



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



Date: April 24th, 2025

Location: Best Western Columbia Riverfront Hotel – Astoria, Oregon

Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC)

Committee Members

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

ODFW Staff

- | | |
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| Marty Olson – R&E/STEP Program Coordinator | Don Robison – Volunteer Program Coordinator |
| Sara Hart – R&E/STEP Program Assistant | Kelcee Smith – Chum Reintroduction Coordinator |
| Kyle Wilson – STEP Biologist, North Coast | Monica Magdaleno – STEP Biologist, Upper Rogue |
| Mike Lance – Assistant District Biologist, Enterprise | Scott Kirby – Asst. Project Leader, Lower Columbia Chum |
| Tim Porter - Assistant District Biologist, Prineville | |

Guests

- | | |
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| LeRoy Shultz – NW Steelheaders, STEP Volunteer | Makayla Simmer – World Salmon Council |
| Tom VanderPlaat – NW Steelheaders, STEP Volunteer | Bruce Moffat – NRCS, District Conservationist Clatsop County |

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Chair S. Janego called the meeting to order on April 24th, 2025, at 8:00am at the Best Western Columbia Riverfront Hotel in Astoria, Oregon.

D. Grosjacques would like to add a quick R&E report to the agenda. He would also like to talk about creating a criteria for scoring mini grants. *M. Olson:* We should be able to fit that in at the 3:00pm time slot for administrative discussion.

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

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

The Committee reviewed the October 2024 STAC meeting minutes.

Discussion:

D. Grosjacques: This was the meeting where we had STAC and the STEP Biologists all come together, we really enjoyed that and would like to have more meetings like that in the future.

S. Janego: We talked with them about how STAC can help the local biologist do more in their areas. It was a successful meeting.

Motion: C. Cole motions to approve the minutes as written. J. Eubank seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

STAC Board Region Updates

C. Cole, Upper Rogue District:

Not much activity compared to normal. They have done several tree plantings lately – one in a more urban concremented area with little shade, and in fire recovery areas. Have done several carcass tosses since January that involved lots of volunteers. They have been fundraising for conservation activities in the area as well. There was some flooding recently, but no damage was caused like in many other areas. They are only getting 10,000 smolts this year instead of the normal 30,000 – this was due to accidental iodine spill in the hatch house. Last fall spring Chinook were lost in the hatchery due to copepods. Even with these issues we were able to meet our quota because of the excellent spring Chinook return. Filtration repairs still need to be done, and they are working with local and statewide officials to make it happen. Salmon runs are varying between slightly below to above average in different areas. Excellent coho return this last year.

D. Grosjacques: The Middle Rogue Steelheaders group do a lot of work in the area and would be excellent contenders for a group award. **C. Cole:** It makes it easy to get volunteers in the area because of this group.

R. Ellison, Mid & South Willamette Districts:

Reed Fischer is very busy with fishing events right now, there are lots of kids catching their first fish. Also doing a lot of fish dissections for youth groups. There was a big tree planting effort, 230 trees planted in the Mary's River area. The prison fishing events are happening in a couple areas and will be expanding on last years efforts. Martyne Reesman did a lot of Salmon Watch trips last fall. The eggs to fry classroom program had high survival of those fish with about 65% survival. They are doing field trips with high school students to do macroinvertebrate sampling trips and then returning to the area to do electro-fishing to look at fish populations. Attending career days at local high schools and with MHCC and LCC. They had fishing events at Row River with lots of kids catching first fish. STAC helped fund the stocking raft with a mini grant, which is now in full use this spring. Willamette fish counts are looking on par.

R. Lindquist: It would be interesting to tag those McKenzie raft release fish to see if they are dispersing, either by tag reward or fin clipping.

M. Parks, North Willamette District:

Buddy Phibbs is in full swing with stocking acclamation ponds and with fishing events. They co-taught a class on the fish eggs to fry classroom program to teach how to set up the tank and also what curriculum to teach along with the tank setup. They had 173 classrooms for eggs to fry last fall, fewer for trout this spring. They get lots of volunteers from the Tualatin Valley NW Steelheaders group. They also helps get grants for more tanks and classroom set ups, which also includes classroom curriculum, and facilitates field trip for fry release.

M. Wilson, Coos/Coquille/Tenmile District:

There was a lack of fish returns for Eel and Tenmile Rivers this year. We have a fishing event coming up soon. We gave out fishing poles at Empire Lake event last year and it was a huge hit. Water levels this spring made acclamation site late to start by about a week, fish will be clipped by volunteers and kids. Hatchery steelhead were acclimated and released. Survival at Nobel Creek and Morgan Creek Hatcheries and was not good due to high water - some were moved around to other sites to increase production. She was invited to a meeting with the local ODFW staff and a local high school where they discussed possibly starting a hatchery program at the

local high school.

