CENWP-OD 18 November 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 18 November 2015 Willamette HMT meeting.

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last** | **First** | **Agency** | **Email** |
| Garletts | Doug | NWP-OD-V | [Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil](mailto:Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil) |
| Gibbons | Karrie | NWP-OD-TF | [Karrie.M.Gibbons@usace.army.mil](mailto:Karrie.M.Gibbons@usace.army.mil) |
| Grenbemer | Greg | ODFW-Marion Forks/Minto | [Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us](mailto:Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us) |
| Helms | Chad | NWP-OD-V | [Chad.K.Helms@usace.army.mil](mailto:Chad.K.Helms@usace.army.mil) |
|  |  |  |  |
| Kremers | Kurt | ODFW-McKenzie | [Kurt.kremers@state.or.us](mailto:Kurt.kremers@state.or.us) |
| Peck | Dan | ODFW-Willamette | [dan.peck@state.or.us](mailto:dan.peck@state.or.us) |
| Rayfield | Katie | NWP-OD-V | [Katie.c.rayfield@usace.army.mil](mailto:Katie.c.rayfield@usace.army.mil) |
| Sharpe | Cameron | ODFW | [Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu) |
| Thorpe | John | ODFW | [john.thorpe@state.or.us](mailto:john.thorpe@state.or.us) |
| Walker | Chris | NWP-OD-TF | [christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil](mailto:christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil) |
| Withalm | Erik | ODFW-Leaburg | [erik.j.withalm@state.or.us](mailto:erik.j.withalm@state.or.us) |

Grenbemer, Kremers, Peck, and Withalm called in.

Documents may be found at: http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\_Coordination/Willamette%20HMT/

1. **Decisions made at this meeting**
   1. October meeting minutes approved.
   2. **Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)**
   3. **[Oct 15]** *Sharpe will send missing fish count data to Traylor.* **Completed**.
2. **Action Items.**

**Outstanding Action Items.**

* 1. **[May 15] Willamette water management strategy based on temp/flow. *STATUS:*** *Implementing a similar plan in the Willamette would require a multi-disciplinary team. Proceed with either small WATER team or HMT members in consultation with Dan Turner/USGS. [Sep 16] Sharpe to check with Friesen for availability to lead discussions. [Walker will put together a team to address this starting in December.]* **UPDATE**: Sharpe said Walker will need to contact Friesen about putting the team together.
  2. **[Oct 15]** *Traylor will follow up with McLaughlin on when repairs to roll gate will occur.* Traylor did not brief Walker, no update.
  3. **[Oct 15]** *Grenbemer will email Darren Knap regarding weir permitting.* **UPDATE:** Grenbemer said Penny Keen will be the contact for the Forest Service. Grenbemer said Keen will need an outline of what we want or need and include any piping or concrete work. Sharpe said at Horn Creek they need a full permit for the weir and he will take the lead to get the permit. Sharpe said at Marion Creek, the best design will involve a sill or poured concrete along the bottom to attach weir panels. Grenbemer said it will likely have to go through engineering. Sharpe asked how do we begin the process. Thorpe said we need money and engineering will need to design the plan. Walker asked how much will it be. Grenbemer said it will likely be big money because you will have to divert water. Sharpe said it will need to be done in March at the Marion Creek hatchery intake. Thorpe asked Grenbemer if there are a set of plans for the log retention dam. Grenbemer said they dewatered to look at timing, but the design was not completed. Grenbemer said he will contact engineering to see if there is a set of plans that have already been completed. Sharpe proposes an aluminum stringer panel weir with narrow pickets and no sill at Horn Creek. Helms asked if Marion Creek is spring fed. Sharpe said yes as well as run-off.
  4. **[Oct 15]** *Sharpe will send missing fish count data to Traylor.* **Completed**.
  5. **[Oct 15]** *Sharpe asked Traylor to confirm if pedigree funding in the works is for 2014 and 2015 samples.* **UPDATE:** Sharpe received comment from Dave Jacobson stating COE will fund both 2014 and 2015. Sharpe said the data will need to be cleaned up and then he will send it to the geneticist. Sharpe said they should have results in about three to four months.
  6. **[Oct 15]** *Mackey will post a draft agenda for future fish operations coordination team to the website.* Sharpe said it was not detailed enough to see how it will be shaped.
  7. **[Oct 15]** *Sharpe will find the formal disposition and send it to Garletts. This should also be on the internet.* Walker said it was posted to the website, but he is unsure if it is the final version. Sharpe said it was the final version, but it changed because of flow. Sharpe said once it is complete it can be posted.

