

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 14, 2015

MEETING CALLED BY	Dave Knutzen
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Group
FACILITATOR	Ryan Lothrop
NOTE TAKER	Colleen Desselle
ATTENDEES	Dave Knutzen, James Malcom, Steven Chamberlin, Erik Anderson, Dave Puki, Norm Reinhardt, Gregg Williams, Don Freeman, Mike Gilchrist, Art Tachell, Ryan Lothrop, Laurie Peterson, Troy McKelvey, Ron Warren, Rahmi Aiken, Colleen Desselle, Jim Jenkins, Jason Smith, Brian Missildine, Gary Marston, Christina Iverson, Michael Schmidt, Dorothy Reinhardt

Agenda Topics	
DISCUSSION	Minutes of previous meeting.
CONCLUSIONS	Moved to accept, seconded, and approved. No opposition.

DISCUSSION	Sub-Committee Updates	
	Hatchery Evaluation (HE) (Erik Anderson) – spoke of his idea that he worked out with the UW. It was a good practice to put to use the things he learned in school. We can build from this year’s project to another project for next year.	
	Alternate Funding (AF) (Don Freeman) – Nothing to report that is not in the last minutes.	
	Legislation (Leg) (Norm Reinhardt) – There is a lot going on but nothing is happening. Met with Ann Larson. Drafted a letter, but still have it. Drafted a second letter which is nearly ready, but have several questions. A letter for capital budget for the Deschutes Hatchery went out.	
CONCLUSIONS	<p>HE – to help the hatcheries to better measure some of the costs (feed, etc.). The team shared their work and Erik is extremely impressed. The team at the hatchery is super excited.</p> <p>Leg – Troy went to some yearling hatcheries. They have had some problems with flooding. Hupp Pond has other problems. Went to Soos Creek to Icy Creek – spectacular place. Palmer Pond –could do some relationship building with the tribe to help with management.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
HE Adjust models and present to panel on June 3. Email OC should consider attending the presentation.	Erik Anderson	June 2, 2015

DISCUSSION	Introductions
	This was the second meeting of the group with some new members present.
CONCLUSIONS	Introductions were made. Fishing stories on audio.

DISCUSSION	North of Falcon Review
	For the agency, depending on who you talk to, you get different information. The staff stayed focused, ensured they had what they needed. Everyone pitched in. Ron apologized to those present, who spent their resources to attend the meetings in California, because he and the staff had not taken enough time to communicate one on one.
CONCLUSIONS	A one-page information page has been created for many proposals. Ron’s perspective is the meetings were similar in nature as in the past. At the start of the year we looked at our approach. This year we started high (larger than we expected) and used it all the way through the process.

DISCUSSION

Hatchery Status Updates

Fish Health: Created broodstock template update which is a program we already paid for, raised, and released. Jim Jenkins highlighted the main changes on the form and how to read it.

White River Spring Chinook: Ron Warren – We have a commitment to have a conservation program and a harvest program. Because of declining returns to White River the agency had concerns that we had converted too quickly and decided to opt for a sliding scale of production for conservation and harvest programs in place and we have to hit a certain target of conservation before we harvest within the program. Through discussions, this allowed us to have an agreement for HGMP coverage for the joint programs. Everyone knows the importance of having HGMPs and when you look at the White River program in its entirety, the spring Chinook raised at Hupp Springs are still part of the overall population back in the White, and although the recovery plan has not been updated since the mid-90s, it still said that you had to reach spawning goals in the White for five consecutive years. We hit that, but because as soon as we hit it, it immediately began to drop again whether that was environmental, whether that was just survival of the brood stock, [we] just don't know. So we got to year three, needing to have an HGMP in place and sit down to talk to the tribes about the HGMP because they are joint programs (because of the Puget Sound Salmon Management Plans). In that discussion it was decided to (in looking at the old agreements, old memos) there was an approximate level of 320,000 release commitment to meet the conservation goals, a commitment to have a conservation program and a harvest program at Minter and then anything over and above that goes to the acclimation ponds. There is still a commitment to exchange eggs between the White River facility run by Muckleshoot and Hupp/Minter where the White River spring Chinook are as it has been for the last few years, but because of that declining return to the White River, the agency opted to put in this kind of sliding scale of conservation program and harvest program depending on the levels of eggs taken and this just happened here the last few months so that is what I can tell you.

