



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee**  
 Meeting Minutes



**Date:** 10/03/2024 – 10/04/2024

**Location:** Embarcadero Resort - Newport, Oregon

**Current Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Members (STAC)**

**Committee Members**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Michael Calhoun – North Coast                    | Morgan Parks – North Willamette                   |
| Roger Lindquist – South Coast                    | Rachel Ellison – South Willamette                 |
| Jessica Eubank – Southern Mid Coast/Lower Umpqua | Mindie Wilson – Tenmile, Coos & Coquille (absent) |
| David Grosjacques – Umpqua                       | Steven Janego – Central Eastern                   |
| Carl Cole – Upper Rogue                          |   |

**ODFW Staff**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Marty Olson – R&E/STEP Program Coordinator            | Mike Gauvin – Recreational Fisheries Manager        |
| Sara Hart – R&E/STEP Program Assistant                | Mike Harrington – Fish Division Administrator       |
| Martyne Reesman – STEP Biologist, Upper Willamette    | John Seabourne – Fish Operations Manager            |
| Reed Fischer – STEP Biologist, Mid-Willamette         | Shaun Clements – Deputy Director of Fish & Wildlife |
| Levi Simmons – STEP Biologist, Umpqua                 | Antonio Salgado – Community Engagement Coordinator  |
| Buddy Phibbs – STEP Biologist, Lower Willamette       | Scott Patterson – Fish Propagation Program Manager  |
| Kyle Wilson – STEP Biologist, North Coast             | Don Robison – Volunteer Program Coordinator         |
| Christine Clapp – STEP Biologist, Mid-Coast           | Yvonne Shaw – Turn-in-Poachers Campaign Coordinator |
| Morgan Davies – STEP Biologist, Tenmile-Coos-Coquille | Amanda Boyles – Angler Education Coordinator        |
| John Weber – STEP Biologist, Lower Rogue              | Bryce Hansen – R&E Construction Projects Manager    |
| Monica Magdaleno – STEP Biologist, Upper Rogue        | Jennifer Luke – STEP Biologist, Eastern Oregon      |

**Guests**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Ken Johnson – Letz Cr STEP Facility Manager, Volunteer | Larry Wannebo – Umpqua Recreational Fisherman |
| Amy Tregoning – STEP Volunteer, Siuslaw HS Teacher     | Troy Pearse – Boise Valley Fly Fishers        |
| Jack Morby – STEP Volunteer                            | James Fraser – Trout Unlimited                |
| LeRoy Bentley – Florence STEP                          | Randall Brummett – Florence STEP              |
| Susan Dieckhoff – Florence STEP                        |   |

## Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Chair S. Janego called the meeting to order on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 8:30am at the Embarcadero Resort.

Motion: D. Grosjacques made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion seconded by R. Lindquist. Passed unanimously.

## Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

The Committee reviewed the March 2024 STAC meeting minutes.

Discussion:

**D. Grosjacques:** Minutes mention that a license fee increase hasn't happened in 6 years, is that correct? Though it was longer than that. **M. Gauvin:** Yes, that is correct.

**R. Lindquist:** Has some grammar edits and clarifications that he will send to S. Hart.

Motion: R. Lindquist makes a motion to approve the minutes from March 2024 as amended. Motion seconded by D. Grosjacques. Passed unanimously.

## STEP Bio and STAC Updates

Jen Luke, Eastern Oregon STEP – Kokanee are being taken out of Crane Prairie reservoir to collect brood stock and reduce the high population in that lake that may be affecting the Spotted Frog population.

Last week was kick off for Kokanee Karneval, we have been doing this for 25 years to support fishing in the area.

High Lakes stocking, we had lots of volunteers recruited for this, so many we were turning people away.

There were 12,000 pounds of chub removed from East Lake and 8,000 pounds of chub removed from Lava Lake, the quality is improving in those lakes and fishing has been very good. Unfortunately, copepods have been a problem in these lakes.

Kids fishing pond at Lake Sherman (Metolius Pond) was improved in recent years and looks nice. There have been fishing events held at that location.

Volunteers are helping with smolt acclimation at various locations in the Deschutes.

**D. Grosjacques:** East Lake water level have been low. **J. Luke:** Yes, it is very low.

**D. Grosjacques:** Metolius pond was an R&E improvement project, and it looks great.

**S. Janego:** At Oregon AFS last year he met a biologist named Ethan who would like to put Muskie in a lake in eastern Oregon with the hope that they will eat perch. **L. Simmons** – These were Tiger muskie that are sterile non-breeding fish. This release happened in Phillips Reservoir near Baker City to control yellow perch. Happened in April 2024.

**S. Janego:** Would like to see ice fishing safety being taught on frozen lakes and rivers. Angler Ed could do more for ice fishing safety. **M. Reesman:** Amanda has already done an entire fishing workshop where she taught the ins and outs of ice fishing and safety was a big part of that training.

Buddy Phibbs, Lower Willamette STEP –

Just started in this position four months ago. Coordinated five different fishing events right off the bat this summer. There were so many volunteers to help run those events. There are two more fishing events coming this fall, one with the Cub Scouts that they hope to make an annual things. Angler Ed has also helped a lot with coordinating and equipment.

Every summer a weir operated in the Bull Run River for Chinook that are acclimated there as juveniles and return as adults. The weir was removed this week, had volunteers to help with the removal and it went very smoothly.

We had an average return of Spring Chinook for 2024 - about 11,000 fish.

Fish Eggs to Fry has about 200 classrooms this year. Lots of equipment out there and working through hurdles of getting equipment and eggs to those classrooms. Morgan Parks has helped greatly with coordination and planning.

**D. Grosjacques:** STEP biologists are the face of the Department, especially when it comes to working with volunteers.

**M. Parks:** Eggs to Fry volunteer coordination has been keeping her busy. Trout Unlimited, NW Steelheaders and

volunteer Angler Ed instructors to deliver eggs. Received several grants to support Eco school Salmon Stewards program.

Michael Calhoun, North Coast Rep –

The watershed district taken ownership of the local festival. They have a kiddie pond where they have fishing event.

Recent blockage of Vernonia Falls was fixed. Local swimming hole has had issues with fish passage issues.

Kyle Wilson, North Coast STEP – That blockage, they had to remove fish from area before removing the blockage.

