

## Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2022  
10 AM – 11:30 AM  
ZOOM: 836-6001-1841  
992497

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises  
5180 Jackson Trail Rd.  
Warm Springs, Or

Chair: Matt Newby/OSP

\*\* Note to public participants. If you could please refrain from asking questions or comments until the public comment period, that would be most useful/helpful for the process of the meeting as well as useful for the note taker. Also, when you do comment if you would please state your name and any affiliations. Please mute your phone or video to avoid disruptions with background noise. If you have problems with commenting, turn off your video. Thank you, Mary/Facilitator

**10:00 AM**    **Welcome and Introductions:** Matt Newby (OSP); Steve Rodgers (Wasco Sheriff Dept.); Kate Cossack (BLM); Jason Seals (ODFW); Mike Millay (BLM); Brenda Bremner (BIA); Chase Brown (ODFW); Scott Hege (Local Govt.); Corey Heath (ODFW); Jimmy Eisner (BLM); Mary Fleischmann

### **Review/Additions to agenda/Approval of agenda (motion/vote)/ Approval of Minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting**

- No additions to the agenda and so approved.
- Approval of Minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Motion made by Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brenda. Motion passed.

### **Old Business/Ongoing business**

- Updates of charter committee work – at this time there are no updates. Jeff was going to spearhead this but have not had any meetings. Mary will follow up with Jeff.

- Review/share info for those who attended the ODFW field trip- Those who attended shared “great job Jason”. Scott was impressed with the history and he had probably the most questions of how this is done and why. Unfortunately there was no one from the public who attended. Those who did were Scott, Mary, Brenda, Jason and Corey. VERY informative and would recommend others to check it out when you can.
- Fire conditions on the river – it was thankfully slow this year. BLM crews floated down river and removed many fire rings. Conditions regarding fire will drop from extreme down to high starting tomorrow (10/15/22). The county ban on burning is still in effect until October 20 or 21<sup>st</sup> as they follow ODFW’s rules. Fire pans are required on the river, but staff is still finding fire rings which they break up.
- Hikes in fee’s for all users. There still needs to be a stakeholder meeting regarding Segment 4 walk-ins/ bikers.
- Transfers of permits: Jeff

### **New Business**

- Implementation of new fees regarding boating permits. There is a \$5.00 flat fee since April 2022. In regards to the fees for walk-ins, bike-in on Segment 4, there is more to be done with collaboration with stakeholders. Currently they are not collecting fees at this time. The business plan will take some time, probably will go into effect next season. (?)
- BLM is looking at getting away from cash and looking at how Rec.Gov can assist. Looking at ways to have remote Kiosks and utilizing different payment ideas. There are currently approved sites for remote payment. Further discussion regarding using signal boosters at launch points to buy passes
- Looking at doing a survey regarding capturing the number of hikers coming in to see if there will be a need for limitations.
- This summer was better than last year regarding getting permits electronically, though 2021 was bad.
- Discussion regarding Segment 4 not working due to no fishing (fishing closures earlier this year) and transfer of permits for segments. Question is how do we do this and can it be done? Can Rec. Gov. allow this? Segment 4 to Segment 1 ...can one purchase another permit? More discussion about the ins and outs of how it doesn’t work currently. Can Rec.Gov. Also how does this affect limited entry and the limited numbers per segment?
- Question raised about the E-bike issue on Segment 4. There have been 2 complaints thus far has not had the time to check it out. Guides have been complaining about the E-bikes/hike-ins taking up their camps. There is signage warning people about the limits of how far they can take their E-

bikes. There is permit sign-up but some law enforcement don't want to enforce as they do not agree with the ban.