What this does, is that through the mark selective fishery, it maximizes the number [of fish] that were released this year that are going to come back to the facility because of the shortfalls in the overall egg takes. The Minter facility has tried to build it up to see the true zero-age returns, and as it builds up each year you would have a conservation program and harvest program that may fluctuate depending on overall egg takes as well as the enhancement that goes back to the upper White River for acclimation and release for the recovery program over there. They have not been meeting their goals for the last couple years. My understanding from staff is that there are not 1,000 fish spawning in the White River (White River spring Chinook).

The White River spring Chinook that we have a Hupp Springs and those in the White are genetically the same and they have not been altered since we started the conservation program back in the early 80s. There are three acclimation ponds in the upper White that the Puyallup Tribe operates: 1) White River facility at the Buckley trap; and 2) Minter/Hupp facility that we operate have White River spring Chinook; they are all the same fish – their gametes continue to be exchanged so that we don't have a mishap and that they do remain the same. The fish that return to the White are integrated to allow putting some fish upstream over and above their egg take goals, anything that does return early on they will spawn within their broodstock program.

Understand the 1,000 fish is not what returns to all the facilities –all the facilities are getting 1,000 fish – the 1,000 fish are spawning naturally in the White River (spring Chinook). That has to occur for recovery purposes to advance and for hatchery programs to be modified; is the threshold. This is how we made the change. We went to NOAA Fisheries, we said “hey, we've met this target. How do we go about making changes to conservation and/or harvest programs?” You tell the program managers you are going to ad-clip them. That is at the same time we had budget situations. We notified the tribes that we were going to close Hupp Springs. PSRFE then said, “hey wait a minute. There are White River spring Chinook we can mark and release them as harvestable fish.” We pursued that, and that is how we have been operating the last few years (starting in 2011 brood). This would have been the fourth year, so we got three broods out. This year they are all released with wire with intact adipose fins for conservation purposes being paid for by general fund or other state dollars, but not PSRFE money. We decided to not ad-clip those fish and reimbursed the PSRFE for their expenditures on these fish.

Hatchery Evaluation Report: Ryan discussed what the data on the table for the PSRFE means. Noted the new PSRFEF percentage of fish CAP.		
CONCLUSIONS		
Fish Health: Ich is a parasite and needs treatment on the environment rather than the fish at 1/40,000 for 8 hours.		
Hatchery Evaluation: This is a new process and they will continue to work on this for improvement and accuracy. In the future, would like to look at a standardized approach for adding programs (to be discussed later). Created an evaluation matrix for fish health, hatchery evaluation, etc. Scale 1-5 with 1 good and 5 poor. Is not complete.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
A new facility can help in preventing/treating Ick. Hatchery Evaluation Report will be shared with HE to provide recommendations.	Ryan	Immediately following the meeting.
DISCUSSION Budgets		
Ryan discussed the 2015-17 WDFW BN update, the 2013-15 PSRFEF BN status update, and the 2015-17 PSRFEF BN planning.		
CONCLUSIONS		
Rahmi stated they had the allotments and the allotment has not been spent. Ryan - committee is still under the spending authority reduction, but should be getting it back in the next biennium. Norm - How can we be prepared to open an in-season fishery based on current runs? Ryan - It would have to be agreed-upon with co-managers and NOAA prior to finalizing the fish regs. There was some discussion on whether people buy more licenses versus participation on pink years. We get an increase of \$300,000 in our spending authority next year. At the June meeting we have important information to carry forward. Keep in mind that whatever salary and benefits increase (if any) would be and then work on what else we can do.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Provide budget information prior to the June 23 meeting for review.	Ryan	Prior to June 23
DISCUSSION Next meeting		
CONCLUSIONS		
June 23, 2015		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Find a room and set the agenda	Colleen/Ryan	ASAP
OBSERVERS	Brian Missildine, Christina Iverson, Michael Schmidt (Long Live the Kings)	
RESOURCE PERSONS	Colleen Desselle and Ryan Lothrop	
SPECIAL NOTES		