J. Eubank, Mid Coast District:

Salmon River Hatchery is in full swing for trout stocking. We are still unsure about the future of that hatchery, but everyone is staying optimistic. Alsea Hatchery is having one of the worst years in recent history for winter steelhead returns, after last year which was one of the best years. Letz Creek Hatchery was damaged in 2024 by ice storm and again in the recent flooding in March made damage even worse. Florence STEPs Whitaker Creek trap was also damaged. Prior to flooding, spawning did occur, and fish were tagged and recycled down stream for further fishing opportunities. Kyle Williams, a YouTuber, is doing Alsea River cleanups. Big event with lots of raffle prizes. Very inspirational and trying to get more people out to clean up our rivers. Another event happens on March 29th and April 26th at Alsea Hatchery. Brought in some Marine Resources Project's ocean regulations booklets, excellent resource for anglers.

D. Grosjacques, Umpqua District:

Reedsport-Gardner STEP only does fall Chinook in their hatchery program, this program's fish was poisoned the year before so release was very low, but this year they had a successful release. Roseburg group is the Umpqua Fishermen is having trouble getting volunteers to join the club, the group is aging and not getting younger members. Levi Simmons is the STEP Biologist in the area. The Umpqua Fishermen help with winter steelhead acclimation and Cow Creek Tribe has a second acclimation site. This year's winter steelhead run was early, and the fish were big, but not a lot of fish overall. Flooding did a lot of damage to the area and will need a lot of repairs. Winchester Dam, which only used for making a lake for the local landowners - repairs in 2023 caused a huge lamprey die-off. ODFW is suing the company that owns the dam for \$27 million. No news on how that lawsuit is going. Rock Creek Hatchery burned in 2020 and ODFW did not ask for funding for the facility in legislation this year. We had a town hall meeting in Roseburg where Shaun Clemens for ODFW came and talked to the local folks about options for what we can do to keep a hatchery program in the Umpqua. It was very well received.

R. Lindquist, South Coast District:

The South Coast Fisherman group out of Brookings run a fishpond for a festival in the fall. Great for kids, they all get to catch and keep a fish. This group also does hook and line sampling for their broodstock collection. They catch 77 fish; the goal is 150 pairs. Curry Anadromous Fisherman had good returns this year compared to previous years. Made the fisherman very happy to see fish in the ladder. They spawned 37 pairs this year and raised 100,000 fry, this is right on production their goals. Flooding caused a huge amount of damage. There were about 106,000 fish in the raceways that had to be moved to Elk River Hatchery in a hurry. The volunteers were amazing, ODFW emergency grants were a huge help, and the local biologists were there to help on the ground. Hardly any mortality of those fish was impressive. Real Fish Days, 3rd graders fish in a stocked pond, both clubs come out and volunteer and have a great time. Eggs to Fry Program is only about 5-6 classrooms, John Webber does a great job leading that, they only do steelhead.

D. Grosjacques: We had a previous STAC meeting in Gold Beach and got a tour of the Indian Creek Hatchery, and it was great. Roger should be commended for the large amount of work he does there.

M. Calhoun, North Coast District:

Toured around Tillamook with Kyle Wilson (STEP Biologist) yesterday, it was a great experience. Vernonia has Rock Creek with Dewy pool, every summer they board it up to make a swimming hole, not currently fish friendly but we are working toward that. Several culvert failures in the area, but none were previously fish friendly, so new ones going in will be, so that is a big win. Vernonia has got newly installed fishing docks which are working great, ODFW funded these. Had a commissioner come to a local meeting to talk about environmental justice on the north coast. One of the major takeaways was that when we are out in public, talk plain to people so they can understand.

S. Janego, Eastern District:

Jen Luke has kept busy with 57 classrooms of Eggs to Fry Program in the central Oregon area. Local clubs and trusted partners are very important for our local area's efforts - being able to recognize these community-based programs would be good. Kokanee Karneval is coming up soon, gets a lot of kids excited about fishing. Angler Ed

classes and fish dissection classes are happening in the area. Metolius redband surveys, steelhead reintroduction, and acclamation efforts are all happening in the area. Record steelhead numbers over Round Butte Dam, we think mostly due to good ocean conditions. The power company (PGE) has been very good at working with fish passage in the area. We will be recruiting of his position in the Eastern District – there is a guy in Enterprise that is interested in being on STAC. It would give further reach to the STEP program. There is so much to do in the area and a lack of resources for such a big area.

Program Updates – Marty Olson

R&E Allocation – R&E Recommended the \$50,000 for next biennium's grant cycle. This money will be available to start funding mini-grants at the fall meeting this year.