1. **Updates.**
   1. **Marion Forks/Minto** (Grenbemer).
      1. **Marion Forks.** Grenbemer said they have been busy the last couple of weeks preparing for low flows and getting ready to shut down the intake. Grenbemer said they decided to transfer the safe fish to Gnat Creek and Leaburg to lower the water needs at Marion Forks. Grenbemer said they will shut down the Marion Creek intake next week. Grenbemer said water temperature is at about 46 F.
      2. **Minto**. Grenbemer said they are dealing with high temperatures and low flow. Grenbemer said they are still seeing summer Steelhead and Coho. Grenbemer said they plan to hold the Coho for tribal broodstock. Walker asked if there are any juveniles at Minto. Grenbemer said no, but they will start bringing them down after the holiday and they are hoping temperatures will drop a couple more degrees. Grenbemer said water temperature is about 52 F.
   2. **South Santiam/Foster** (Boyd). Thorpe does not have an update.
      1. **Foster.** Thorpe said ODFW is pushing back with OR OSHA. Thorpe has requested documentation from Mackey stating Foster is still under a construction phase, and ODFW would not be allowed to fix anything. Thorpe said COE is acting quickly.
   3. **McKenzie** (Kremers). Kremers said they are done with spring Chinook eggs; 5.4% shock loss, 2.3% bkd, and 799,000 eyed-eggs on hand, so we are in good shape. Kremers said they had some water issues this month due to EWeb turning off the canal. Kremers said they turned the canal off due to low flows in the McKenzie and they were unable to produce power. Kremers said the hatchery operated for about two weeks from leakage around the gate, producing approximately 50-100 cfs and our demand is 44 cfs. Kremers said they weren’t going to turn the canal back on until they reached 3,000 cfs, but power prices increased and they turned the canal on. Kremers said the river is at 5,500 cfs today and is projected to go over 6,000 cfs after it rains tonight. Kremers said at Cogswell Creek the river is at 12 cfs and it flowed over the diversion dam. Kremers said USGS collected the last of their surrogate fish to tag and release at Cougar. COE took 45 fish for similar study as USGS. Kremers said water flow and fish are doing well. Walker asked Kremers if EWeb notifies them prior to closing the canal. Kremers said yes, they kept the elevation about one foot within the comfort range.
      1. **Cogswell Creek.** Walker asked if there is an update for Cogswell Creek. Thorpe said they anticipate sending it out to bid soon and begin working March-April. Thorpe said it will be mixing blocks and plumbing changes; it will connect Cogswell Creek into the supply line above the ponds. Kremers said EWeb typically draws down the canal the end of March or beginning of April for maintenance and to coincide with the Steelhead smolt release from Leaburg. Sharpe said his interest is to get a water samples before and after the work is done. Thorpe asked Sharpe if he is working with OHRC. Sharpe said no, but he is working with Mark Johnson for salmon olfaction and homing. Thorpe said they are scheduled to do a chemical analysis on 10 December. Sharpe suggested an interesting study in the Fisheries Journal, “A New Paradigm in Olfaction and Homing in Pacific Salmonids.”
   4. **Cougar Trap** (Taylor/Traylor). Trap is closed, no update.
   5. **Willamette/Dexter** (Peck)
      1. **Willamette.** Peck said it is going well and they transferred fish to South Santiam this week. Peck said they are acclimating the smolts and another batch will be sent in February.
      2. **Dexter.** Peck said we released our November group at the beginning of the month and backfilled with the Chinook we have on station. Peck said disease issues are starting to calm down and have had to treat four to five times this year, about two and a half months earlier than normal. Peck said the water temperatures are dropping, but we will be short for numbers of fish at release. Garletts asked about prophylactically treating the fish next year. Peck said we can’t order the feed until the disease has broke to know what medication level we will need. Thorpe said the best thing to do is to mix on station until you can get the medicated feed ordered. Sharpe asked Peck if they did a size sample on the fish that went to the South Santiam. Peck said they weighed the fish but did not measure. Peck said the fish are larger than normal due to high water temperatures and disease, so they had to feed them more. Peck said we did see more precocious males this year.
   6. **Leaburg** (Withalm). No update
   7. **Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg** (Sharpe/Friesen).
   8. **Bennett.** Sharpe said it is still operating and seeing Fall Chinook with adipose fins clipped and Coho. Sharpe said lower Bennett was taken offline due to low flows, but it is back up now. Sharpe said there is a habitat rehabilitation project in place near the Bennett’s. Sharpe said it is about a mile and a half of side channel slough habitat to re-expose it to the flows from the channel. **Action:** Sharpe said he will send the picture of the project.
   9. **Leaburg.** Sharpe said Leaburg is still operating, but it has slowed down and small numbers of fish moving. Grenbemer asked Sharpe if he wants samples of the Steelhead that arrive around this time. Sharpe said yes. Sharpe said there is a group of Steelhead that look different, they have intact adipose fins, strange run timing and look like a chrome bright winter run.
2. **Willamette Fish Operations Plan.** Walker said there is a Biop requirement for COE to put together a fish operations plan. It can be used to reference maintenance periods,coordination at new fish facilities and some trap and haul information. It is currently in the internal review stage and it will be sent out to the region early December for review. Helms and Garletts have seen an older version. It is currently on the website, but Walker is making revisions. Walker said there will be changes and additions to include the unique flow year in 2015. Walker will include reservoir management information. Walker would like Garletts and Helms to look at the trap and haul and maintenance periods for planned turbine outages. Walker would like ODFW to check the handling and trap information. Sharpe said he has not received a data request and would be happy to fill in any holes. Walker said he has been working with Friesen for data gaps.
3. **Transitioning to WFPOM.** Sharpe said his understanding is it will be combination of the hatchery management team and the flow management team, but it will not include the fish passage team. Sharpe said the fish passage team will be included when it is necessary. Sharpe is concerned the group will be too big and it becomes unproductive. Walker said he didn’t think it will be unproductive having a large group and it is a good way to coordinate actions and funding. Walker said coordination in the Willamette can be disjointed and sometimes groups are not included that should be. Walker said this group will solve redundancy issues. Walker said to prevent it from being too big, there will be task groups for specific topics that need further discussion. Walker said HMT will be its own task group and Traylor will be leading for COE. Thorpe asked if the group includes COE, ODFW, and NOAA. Walker said it will also include OWRD also. Thorpe is concerned the group will be too large. Walker said the intent of bringing everyone together is to handle all of the coordination together in one place and the same message is being sent by the agency representative. Thorpe asked if this group will be able make decisions or will it have to go back to the chain of command. Walker said it does get resolved. Sharpe asked when will the meeting be implemented. Walker said in January and will adjust as needed. Garletts said engineering and operations will like this.
4. **December Meeting.** December meeting will be on the 16th.
5. **Thorpe’s departure.** Thorpe will retire 30 December.Thorpe said they do not have a replacement yet. Thorpe said Grenbemer would be a good fit for sitting in the position.