Whiskey Creek and Rhoades Pond have big fin clipping event, 200 volunteers to clip 100,000 fish in one day.

Whiskey Creek facility is owned by OSU and ran by ODFW and volunteers.

NW Steelheaders, free fishing day events. Lots of dedicated volunteers.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde had a family fishing day with a casting competition, which was a big hit. The USFS collaborated with this event and Smokey the Bear was even there.

He has been doing some classroom dissection event with a lot of success.

There has been some stream enrichment, which involves dumping carcasses in the upper reaches of streams.

Local school groups came out and volunteered. They have about 70 totes of carcasses to disperse, so they needed lots of help.

Astoria and Warrenton High School Fisheries Programs are up and running. R&E has helped fund the renovations at the Astoria High School STEP hatchery. The students also did all the habitat work down to the bay where fish get released.

Other projects include the wild broodstock collected by anglers, these are all STEP volunteers, and the fish go to the Trask Hatchery.

Eggs to Fry program has about 20 classrooms.

**D. Grosjacques:** Does the carcass tossing require permits? How do you pick locations? **K. Wilson:** We pick streams that already have natural production of salmon and/or streams that fish would be going to.

**S. Janego:** When hosting a fishing clinic and the kids would like to keep their fishing gear after the event. Is that possible? **K. Wilson:** The event with the Forest Service, every kid left with a fishing rod, and it was awesome. We can try to make this happen more often. **M. Gauvin:** Money is always an issue with this kind of thing, but we can work with partners to try to make this happen.

**S. Janego:** Fish Culture Conference happening in that area later this year. Can we get more information?

**S. Hart:** Can send out the flyer to Committee members as well as STEP Bio's who might be interested.

Christine Clapp, Mid-Coast STEP –

This fall, just like every year, they installed the Whittaker Creek trap. This trap has to be removed every summer from the Campground.

We lost a lot of field trips during COVID but the majority of those are now coming back.

Working to pair Eggs to Fry classrooms with fishing events so the kids learn the science with the enjoyment of the fishing experience.

Salmon River Hatchery has worked with us a lot to help with kids' events for education and outreach. They have done planting and weed removal events at the hatchery and kids are monitoring these sites with photo tracking.

Stream Webs is an online portal where teachers can set up field sites and record data. Macro Gear (online) has resources for how to get their new gear types and fancy microscopes with large monitors that can record pictures and video to review later. Great for education events. At their education sessions they set up water conservation stations that teach students about water conservation and pollution through watershed models and games.

Salmon Santa cutouts are also a big hit at education events around the holidays.

She has been working on an Eggs to Fry traveling kit on a cart so all the different classrooms within a school can share the experience, instead of getting each individual classroom their own equipment. Education posters go out with all classrooms set ups for Eggs to Fry. She can get them printed through the state if more people want them. Also, education flyers, we need to get more printed.

Family fishing events are starting to come back and be more popular. Bought an instant Polaroid camera so everyone can leave with a photo. She has been getting a lot of requests from schools to do more fishing events

and we are hoping to do that next year.

There is a new dam on Big Creek in Newport that could take away fishing access.

She has set up Youth Fishing Libraries at four different public libraries where people can check out fishing gear.

We can get all kinds of gear to stock these through Oregon STEM Hub.

Inventory and Monitoring projects happening on South Fork Schooner Creel, Whittaker Creek, and Letz Creek.

Photo point monitoring is run by volunteers. Life Cycle Monitoring program does monitoring of adult overwinter survival. Also run Palmer Creek acclimation site and adult trap.

Habitat Improvements include clean up events, planting projects, eco-cycle Christmas trees hasn't been done recently but something we could bring back.

Florence STEP program raises and releases 85,000 winter steelhead. STEP in Depoe Bay release 15,000 coho. STEP Letz Creek release 15,000 winter steelhead. Siletz Tribe releases 5,000 winter steelhead.

Website Experience Builder can help build GIS projects that could be used for STEP programs.

#### Reed Fischer, Mid-Willamette STEP –

Been in this position for about 2 years. Basins includes all the way from Salem to Veneta. Santiam to the Long Tom. There are no STEP hatcheries in this area but they hold a lot of events.

They held 35 fishing events, recaching 3,000 students this year. They have three main ponds that host them, EE Wilson..... Have a lot of non-English speaking students and translators, the goal is trying to reach as many people as possible. This summer they held a fishing event inside a maximum-security prison. This was thrown together in just a couple of weeks when the DOC reached out, but they made it happen. Got warmwater fish from a private landowner, where fish were returned to after the event. 100 kids with their incarcerated dads were able to fish and the kids got a free fishing rod. This will be an annual event now and may expand to other prisons. Would like to start having prisoners raise fish as a next step to this program.

Dissections events reached 50 classrooms this year. Volunteers came from the OSU vet school and even showed kids how to suture fish.

Stream Enrichment didn't happen this year due to not being allowed to toss anesthetized fish from the hatchery. Usually have many totes of fish to toss, this year only have one.

Habitat restoration projects are using donated trees to make bass habitat in Adair Pond. Riparian restoration project is several stages in and will continue as long as we have funding. Student volunteers have also been doing out and helping to sample local creeks, learning how to seine and backpack electro fish.

High lakes stocking event stocked 40 lakes, using 60 volunteers.

Eggs to Fry Program has 130 classrooms, including libraries, community centers, and correctional facilities.

Salmon Watch starts this fall and is almost fully volunteer ran, but Reed still likes to get out in the field about once a week.

**S. Janego:** How is volunteer recruitment going? **R. Fischer:** Lots of people wanting to volunteer, coordinating all these people is tough. Also, the new volunteer onboarding system is difficult for a lot of people and deters some.

**M. Parks:** Why do they have to anesthetize fish at the hatcheries? **R. Fischer:** That is the way the Army Corps facilities are set up to spawn salmon.

#### Martyne Reesman, Upper Willamette STEP –

Have also not been able to do any stream enrichment due to new anesthesia rule.

Leaburg and McKenzie Hatchery do not have any water, so fish are being raised at Minto and South Santiam Hatcheries.

Middle Fork Willamette watershed council coordinates Salmon Watch in Lane County. It is normally held up the McKenzie River, but due to the fires they have had to shift to the Middle Fork Willamette River.