STAC Vacancies - Currently have a full STAC Board but this is Steve Janego's last meeting, we will be recruiting soon.

Roger Lindquist's first term is up soon as well, we will start re-applying for that soon.

Next spring will be Carl Cole and Dave Grosjacques last meeting – they will start looking for people in the area to replace them. It would be nice to have all nine members and get those vacancies filled faster.

ODFW Commission Meeting – Presented to commission with Steve Janego and Dave Grosjacques. Steve talked to them a lot about how important the volunteer power within STEP is and how much it makes a difference. The Director was very responsive to that.

S. Janego: Recruiting and keeping volunteers is not always easy. There is an opportunity to drive a strategy for this. Need STAC to reach out and recruit and reach the younger generation. *C. Cole*: Take pictures and send them out to the volunteers that are at events, they really like this. And these pictures could help recruit possible future volunteers.

Mini-Grant Update – We have approved 19 projects so far this biennium totaling \$27,464. We are getting \$2,916 in return funds, mostly from the Owyhee project which has been postponed. We have \$25,452 left to allocate for this Cycle 4 meeting. However, we have 22 projects submitted that equal \$38,348 – so we will need to deny about \$12,896 in projects.

Looking at past years, the funds awarded by district - North Coast, Mid-Willamette, Mid Coast and Coos/Coquille have been awarded the most. However, this really ebbs and flows depending on the biennium and cycle, and the local STEP biologist pushing for submissions in their area.

SFR Allocation – ODFW receives \$7-9 million annually from SFR.

Federal SFR funds are dedicated funds, not allocated. It is based on a formula that takes in the size of the state and the number of fish licenses sold. Funding is secure but has been pretty static.

SFR money is divided up by state, but no state or territory receives more than 5% or less than 0.5%-1% of the total funds available nationwide.

Grant Modification – Makayla Simmer, World Salmon Council

Small non-profit that provides outreach for kids to learn about salmon and get them in the field. Appreciated STACs commitment to their program in the past and future.

We were awarded a mini grant for a water quality probe, to introduce students to techniques that scientists use in the field. We were not able to secure the other part of the funding for the probe. We reevaluated where that money should be prioritized. Proposing a change to the grant so they can buy water quality testing gear, the remaining funds they would like to shift to salmon dissection materials for classrooms and the field. The request would include a microscope with an LED projection ability for classroom use. Total comes to just over what was allocated from the original grant, other funds will be used to cover the difference.

Discussion:

R. Lindquist: Would have liked to see the money come back and for them to reapplied for a new grant.

J. Eubank: Agrees, there is not a lot of paper trail for this change. Should have come back as a new application.

S. Janego: This is the first time in his time here that this type of large-scale scope of a project has changed.

M. Parks: If denied is this going to do be detrimental to your program? What is the timeline for when you need these materials? *Mikayla Simmer*: We planned to implement this summer, so we would have to push back this program for

about a year if the fund change was not approved. If we decide not to change to scope, then we request that we could maintain about \$500 of the original grant to fund water quality materials.

R. Lindquist: Would like to see more information on what the money would be spent on exactly. Can Makayla come back and show us that?

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to release the \$355 originally ask for water quality testing materials, returning the remaining \$1500. S. Janego seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – S. Janego, M. Calhoun, D. Grosjacques, J. Eubank, M. Parks, R. Ellison (6). **No** – R. Lindquist, C. Cole (2.) Motion passes.

- ACTION ITEM: Need to discuss principle or operating guidelines around how to deal with application changes in the future.

Mini Grant Reviews

MG 23-021 – Suter Creek Gravel Augmentation

R. Lindquist: Thinks we should push to the next biennium's funding. *Marty Olson:* We wouldn't be able to approve until the fall and this project will happen later in the summer.

C. Cole: Concerned that because they want money for spawning gravel and there is more than one application asking for the same thing in a different area, if we approve one do we have to approve the other?

M. Parks: North Willamette doesn't put in for a lot of grants, especially for things like this. The landowner is very dedicated to restoring salmon to his creek. There are a lot of partners and people invested.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-021 for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – C. Cole, R. Ellison, M. Parks, M. Wilson, J. Eubank, D. Grosjacques, M. Calhoun, S. Janego (8). **No** – R. Lindquist (1). Motion passes.

MG 23-022 – Middle Rogue Steelheaders Trash Cleanup

D. Grosjacques: Does not think it fits for STAC funding.

C. Cole: Disagrees, it is habitat improvement, which fits with STAC funding requirements. There are lots of homeless people in the area, this project is doing 18 river miles of cleanup with up to 40 volunteers.

