

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 16 April 2014 Willamette HMT meeting. The meeting was held at USACE, Portland District

The meeting was a teleconference. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Chane	Ian	NWP- PM-PM	Ian.b.chane@usace.army.mil
Boyd	Brett	South Santiam	Brett.h.boyd@state.or.us
Garletts	Doug	NWP-WVP	
Graham Hudson	Bernadette	ODFW	Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	
Helms	Chad	NWP-WVP	
Kremers	Kurt	ODFW- McKenzie	Kurt.kremers@state.or.us
Kruzic	Lance	NOAA	
Leonhardt	Dave	NWP-PM-E	David.s.leonhardt@usace.army.mil
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Taylor	Greg	NWP-WVP	
Thorpe	John	ODFW	
Walker	Chris	NWP- OD-TF	
Wertheimer	Bob	NWP-PM-E	

Boyd, Garletts, Grenbemer, Graham-Hudson, Helms, Kremers, Kruzic, Sharpe, Thorpe called in.

1. Finalized results from this meeting.

- 1.1. March minutes approved with edits from Sharpe.
- 1.2. Cougar Collection will continue as per the agreement.
- 1.3. McKenzie Outplanting Plan agreed on.

2. The following documents were provided or discussed. All documents may be found at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette%20HMT/>

3. Action Items

- 3.1. [Feb 14] Wild steelhead brood surrogates. **ACTION:** The RM&E team will discuss wild steelhead brood on 27 February. The discussion will be about taking brood from Minto or Foster. **STATUS: discussion still needed.**
- 3.2. [Feb 14] Willamette/Dexter. **ACTION:** Revisit scale of out-planting by examining different levels and different return rates and how those numbers affect the power analysis. **STATUS: no update yet.**
- 3.3. [Mar 14] Research spreadsheet. **ACTION:** Sharpe will list equipment needed at traps, what we have on-hand, and what is needed. **STATUS: Sharpe spoke to hatchery managers and inventoried equipment. He noted a few items ODFW would like. Walker requested he insert that information into the spreadsheet and send it back. Wertheimer asked if the facility will be ready for testing. Sharpe said they will test and be ready.**
- 3.4. [Mar 14] Cougar collection. **ACTION:** HMT will look further into keeping just the females in September or collecting some males as well. **STATUS: Sharpe asked Kruzic what should be collected at McKenzie and out-planted at Cougar. Kruzic said planning for 2-300 females was a**

low-ball estimate. Sharpe said he felt ODFW could get by with females. Taylor said WVP will work the agreement getting the 600 fish with a mix of males and females. Leonhardt asked if the discussion at the last meeting was a result of Kremers concerns about a lack of fish. Kruzic said the run was a bit light last year and there was some concern as September approached but the fish did arrive.

- 3.5. [Apr 14] Horn Creek weir/outplanting. **ACTION:** Sharpe will get a plan on paper and send to the HMT.
- 3.6. [Apr 14] Adult release site commissioning. **ACTION:** Hatchery managers will send availability to Leonhardt. Leonhardt will send the schedule to all of HMT
- 3.7. [Apr 14] **Steelhead Workgroup.** **ACTION:** Wertheimer will contact Marx and schedule a date with HMT.

4. Hatchery Updates.

Trap adult numbers	Winter STHD	Summer STHD	Rainbow	Whitefish
Minto	62	2	40	3
Bennett	492	22	40	3
South Santiam	126	20	0	1