Community Center Retirement Community came up to see wild fish spawn in the McKenzie, also homeschool groups, that normally wouldn't have the chance to see these things. Also got to tour Leaburg Hatchery and adult the fish trap.

Partnership with the Springfield Utility Board has a water energy learning lab where middle schoolers learn about invasive species, restoration and watersheds. They also do fish dissections and macroinvertebrate. They host a Watershed Olympics competition for the students where they must identify parts of the fish, identify plants and macroinvertebrates, and perform water testing. High Schoolers also get to apply for positions and volunteer at the fish trap. The program also does well water testing in rural areas for free.

They have been doing native cutthroat trout collection, trying to restock them into the McKenzie River. Includes collected genetic samples that will be sent in for testing.

Got an intern this summer through a program called Connected Lane County. This program pays the wages and provides opportunities for BIPOC and neurodivergent students.

Also have been working with an Eagle Scout to help stock high lakes and then did fishing event to see how the two different stocks of fish catchability varied.

Have been doing lots of dissection events in classes, have reached about 90 students. They are also doing BIPOC fishing events where students got to learn and catch their first fish.

The High Lakes stocking was limited this year due to forest fires. They stocked 49 lakes with 200 volunteers over 3 days, stocking 45,000 trout. Lots of families that come out to help and some even plan their vacations around it.

Reached out to the local Trail Running clubs that came out to volunteer and were very good.

Has 3 large family fishing events throughout the district this year.

They moved all fish from Leaburg to other hatcheries, and the sturgeon from the visitor pond. Sturgeon was relocated to other ponds or the river.

#### D. Grosjacques, Umpqua Rep –

The Gardiner Reedsport Winchester Bay (GRWB) STEP hatchery had a tragedy this year when someone came in and purposefully poisoned the fish, killing 18,000 smolts. The man was caught and arrested. The Umpqua Fisherman STEP group is having a really hard time recruiting volunteers.

Rock Creek Hatchery is the only hatchery on the Umpqua, which burned down in 2020. This hatchery raised fall Chinook, spring Chinook and winter steelhead. All important fisheries for the basin. Are they going to rebuild?

Insurance money should help rebuild, also FEMA funds should be coming in.

Winchester Dam, located on the North Umpqua, has private landowners that own the dam, which they dewatered to fix dam. Prolonged dewatering caused a huge die-off of lamprey ammocetes, ODFW are now suing the landowner group who caused the die off.

Levi Simmons, Umpqua STEP – Has been in a job rotation as Assistant District biologist recently, and just came back to his STEP position.

In middle of a big spring Chinook radio tagging study where they tagged 100 chinook and are tracking movement upstream.

Did a High Lakes stocking event, 12 lakes were stocked. They had mixed results on effectiveness of that stocking event due to high air temperatures on the days of stocking.

Diamond Lake has a creel volunteer program that has been successful.

They have been doing fish dissection workshops with local Cub Scouts groups.

Education events are still happening but have been downscaled since COVID and have not rebounded yet.

**S. Janego:** How has your volunteer recruitment been? **L. Simmons:** The new system is helping to recruit younger volunteers. But down in that district there are very strong opinions and some contentious issues happening that can be detrimental to volunteer recruitment.

**D. Grosjacques:** The funding for STEP biologists comes from SFR dollars, but the district staff sometimes takes the STEP biologist to use them for district tasks. **M. Reesman:** Some STEP biologists have split funding (50/50

SFR/District or 80/20) so they are allowed to perform tasks for both the district and STEP. **M. Olson:** If a STEP biologist does district work, they will charge that time to district funds. So that SFR funds are not being spent on non-SFR tasks. **L. Simmons:** There is some overlap in tasks that accomplishing goals of both programs. **M. Parks:** A

lot of the district work that is done involves STEP volunteers as well. Lots of crossover.

#### Morgan Davies, Ten Mile/Coos/Coquille STEP –

There have been Family Fishing events in area. The Ten Mile STEP group got their event back for the first time since COVID. Most fishing events are done in ponds, but the Ten-Mile event is done in a net pen. At some of these events the kids do get to keep their rods, but usually that is when they are donated by local groups. BASA group does a lot of donating for the area.

Bass removal happens a lot in the summer. This year electrofishing removed 8,800 bass with just one boat. They were able to remove thousands of small mouth bass that are decimating the Chinook population for the Coquille.

Sampling events in the bay where classrooms get to come out and learn how to sample and about the different species and the ecology of the area.

Hatcheries in this area are fall run only, starting to get fish back already. Some get donated to food banks or the local tribes.

Eggs to Fry Program has about 20 classrooms of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

Hosted some Outdoor School Days for kids. Brought them out to a local ODFW property to learn about fish and watersheds, where they also got to PIT tag coho juveniles.

School groups get the chance to participate in spawning days at the local hatcheries. They also have clipping days, with lots of volunteers and students. At these events they also have interactive lessons about macroinvertebrates and watersheds.

John Weber, Lower Rogue STEP – Loved the idea of having a joint STAC and STEP meetings. It was unfortunate that he could not join in person but was happy to join virtually.

The monitoring projects in the area are directly tied to ODFW conservation plans. Many volunteers get to see their efforts shown in the annual reports. They have been trapping and doing estuary seining to monitor species and track Chinook movement. This requires lots of volunteers help and people love to come out and get wet and do this work.

They have been doing an evaluation of signage in area. Regulations and informational signage are old and out of date, so they are working to update and replace many signs.

Fish scale sampling is done to age fish and helps to forecast next year's runs, this is also a volunteer opportunity.

A lot of the returning fish to the area do not go to facility, such as a hatchery, so that are a lot harder to count and monitor.

The radio tracking of winter steelhead kelts study is still ongoing and data is still being reviewed. Fish tags popped off all the way up the Pacific coast even up to British Columbia and Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Roger Lindquist, Lower Rogue Rep – Hosted a fishing day for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at State Park Pond where they learn to cast and knot ties. The sheriff also came out and do a water and boat safety talk. All the kids caught at least one fish.

Fish fin clipping was in June, the trailer comes down and volunteers help clip and fish are Coded Wire Tagged.

Eggs to Fry Program only has 5 classrooms involved.

