

Memorandum for the Record

SUBJECT: Minutes for the Willamette Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting
June meeting. (NMFS edits in red)

The meeting was held in the Essayons Room at USACE NWP HQ, Block 300. Portland, Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Couture	Ryan	ODFW	ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us
Dishman	Diana	NOAA	Diana.Dishman@noaa.gov
Garletts	Doug	NWP-OD-V	Douglas.F.Garletts@usace.army.mil
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Helms	Chad	NWP-OD-V	Chad.K.Helms@usace.army.mil
Hogue	Yamen	NWP	Yamen.Hoque@usace.army.mil
Hudson	Mike	USFWS	michael_hudson@fws.gov
Kovalchuk	Erin	NWP-OD-TF	Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil
Lundell	Tina	NWP	Tina.M.Lundell@usace.army.mil
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-OD-TF	Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil
Scullion	Mary Karen	NWP	Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	Cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Spear	Dan	BPA	dispear@bpa.gov
Taylor	Greg	NWP	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Traylor	Andrew	NWP-OD-TF	Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil

1. Final Decisions made at this meeting.

1.1. April were approved and May minutes need one more day for comments.

2. Action Items

2.1.[Apr 2017] Form task group to examine turbine maintenance periods for Detroit and Big Cliff Dams as well as other WVP dams (Walker). *Status: No task group meeting has been scheduled yet. Status: Walker is working on a doodle poll.*

2.2.[Apr 2017] Form task group to examine adult fish facility operations to incorporate into the WFOP (Walker). *Status: No task group meeting has been scheduled yet. This could be a short meeting but the topic needs regional input. Status: Walker is working on a doodle poll.*

2.3.[Apr 2017] Look into how spill is allocated across outlet works/spill bays to alleviate TDG issues (Walker). *Status: Not completed. Dishman would like to know at what flow the minimum gate opening would no longer be a problem/restriction. ACTION: Taylor, Dishman and Walker will meet to discuss this issue. Status: Not completed. Spill is no longer distributed over the spill gates because of the minimum gate openings. Hart explained that you need to have both gates over the minimum before the second one is opened. The minimum needed to use both gates is 2000cfs. When the spill does hit 2K or 3K, NMFS would like to see the project*

*open the next gate opened rather than just continue to push the water through one gate. **ACTION: Walker will pull together the spill patterns to insert into the WFOP. The group will still meet offline.***

- 2.4.[Mar 2017] Determine if a turbine unit can be run for 24 hours rather than just during the day to pass water and help keep TDG lower (Spear). *Spear – yes, we can run a unit for 24 hours from BPA's or a power perspective unless there is some O&M reason why we could not. Status: Although this pattern is physically possible, BPA is not planning to implement this change until some modeling work has been completed to determine the amount of TDG that would be produced and how much of a benefit this is to the fish. Chane and Hart will look into this but there is so much work going on for the Columbia that it may be difficult to find staffing available. Previous annual water quality reports may aid in determining TDG levels under different operations. Status: Running additional water through the turbines would help **reduce TDG by 1-2% but starting June 1, the project would lose temperature control. All dams work together so if you are generating more at one dam then spill would increase elsewhere. NOAA will work with ODFW to create a list of highest and lowest priority spill for the Willamette during different times of the year to help reduce TDG. Scullion will send out a No Load Spill Document that may be helpful.***

Commented [NMFS1]: Where did this figure come from? Please indicate the source of this information (e.g., operations staff, previous reports, etc.)

Commented [CW2R1]: Likely a statement made by Water Management of the Corps

3. Updates

3.1. HMT Updates

- 3.1.1. North Santiam – At Marion Forks, 8 out of 12 ponds have been painted but there is not enough funding the rest. At Minto, more fish are returning and marking has started.
- 3.1.2. South Santiam – Fish are starting to return. Nine unmarked ChS have been outplanted and only 18 StW were outplanted.
- 3.1.3. McKenzie – To date, the project has the highest collection numbers in the basin. Three hundred pairs of ChS brood stock from Dexter are being held at McKenzie for a pre-spawn mortality experiment. At Cougar, 82 ChS (1 hatchery) have returned and four Bull Trout. The Chinook are being double floy tagged and if the fish come back a second time then they are transported above the dam, so far there have been 12. Ziller sent an MOC about the Cougar protocol to Walker on 22 June. Walker has not sent it out for review yet. At Fall Creek, 241 ChS have been collected; out of those 218 are natural origin. All the natural origin fish were transported above the dam. Only 6 StW were collected at the facility and most were post-spawned. Construction of the new facility is moving forward. At Leaburg Hatchery, they have cut back to three full time staff. Based on the current counts, pHOS is estimated about 15% at Leaburg Dam but will be changing as the season goes on. The south bank trap starts on 5 July which is earlier than usual. The decision was made to start early based on the small run size, meaning that a low number of natural fish will be impacted. Sharpe will document this operation in an email to NMFS.
- 3.1.4. Middle Fork – At Dexter, brood collection is going slow. Similar to last year, the project is going take a minimum of 100 males over to the Malheur River for tribal angling. Last year, there was some misidentification and ended up with some unintended spawning in the Malheur. To prevent this, they will transfer later in the season.

