for RM&E have been transferred for downstream passage projects. The knife gate valves replacement from the raceways is nearly complete.
- 3.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility (Couture) – All yearling spring Chinook have been released. Summer steelhead smolts are now on site. A total of 42 NOR winter steelhead collected last week for a total of 67 this season. All have StW have been passed above Minto.

**3.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Couture – Grenbemer is working on getting the compressor replaced.

### **3.2. South Santiam**

**3.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery (Boyd) – All spring Chinook smolts have been released in a volitional release. They were able to reach a good size of about 10 fish per pound which was larger than expected after the turbid water this summer as well as the temperature and sediment issues from the Green Peter draw down. Fish for RM&E will be delivered through April.

**3.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility (Boyd) – We have collected 63 NOR winter steelhead for a total of 130 this season, all released at River Bend.

**3.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Boyd – The short term crowder is having the bearings replaced. Borden – The AWS pumps have all had their oil changed. There is a main hoist inspection scheduled for May 2024.

Couture – Is there any update on the Foster Ladder project?

Budai – The team is now in the process to award a contract to put plans and specs together and then award a contract for construction, award date for the build contract likely at the end of 2026 or early 2027.

### **3.3. McKenzie**

**3.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery (Loftis) – One final release of brood year 2022 the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>. Brood year 2023 juveniles are doing well. We have caught up on maintenance issues.

Sachs – No update from EWEB on the Cogswell Creek erosion yet.

**3.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery - Wertheimer - Setting up a meeting with contracting and real estate about the abatement pond pipe. NEPA work will be conducted by USACE and following NEPA, a contract will be created for the repair.

**3.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility - Borden – The Facility was open on March 14<sup>th</sup>; no fish detected yet. Garletts – Bull trout have been detected in the powerhouse outflow PIT array. We are trying to collect them in the trap.

Mullan – Is that from tags in the powerhouse area? Is the collection from fish going up the ladder?

Garletts – Yes, if flow conditions allow, we will collect them in the trap and move them upstream, there is not further efforts to collect them other than the trap.

**3.3.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Borden – The air compressor, which was faulty, is functional at this time; the backup remains on site.

### **3.4. Middle Fork**

**3.4.1.** Willamette Hatchery - Proffitt – All fry are ponded and growing well with the warmer winter. We have released the second group at the Pengra boat ramp, next week will be the final release of 500k fish at the same location.

**3.4.2.** Dexter Fish Facility

**3.4.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Proffitt – The construction crew hit an unknown power line but have repaired it. There is a crew that will be working on the limit switches on the fish tower to fix them prior to the start of the adult collection season. Garletts – Next week we will be doing an ROV inspection in the forebay to help guide construction.

**3.4.2.2.** Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe – No update.

**3.4.3.** Fall Creek Fish Facility Garletts – Planning to open on Monday, hoping to catch some winter steelhead and move upstream.