He is very worried about new Volunteer Engagement Model. Volunteers are very unhappy with the phone numbers listed on website, hard to get ahold of anyone at headquarters. Finger printing contractors are not working well. Have some volunteers that are threatening to drop out because of the new process. The background checks are all online, why can't the driving record checks also be on a secure online network? Would make things much easier.

**J. Weber:** Current dedicated volunteers like Roger are taking the brunt of the complaints on the new volunteer process.

Carl Cole, Upper Rogue Rep –

Fishing has been really good in the upper Rogue basin. 11,000 spring Chinook this year, when the 10-year average is only about 4,000. Fish are also big compared to most years. Folks are catching some of the biggest fish they have ever seen. Broodstock netting usually catches 200-300 adult salmon, this year it was over 500 fish.

Monica Magdaleno, Upper Rogue STEP –

Started this position in April and hit the ground running with volunteer coordination at the juvenile fish acclimations ponds. One site was contaminated this year, and they lost 7,000 smolts. They are currently working with city to figure out what is going on at that site and where the contamination came from.

About 200 volunteer hours, with about 90 volunteer's total. Broodstock trapping has been successful, with volunteers commenting on bigger fish also saw coho for the first time in a long time.

There is a large invasive Pike Minnow removal program for the area, she would like to promote this more to the public and get them involved in collection.

There have been a couple small dam removals, we are actively monitoring before and after to remove lamprey from those areas and minimize impact.

The Bear Creek Salmon Festival draws in lots of people from the public and is a big hit.

Eggs to Fry Program has 60 classrooms and is growing. She is getting help and more volunteers are coming in from the more remote areas from local fishing groups.

Stream Enrichment efforts with carcass tossing is down. Cole Rivers hatchery recently had a die off and now fish

held there are being treated with medications and cannot be put out in streams.

**D. Grosjacques:** With a couple big dams getting removed, seems like that would enable fish to get to the hatchery sooner.

**S. Janego:** When recruiting volunteers, are the fishing clubs and groups the best way to recruit? **M. Magdaleno:** Geographically, since the area is so big, and it takes a long time to get to different areas of the district. Recruiting locals in their areas is best. Seems to be the most effective way to recruit those volunteers is reaching out to fishing group.

**C. Cole:** We are trying to expand to other local groups as well.

**S. Janego:** Recruitment needs to get creative, need to find different kinds of volunteers that are willing to do more. Maybe even lobby at the capital.

Marty Olson, STEP Program Coordinator, HQ –

Works out of the office in The Dalles, Sara Hart (STEP Program Assistant) works out of Headquarters in Salem. It is our duty to provide support from all the STEP districts.

We compile annual reports from all the STEP biologist, the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) grant request and the annual hatch box report. **M. Gauvin:** We are currently going through a federal SFR audit, they really look at all our spending under a microscope. Important to be careful with funding from the SFR grant.

We compile the individual district budgets and submit the annual SFR budget to US Fish and Wildlife. We monitor those budgets year-round and make recommendations on where money can be spent.

Compiling STEP Propagation Permits. We need to start working on these with all the STEP facilities. The permit application is newly updated and a bit shorter. Facility leaders can come to Marty or Sara with any questions they have about this process. We will be making an effort soon to reach out and get these new propagation permits completed. We would like to package up the larger permits and bring them to the commission all at once.

We maintain the STEP website within the ODFW website. We provide the web team with updates on meeting, board members, we post annual reports and update application links.

Coordination of the STAC Board is a big duty of ours. We recruit, assist current members, prepare and distribute meeting materials and board packets. We also coordinate and facilitate all aspects of the board meetings.

We provide volunteers with awards and giveaway items to recognize their contribution to the program.

Distributing those swag items and awards to the STEP biologists that need them. We order and distribute Fish Eggs to Fry Program supplies and other education materials as needed.

Recreational Fish Program is a conglomeration of a lot of different people. Bryce Hanson – Construction Projects Manager. Michelle Jones – Biometrician. Gary Galovich – Warmwater Fisheries. Amanda Boyles – Angler Education Coordinator.

**D. Grosjacques:** Are the Eggs to Fry tanks owned by ODFW? **M. Olson:** It varies, but most are owned by ODFW. The classrooms get to keep them on hand year-round. Some teachers purchase their own tanks.

**S. Janego:** Eggs to fry is in such high demand, does it warrant more coordination from someone who can track where equipment is going, how many eggs are going out, etc.? **M. Olson:** The demand is there, but money is the limiting factor on how many schools we can reach. Would statewide coordination of equipment really help? **K.**

**Wilson:** Has brainstormed with teachers and they can work with non-profits to purchase equipment. **M.**

**Reesman:** In our county we have a lot of teachers that get funding from outside organizations that help fund. In her district the limiting factor is they may not have enough eggs to fill all those classrooms.

**M. Gauvin:** A question that comes up occasionally is, where are all these fish going? Some of these systems have ESA concerns with releasing fish. **M. Reesman:** This is all tracked through HMIS. **M. Magdaleno:** The teachers must fill out a form and say where they are releasing the fish, this is all tracked.

**S. Janego:** STAC wrote a letter to the Commission with a few major points they wanted taken into consideration. No response to that letter was ever received. We are curious how that process is supposed to work, how do we get our voices heard? **M. Gauvin:** Commission gets thousands of emails a month and some Commissioners do read them, but it is a lot. Reach out to the Directors office directly, Michelle Tate. New Director has initiatives that align really well with the goals for STEP. She is very excited and supportive of the STEP program. December Commission meeting we may be able to present directly to the commission.

**R. Lindquist:** One thing that was in our letter was about offshore wind farms. The federal group put off installing because no one put forward a bid on the project. Lots of opposition to them on the coast.

## Angler Education – Amanda Boyles, ODFW Angler Education Coordinator

Process for Instructors: Onboarding, certification training, uniform, ODFW Angler Ed rep and partner with local biologists.

Jake Morby helped immensely when there was no STEP biologist in the Clackamas district.

Angler Ed Events/Projects: Learn to Fish Workshops – Sign up online with a fee, these are more one on one learning, generally specialized fishing (steelhead, trout, surfperch, etc.)  
Youth Fishing Event Authorization – Groups 12-17 years old, fish for free with educational guidelines.  
Partnerships – STEP, Free Fishing Weekend Events, Family Fishing Events.