3.2. HGMP updates – No updates on ChS HGMP.

3.3. Research/WFFDWG updates – The Cougar Workshop was on 26 June.

3.4. Water Quality Updates – Temperature control at Detroit has started with mixed results.

There was an archeological survey on 20/21 June at Big Cliff so a flat pool was requested. This created a dip in the temperature control graph. **ACTION: Walker will write an MFR on the temperature anomaly.** Detroit is **currently** spilling for 10 hours **per day**. The gauge used to provide TDG on the website but it no longer does that. However, Minto now has a gauge for TDG but a minor issue with the length of the wire has to be fixed **before it will be operational**. The scheduling of spill vs. generating is planned every couple of days to maintain the **maximum of 54° F** (new target). There was an outage at Big Cliff until 1 July then the unit will return to service. Temperature management at Cougar is underway as well by keeping the weirs at ~10 feet below water surface which has been hitting the target.

Commented [NMFS3]: Someone from the Corps please verify this statement is correct. Please otherwise clarify what this statement means if this correction was not accurate.

3.5. Flow update - The forecast graphs were **distributed-presented** at the meeting and discussed. Currently there are higher flows but the forecast predicts returning to minimum flows. Lookout Point has a full pool and will be drawn down in the fall. **The Corps stated that they had been informed the** new drawdown plan was canceled for this year. **Fall Creek will have a normal full pool for the summer and drawdown for the fall.** Blue River will have an early drawdown for spillway gate maintenance. Cougar also has upcoming spillway gate maintenance and will be drawn down by 1 September. The forebay will remain full for recreation over the July 4th weekend then start the drawdown recognizing the maximum flows in the WFOP. Spill can't start until after a scheduled RO dam safety inspection next week. Taylor wants to avoid RO flow creating false attraction for fish returning to the facility. Unit 2 will be back in service creating more turbine flow. Dorena does draft the lake because the minimum BiOp outflow is higher than the inflow and the same with Cottage Grove. The operation at Green Peter is to meet the Foster BiOp flows. Foster should be filling this weekend. The water situation is looking good for the S. Santiam. At Detroit, there is a lot of stored water and it should be easy to meet the BiOp flow requirements. Spear summarized the **decision to cancel the Lookout Point drawdown in Fall 2017.** The initial assumption was that it was a quick drawdown for two weeks in November but it would actually require starting in **August** and by Oct/Nov the water level would be below the minimum operating pool. The forebay would then require filling naturally from rain taking about **three months** assuming good weather. There are both power and environmental compliance concerns that need to be addressed first. Research **using active tagged fish to study passage** will still be happening at **LOP Fall 2017**, but will reflect baseline conditions. Because the dam is earthen both the drawdown and refill has to be 3 to 5 feet per day because the pores absorb the water in a steady fill.

Commented [NMFS4]: This is what was stated (i.e., operators had been told that this operation wouldn't be conducted), but does not accurately represent the status of this operation. The fall deep drawdown may not be implemented this year according to the Corps and BPA, but this issue is still being discussed by the RME and Steering Teams through the WATER process to resolve what operations will be conducted this year.

Commented [NMFS5]: Again, this decision has not been finalized through the WATER process. BPA did explain the concerns which, from their perspective, might mean they wouldn't be able to complete the NEPA process in time to conduct this operation.

Commented [NMFS6]: Whether this is what was stated or not, Corps operators had informed the RM&E team prior to this meeting that the drawdown could begin after September 1st. Since then we have been informed it could begin as late as October 1st.

Commented [NMFS7]: Again, per information presented to the RM&E team this is not accurate. Corps operators have stated the refill is expected to take two to four weeks.

Commented [NMFS8]: This reflects a statement made in a later email from Ian Chane (7/5/17), but is the Corps'/BPA's perspective only. The RM&E team has indicated that whether this study should be conducted (and would be supported) depends on what operation is conducted in fall of 2017.

Commented [CW9R8]: Discussions regarding this operation are ongoing.

3.6. Pinniped Update (ODFW) – Sea lions have left the falls

3.7. BPA updates – No updates.

3.8. Cougar Fish Facility – Covered under HMT updates

3.9. Fall Creek Fish Facility – No update.

4. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

4.1. 17WVP01 Hatchery Baseline Monitoring and Evaluation – Send comments to Walker and Mackey.

5. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage: http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/

5.1. Status of the 2017 WFOP

5.2. Change forms

6. Task Group Updates.

6.1. Hatchery Management Team – Covered under HMT updates.

- 6.2. Summer Steelhead (Traylor/Taylor) – The task group met on 21 June after HMT. All the reports and studies discussing Summer Steelhead will be compiled and put on the COE website. The next steps might include updating the HMGP with the new data but that will come after the data is compiled. The next meeting has not been scheduled.
- 6.3. SWIFT, Flow task group (Piaskowski) – SWIFT will meet on 29 June. This group is conducting work in response to an RPA measure about revisiting the BiOp flows if new data suggest they should be updated, and ~~is part of~~ may affect predicted water demands used in the Willamette Basin Review. The group is looking at the effects of changing the mainstem flow targets on water temperature, available habitat, and several other ecological response variables.