- 4.1. **Minto.** Grenbemer reported the rainbow trout are passed upstream. Two groups of summer steelhead will be released in early May. The small volitional pipe works better than the larger pipe and seems to be working well.
- 4.2. **Marion Forks.** All smolts have been released. Colder water and a couple weeks behind on feeding. Low mortality. 2013 was the first year no Chinook weir was installed; also first year hatchery had clinical BKD. The weir will be installed in future years. For 2014 looking at mid-May, after the flows drop down, the weir will be installed across Marion Creek.
- 4.3. **South Santiam.** Boyd reported the new facility became operational on 1 April. It has been operated twice a week. Winters trucked upstream. Summers held until there are enough to recycle downstream. A couple of smolts were collected. The trap appears to be working well. Taylor asked if the post sort has been used. Boyd said the winters are hand loaded and the summers are going into the post sort. Fish are jumping at the backside of the pre-sort crowder and getting injured on some bolts. Boyd has taken steps to eliminate the injuries. Halfway through the juvenile summer steelhead volitional release. Flows are dropping and it appears smolts are getting caught up in the river rather than getting flushed out. Summer steelhead fry have been ponded. The summer steelhead smolts included triploids. Kruzic asked if the radio-tag issues were sorted out and the study is good for this year. Leonhardt confirmed that the study is going forward. Kruzic asked about fish using the ladder. Boyd said he has seen a few jumping from the pre-sort pool into the ladder. Water clarity isn't very good, but there is a lot of attraction water. Leonhardt asked if fish have been seen in the transport channel. Boyd said the water just isn't clear enough to see well. Leonhardt asked about pulsing flows to flush the smolts out of the system. Boyd agreed the flushing would be helpful. He said the river is lower than average.
 - 4.3.1. Sharpe asked if a priority for the ladder has been settled upon. Wertheimer suggested a meeting to coordinate the installation. **ACTION: Wertheimer will follow up.**
- 4.4. **Willamette Hatchery.** Thorpe said there are no issues at the facility. Wertheimer wanted to make sure everything was ready for the week of 19 May. Taylor said there is one pond of fish left to release in early May.
- 4.5. **McKenzie.** Kremers reported that there has been a lot of maintenance, getting everything ready for water up. Released last smolts. These had some cold water disease issues. They were

transported to the Tongue Point net pens. They are doing well. The concrete pad for the emergency generator has cured and the generator will be placed in the next few weeks.

5. Fish Health. Thorpe said there were a few issues with fish that had to be held before being released but no major issues. Everything is on schedule.

6. Fish Disposition/Outplanting Plan. Walker and Leonhardt said it looks similar to 2013.

6.1. Breitenbush outplanting. Sharpe talked through the plan of holding a portion of the fish going to the Breitenbush. These fish would be outplanted late in September. There would be fish outplanted during the normal outplanting timeframe as well. ODFW will look for increases in redd construction in the Breitenbush and North Santiam and if those redds are associated with the later outplants. Only 2 redds were found in the Breitenbush in 2013, but more are expected in 2014 since fish will be outplanted directly in the river. Wertheimer talked about a concept paper looking at increasing production in the tribs. This paper would include weir construction, egg boxes, etc. Sharpe suggested it is possible to increase fry production in the North Santiam if we can get fish to spawn when they have more room. He said it might be possible to install a small weir to redirect some fish away from Horn Creek and somewhere else near the hatchery facility. Kruzic asked if it would be worthwhile to take similar action as that on the Breitenbush; hold fish until later and then directly outplant to the area we want fish. There are concerns about having enough holding tanks for fish being held and outplanted later. Sharpe said there were many fish that spawned at Cooper's Ridge last year. These fish were on their way to the hatchery but decided to spawn lower. Leonhardt asked how ODFW would know when enough fish had entered Horn Creek. There was discussion about putting the weir across Horn Creek [CSS1]. **ACTION: Sharpe will get a plan on paper and send to the HMT for review.**