Angler Ed is here to help with gear and organization. Can provide spin rods, fly fishing gear, etc. Just about anything you could need, she can help you out with.

### Discussion and Questions:

**S. Janego:** Opinions about sending kids home with their own rod after a fishing event?

**A. Boyles:** It's hard to say where that fishing rod goes in the long run. Maybe giving them one after the event would be best instead of before where parents are lining up to get their free stuff. Funding is not there to be able to do that all the time. **M. Reesman:** When we give rods away in the past, it is usually a small group or a special case when the conditions are right.

**R. Lindquist:** Opinions on age restrictions on fishing events and workshops? **A. Boyles:** We don't like to be super strict, takes away opportunities from these younger anglers who may want to hang out during a workshop.

## Fish Division Update

Presentation by Mike Harrington

We had a good idea that budgets coming into this biennium did not look good. That is why the fee increase was an inevitability. Currently we are looking to be \$10 million over budget by the end of 2027.

Making up for that with fees alone would make fishing inaccessible for a lot of people or push people into fishing in neighboring states. We do not want to do that. So, to make up for that budget shortfall we needed an increase in fees along with and program cuts.

First year fee increase of 14%, then the following biennium a 6% increase.

Possible program cuts include: The Oregon Hatchery Research Center, the Salmon River hatchery, and Rock Creek Hatchery.

How did we get here? Inflation is a big part of it. Costs to run a hatchery – power cost, fish food, employee wage increases, Department of Justice costs are raising. All these things are making it very hard to remain within budget.

**D. Grosjacques:** The legislation funds how much? **M. Harrington:** It's a small percentage of ODFW funds. **D.**

**Grosjacques:** We rely on federal funding for a lot. Flat funding with federal funds is a problem. **M. Harrington:** Federal funds are a whole other deal and are hard to gain ground on when they are never increased. Scott has been able to fund the same amount of production output even with rising costs. It is possible we will have to reduce stock numbers in the future.

**R. Lindquist:** What about a hiring freeze? **M. Harrington:** We are currently in one, we are forced to make exceptions to that. That only goes so far, but not far enough to make up the difference in the deficit. These reductions are not being taken lightly, it is a very hard situation. We are doing absolutely everything we can so that we do not have to have layoffs. We will work with the legislature and come up with alternatives, we are looking into options.

**S. Janego:** Other states who get more general funds and don't have these problems. **M. Harrington:** We have very different fisheries and issues from the other states. Especially salmon, they are a complicated fish to manage. The strings attached to general funds are risky, those funds are a lot easier to cut for the state. It would have to be a major fundamental shift in the legislative for them to give us more general funds.

**D. Grosjacques:** Please comment on the Hatchery Resiliency study. **M. Harrington:** Not a lot of information to report on yet, they are still in the information collection stage of that. Report should be out in November. **D. Grosjacques:** Who's

idea was it? **M. Harrington:** It came from the legislature, but ODFW helped to shape it. Trying to address rising water temperatures and the effects of climate change on hatcheries. Looking at operations and cost feasibility.

**R. Lindquist:** Which hatcheries are you looking at? **M. Harrington:** Federal and state hatcheries. **S. Patterson:** No STEP hatcheries are involved but we do look at where the STEP hatcheries are sourcing fish from. **R. Lindquist:** Is the amount of STEP volunteer hours being incorporated into the cost/benefit analysis? **S. Patterson:** Many of the hatcheries couldn't function without volunteers. But most of the STEP hatcheries can not stand alone without a local ODFW hatchery to source from.

Beaver Slough die-off Update – The historic location for acclimation and release we lost access for. Last year we released fish at a boat ramp downstream which worked alright but we wanted to move upstream. Water quality was checked before the release, conditions were not optimal, but they also were not detrimental. Turns out that the water quality was not what we thought, and the fish couldn't survive it. It is no fault of the staff; we are not sure what exactly happened and are still investigating.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

### ***Distributed Volunteer Awards***

Amy Tregoning – Siuslaw High School Teacher

Fred Cholick – Central Oregon Fly Fishers, Angler Ed Instructor, R&E Board Member

Jack Morby – Angler Ed Instructor

Terry Barrett – President of Florance STEP group.

Ken Johnson – President of Emerald Empire Chapter of the Assoc. of NW Steelheaders, Letz Creek STEP hatchery manager.

Volunteer of the Year: Jessica Eubank – STAC member, Eggs to Fry Program coordination, classroom dissection and education class teacher.

### ***Volunteer Recruitment***

*How do we keep volunteers energized and engaged?*

**M. Calhoun:** Reaching out to the local watershed council. They are a hub for many communities around the state.

**A. Boyles:** One of the main reasons to work with local fishing clubs, they continue to work and engage with the community even after the ODFW events are over. They help continue the passion for fishing past the single day event. Creating a partnership with these groups where we can provide the gear if they provide the people power would be beneficial.

**J. Eubank:** We need more opportunities for weekend volunteers, people who work during the week and would help more if they could volunteer on weekends. We get a lot of one-day volunteers.

**S. Janego:** There are some companies have started paid volunteer days from work. Very good for the workforce.

**M. Reesman:** There is an aging volunteer base. She has reached out to different kinds of groups, like the Trail Running Club, we can educate more people about what we do and recruit from all different kinds of people. Also, corporate recruiting, Cabela's employees were able to come out on a paid workday and help with high lakes stocking.

**M. Davies:** Being able to afford to fish or afford to volunteer is a privilege, especially if they don't have a boat or money for gear. Recruiting the older retired boat owners to take out the younger or less fortunate folks and give them the experience of fishing.

**K. Wilson:** Getting landowner access to fishing areas that people would not otherwise be able to access on a fishing event.

**C. Clapp:** Some of the STEP programs can be pretty closed off and its hard for outside folks to get involved, so many of them are trying to have someone in the club be an ambassador for the program to welcome new people.

**M. Davies:** When having local STEP group meeting, trying to get politics out of the meetings. It is very discouraging to new potential members to come to a meeting and just hear a bunch of folks shouting about politics.

**C. Cole:** The things that people love to do is get dirty and slimy. These opportunities are the ones that people like to do.

