

PSRFEF Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Natural Resources Building

Room 682 (6th Floor)

Committee members present: Gregg Williams, Troy, Mark R, Mike Gilchrist, Dave Puki, Don Freeman, Mark Baltzell, Norm Reinhardt, Dave Knutzen, Wayne Harmond, Art Tachell, Dan Witzcak

WDFW staff present: Mark Baltzell, Ann Stephenson, David Stormer, Leah Snyder

Introduction

Review Agenda – Approved, NR seconded

Review Minutes – Nov. Meeting Minutes – DP motion to approve, DF seconded

Program Update

- **2020 North of Falcon schedule (Baltzell and Stormer)**
 - WDFW is looking to livestream the meetings again.
 - Hatchery Chinook will most likely be the bright spot in the Puget Sound again this year
 - NR: Where are we in the Chinook Management Plan? MB: Still having co-management issues, looking to have the management plan approved by the end of the month. DP: Mid Hood Canal? MB: We are looking at an alternative stock to use. AT: Do you see an alternative stock working? DP: Is this a nonnative stock we are managing? MB: We don't know it's a natural stock or if it is a stock made up with strays, but NOAA decided it is a population to manage. WH: Is there a goal we need to reach for that stock to stop being an impediment? MB: it would be a self-sustaining population. AT: What is the goal? MB: The goal is to manage two stocks to be a self-sustaining population. It is aimed toward natural fish production; each watershed will be different with different populations. ??: Is the NOF schedule finalized? MB: It is about 90% finalized and should be posted on the website soon. MG: Have you taken the feds SRKW data? MB: The SRKW workgroup helps decide on what is being evaluated and what management plans to use. In the past, NOAA has wanted to use FRAM, but there is a different model that will overlay where the whales are and what stocks will be impacted when the whales are there. I don't believe we will have to do anything this year. AT: Is there going to be any relief down the road? MB: Habitat has been involved since 2017 and we have been having ongoing conversations. With recent litigation from CCA, there could be more changes or reductions in fisheries. Stillaguamish is looking at the exploitation rate on that stock. We have looked retroactively and

are hopeful it won't be an issue going forward and when we start managing for natural stock. DK: You are tracking extinction. If those fish were strictly tagged and not mass marked it would make things better for that stock of fish. Which would be no different from Nooksack and Elwha. MB: PSC meeting this week, Laurie Peterson is doing a presentation that Mark will send out to the group.

- **2019-21 Biennium budget status report (Committee)**
 - DS: Through fiscal month five has been corrected for transfer of funds we have made or suggested during our November & December conference calls. Red values are funds that were added to the initial allotment and you can see the variance in the right column. \$3376 was to cover the descending devices and stickers for Sportsman Show. MB: Do we have a sense, knowing what the committee has allotted from the goals and development fund, what is left in that fund? DS: Looks like around 63k for FY 20. About \$63,140 in FY, 97640 per year.
- **DFW Fish & Wildlife Biologist 2 position update (Stormer)**
 - DS: Roughly 40 total applications, given 20 from HR, interviewed 10, really good candidates, narrowed it down to 2 people this morning, gave a supplemental exercise to work on over the weekend and should have a candidate selected by early next week. MB: one hired a few months ago, running a tagging trailer for 7 months of the year and Skokomish bio for the other 5 months. Hatchery wants them through July, we would get him August through January.
- **Goal Development update and discussion (Stormer & Committee)**
 - Current Projects
 - DFW South Puget Sound Chinook & coho diet study update (Stormer)
 - DS: Discussed whether we wanted to have more than one prize and spoke with Justin Terry and suggested dockside samplers promote more frequent prizes. We are conducting the study in areas 12 & 13. AS: I think it would be good to have a sign that says where to drop off the samples. The samplers won't be taking stomach contents, the anglers have to do it 100% voluntarily. DS: We have received a few samples already. We were worried about people being willing to donate. DP: Sportsman show handout? NR: I don't think anglers will be willing to do this themselves. We need to show benefit and contribution to the resource. This could be a steep hill like descending devices. DP: Regular anglers should be interested. Blackmouth fisherman are always watching stomach contents. AS: In general, there is a climate for the samplers to get information that is required, it will be hard to get voluntary involvement. DS: What prizes? More frequent like a bass pro shop gift card. ??: Do dockside samplers have the supplies or are they

just pointing to an area to drop off? DS: They have everything. ??: We should hand out a zip lock bag with WDFW sticker ahead of time. AS: It does need to be in ice. WH: How many people actually gut fish at the cleaning station? AT: 90% of anglers come in with fish whole. DP: Depends on area fishing. DS: I would definitely send out sample bags ahead of time. GW: Who is overseeing the study? DS: USGS and UW's study. GW: I agree with the idea of a reward for motivational prizes, but rather than our committee being bogged down to that level of detail, we need to come up with the money amount that we feel comfortable with and give them the money and let them decide how to pay for prizes. DK: Didn't we already decide on \$1000? DS: Yes, how do people feel about the current allotment of \$10000? Group: Fine with 1000.

