

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 17 December 2014 Willamette HMT meeting.

The meeting was held at ODFW Headquarters, Steelhead Room. Salem Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Hudson-Graham	Bernadette	ODFW	
Kremers	Kurt	McKenzie	<a href="mailto:Kurt.kremers@state.or.us">Kurt.kremers@state.or.us</a>
Kruzic	Lance	NOAA Fisheries	<a href="mailto:Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov">Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov</a>
Leonhardt	David	NWP-PM-E	<a href="mailto:David.S.Leonhardt@usace.army.mil">David.S.Leonhardt@usace.army.mil</a>
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-OD-TF	<a href="mailto:Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil">Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil</a>
Morrill	Charles	WDFW	
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	<a href="mailto:cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu">cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu</a>
Schwabe	Lawrence	Grande Ronde	
Thorpe	John	ODFW	<a href="mailto:john.thorpe@state.or.us">john.thorpe@state.or.us</a>
Traylor	Andy	NWP-OD-TF	<a href="mailto:Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil">Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil</a>
Walker	Chris	NWP-OD-TF	<a href="mailto:Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil">Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil</a>

Kremers, Kruzic, Leonhardt, Schwabe called in.

### 1. Finalized results from this meeting.

1.1. October minutes approved with changes. Leonhardt would like to follow up with Kruzic about the comments provided to the October meeting minutes.

2. The following documents were provided or discussed. All documents may be found at [www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Willamette\\_HMT.html](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette_HMT.html)

2.1. 141217 HMT agenda.

2.2. 141023 HMT draft meeting minutes.

### 3. Action Items.

3.1. [May 14] **Steelhead Workgroup.** **ACTION:** Corps will contact Marx and schedule this to occur at or after the next HMT to look at available data and put together a plan for this workgroup. The Corps will need to do this regardless while developing the summer steelhead HGMP. **STATUS:** *University of Idaho is still working up the genetic data for this work group. Leonhardt has asked Chuck Peven for the summer steelhead HGMP but has not yet received it. The 2004 HGMP was comprehensive to the Willamette Basin, the new version will as well.*

3.2. [May 14] **TDG issue below Big Cliff.** **ACTION:** Greg Grenbemer will follow up with Lance Kruzic and Elise Kelley for concurrence or their recommendations for fish disposition while TDG is high. **STATUS:** *Walker noted that this is an ongoing issue. Sharpe said he was contacted by a NWP contractor who wanted to install TDG monitors. Sharpe gave him redd data and put him in contact with Elise (ODFW).*

- 3.3. [Jul 14] Adult release sites. Homestead site. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will include Kremers on the meeting invite to further discuss this site.
- 3.4. [Jul 14] Steelhead Work group. **ACTION:** HMT will form a steelhead work group. **STATUS:** *pending until a draft HGMP is available for review.*
- 3.5. [Oct 14] Summer Steelhead. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will put BPA in contact with Johnson to discuss the summer steelhead HMGP.
- 3.6. [Oct 14] Hatchery reports for fish disposition. **ACTION:** HMT will further refine their data needs and present those to ODFW Hatchery Managers. The goal is to develop a standardized reporting form for all of the hatcheries.
- 3.7. [Oct 14] Adult out-planting release sites. **ACTION:** Leonhardt and Walker will schedule a time to discuss the release sites with ODFW and WVP.
- 3.8. [Dec 14] South Santiam main water intake valves. **ACTION:** Thorpe will send Walker a cost estimate for replacing the valves.
- 3.9. [Dec 14] South Santiam sampling and PIT tagging. Between now and February, Boyd's crew will take care of the sampling but if larger numbers of fish show up there needs to be a dedicated crew. This should have been discussed at the RM&E meeting on 16 December. **ACTION:** Leonhardt said he would look into it.
- 3.10. [Dec 14] Cougar Trap count sheet. **ACTION:** Traylor will send that count sheet to HMT.
- 3.11. [Dec 14] McKenzie surplus fish. **ACTION:** ODFW and NWP will develop technical recommendations for what to do with surplus fish and share those ideas with the goal of discussing and agreeing to a plan on 21 January.
- 3.12. [Dec 14] Monthly reporting. **ACTION:** Sharpe and Traylor will look at the proposed database information and see if it meets NWP's needs.
- 3.13. [Dec 14] Adult disposition plans. Kruzic asked for data to help guide the discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION:** Sharpe has that information and will send it to HMT. He will also check on the pedigree analysis for 2014.
- 3.14. [Dec 14] Adult Release Sites. Leonhardt would like to convene a small group to figure out how to make the sites usable. **ACTION:** Leonhardt and Walker will work on getting a meeting set up in early 2015. Walker said he would like to see if there is agreement on which sites are usable and which aren't.