**M. Gauvin:** Finding diversity in our volunteers is important, and we are not a very diverse group. Not sure how to do that, but the department is working toward a new initiative of "Everyone Belongs Outdoors". We need to figure out a way to widen our base. Also, program promotion is important and showing people what kinds of volunteer

opportunities are out there. We have a publicly budget we can use – what kind of resources should we be using to reach more people?

**C. Clapp:** Using photos of events and videos and maps as a tool to recruit.

**S. Janego:** Use your volunteer time to go out to different groups and talk about STEP.

### **SFR Budget – John Seabourne, ODFW Fish Operations Manager**

Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, passed in 1950. Required state to enact laws prohibiting the diversion of license fees paid by anglers for any purpose other than for their state fish agency.

“Restoration and management of all species of fish which have material value in connection with sport or recreation in the marine or freshwater in US.”

Funds come from taxes on rods, reels, and creels. Later expanded to include motorboat fuel.

40% of funds from the states size in square miles, 60% on number of fishing license sold. Apportionment split between fresh and saltwater projects. Oregon doesn’t have a marine license, so we have to get our data from NOAA and other agencies. Oregon SFR budget is 16% marine projects.

Fairly flat funded, we are seeing decreases right now, but should be about \$8 million for next year. Fiscal year rolls over in October but we don’t see that money until February, so we are spending money we don’t have. This is why we are wary when we are making our budgets.

Eligible Activities – Restoring, conserving, managing and enhancing sport fish and providing public use.

Ineligible Activities – Public relations activities that promote organizations or agencies (i.e. Marketing for ODFW). Also, activities whose purpose is producing revenue, providing services or property to individuals or groups for commercial purposes, enforcement of game and fish laws, establishment, publication and dissemination of regulations.

Recreational Boating Access Subprogram – Used to acquire land for new facilities, build facilities, renovate or improve existing facilities, conduct surveys to determine adequacy of facility, this is a minimum of 15% of the state apportioned funds. ODFW only supports motor-boat access because the Oregon Marine Board has different money for paddle boat access. It is a long process, usually 4-5 years because of all the federal regulations requires. Marine Board helps a lot with these processes.

Aquatic Resources Education Subprogram – Maximum of 30% of state apportioned funds, enhances the public’s understanding of water resources, aquatic life forms and sport fishing and development.

Special Terms and Requirements – stocking locations, invasive species prevention, working in areas with ESA listed species (spotted frog, marbled murrelets, etc.). Working in areas with ESA listed plants. Habitat improvement projects and infrastructure projects all must be approved and must do archaeological surveys before work can happen. Best to be upfront and ask instead of starting your work and having to stop when something happens. Most things get moved through just fine, usually they approve work no problem. If you pre-plan your projects everything will be fine, if artifacts are found you might only be shut down for a few hours.

**D. Grosjacques:** Are we trying to get away from funding from boat gas? **J. Seabourne:** It’s hard to open up an Act and make changes, a lot of people try to get their claws in there. Motorboaters are trying to get more money for boating access. It’s risky to change a large federal Act like this.

**M. Gauvin:** Also have companies like Plano, who manufactures tackle boxes, but they are now marketing them as “craft boxes” to avoid paying the SFR taxes. This has been a big hit on SFR funding as well.

**M. Gauvin:** If a STEP hatchery wants to up their release numbers, they may have to consult if there are ESA listed species in the area.

**M. Reesman:** Is someone being hired to replace Holly Huchko? (previous ODFW person in charge of SFR budgets)

**J. Seabourn:** Yes, they should be starting in the position soon.

### **R3 Update**

Presentation by Antonio Salgado – R3 Coordinator/ Community Engagement Coordinator.

R3 = Recruit, Retain, Reactivate. Goals include: 1. Create new participants in an outdoor activity 2. Increase participation rates of current outdoor participants.

One of the hurdles that is hardest to overcome is retention. People must make the decision to continue. People need

the social support from the agency and form their communities.

**Keys To Success:** Recognize the audiences most in need of R3 support. And identify the specific connections or experience a target audience needs before adopting the activity being promoted.

Simplification of the fishing regulations was a big part of the R3 process. There is a need to make it easier for people to understand the rules around fishing. Giving people pictures and education in the regulations book has helped a lot. Diversity isn't just about skin color, it also includes all kinds of people including urban residents versus rural residents. Want to be more inclusive of not just hunting and fishing but also with just getting people outside more, outdoor recreation of any kind.

**S. Janego:** Getting people outside is great, but with upcoming reduction of staff and cutting hatcheries, how are we supposed to cover all these extra people outside? Where are the resources to deliver on the promises?

**J. Seabourne:** Lobbying with the legislature is a really important part.

**D. Grosjacques:** What groups do you speak to when you go out and give R3 talks. **A. Salgado:** It helps that I speak two languages, I try to get out and talk to Spanish speaking communities. It is easier to talk to people who already fish, rather than people who have no connection to the agency or fishing at all.

**R. Lindquist:** Who is your audience that you talk to? **A. Salgado:** I can mold myself to whatever the audience needs. Translating the regulations to anyone who needs them, whatever groups they come from. Mostly talks to people who do not know who we are as an agency.

### **Collaboration between STAC & STEP**

**S. Janego:** What can STAC do to make the STEP biologist jobs and lives easier? How can we show up for you better?

**C. Clapp:** Taking the ball on the PR side of the program. Showing people how they can get involved more and storyboarding to groups about what STEP is and what we do.

**M. Reesman:** Write letters of support to the legislator for programs you do not want to see cut. The more support we get from the public the better and what the legislators need to see.

**M. Davies:** Increasing the value of mini-grants could be helpful. Costs of everything is increasing and sometimes the \$2,000 just scratches the surface.

**D. Grosjacques:** We shouldn't be taking that money away from R&E, we need to find a different way to fund that increase. R&E doesn't really have the extra funds.

**R. Lindquist:** We have asked for an increase in mini-grant funds from R&E and were shot down.

**S. Janego:** There is a possibility have it be more of a sliding scale so we can give more money to bigger projects if we want to.

**M. Gauvin:** The STEP bios may have enough money in their budget to spend instead of relying on mini grants. Also, we can move money around between districts if needed.

**M. Davies:** It might be nice to have a STEP bios meeting a couple of months before the end of the fiscal year to take about budgets.