R. Lindquist: This is after the next meeting; they are not specific on dates.

Monica Magdaleno: There are lots of tributaries within this urbanized watershed and especially with the recent high-water events this has exposed lots of trash. Do not want to discourage fishing and youth events from happening on this river because of the trash in these areas.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to table MG 23-022 until the next meeting. S. Janego seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-023 – Coquille Watershed Youth Waders

M. Wilson: We can table until the next meeting, this is not going to be needed until later in the fall.

Motion: M. Wilson motions to table MG 23-023 until the next meeting. M. Parks seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

*** Check back –**

J. Eubank: There might be a case where they may need these earlier than what we can award at the next meeting.

R. Ellison: Would partial funding be OK? *M. Wilson:* Yes.

Motion: J. Eubank motions to approve MG 23-023 for the reduced amount of \$1,000. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-024 – Rhoades Pond Security Cameras

M. Calhoun: This facility has already been broken into more than once.

Kyle Wilson: There are 10,000 chinook on site with supplies and equipment, it is remote and out of town. Is has been

broken into in the past. We would like to be able to monitor it remotely.

D. Grosjacques: At the Umpqua the security cameras were the first thing people stole. Feels that ODFW should cover this cost. *S. Janego:* This is a volunteer ran site, not ODFW.

M. Wilson: These security cameras can help monitor the site, not just for break-ins, but even for flooding.

R. Ellison: Can we reduce the amount and still be able to make the project happen? This does qualify as STEP facility maintenance. *Kyle Wilson:* Most likely, the non-profit does have some money they may be able to match with. Any funds would be beneficial.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-024 for the reduced amount of \$1000. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-025 – Indian Creek STEP Hatchery Nets

R. Lindquist: The program has two function nets at this time. Transferring fish to trucks is difficult with so few nets.

S. Janego: Could we delay this until the next meeting? *R. Lindquist:* Outplants happen in October and November, but there is a 6-week lead time on ordering nets.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to table MG 23-025 until the next meeting. C. Cole seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

* Check back –

R. Lindquist: I can reduce the ask to two nets instead of four.

Motion: R. Lindquist motions to approve MG 23-025 for the reduced amount of \$746.76. R. Ellison seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-026 – Wallowa Fish District Handwash station and PVC Tubes

S. Janego: These will be used for fishing events on the NE side of the state. Also, the PVC tubes are for some equipment for transferring fish.

R. Lindquist: PVC tubes seem appropriate, but the handwash station seems like something the district should be paying for.

J. Eubank: The two pieces of the proposal seem separate from each other but were grouped together, seems strange.

S. Janego: The fish transfers do happen along with the fishing events a lot of the time.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-026 for the reduced amount of \$791.70, for the PVC tubes and maintenance repair parts. R. Lindquist seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

* Check back –

S. Janego: Thinks the handwash stations would be valuable to provide as they would be used in fishing events. We do not fund much in that area of the state.

R. Lindquist: Maybe we can pay for everything except shipping cost.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-026 for the reduced amount of \$1,791.70, for everything on the request except shipping cost of the handwash station. R. Lindquist seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-027 – North Coast Brood Tube Batteries

Kyle Wilson: The main use for these is the wild brood collection by anglers, the batteries are for pumps that go in tanks for transporting fish.

R. Lindquist: This counts as STEP facility maintenance.

R. Ellison: Is there a minimum number of batteries needed to operate? *Kyle Wilson:* 15-20 batteries are needed. In any given year that can change, usually about 10 given out, but extras are always needed.

C. Cole: How does Umpqua supply their batteries. *D. Grosjacques:* Not sure.

J. Eubank: This helps to support a great volunteer opportunity.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve MG 23-027 for the full amount requested. M. Calhoun seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-028 – Letz Creek Trap Repair

J. Eubank: There was damage from the ice storm in 2024, temporary repairs were done but need permanent repairs to properly operate the trap. Due to recent flooding more damage has occurred.

R. Lindquist: Would an R&E emergency grant be more appropriate?

Marty Olson: Would like to make it clear that R&E emergency funding is a totally separate application, and the funds are not guaranteed. But this project would qualify. *J. Eubank:* They would be totally willing to put the effort into another application.

Motion: R. Lindquist motions to deny MG 23-028 with the recommendation to apply to other funding sources. S. Janego seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – C. Cole, R. Ellison, M. Parks, M. Wilson, R. Lindquist, D. Grosjacques, M. Calhoun, S. Janego (8). **No** –J. Eubank (1). Motion passes.

MG 23-029 – Whittaker Creek Trap Repairs

J. Eubank: This is a busy trap, students from local high school come to help with spawning, they are the muscles and very helpful. There was damage from flooding, and we had to do a recovery mission to get some of the pieces of the trap back.