#### 4. Updates.

- 4.1. **Marion Forks/Minto** (Grenbemer) Thorpe reported Minto is about finished trapping coho. There was a high gas issue a few weeks ago but it is back to normal. Marion Forks moved fish down to Minto.
  - 4.1.1. Sharpe reported that the wild broodstock steelhead have been delivered for rearing; release is expected next year.
- 4.2. **South Santiam/Foster** (Boyd) Thorpe reported that adult collection is complete. HEC training has been completed for Foster. One issue is the main water intake at South Santiam. The valves need replaced. When opened they clog the inline filter. This is an issue due to the increase in early rearing. **ACTION:** Thorpe will send Walker a cost estimate for replacing the valves.
  - 4.2.1. Sharpe reported the first winter steelhead arrived on 16 December. Fin clip and PIT tag insertion will occur. Between now and February, Boyd's crew will take care of the sampling but if larger numbers of fish show up there needs to be a dedicated crew. This should have been discussed at the RM&E meeting on 16 December. **ACTION:** Leonhardt said he would look into it. South Santiam started their marking program this year. Quality Control checks will occur on fry later.
- 4.3. **McKenzie** (Kremers) Kremers reported the fish health is doing well. There were some issues in the last couple of months. Fish growth was slowed and that resulted in some infections but that has been resolved. Furunculosis is present now. There is a leak in the Leaburg canal wall which

required the canal water level to be lowered. This action dropped the flow to a problematic level for McKenzie; head pressure dropped. The powerhouse personnel are aware of the issues and will work with the hatchery as they pursue the leak. The back-up generator was tested last week when the power went out. It worked very well. Leonhardt asked about the ladder modifications made earlier in the year. Kremers said the fix appears to work. The number of fish increased in 2014 but data will need to be collected for another couple of years. Kremers mentioned mixing Cogswell creek with the rest of the hatchery water. He felt that would be a good thing. Walker reported that it is in the Federal FY15 work plan so hopefully it should be completed by the end of September 2015. Kruzic said these actions are in the HGMP and will need to be discussed more before any further modifications are made. Kremers didn't think the modifications would require a lot more money. Thorpe said about \$30K has been spent by ODFW on the Cogswell Creek mixing. ODFW would like to see the rest of the funds prior to 1 July 2015. Walker said that is the plan.

**4.3.1.** Sharpe reported there was a big jump in adult collections once the ladder had been modified on 5 August. 17 unclipped fish were collected prior to 5 August, with a total of 60 unclipped fish. Kruzic asked what magnitude of increase in fish numbers have been or will be now. Sharpe said he isn't willing to make a solid guess until he sees what happens in 2015. From his perspective, the ladder looks a lot better. Kremers said in 2013 70 fish were collected in August and 400 were collected in August in 2014.

**4.4. Willamette/Dexter** (Peck) Thorpe reported that eggs are incubating faster and are about a month early. Ponding is occurring ahead of schedule. Leonhardt asked if the fish would be smolting and released earlier. Thorpe said probably not; feed may be cut back to keep them on the normal release schedule.

**4.5. Leaburg** (Withalm) No updates.

**4.6. Cougar Trap** (Taylor) Traylor reported that the trapping is complete and a final count sheet has been compiled. **ACTION: Traylor will send that count sheet to HMT.**

**4.7. Fish Health.** Thorpe said fish health is normal at all facilities. There were about six mortalities found at Marion Forks that have been a mystery. The morts have pyloric caeca hanging out

**4.8. Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg** (Sharpe/Friesen)

**5. HGMP Update.** Leonhardt said the McKenzie HGMP has been submitted and the other three are still being worked on internally, before sending to NOAA. With the holidays, there will be a lag in getting these completed but the goal is to get them to NOAA as soon as possible so they can start their review. Kruzic added that the McKenzie is close to approval. Kruzic said NOAA will publish all four HGMPs as a package so they need the other three before going to public comment.