**J. Weber:** Between all the districts there are a variety of ways to get money approved for spending. The SFR grant has specific language on how you can spend your money, it can be challenging to meet those specific spending limitations. Can give spending authority to STEP bios possibly for purchases up to \$5,000.

**M. Gauvin:** There are a few new STEP bios and a lot of the district bios are new and have inherited old ways of thinking. Need to educate or discuss new ways to thinking when it comes to working between the districts and STEP. Yes, we should be giving signing authority to STEP bios.

**L. Simmons:** He has been here for 3 years, and this was the first year he's met with the full STAC board. Really thinks these joint meetings are important. Maybe we can do them every year.

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### **STEP Bio Recognition**

STEP Biologist of the Year Award was given to Reed Fischer for his accomplishments over the last year and his continued dedication to the mission of the program.

Day one of meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

## **Meeting Day Two – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 8:30am.

Guest Introductions – Yvonne Shaw (Turn-in-Poachers Campaign Coordinator, ODFW), Ken Johnson (Letz Creek STEP), and LeRoy Bentley (GRWB STEP).

### **Mini Grant Review**

#### **Florence STEP – Whitacker Creek trap annual repairs**

**MG 23-013**

Description:

Fixing rusted trap panels and repair/replace damaged weir bars. Purchase cordless drill to assist with trap and weir installation and removal. Purchase large metal clamps and nuts and bolts for assembling the trap.

Discussion:

R. Lindquist: This is an ongoing ask, we have seen mini-grants from them before.

C. Clapp: When we have to remove the trap every year, there is some wear and tear which required annual upkeep.

Motion: J. Eubank makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-013 for the full amount. R. Ellison seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

#### **Kyle Wilson, ODFW – Stream Enrichment Totes**

**MG 23-014**

Description:

Purchase of 15 new 4'x4'x3' totes to replace old and damaged ones. These totes are used for collection of spawned and surplus salmon at Big Creek and Klaskanine hatcheries which are hauled to various streams in the area for stream enrichment.

Discussion:

**K. Wilson:** These totes get used and abused every year, frozen and thawed a lot. Found a good deal on working order totes where he plans to purchase them. Got other funds from The North Coast Salmon and Steelhead Enhancement Fund.

**R. Lindquist:** Would like to see a breakdown of moneys being spent.

Motion: R. Lindquist makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-014 for the full amount. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

#### **Ken Johnson – Repair of Aeration Tank**

**MG 23-015**

Description:

During fin clipping in August 2024 the aeration tank pumps and wiring failed. This tank is essential for moving fish from the pond, we paid to have the tank repaired by the company that built it several years ago and work was complete on a rush basis because of how important the repair was for the hatchery operation. Request is for reimbursement for cost to replace the two defective aeration pumps and rewire the tank.

Discussion:

**D. Grosjacques:** Remember that R&E has an emergency fund that people can submit these emergency repair projects through.

Motion: J. Eubank makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-015 for the full amount. S. Janego seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

#### **Boise Valley Fly Fishers – Spawning Gravel Augmentation**

**MG 23-016**

Description:

Goal is to improve the ability for brown trout to spawn in the lower reached of the Lower Owyhee River and improve the trout population for that area. Increasing the trout population in the lower reaches of the river will give more places for everyone to fish.

Discussion:

**J. Luke:** This request has come through before but they needed permits before work can be done.

**M. Olson:** It took longer to get permits than they thought, but they now are in the process of obtaining permits and anticipate having the permits in the next month.

**D. Grosjacques:** Is it a problem that the group is from another state? **S. Janego:** The work and improvements are being done in Oregon. Benefits Oregon fisheries.

Motion: R. Ellison makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-016 for the full amount. C. Cole seconded the motion. **R. Lindquist:** Should be see that the permits are in hand first? – Motion denied unanimously.

New motion: R. Ellison makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-016 with the contingency that the applicant receives the permits. C. Cole seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Martyne Reesman, ODFW STEP – McKenzie River stocking raft repairs MG 23-017**

Description:

Custom-made trout stocking raft disperses catchable size trout more evenly throughout the McKenzie River. Recently we had to replace the entire bottom of the “basket” and straighten the frame. Koffler Boats repaired the raft this year and they are now seeking reimbursement for work that has been completed.

Discussion:

**M. Reesman:** The local rafting club does their raft stocking, and last year the raft took a beating out on the river. ODFW designed and covered about half the cost of the repairs. This boat makes things a lot easier for releases in a dispersed manner.

**LeRoy Bentley:** This boat and release method are very important to this program.

Motion: J. Eubank makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-017 for the full amount. R. Lindquist seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Reed Fischer, ODFW STEP – Mid-Willamette STEP River Model MG 23-018**

Description:

Funds to create an interactive river demonstration model for local outdoor education programs to check out from district office. Model provides a hands-on experience that helps students better understand the impact of dams on river morphology and salmon migration. Model includes flowing water, removable dams, interactive fish, trees and movable substrate.

Discussion:

**R. Ellison:** Wants to use it for their school outreach days. These are really cool models.

**D. Grosjacques:** The kids love these tables; they are a big hit at any education event.

**M. Reesman:** We have a stream table and we do a lot of education programs around it. Lots of different ages of kids being taught and can reach a lot of kids.

**K. Wilson:** Is this something we build or we can order? **M. Reesman:** We build them or have them built by local groups.

**M. Davies:** A lot of watershed councils have them and are willing to share them if we have events where they would be beneficial.

**Yvonne Shaw:** If you have projects like this that you want to highlight at the Sportsman Show, please reach out and she can set that up.

**S. Janego:** Would love to a follow up, maybe a video, of these model in action.

Motion: D. Grosjacques makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-018 for the full amount. R. Ellison seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Gary Vonderohe, ODFW STEP – Drift boat access on SF Coquille MG 23-019**

Description:

Goal is to provide additional angler access for drift boat anglers on the South Fork Coquille River on a property owned by Coos County. Money will go toward buying rock for the access road construction.

Discussion:

**M. Davies:** The county property looks terrible right now; we have permission from the county already to do the work. Would like to improve it so the steelhead fishery can be more accessible.

