

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 22 May 2024 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

1. Introductions and agenda updates

2. Last Name	First Name	Email
Borden	Jessica	Jessica.K.Borden@usace.army.mil
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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 (April)

Approved.

3. Action Items

NA

4. Updates**4.1. North Santiam**

- 4.1.1.** Marion Forks Hatchery (Lessard) – 2023 brood year Spring Chinook are all ponded to the outside ponds. They do have Cold Water Disease and we have started treatment with medicated food on 21 May. Mortality was higher but has normalized. The CWD was in the brain which takes more time for medication to take effect, the fish may have fought it off themselves to a certain extent. With 20 ponds running, no spill is going over the Marion Creek dam intake, due to the issues and needed repairs to the Marion Creek intake dam/structure. Horn Creek may have to run in the summer, it has colder water and would slow growth.

- 4.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility (Grenbemer) – 472 winters passed above Minto and 456 summers have returned so far, the water is still 46 degrees, so it's a very good return for this time of year.
- 4.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Taylor – Bottom line at Minto is that we have a budget issue that is making maintenance difficult. We are working to resolve it. Funding is available to pay for the power bill and fund having the EDG replaced, but we do not have much in discretionary dollars. If there is an emergency situation, we will address it. It is a frustrating situation, and we are actively working on it. Wertheimer – There are contractual issues between real property and personal property. We want to make sure that we do things properly. We are following process to try to complete. Grenbemer – Without safety inspections and the backup generator, I'm not comfortable holding broodstock. Wertheimer – We are working through the issues. Couture – If budget issues rolled into FY25 please keep us updated and we will attempt to help.
- 4.2. South Santiam**
- 4.2.1.** South Santiam Hatchery - Boyd – The only fish on station are Summer Steelhead and rainbow trout. We are treating the Summer Steelhead at this time. We are working on getting ponds ready for Spring Chinook.
- 4.2.2.** Foster Fish Facility – Boyd – 411 NOR Winters taken to River Bend. 660 Summer Steelhead trapped so far and 150 Spring Chinook with 8 NOR's taken to River Bend. Mullan – Is 8 NOR high for this time of year?
Boyd – Its normal.
Pierce – Is there any issue with electric reliability?
Boyd – No major issues, the temporary diesel is working.
- 4.2.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Boyd – Maintenance is up to date.
- 4.3. McKenzie**
- 4.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery – Loftis – All fish have been moved to Willamette Hatchery. We are working on grounds maintenance, and we will be helping to set up the sorter and starting adult collection.
Mullan – Where are fish being placed when collected, such as in the South Fork?
Couture – The sorter is both to collect broodstock and reduce PHOS, for outplanting we have always tried to put fish above Cougar, last year's issues were due to a small run size. After collecting fish for broodstock, we will outplant.
Thompson – I believe 20 NOR fish were placed above Trail Bridge Dam last year, it should have been discussed prior.
Couture – I believe the fish were HOR.
Romer – I will look and see if they were NOR or HOR. Typically, we don't move NOR fish without checking with NOAA.
Thompson – What is the status of the McKenzie hatcheries?
Couture – Both facilities will be dewatered through October. BY23 McKenzie fish are being held at Willamette hatchery and BY24 Chinook broodstock will be held at Minto.
- 4.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery
(Wertheimer) Setting up a meeting with contracting and real estate about the abatement pond pipe. We are looking to see if we can repair the pipe with a liner.
- 4.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility - Helms – 7 Bull trout trapped and transported, and the first spring Chinook has also arrived. We will floy tag after September 1st. The majority of the fish prior to September 1st were assigned to above the dam from genetic studies.

After Sept 1st the majority of the fish were assigned to below dam. We have taken samples from all fish since 2010.

4.3.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Helms – No outstanding issues.

4.4. Middle Fork

4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery Proffitt – We have completed a treatment for hexamita and are hoping to start marking BY23 fish in a week. Will start transfers back to South Santiam in 1 or 2 weeks after marking, the SS group will be done first.

4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility – Proffitt - The trap was opened on Monday. About 100 Summer Steelhead have come into the trap and we are looking for Chinook soon. We do have some Chinook smolts in the trap. We are trying to see if there are any markings on them to figure out where they came from.

4.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. - Construction ongoing.

4.4.2.2. Dexter Fish Facility Header Pipe – No update.

4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility - Garletts – 78 Winter Steelhead and 14 NOR Spring Chinook moved above dam to date. No lamprey yet.