6.2. Kruzic said not having the pedigree analysis continues to hamstring the outplanting program. Chane said the samples are getting collected and the analysis will be funded next year. Sharpe asked what "next year" means to Chane. Chane clarified that funding would be provided in FY15, which begins in October 2014 for NWP. Leonhardt added that he thought the finalization of the North Santiam HGMP was part of what was holding up the process as well. Kruzic said the genetic analysis is what is currently holding up the outplanting in the North Santiam. Without that analysis, we do not know where those fish come from. We have to know the genetics so we know if the outplanting is successful. Chane asked if there are going to be any issues with unassignment with past Chinook stocking in the reservoir. [Sharpe [CSS2]] said fin-clipped fish wouldn't be sampled. Leonhardt asked when HMT anticipates putting unmarked fish above Detroit. Chane said when the genetic analysis is complete. Leonhardt pointed out that everyone agreed to an HGMP that has a split basinbasin approach and right now we are not doing that. Kruzic said NOAA isn't comfortable proceeding with the outplanting until the genetic data is available. The genetic samples will give us a better idea of the ratio of fish produced up and downstream. He said that is one of the highest priority actions NOAA has for the North Santiam. Taylor said the analysis will help but you won't know which fish you are moving unless we are doing sampling in the real time, which we won't be doing. Kruzic said the idea is to get a general idea of what the proportion throughout the run is getting passed upstream. The genetics will determine if a fish is produced above or below Detroit. Chane asked if there will be a limit on the number of wild fish put above Minto. There may be concerns about carrying capacity of the reach. Sharpe said there will be a habitat survey this year [CSS3]. It was noted that many fish back down below Minto. Taylor said there is a good chance fish will spawn on top of each other too. Graham Hudson asked if Chinook and winter steelhead tagging is going to occur this year. Sharpe said yes for Chinook.

6.3. South Santiam outplanting. Leonhardt asked if there is anything that needs to be discussed today. It is a similar plan as in the past couple of years. Boyd commented that the steelhead

recycling may be structured a little different but should arrive at the same number as were recycled in 2013. The modification would use the data last year, as far as percentages that come back to the trap, the percentages from creels, figuring a mortality rate that would have occurred for those trapped and angled fish, coming up with a hard number and recycle a certain number of fish each month so the recycling is more of a bell curve to follow the angling season. Recycling would use all new fish in robust years and previously recycled fish in leaner years. Leonhardt asked if there was a way to track stray rate with the new methodology. Boyd said they would use the existing tracking plan for strays. Wertheimer asked if the creel data is going to be shared along with the new recycling methodology. Boyd said they are working on it. Leonhardt asked if creel surveys were going to be continued, just to get an idea of how many summer steelhead are caught. Boyd said yes, there is enough money for one checker. That person will focus on the recycling effort. This will give a better idea of how many recycled fish are being caught. Leonhardt asked about using volunteers. ODFW isn't doing that.

6.4. McKenzie outplanting. Leonhardt asked if the plan is for zero integration. Kruzic asked if the plan from 2013 worked alright. Taylor said yes and reminded everyone of what happened: fish were taken after 1 September, floy tagged, and released at Forest Glen. Fish that showed back up at the dam were moved upstream of Cougar. Genetics didn't align perfectly or not the way we hoped but fish that stayed below the dam didn't get transported. Taylor said at that time of year fish have to be handled very carefully. Sharpe said ODFW recovered floy tagged fish downstream, in the mainstem, that had spawned. Garletts reported that in 2013 71 were taken to Forest Glen, 15 returned to the Cougar trap, and two were morts. One went to McKenzie Hatchery. Taylor felt it was a good operation. **HMT finalized the same plan for 2014.**

6.4.1. Kruzic asked about the late season removal at Leaburg. Sharpe said about 60 fin clipped fish are removed from Leaburg and taken to the hatchery. Kruzic asked if that was during the last month or so of the run. Sharpe said yes. He added that for 2014 they are still looking for funding for the intern that conducts that work.

6.5. Middle Fork Willamette. Leonhardt asked if a tribal allocation has been determined for 2014. Thorpe said it is a law, not something ODFW decides. Leonhardt said it's a law but the language says "as available". Thorpe said that language might only apply when numbers are so low it would affect broodstock. Thorpe said D. Peck has some concern about fish being put upstream simply for stream enrichment. Taylor said that has been Peck's concern for years, but fish are going to go above Hills Creek dam. If ODFW wants downstream passage, then fish need to go above Hills Creek. Taylor said if the numbers are causing concern, Jeff Ziller would be the appropriate person to talk to. Thorpe suggested the concern may be that it is difficult to get trucks for the numbers of fish.