D. Grosjacques: Would like to treat this application the same way as the previous one.

R. Lindquist: The amounts are not designated, there is no list of items needed.

J. Eubank: This is the trap that regularly gets repairs and mini grant funding, but this is something bigger. Agrees that we do need an itemized list of parts and repairs cost. Most likely it will be more than \$2,000 total.

R. Lindquist: This is a reoccurring ask for this trap location, which may not be something the STAC board wants to do to perpetually fund small fixes. Thinks a bigger and better fix should be made at this trap with different funding.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to deny MG 23-029 with the recommendation to apply to other funding sources. M. Parks seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – C. Cole, R. Ellison, M. Parks, M. Wilson, R. Lindquist, D. Grosjacques, M. Calhoun, S. Janego (8). **No** –J. Eubank (1). Motion passes.

MG 23-030 – Blitzen eDNA sampling

S. Janego: The invasive species in this area of the state are a big deal. Is this in the scope of what STAC should be funding or should this funding come from the district?

D. Grosjacques: This basin is a treasure, and these bass could ruin that. Does meet the requirements for STAC under the category of Monitoring & Evaluation and Research.

R. Lindquist: There is an entire eDNA program within ODFW that could be used for this project.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-030 for full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – J. Eubank, R. Ellison, M. Parks, M. Wilson, D. Grosjacques, M. Calhoun, S. Janego (7). **No** – C. Cole, R. Lindquist (2). Motion passes.

MG 23-031 – Chetco Broodstock Holding Tank

R. Lindquist: This is a volunteer program and works with ODFW staff, but ODFW does not work the weekends. They would like to build the holding tank and place in a location where volunteers can drop fish when not during the work week. These are not mobile tanks; they will bring them to hold in the pen. They already have permits in place.

M. Willson: Anything that promotes volunteers to work the weekends is money well spent.

R. Lindquist: We have lost 8-10 fish in broodstock because the fishermen had to hold them for too long without a tank.

Motion: C. Cole motions to approve MG 23-031 for the full amount requested. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-032 – Ferry Creek Acclimation Pen Repairs

R. Lindquist: Important repairs for the acclimation site to work properly. This is an immediate need.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve MG 23-032 for the full amount requested. R. Ellison seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-033 – Indian Creek Hatchery Blocker Dam and Water Line Repairs

R. Lindquist: Damage from flooding event earlier this year.

S. Janego: The detail on this application is really nice.

J. Eubank: Should this be an emergency grant? *R. Lindquist:* It is not necessarily an emergency. The blocker dam needs to be done soon but the pipe can wait until later fall.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve MG 23-033 for the full amount requested. R. Ellison seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-034 – Klamath River Spawning Gravel

S. Janego: The timeline for this project is August, so it would need the funding now.

J. Eubank: Is concerned about the pending funds from BLM. It's a great project especially with all the eyes on this basin.

Motion: M. Parks motions to approve MG 23-034 for the full amount requested. R. Lindquist seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-035 – Deschutes Drone

S. Janego: Due to the drawdowns of the lakes, they have had to salvage fish a lot, the office is trying to monitor the impacts of those drawdowns by keeping an eye on riparian habitat.

J. Eubank: Is this going to be only used for this particular project or loaned out to others? Is the licensing and permissions all there for flying drones? *S. Janego:* The biologist who applied for this has his drone license. We have funded drones for surveys before.

M. Parks: Our funding guidelines are pretty vague, but these do fall under monitoring and evaluation, so this fits.

R. Lindquist: Believes this is a core function of ODFW and they should fund it themselves.

S. Janego: If we had another grant that was similar but for fish surveys would you vote the same. *R. Lindquist:* No, still think they should pay for it themselves.

Motion: R. Lindquist motions to deny MG 23-035. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – C. Cole, M. Wilson, J. Eubank, D. Grosjacques, R. Lindquist (5). **No** – R. Ellison, M. Parks, M. Calhoun, S. Janego (4). Motion passes.

MG 23-036 – Warrenton High School Water Quality Testing Equipment

D. Grosjacques: They have a fantastic program at this high school, the kids are super proud of what they have done there.

Kyle Wilson: The students are the ones that spearheaded this effort, they have a recirculating system and so far they have had to do what they can to monitor water quality at the facility. The future of that hatchery could really benefit.

J. Eubank: With rising water and air temperatures this is staying ahead of the change we will see down the road.

Motion: R. Lindquist motions to approve MG 23-036 for the full amount. M. Calhoun seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-037 – Upper Rogue Educational Mobile Aquarium Repair

Monica Magdaleno: This tank was designed by a local person and is utilized for several events including the Salmon Festival which had thousands of people present last year. One of the largest events in the area, geared mostly toward kids and education. Monica received the trailer used and was told that she had to fix it. The trailer mount had to be completely redone, and it had no trailer brakes. Helps to keep education promoted in that area.