**6. Surplus Juveniles at McKenzie Hatchery.** Walker asked what the Plan B would be if the HGMPs cannot be finalized in time. Thorpe asked what NWP recommends happens. Walker said NWP doesn't have a recommendation but a plan should be developed within HMT and reviewed by the Agencies. Kruzic said the McKenzie HGMP will definitely, 100% positively not be approved prior to the winter releases. Leonhardt said he hasn't given one iota of thought to the extra fish. Sharpe said he has been preoccupied with other McKenzie issues. Kremers said 1 February is the typical release date. The next HMT meeting will be 21 January. Kruzic said it is unfortunate where we ended up with the settlement signed by NWP but not ODFW. He said there are limited opportunities due to stock management plans and the smolts shouldn't be killed due to their use as conservation in the McKenzie. Thorpe said euthanizing is always an option even though it may make people uncomfortable. Kremers said the judge still needs to make some decisions. Sharpe said the decision is expected at least by 21 January 2015. Sharpe said it could play out that the judge will defer to ODFW instead of the plaintiffs. Traylor clarified that NWP funded fish must stick to the settlement

number of 360,000 fish. Thorpe said all of the fish are NWP funded fish so regardless of the judge decision, NWP is bound by the settlement. Walker thought the settlement had language that said “until the HGMP is approved”. Leonhardt suggested an earlier January meeting. Sharpe recommended that we keep the normal HMT meeting; it should still provide plenty of time for discussion. **ACTION:** ODFW and NWP will develop technical recommendations for what to do with surplus fish and share those ideas with the goal of discussing and agreeing to a plan on 21 January.

- 7. Monthly Reporting (Hatchery/Traps).** Traylor provided a draft reporting form that would work for NWP. He said there is nothing in the NWP spreadsheet that isn't already in any of the other hatchery reporting forms. Thorpe said he feels the spreadsheet should be developed by NWP so ODFW knows how to present the information they collect. He would like to see the template included into the Cooperative Agreement as well. Walker said he can get it into the agreement but he wants to make sure it is in a format that is useful for people to use. Sharpe would like to see something that could be completely monthly. Traylor said he could gather the information and provide monthly updates. These updates would be sent to HMT and updated on the website. Traylor walked through the proposed spreadsheet. Hudson-Graham said the format looks a little confusing since the columns do not line up. Sharpe said he finds it easier to have a single flat file for each facility. Thorpe suggested it may be best to have the information inputted into an Access-like database rather than an Excel spreadsheet. Thorpe said ODFW is working on getting updates to collection databases. Kremers said he updates his AAT information weekly and it gets updated into the database. The AAT does not have clipped/unclipped information. Thorpe said that the new AAT will. ODFW said they are working on getting a query-able database that would include tags, clips, etc and it would be available online. The current due date is 15 June 2015 however, if the CWT database is any indication, it could be a few years out. Sharpe said that the test netbook tablets have been delivered so perhaps the database is close. Traylor asked if we could be sure enough about the database to abandon the spreadsheet. ODFW wasn't quite as enthusiastic with their answer, but they were relatively confident the database would be available in 2015. Kremers said he has been testing it and said he likes it and is easy to use. **ACTION:** Sharpe and Traylor will look at the proposed database information and see if it meets NWP's needs.

- 8. Research Concepts.** Walker asked for ideas and how research would move forward in the future. Sharpe said his work is split between CRFM funding and baseline monitoring. Baseline monitoring funding has been flat for years. These costs have increased but funding hasn't matched pace. Sharpe said he has dealt with the difference by cutting seasonal field workers but he has cut all that he can. If funding isn't increased, then the uncertainty research will not go forward. He will continue with his baseline monitoring on the McKenzie. North Santiam is promising and will continue. South Santiam has problems so the baseline monitoring is critical. The Middle Fork Willamette doesn't take much in terms of labor so there is no point in cutting that monitoring. Walker responded that funding has been flat but if there are increases in costs then that should be reflected in the budget. Sharpe said he has but gets asked to reduce his budget to the previous year's budget. Thorpe said ODFW always does that. Sharpe said he gets the direction from Leonhardt. Thorpe said ODFW got the same guidance from B. Klatt at the production meeting. Sharpe said he will submit the budget based on his personnel needs. Thorpe asked if Sharpe could present a budget that includes the previously cut personnel. Sharpe asked if CRFM funding could be tapped into. Leonhardt explained that O&M funding can't come from CRFM funding. Mackey explained that budget guidance is given from USACE HQ and the budget has to be appropriated by Congress. Sharpe said monitoring will be completed in 2016 but future years may need to be looked at more closely if funding doesn't increase. Leonhardt said if there is someone out there with uncertainty research needs, we can sometimes scrounge funds so let's not let the needs fall off the table. Sharpe said there is research, not just

monitoring, going on with the existing funding. Walker suggested this be a routine agenda item so everyone can keep this issue in mind.