4.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – No update.

4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor)

4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates Walker – No update.

4.7. Water Quality updates Cataldi – USGS is sampling downstream of Green Peter looking at a range of flows, which we will be seeing during the drawdown.

The Willamette is currently 86% full which is 15% below rule curve. Cougar and Fall Creek are below normal due to the drawdown. Hills creek is augmenting Lookout Point and as such is also expected to be below normal. As we head into June, Bi-Op flows will drop and we are watching those to ensure we stay above the minimum.

Reis – Due to lessons learned, is there any new communication for partner agencies? Will they be included in the new plan.

Tackley – USGS is taking velocity measurements to ensure that during the drawdown they can safely sample over the winter. We will be adding additional sampling this year for TDGs above and sediments downstream of the projects. We are still working on a revised plan to submit to plaintiff and the judge. We will submit the plan in a couple weeks and are hoping for a ruling in July or August. Turbidity will be challenging to manage for due to sediment that has settled over time. For water temperature we are working with USGS to try to improve water temperature. We are looking at a later drawdown at a faster rate. Are there other concerns?

Reis – We are hoping to have some coordination and understanding of factors considered.

Tackley – I will have to talk internally and there are plans to discuss the drawdowns after we have a revised plan.

Mullan – Anything that we may be missing in addition to sediment would be helpful.

Couture – One affect is that we moved eggs from South Santiam to Willamette due to the turbidity which is less than ideal due to increase temperature and sediment load

- 4.8. Flow update Cataldi – Willamette is 80% full and 15% below rule curve. Cougar and Fall creek are lower due to the delayed refill. We are ensuring that we are staying within Bi-Op minimum flows.
 - 4.9. BPA updates
 - 4.10. Pinniped Updates Wertheimer – We have less than 5 Steller’s in the Bonneville tailrace. We have a request from ODFW on how to access the Willamette Falls locks for trapping next year. We are working with real estate on the access issue.
Reis – This week ODFW has removed 1 California from the falls. A river boat survey found 3 California in the Willamette River. A total of 3 California removed this year to date below Willamette Falls. No Steller’s removed this year.
Bonneville – The final scheduled week of removals has occurred. A total of 27 California and 17 Steller removed, between 4/1 and 5/17.
5. HGMP BiOp T&Cs
- 5.1. Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.
 - 5.2. Use of natural origin broodstock. Walker – No update.
 - 5.3. Bennett Counts (ODFW) – Mullan – Counts will be stopping at the end of June. Walker – It is a Hatchery BiOp requirement.
 - 5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) – PIT antenna update - Walker – There is an inspection on 23 May to access the damage to the antennas.
 - 5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) Sachs – Counts are ongoing. Seeing good numbers of Steelhead and Chinook are beginning to show up, with the first HOR having returned on 13 May.
 - 5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River – Leaburg Sorter will be installed week of 26 May.
 - 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) – Walker – Funding is no longer available; we will have to try again next year.
 - 5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams. Walker – It is in the FY25 budget. Quartzville creek and MF South Santiam are ongoing this year. Detroit and Cougar are hoped to be completed next year.
 - 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) Walker – We are coordinating with ODFW.
 - 6.1.4 BY2023 Chinook shortfall and CWT tag purchase, otolith removal from contract? Walker – Funding is available for CWTs. Working with NMFS to have language in the HGMP to allow for the removal of otolith marking.
 - 6.2. Trout Production (new contract) – Award FY24 for trout stocking (2026) Walker – Working on a new contract in place as the current contract is expiring.
 - 6.3. Green Peter spawning surveys – Contract is awarded Cramer Fish Sciences.
7. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)
NA

9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

- 9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) Tackley – Injunction operations are going well, we have focused on spring spill and are moving to downstream temperature management. Operations this year will be similar to last year.
Mullan – If the minimum follow below Foster needs to be changed to check the Lebanon PIT array, we would be supportive.
- 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 are working on both the near- and long-term options. We are hoping to have a PM assigned to the issue. I will be briefing our management again on the issue.
Mullan – What is the timeline for the decommissioning?
Walker – Will send the timeline EWEB provided.
- 9.5. Willamette Basin Independent Science Review – Wertheimer – We have sent out a draft of the request letter. We will have a meeting to discuss revisions.
Reis – What is the timeline?
Wertheimer – We can convene after the June WFPOM meeting.

10. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

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