J. Eubank: The repairs have already been completed, and they are looking for reimbursement.

R. Lindquist: Seems like ODFW should be funding this. *Monica Magdaleno:* She is currently over budget and looking for other ways to fund STEP activities, this is only used by STEP and is an important tool for the program.

S. Janego: This tank gets so many people involved in fish education. *D. Grosjacques:* Agrees ODFW should be responsible for this funding but also agrees that it is important for STEP.

M. Parks: This tank could possibly be used statewide if needed, a huge opportunity.

R. Lindquist: If this was a fishing equipment trailer, would we pay to fix that? *R. Ellison:* These things are not comparable this trailer is only used for STEP activities, no others.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-037 for the full amount requested. M. Parks seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-038 – North Middle School Outdoor Education Gear

C. Cole: This is for rods and reels for students at the local middle school. Carl asked him why he needed more gear when the ODFW angler education program comes to the area and provides it – The teacher wants to expand their program and make it bigger. He reached out to Amanda but has not heard back. *Sara Hart:* The Angler Education events usually require that the kids must give back their rods.

S. Janego: They get super excited when they want to keep the rods but it doesn't happen often.

M. Parks: Amanda Boyles with Angler Ed is very busy and is asked for a lot for fishing events.

D. Grosjacques: When you have a program like this in a junior high, it just takes that one teacher to spark that passion in the kids. We should support that. *C. Cole:* This could reach up to 80 students a year.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve MG 23-038 for the full amount requested. M. Parks seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-039 – Whetstone-Mace Riparian Restoration

C. Cole: This project may take place in the fall. This is going to be a long-term project, probably 7 years of constant weed control.

S. Janego: Is the herbicide application listed for labor or for chemicals? *C. Cole:* Maybe but did not break down the labor out of the budget on the application.

R. Lindquist: This is a big \$70,000 project and this seems like a small amount compared to the overall cost.

Monica Magdaleno: He just wants to pay the contractor, not ODFW personnel time. This covers a big area and a long-term project. Knife River owns the property, but land is under a trust with the Watchable Wildlife Foundation. But Knife River is the one that gives permission for land access.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motions to approve MG 23-039 for the full amount requested. S. Janego seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-040 – Odell Lake Angling Deadline Buoys

S. Janego: This protects the fish but also the anglers from getting fined or not knowing where the off-limit zones are. Jen Luke mentioned that he is trying to cut costs by building his own anchors. He asked if OSP could provide some funds, but they said no, it is up to us to help promote the rules, it is just their job to enforce them.

D. Grosjacques: The fish can really clog up the mouth of those creeks during certain times of the year, and they need to implement temperature closures of a certain distance from the creek mouths.

Motion: R. Lindquist motions to approve MG 23-040 for the full amount requested. C. Cole seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-041 – Indian Creek STEP Hatchery Access Road Repairs

R. Lindquist: This is money that has already been spent. Money is to pay back the STEP group that paid for the road repair. The contractor did this work for \$9,000 - we already receive \$5,000 from the R&E emergency fund. The group is still \$4,000 in the hole, so this would just help cover those funds.

Motion: S. Janego motions to approve MG 23-041 for the full amount requested. R. Ellison seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

MG 23-042 – Mid Coast Rain Suits

Motion: J. Eubank motions to table MG 23-042 until next meeting. Roger seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

Volunteer Event Management Update/Demo – Don Robison

There has been a lot of outside concern about the complexity of the new volunteer system, here are some of the major concerns that Don was able to answer:

Applicants that are showing up same day and/or for only 1 day - Same day application packet. This paperwork limits what the volunteer can do but allows them to still participate. The volunteer coordinator for the event can request a

packet and have the volunteer fill it out on paper or online. They are not allowed to drive for the event or be public facing but can still do work. The coordinator has 3 days to get that paperwork turned in.

C. Cole: Is this possible for Angler Ed events? *Don Robinson:* They can be event support, but not an instructor. There are quite a few positions that have an express certification. But they would not be able to work with kids or the public at an event.

J. Eubank: That is just if they are not already in the system? *Don Robinson:* Correct, it is really easy to add that to the list of things they are allowed to do.

R. Lindquist: Can we download this packet? *Don Robinson:* Not currently downloadable but maybe in the future. But you can request them ahead of an event in preparation for someone who may show up on the day of. Filled out documents can be scanned and sent back to us within 3 days, we can be flexible with those days if needed.