- An angler died at Moody Rapid but not sure if fishing or floating thru the rapid. Currently what is known is that this person did not have a life jacket and they are not required on single chamber tube floaties. Might have to change or put up more warning signage. As regards life jackets, that is a Marine Board issue to change the rule

### **Round Table Discussion and Updates**

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs - No report
- OSMB/Oregon State Marine Board – No report
- OSP/Oregon State Police – Did lots of floats this year. Guides have been busy and did a float with an OSMB person. Issues they found were Guide issues that had not permits/guide license. Did also find some folks with no fishing license, primarily from out of state. Guides should verify who the guides without licenses are but they won't tell. There are some undercover things going on to identify who these folks are. A citation book/ check list book now available to make sure boaters have what they need. This is a pilot project and as it gets figured out, more books will be available to everyone who checks boaters. BLM carries a list of who is licensed to run the river in regards to outfitters and permittee's. OSP would welcome having access to that so when they do check with folks they will know that they legally have a permit. It is also important that OSMB gets info regarding those who are illegally running trips (Outfitters/ Guides) so they can also let BLM know of those guiding illegally.
- ODFW/Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife – Jason reported that Crullers will be out until the end of October from Mack's until Scherars. Discussed the framework for benchmark for fisheries regarding restrictions. Season will open automatically unless there are critical thresh holds regarding fish passage. Those thresh holds are end of July, end of August and end of October. They can establish a "temporary rule" if thresh holds are not met. This is a special rule. By all indications to not have to go back to restrictions at this point and going into the open of start of the season. These restrictions have only happened twice in the past 45 years. In 2015 it was reported that bass were being caught so they have been doing bass monitoring, to get the idea of numbers caught. They have been tagging and looks like the bass come up river from the mouth in May but are only being found from Harris downstream. The bass hang out and are summering over the summer but come September they go back out to the Columbia due to waters cooling down. There has not been any natural

reproduction. Those who have been caught are only at 10%. Chase reported that there is an E-bike issue but with more signage at the State Park entry may help with guidance of the rules, need to notify folks earlier of the rules regarding limitations of distance.

- Wasco Co. Sheriff Dept. - Have the check list books as a pilot project and tracking people on the river. Will compile what info they have and if this is working and then will either make some improvements and/or create more books to be available.
- ORPD/Oregon Park and Recreation Dept. - no report.
- BLM/Bureau of Land Management –There are lots of staff changes with about 40% reduction in staff right now. Should be good by next spring. Katy, Hope and Mike are working multiple jobs at this point. Mike reported that they are looking at a new app tool that folks can scan thru Rec. Gov. regarding picking camp sites and get a confirmation number which can assist with replacing paying cash for sites. Won't/ can't replace cash entirely but looking at other options for folks. Also looking at new Kiosk designs with new maps. Fee boxes continue to get broke into but in the past 3 weeks not issues. There was an episode of a Yeti cooler being stolen at Harpham and Heritage has had some issues with items being stolen. Currently concerns about road improvements, they currently only have one guy to do this. Roads are bad to Mack's and they do maintenance twice a year to grade. They currently have a roller and water truck. BLM wants to up the number of floats and have more presence on the river, having more rangers on the river. Looking at more signage at put-ins. Mike also added that they are using more pictures at kiosk signage and looking at adding more language options.
- Local Government –Not much to share but Scott shared that there is new materials being used on roads from what he has seen on his travels this summer. He shared that there are better materials that Gilliam County is using. Costs a bit more, but has longer lasting results.
- BIA/ Bureau of Indian Affairs- No report
  
- Overall discussion/ everyone is looking at hiring issues which focuses on how expensive it is to live in Central Oregon and not being able to have budgets that can accommodate that. Having to take a more conservative approach to hiring.

### **Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**Final Discussion, Follow up, Actions Items, Recommendations to Managers**

- **New Chair**- 2023 new chair for IIT will be Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- **New Chair** – 2023 new chair for Managers will be BLM/ Bureau of Land Management – Lisa Clark
- Continue conversation regarding transfers from segments when fishing is bad.
- Charter follow up to review.

**Next Meetings:**

- Managers meeting: November 4<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 1 pm, Prineville BLM

**Meeting adjourned**

11:30 AM