- 9. Adult Fish Disposition discussion (2015).** Walker asked what will happen with fish next year. Hudson-Graham said the plan is developed starting in January/February and revised/finalize in March. She asked if disposition is expected to change from what is in the HGMPs. Walker said he would like to get lamprey on the radar as well. For 2014 lamprey were moved upstream. Hudson-Graham agreed with discussing lamprey since the 2014 disposition table says to return lamprey to the river but it doesn't say whether that is above or below. This will be on the January agenda. Kruzic asked for data to help guide the discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION: Sharpe has that information and will send it to HMT.** Kruzic wants a discussion about trapping and moving fish. NOAA has concerns about impacts to the wild Chinook. He would also like the pedigree analysis results for the South Santiam for spring Chinook when discussing the disposition plan. Sharpe said he didn't think the analysis would include 2014 from Minto. He said the next cycle would be the best data. Kruzic asked why 2014 wouldn't be included. **ACTION: Sharpe said he didn't think it was in the contract but he will check on that.**

  - 9.1.** Leonhardt asked, in the absence of pedigree information, is the plan to return all unmarked fish that return to Minto above Detroit. He felt that plan is a waste of fish. Sharpe said ODFW will be attempting to tease out how many fish spawned below Minto. He didn't feel it was terrible habitat. Walker said those fish get gassed every year and he has to report to the Services. Sharpe asked what the plans for de-gassing are. Walker said there has been talk about flip lips but wondered if that cost be worth it for 80 redds. There has been discussion about TDG monitoring occurring but HMT wasn't sure if it got funding. Walker said there is data from previous TDG studies but nothing recent is available. Impacts need to consider depth compensation so the proposed study should include that analysis. Walker said it appears the impact at Minto is minimal, based on the information from the on-site TDG monitor.
- 10. Adult Fish Release Sites.** Leonhardt said many of the sites are working well but there are two sites that are not working well. He isn't sure if evaluation or modification would be needed. He would like to convene a small group to figure out how to make the sites usable. Once this happens, the sites would move from the PDT to Operations for funding. **ACTION: Leonhardt and Walker will work on getting a meeting set up in early 2015.** Walker said he would like to see if there is agreement on which sites are usable and which aren't. Leonhardt asked if anyone had any further information about the release site on private land. Traylor reported that the resort was excited about providing a release site; they would like ODFW/NWP to remove the pipe at the end of the season though. Sharpe asked if anyone knows why Greg Taylor won't out-plant unclipped fish above Hardrock. Sharpe had concerns about pre-spawn mortality estimate bias. Walker said he would talk to Greg Taylor to get a better understanding of why. Walker asked if formal agreements are needed for the release sites. Sharpe said ODFW has agreement for the Breitenbush; the landowners won't sign anything with the federal government.
- 11. Coast Fork Fish.** Kruzic asked about the Coast Fork fish. Sharpe reported that the analysis isn't available yet. ODFW released CWT fish in McKenzie and Coast Fork. 4 year olds recovered in McKenzie will be a mixture of Coast Fork straying into the McKenzie and the McKenzie. The difference (a reduction in pHOS) is a result of the releases in the Coast Fork. There are about three years of McKenzie releases before Willamette stock is released in the Coast Fork. Kruzic said it sounds like there were some fish around but not a lot. Sharpe agreed but also said there are some unknowns, such as how old fish will be when they return and the fishing effort. Kruzic asked if the survival rate can be calculated for the Coast Fork. Sharpe said he will be able to tell the stray rate

into the McKenzie. Sharpe said he is happy to increase opportunity but his job is to reduce pHOS in the McKenzie.

**12. North Santiam fishing restrictions.** Fishing restrictions in the South Santiam may change. There are concerns about summer steelhead getting above the barrier and cross-breeding with wild winter steelhead.

**13. Next meeting.** 21 January 2015 in Salem.

**13.1.** Potential agenda items.

**13.1.1.** HGMP updates

**13.1.2.** McKenzie surplus (fish in excess of the settlement agreement number) fish.

**13.1.3.** Adult Fish Disposition plans.

**13.1.4.** Adult fish release sites.

**13.1.5.** Research/baseline monitoring plan.

**13.1.6.** Reporting spreadsheet/database.

**13.1.7.** TDG monitoring at Minto.