Computer use refusal – paper application packet available. These take longer to process; they have to be mailed out to the volunteer and then they must mail it back. It can take weeks to complete. However, anything available in VEM will also be available as a paper packet.

D. Grosjacques: What if someone has completed the day-of packet and then shows up again? Are they already in the system? *Don Robinson:* We want to know what people are involved in. Yes, they can work, but we also want to know what they are doing and make sure all the things are done right.

D. Grosjacques: If one person is computer savvy in the club, can that person do it for everyone? *Don Robinson:* Our plan is to go out to each region and find volunteers that are good with the computer system and willing to volunteer to do these things, that is what we want.

R. Lindquist: Could this be turned into a phone app? *Don Robinson:* We are designing the website to be mobile-friendly. But it is not its own app as of now. This may be a much further phase in the project. *S. Janego:* Integrating it into the MyODFW app would be really nice.

Kyle Wilson: Is there ever a cost associated with signing up? *Don Robinson:* No, not for volunteers. We cover the cost of background checks and driving record checks.

R. Lindquist: Is there a way for volunteers to go in and record their hours? *Don Robinson:* Right now, the event volunteer coordinators can go in report the hours. Through VEM it is optional for volunteers to record their hours on their own or they can just have the coordinator do it – the coordinators make this decision. But it requires coordinators to verify those numbers.

R. Lindquist: What about folks who are not volunteering at a particular event, but just in general or at a hatchery, etc.? Can they still record their hours through VEM? *Don Robinson:* It depends on what kind of volunteering they are doing. Phase 2 of the project will allow for more project functionality. Prefer that project hours will be reported monthly instead of yearly and also will not require a particular 'event'.

S. Janego: Has seen other systems where volunteers can put their specific skills in their application. Then coordinators can search for specific skilled volunteers. *Don Robinson:* This is already a function in the system it is just not currently active – that is a future goal. VEM allows us to broadcast out to folks in certain areas or statewide. There are lots of functionalities that we have just started to explore.

R. Lindquist: It appears that the report that STEP Biologist gets is statewide, and it is not sortable and not easy to read or use. Can this system be able to be sortable by region or activity? *Don Robinson:* Yes, this system should make it easier to read and to report.

CHUM SALMON Reintroduction – Kelcee Smith, reintroduction coordinator

Board got a presentation from Kelcee Smith, the Lower Columbia Chum Reintroduction Coordinator.

Chum Salmon: Largest range of all the salmon species. Adults return as 3–5-year-olds in the fall, spawning around November. Eggs are incubated during the winter and fry out-migrate in the spring. Juvenile chum salmon spend almost no time in freshwater. Their spawning habitat is low in the watersheds, cold, low gradient, and little to no barrier streams. Even small impediments to streams can prevent chum salmon migration.

History: Used to be very common in the Columbia River Basin – over 1 million adults returned in 1928. They were about 7-10% of the total salmon returns to the basin. They were one of the most prominent salmon in lower Columbia

canneries. Today chum salmon are really rare in the lower Columbia River – huge declines mostly due to over harvest and the loss of spawning habitat. Other factors contributing to the decline include climate change, degrading ocean conditions, predators, and disease. 90% of the historical chum salmon populations in Oregon are gone. They were listed at threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1999 and now there is a collaborative recovery effort between many different agencies to bring them back.

Why Recover Chum: Legal obligation under the ESA. Ecologically, they are a keystone species, and they transfer important nutrients from the ocean to the lower watersheds. Economically they are important commercial and recreational fisheries, helping increase tourism. They have great cultural and intrinsic value; they are important to and used in many tribal ceremonies.

Recovery So Far: Established in 2010 - Habitat Restoration, maintaining a broodstock, monitoring the recovery, and identifying and addressing the limiting factors. They have been concentrating their efforts on the coastal regions of Youngs Bay, Big Creek and the Clatskanie River.

Future: Continued baseline monitoring in Youngs Bay area, habitat restoration efforts, and education/outreach. There is a hope that wild chum number will increase with only habitat restoration. Big Creek and Clatskanie will develop a monitoring plan and test reintroduction methods. For the Scappoose, Cascade and Gorge areas they will begin some baseline monitoring and plan for project expansion.

What Can You Do: Be a good steward! Plant native plants, be conscious of water use and run off on your property. Cooperate with ODFW surveyors, allow access to streams on private property where they are doing surveys. Follow fish regulations. Tell others what you've learned. Advocate for Chum – Volunteer to help out!

Contact Kelcee at: Kelcee.L.Smith@odfw.oregon.gov with anything Chum related!