6.6. Leonhardt noted that two new facilities are coming on-line. There is a mandate to have the facilities open while fish are in the river. He asked ODFW if the facilities have been operated to NOAA criteria, meaning fish are getting moved and not held. ODFW confirmed the Minto and Foster trap fish ladders have been open every day but the fish haven't been trucked every day. There was discussion about the expense of anesthetic and personnel required to work through fish. Boyd said he will try to adjust the hatchery schedule to accommodate getting to the Foster trap more often. NWP acknowledged the challenges with moving fish throughout the season.

7. Adult Release Sites. The only site not on schedule is Gold Creek. Leonhardt noted that these sites are supposed to be ready and commissioned in May. Leonhardt said there needs to be discussion and coordination with ODFW, NWP, and the contractor. Leonhardt asked if the commissioning exercise will include moving water or fish and water.

7.1. Villa Maria has caused some concern for NWP. Leonhardt said he has heard the pipe has been placed in a relatively shallow area. Grenbemer said the site was originally seen as a good spot because it's behind a locked gate on Forest Service land, however, there is a logjam in the river

and there is only about 5 inches of water where the pipe releases the fish as well as a steep incline. Taylor said it was a decent release site when he saw it in July 2013. Leonhardt said there are owner's manuals coming. He added that the pipes are also supposed to be extendable.

7.2. Homestead site is currently a high gradient riffle. Taylor noted that the upper sites are challenging, especially with the changing habitat conditions. **ACTION: Hatchery managers will send availability to Leonhardt. Leonhardt will send the schedule to all of HMT.** Sharpe suggested the commissioning schedule could be delayed until June, when more fish are available. Leonhardt said the idea is to have the commissioning occur prior to needing to move large numbers of fish. These sites were designed to meet NOAA velocity criteria.

8. **Steelhead Workgroup.** Kruzic said Steve Marx had been the contact so it would be good to check with him to see what the plan is. Leonhardt and Wertheimer said there isn't a plan. There is data available, HMT just needs to meet to discuss the data, find the gaps, and develop a path forward. **ACTION: Wertheimer will contact Marx and schedule a date with HMT.** Wertheimer questioned the appropriateness of having the Steelhead workgroup under HMT. He feels it is a conflict of interest and while the HMT does hatchery management well, it may not be best for steelhead management. Chane noted that if HMT cannot get the workgroup going, then NWP will coordinate directly with NOAA. Chane asked if Wertheimer is suggesting the Steelhead Workgroup should be its own group, equal with HMT rather than under HMT. Chane asked Kruzic what the original intent was for the steelhead workgroup. The RPA mentions stakeholders. Kruzic said the intent was to have the agencies agree on a plan before going to the larger stakeholders group. Kruzic suggested ODFW will want to see the results of their second year of the genetics study they funded in 2013. Chane asked if there has been any discussion about triggers or what the results might mean. Kruzic said he sees it as more data to consider when making decisions. Kruzic said he would like to know what is out of compliance. Chane suggested it may be a different world now than when the BiOp was developed. He said there is new information and it should be considered. Kruzic said the Steelhead Workgroup is supposed to be comprised of the agencies working on the BiOp in the Willamette. Chane said he felt it is good to get the stakeholder input since it is public money funding these programs.

9. Kruzic^[CSS4] said he remembers flashy flows in 2013 and the difficulty in getting hatchery fish. He advocated for more even flows in 2014. Walker said some flow anomalies in 2013 may have been due to atypical operation. Taylor said after mid-May the pools are full so the dams are more run of the river and the flows are more a result of Mother Nature. Kruzic said he would like ladder temperatures to be a key consideration in the future, not just flows. Taylor said the Rogue is operated for temperatures this time of year but that same approach has not been taken in the Willamette. If we did take that approach, we will have a significant impact on fisheries since a lot of water would be pushed out.

10. **Next meeting will be 21 May in Salem.**