- 3.4.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Borden – Will be a project crane on site tomorrow and electrical crews have been working on the crowder.
- 3.5.** Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) Hills Creek Bull Trout collection – Allen – Is there an ongoing effort to collect bull trout below Hills Creek? Taylor – There was an attempt to collect but no fish were captured. There may be another attempt. Ziller – We will likely try again, as there are at least 5 tagged Bull Trout we’ve detected.
- 3.6.** WFFDWG/Research updates - Walker - Willamette Science Review will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Agenda will be sent soon.
- 3.7.** Water Quality updates (Stewart) – We are installing TDG monitoring equipment below Big Cliff as part of the Big Cliff TDG abatement project.
- 3.8.** Flow update (Stewart) – The Willamette is 52% full, most projects are filling along rule curve, Fall Creek is now refilling, Detroit will begin nighttime spill, the flow management meeting is in the beginning of April.
- 3.9.** BPA updates (Mackey) – No update
- 3.10.** Pinniped Updates Wertheimer – 40 Spring Chinook have crossed Bonneville, over 20 Stellers have followed them and are in the tailrace, we have started our predation monitoring. Early run fish can have significant impacts on them.  
Mullan – The lethal take permit at Willamette Falls has one or two more years before to be renewed. The MMPA report found no predation in the last year.  
Wertheimer – Is there a report to review?  
Mullan – I will look for a report/documents to send. In 2023 they found a low .09% on winter steelhead and 1.9% on spring Chinook.
- 4.** HGMP BiOp T&Cs
- 4.1.** Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.
- 4.2.** Use of natural origin broodstock.
- 4.3.** Bennett Counts (ODFW) No update.
- 4.4.** Lebanon Counts (USACE) – Walker – There was some damage to the middle and south spillway antenna due to high flows.  
Mullan – Likely not able to get in until May when there are low flows. We should think about scheduling then.  
Walker – Will follow up and keep this on the agenda.
- 4.5.** Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) Sachs – Both cameras functional, looking at going to motion only recording, the same as the old system used to increase storage space.
- 4.6.** Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River (Ziller) – We are in the process of hiring crew for the Leaburg Sorter. EWEB is helping to fund an NRS1 to work around Leaburg, they will be able to help out with the sorter.
- 4.7.** Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery
- 4.8.** Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW)
- 4.9.** Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers. (ODFW)
- 4.10.** Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after) – FY 24 funding available. Walker – Working on economy act order to fund OSU to do the work.  
Tompson – Has there been progress on building consistency for the lab to process samples.  
Walker – The current Bi-Op states that we will process samples every 5 years. Due to the need to request funding and to justify it. It may require a change to the HGMP.  
Kruzic – We have some language in the Bi-Op and HGMP, we have had discussions in the past and are open to having annual funding to keep the lab open and rotate through the basins.

- 4.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams - Mullan – This seems like it would be part of the Bi-Op for pHOS.  
Walker – This is included in future budgets but is in out years.
- 4.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams.
- 4.13. Willamette Chinook Salmon Database.
- 4.14. Three-year report for NMFS SFD. Report due 2025.

## 5. Willamette Valley Contracts

### 5.1. Willamette Hatcheries

- 6.1.1 OY3 (March 1, 2024-February 28, 2025) Awarded Walker – Awarded in February.
- 6.1.2 ODFW SATOC (Willamette Hatcheries, bull trout) Walker – Hoping to award by the end of May. Will be used for Willamette Hatcheries and bull trout in the future.  
Allen – What is the time frame?  
Walker – It will be a 5-year contract, with awardable task orders for various time periods.
- 6.1.3 Wertheimer/Sachs – 40k BY2022 Chinook transfer to RM&E from Production.
- 6.1.4 BY2023 Chinook shortfall and CWT tag purchase. Walker – We will be doing a Mod to the contract for funding for CWT's.
- 5.2. Trout Production (new contract) – Will be award in FY24 for trout stocking (2026) Walker – Awarding a new open contract.  
Couture – Will it be a multi-year contract and when will it be awarded?  
Walker – It has not been determined yet. Hoping to award in August.
- 5.3. Green Peter Outplanting – Walker - Contract awarded, also renewing Guistina agreement for access.
- 5.4. Green Peter spawning surveys - Walker – Adding the Middle Santiam above private land.  
Mullan – Is there timing for the outplanting put into the contract?  
Walker – The contract is flexible for timing. The contract for surveys should be awarded April.  
Couture – We are looking at the first week after Labor Day for Quartzville outplanting due to lower public usage.

## 6. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

### Ongoing:

- 6.1.21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (FY??)

### New:

## 9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

- 9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) Walker – No update.
- 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 – We may be getting some traction in finding future funding.
- 9.5. Willamette Basin Independent Science Review - Wertheimer – We will be sending an example of the letter and questions to a task group in order to alien on the letter and questions.

## 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/)