STAC Initiatives

STAC Volunteer Awards: Presented awards of excellence to LeRoy Shultz and Tom VanderPlaat for their extensive volunteer efforts in the Eggs to Fry Classroom program.

**Checked back to several mini grant applications* – see asterisks under mini grant review above.

STEP Propagation Renewals: Two propagation renewals were submitted for review – Metolius Pond Acclimation and Camp Polk Acclimation, both in Eastern Oregon region. There was no discussion around either of these projects. STAC reviewed and is in favor of both these projects.

Oregon AFS Update from Roger Lindquist: Roger represented STAC at Oregon AFS meeting in Bend last February. The theme of the conference was Connecting Communities – presentations were all about how important fish are to these communities that they are working in. His takeaways from the conference were that there are a lot of very smart people out there doing important fisheries work. Fish and fisheries are very complex and complicated subjects. There are many causes and effects out there, some are known and some unknown – there are still a lot of questions to be asked and answered.

Save the Date for May 4-7, 2026, in Portland Oregon. Western Division AFS meeting hosted by the Oregon Chapter.

R&E Update from Dave Grosjacques: Has a meeting in Roseburg in March. New Board member, Winter Rhodes from the Tigard area. This was our Cycle 1 meeting where we reviewed some big money applications. They had 11 project applications and approved 8 projects. **Was about \$1.8 million approved including the administrative funding package.** STAC has requested that the mini grant fund be increased in the past, but Dave does not agree that that should happen. If they want to increase funding, they should find money somewhere else.

R&E Cycle 2 meeting will be in Sister on September 30th, 202.

R. Lindquist: With the upcoming license fee increase, will R&E get more money? *Marty Olson:* No, it is a flat fee out of the license fee fund.

Administration Discussion

Sub-Committee:

Marty Olson: There has been some discussion about tightening eligibility or criteria for mini-grants. Should we put

together a sub-committee for this discussion. Also, there was some confusion on what should be done when a application is approved but then asks for it to change. Should we put together a sub-committee to create a checklist or make criteria for grants that change after approval? *D. Grosjacques*: Would like to have something put together and discuss it. Maybe put together a one-pager checklist.

Marty Olson: Do we want to have a mechanism for fast acting or emergency type grant awards? – Board agrees that we do not need this because we can already allow applicants to be reimbursed for spent funds.

R. Ellison: Would like the STEP biologist to be clear with outside applicants that we would like to see certain things in the application - Itemized lists, pictures, etc.

S. Janego: We need to give the team a little wiggle room to approve things that may not be conventional. Board agree that no subcommittee is needed.

Vote for new Chair and Co-Chair: Terms are for 1 year but can be voted back in for longer than that.

Nominations: *D. Grosjacques* nominates *R. Lindquist* for Board Chair. Nomination accepted.

Motion: *S. Janego* motions for a unanimous vote of in favor of *Roger Linquist* as the next Board Chair. *C. Cole* seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor. *R. Lindquist* abstains. Motion passes.

Nomination: *S. Janego* nominates *J. Eubank* for Board Vice-Chair. Nomination accepted.

Motion: *R. Lindquist* motions for a unanimous vote of in favor of *Jessica Eubank* as the next Board Vice-Chair. *D. Grosjacques* seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor. *J. Eubank* abstains. Motion passes.

Next Meeting:

D. Grosjacques: Would like to see us in southern Oregon. *R. Ellison*: Would like to see us in the eastern Oregon area. Have a lot of local biologists and research happening in the area.

Marty Olson: Travel costs were very expensive for these meetings and maybe even more if everyone is having to travel far into eastern Oregon.

M. Wilson: Likes the idea of Roseburg because it is more central. We could tour Rock Creek Hatchery and the educational building.

R. Lindquist: Would like to go to Grants Pass. It is a little further south where we haven't had a meeting in a while.

C. Cole: Also likes the idea of going to Grants Pass, he will need a replacement for the board soon and that would be good motivation for him to recruit some people to come and check out the meeting. *D. Grosjacques*: That would be close enough for his possible board replacement as well.

Motion: *D. Grosjacques* motions for the next STAC meeting to take place in Grants Pass. *R. Lindquist* seconded the motions.

Vote: **Yes** – *M. Calhoun*, *J. Eubank*, *D. Grosjacques*, *R. Lindquist*, *C. Cole*, *M. Parks*, *R. Ellison*, *S. Janego*. **No** – *M. Wilson*. Motion passes.

Motion: *R. Ellison* motions to have the meeting on Oct 14th. *D. Grosjacques* seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yes** – Unanimous. Motion passes.

Possible tour on Monday, October 13th in the afternoon, with meeting on Tuesday, October 14th. Will discuss tour options with *Monica Magdaleno*, the STEP biologist in the area.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.