**Motion:** R. Lindquist makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-019 for the full amount. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**World Salmon Council – Water Quality probe for Salmon Watch**

**MG 23-020**

Description:

World Salmon Council provides many Salmon Watch Experiences for classrooms. These free field trips for students provide education on salmon biology, water quality, macroinvertebrates, and riparian ecosystems. Grant funds will be used to buy educational supplies including an instant reading water quality probe and dissolved oxygen test kits.

Discussion:

**M. Davies:** The water quality stations at Salmon Watch events are an important part of teaching kids about salmon and their ecosystems.

**Motion:** J. Eubank makes a motion to approve the grant proposal 23-020 for the full amount. C. Cole seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Discussion with Shaun Clements**

**S. Clements:** The fee increase is coming. Hatchery programs are struggling. We are trying to deliver the same poundage of fish despite there being an incoming reduction in facilities and costs increasing. This being possible will depend on environmental concerns which are being looked at with the hatchery resiliency study.

We recognize that we need to diversify our funding sources. Funding these programs should not be solely on the backs of hunters and anglers. Director Colbert is looking for other funding sources.

There are a lot of bills coming up, we can expect a very busy legislative session. ODOT, schools and the governor's package – all competing for state funds. ODFW really needs STAC's support through these times.

Our goal is to try to get people outdoors. Telling our story better with good outreach and developing some new methods for proactive story telling. We will continue to be at the Sportsman's Show, would be nice to have STAC representatives there.

**J. Eubank:** ODFW may not have a good reputation with some anglers. It is good that you are working on telling the story of the program, that is very important.

**S. Clements:** ODFW wants to keep fees for youth anglers as low as possible. We are actively looking for partnerships to help pay for licenses for kids.

**S. Janego:** STAC did a special recognition for our volunteer this year, we believe that is very important. Don't underestimate the volunteer base that STEP has. We are looking to be proactive, instead of being reactive like we seem to do now. Can we use volunteers at some of these facilities to boost production and take pressure off the agency?

**S. Clements:** Wants to reassure that our programs will move forward.

**D. Grosjacques:** In regard to the hatchery resiliency study, fishermen need to know how those results are going to impact them.

**S. Clements:** Our hatchery system needs a lot of help. Old infrastructure needs rebuilt and a changing climate brings new challenges. The goal is to maintain the current capacity. Some basin numbers may change, but statewide the poundage of released fish will remain the same. We are looking to prioritize where to spend money and need to do this over the next 20+ years. Need to be open and understanding of changes. Rock Creek hatchery is a very challenging site, the biggest problem there is water availability.

**R. Lindquist:** With the Orca's being listed, how will these impact hatchery production? Will they be required to release more fish?

**S. Clements:** Willamette, Columbia and Puget Sound is where the spring Chinook runs come from and those are the fish that the orcas eat. Many of our hatcheries currently do not have the capacity to raise more fish, but we are looking at ways to increase that capacity at some hatcheries.

**S. Janego:** What about Salmon River Hatchery?

That hatchery has some infrastructure issues, that choice has nothing to do with fish return numbers.

**L. Bentley:** What about issues with predators? Also, use volunteers to run the hatcheries on the McKenzie River. We welcome you to come out to our programs and see what we are doing.

**S. Clements:** Predation is a big issue and a limiting factor, we do understand the impacts to the fisheries, there is lots of work being done in that area. Pinniped program is tracking the populations and seals and sea lion populations have plateaued in recent years. The Marine Mammal Protection Act makes management and removal of those predators hard to navigate. We have had some success in the Columbia River basin, but the ocean is much different. We are actively looking at ways to increase habitat and fish passage issues to help increase populations and help offset predation impacts.

**C. Cole:** What is the status of the repairs for Cole Rivers Hatchery?

**S. Clements:** Starting in 2019 we partnered with the counties, the Coquille tribes, and Senator Merkley at looking to get the power back on at that facility. It has water supply issues. We will take a phased approach to fix the many issues that we face there including roof repairs, power issues and water supply problems.

**R. Lindquist:** With this paradigm shift in the agency are we going to see new commissioners coming on or will we have the same commissioners?

**S. Clements:** All those different perspectives of the commissioners are good to have. We have several commissioners that were recently reappointed, and we have new appointments as well. We will have turnover occasionally, but continuity can also be good.

### **Protecting Oregon's Wildlife: Turn In Poachers – Yvonne Shaw, ODFW Campaign Coordinator**

Yvonne Shaw talked about the TIP program.

**S. Janego:** Recommends involving other groups outside of fish and wildlife groups. Mountain biking groups, bird watching, etc. can all be helpful in identifying and turning in poachers.

### **Update on Hatchery Resiliency – Scott Patterson, ODFW Fish Propagation Manager**

The big three: Flow, fish passages, and water temperatures – these are the major issues that the hatchery system are facing. We can expect to see more disease outbreaks with warmer waters in future years.

Our oldest hatcheries are over 100 years old. Many of the facilities are in need of new pipes and valves and other infrastructure improvements.

Cost of caught fish: Fall Chinook \$250, Spring Chinook is \$400, Alsea fish are about \$12/pound.

Alsea has a pretty dire outlook on flows, temperature and other hazards.

### **STAC Initiatives**

#### *Operating Guidelines*

Recently cleaned up from the last meeting.

R. Ellison makes a motion to adopt the STAC Operating Procedures as written. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

### **Propagation Permit Review**

#### *Wizard Falls Acclimation*

**R. Lindquist:** Where do the extra eggs go? **M. Gauvin:** They only take the eggs that they need. No extras. STAC has no objections, in full support of this facility.

### **Open Forum**

LeRoy Beagley, STEP Volunteer:

Predators are a big issue, there are too many sea lions and cormorants are a big issue – Bolton Island. We should be using hatch boxes more.

### **Next Meeting**

April meeting on North Coast area. April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, backup dates of April 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Officer Voting**

Current chairs are S. Janego as the Chair, R. Lindquist as Vice Chair.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to keep S. Janego as Chair. C. Cole seconds the motion.

S. Janego accepts the motion.

Vote: 7 Yes votes, 1 abstention.

**R. Lindquist:** S. Janego will term out after the next meeting so we would have to re-vote at the spring meeting for a chairperson in the fall.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to keep R. Lindquist as Vice Chair. C. Cole seconds the motion.

R. Lindquist accepts the motion.

Vote: 7 Yes votes, 1 abstention.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:33pm.