- South Sound net pen project (Tachell & Harmond)
 - GW: Last we talked, we gave the project \$25,000. WH: WDFW has offered some surplus netpen structures and the Puyallup Tribe has already segregated off our fish. There was a situation of ICH with the eggs, hatchery staff has been hand dipping fish. We had a school outreach with Chief Leschi on cultural implications of Chinook Salmon. Metro parks concern is any objections as far as permitting and there shouldn't be any permitting issues.
- Potential Projects
 - Chiller cost estimate (Knutzen)
 - DK: Buying the chiller is DOA, I had Jim Jenkins look at it and it was well over 200k. DW: What if we look at pumping less gallons. NR: What is the target- are we hatching or raising? In your system that would be accurate, but in terms of different facilities, they will have different priorities. DW: I will email Jim and ask what kind of systems we are talking about. DK: Jim was looking at 100g/min 10+ degrees is \$200k... just thermal marking does nothing for us. DW: We are wanting to raise the fish and use the chiller to slow down growth. I will follow up with Jim. DK: We need to establish a goal, Jim can only answer the questions we ask. I asked to slow the fish down to release at 90fish/pound, four months later. DW: We should look at different possible ways to get the same outcome. Possibly slow down incubation too? NR: We need to table this when we have more information within the next year.
 - Release timing studies support – G. Marston (Kntuzen)

not all test fishing data is used the same all of the time. Ty Garber put together a chart of how it is used. We need to fish five days a week when possible. It is better data when we have multiple boats fishing. WH: What season are you looking? MB: Marine areas 9 & 10 during salmon season. My worry with volunteers is about the handling rules. WH: Could we have a volunteer system with an observer onboard their boats? AS: Ideally there would be a group of individuals that are consistently reporting their data. GW: We need Master Fisherman that are trained to do this and data sampling. AS: The best way to get more data at this point is things that are already in place. DP: I was asked to go out in the WDFW boat in 2006 and we caught fish and released everyone of them. If you decided to do it with private boats, there is a lot of research to do in Puget Sound, you just need a research banner to alert other anglers what is happening on the volunteer boats. NR: What I keep hearing is an effort to force fisherman to participate in VTRs. I understand that but I think there is a solution to it. WDFW should offer winning a free fishing license, any angler can participate and every VTR puts your name into a jar to win a prize. GW: Carrot dangling... people do need an incentive. DS: What can PSRFEF do to contribute to more data and more opportunity. Probably not with the hard budget you are asking for, but could we increase VTRs and not pay for test fishers. DK: Would tribes accept the data? MB: VTRs have dipped too low for the tribes to want to accept our data from them. WH: But if test fishing data is what will make the difference in getting real honest data, it is worth it. DP: I discounted them because of what the tribes say and if we do test fishing it gives good data and co-manager problem may be solved. DK: We would not be able to call them volunteers and need to ensure they provide data. GW: It needs to be consistent and legitimate. DP: The procedures need to be clear and defined. WH: We could do this on a volunteer's boat with an observer onboard. MB: We will have to get stuff on paper and run up the chain to see resistance and have something back to the committee by May meeting. MR: I would love to help out along with Dave Puki, Wayne and Art.

- Committee Goals and Objectives review (Committee)
 - Ideas for new and/or revised strategies, objectives and performance measures

- DS: I have comments from Gregg and Don. I was looking to conduct a review because it hasn't been done since 2013. But no one had reviewed ahead of time.
- Outreach / Extension (Committee & Stormer)
 - 2020 Puyallup Sportsmen's Show
 - Ideas for theme(s)
 - PSRFEF Survey Review
 - Ideas for new and/or revised questions
 - Shift schedule

Wrap-Up

- Other items
- Q&A
- Date & location for next meeting
- Dinner