

Lower Deschutes IIT Meeting
Date & Time: May 15, 2020 1 PM – 4PM
Location: SKYPE

Call in: 1-5-3-446-4951 Conference ID: 896110889
Conference ID for video: 896110889

- 1:06 PM Present: Brian Cunninghame (CTWS); Brad Houslet (CTWS); Josh Mulhollem (OSMB); Rod French (ODFW); Scott Williams (Wasco Co. Sheriff); Steve Memminger (OPRD); Andrew Vanderwerf (OSP); Scott Hege (Local Government); David Spangler (OPRD); Jeff Kitchens (BLM); Kat Smith (BLM); Dru Johnson (BLM); Tom Beaucage (BLM); Mary Fleischmann (Facilitator). Total of 38 participants
- 1:08 PM Review of agenda/ Additions/ Approval of Meeting Agenda/ Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2020 meeting.
- No additions to agenda
 - Brian made motion to approve minutes from February 7th meeting, seconded, motion passed.
- 1:10 PM Old Business
- FUP (Frequent User Pass) – Scott – No updates as we are on hold this point and will see if things can move forward in the fall.
 - Website- Mary / agenda and minutes made available to public. Working with OPRD as to how to get agenda and minutes on the website. Things are in the air as we push this out. Because of virtual meetings, this is the first time we have rolled out getting agenda's on the website. Working on how to get minutes from meetings on the website. Brief discussion and group agrees that minutes will only be put on the website once approved. This will be our first try on this. There will not be archives from previous meetings at this point.
 - Protocols – Mary and Chris have been working on protocols for the virtual meetings, since this is brand new to how we conduct business. Mary will send out to group a more complete list of protocols but for now the following is what we hope people will follow:
 - One person at a time speak
 - Announce your name and agency

- Depending on what format is used, please use chat or hand signal when you have a question or want to speak.
- Please keep comments brief
- Public comment – please wait until public comment period to ask questions or comment. Do not interrupt ongoing meeting. One person at a time and please identify yourself and your affiliations. If someone has makes a comment that you agree with, please share that and do not tie up our time with additional comments.
- Facilitator can stop or divert comments at any time
- Please be aware of time constraints

1: 15 PM New Business – Roundtable Discussion & Updates
(Re-openings)

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 - Brian/ Harpham, Sandy Beach are close along with tribal lands. Working with State Parks, ODFW and BLM regarding re-opening efforts. Tribes need advance notice before opening up. Tribal council will make the decision.
 - Brad added that there are no further comments on Tribal council' agenda. They have not had a quorum yet but hope in the near future to have the discussion.
- Oregon State Marine Board
 - Little to report. OSMB's primarily concern is working with the facility operators and their safety. Encourage boaters to check with the operators for verification of rules/guidelines, etc. at facilities. No closures at this time.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Rod reported that there are no angling restrictions at this time on the Deschutes. No overnight camping on ODFW lands on wildlands. Areas are open for day use. Expecting to get word from the Oregon Health Dept. regarding reopening of their areas and will get a press release out once that happens.
- Oregon State Police
 - Two new guys. Floating Segment 1 to Trout Creek. Few boats and are enforcing having no boating pass. Mostly seeing fisherman. Waiting for total openings.
- Wasco County Sheriff
 - Nothing to report. Patrolling the river. In day use areas there have been some campers but ask them to move on. One

case where allowed to stay overnight because they had been drinking.

- Local Government
 - Scot reported that Wasco County is allowed to enter into Phase one of re-opening as of today. This allows businesses to open under specific guidelines. Question asked if Hyde Park will be re-opening soon. Not sure as has not been talked about but commissioners have a meeting next week and that will probably be discussed.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
 - Steve reported that boat launches are still closed as they coordinate with the other agencies. David who is more on the ground shared that there is only day use only in State Parks with toilets open. Fishing and trails are open. Cottonwood Canyon on the John Day is open.
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Jeff wanted to thank Wasco Co. Sheriff and OSP the coordination and communication they have been doing, it's been great for BLM to be able to respond and help mitigate. He is sincerely appreciative.
 - Jeff asked Lynn Ewing, Mayor of Maupin his thoughts. Maupin is now open as businesses process Phase 1 openings. Maupin City Park is open to RV campers only with bathrooms and showers closed. It will be closed to tent campers. Anxious for the river to open. Addressed question regarding boat launch at City Park and scat machine. Launches used past week. Scat machine will be open once river is open.
 - Gave update of the closures put in place via the governors orders several weeks ago. Awaiting guidance from the governor regarding safety and social distancing on the river as they coordinate with river partners. Boater passes up to May 20th have been cancelled. Received permission to open bathroom facilities with new regulations which require cleaning them 2 times a day. BLM realizes that use has increased despite communication of closures and no bathrooms. The trend has revealed unintended consequences and safety concerns. There has been an increase in human waste which is a health hazard but is manageable. There has been an increase in dispersed camping and use which has created resource deprivation. A concern for BLM is that they are on track for an active fire season and cars have been parking in tall grass in the Wild

and Scenic areas of Wasco and Jefferson County. Trend of day use going into camping areas as cannot fit into day use areas and keep social distancing. Starting to move forward to look at openings in developed camp grounds due to the increase of people and an increase in dispersement. Concerns are resource damage and wildfire. Once reopened will be monitoring for safely and effectively that there are no issues. If that is not happening, then will revisit if closures will again be needed. Boater passes availability will be based on coordination with partners. State office will honor launches May 21st on where it is feasible to launch. On segment 3 and 4 there are no problems with launching on May 21st going forward again with coordination with partners. In segment 1 and 2 there are several considerations to work through. Would not like to cancel but things are uncertain at this time, today. Hopeful that by May 21st will see increased opportunities for safety, social distancing, resource damage and human waste. Hope there might be a media release on Monday. Boater passes will be week by week and boaters will be notified regarding either cancellations or if want to boat in other sections. BLM is coordinating openings on the John Day with possible May 21st opening and beyond. Rest of quota for passes won't be released on May 21st and a determination will come after Memorial Day. Jeff added that have two non-openings – Bake Oven facility is being remodeled/refurbished from spring of 2020 into 2021. Still looking at funding for segment 4 project and will be introducing seasonal rangers to everyone very soon.

- Questions:
 - Josh asked what are they doing on the Rogue river
Jeff not sure and people should contact the Rogue office for answers, but he is sure they also are working with their partners.
 - Scott asked question regarding opening of overnight camping. Currently aiming for developed campgrounds to be open May 21st but dispersed camping is open now.
 - Brian asked question regarding seasonal staffing and Wasco County staffing. BLM has 7 permanent recreation staff with 7 -9 seasonal staff. There will be 4 river rangers initially and then 2 new. There are 2 land based on Lower Deschutes. 14 staff as needed are available to respond to need of the river. They will help monitor and manage, and beginning work this week and going forward regarding management. Safety of

employees and the public is the most important thing. There will be lots of signage and staff will be implating safety distancing to the public. We need people to follow guidance or will/can close again. BLM will work with outfitter/guides regarding reports that they and Law enforcement pass on for compliance. BLM has meetings all next week regarding management and safety. Scott W shared that OPRD deputies are up and running Thursday through Saturday. David also shared that their river rangers will start patrols soon. They are having meetings regarding safety patrol use.

2:00 PM

Public Comment

- Kate Wallace – Deschutes River Adventures Maupin/ Kate was wondering about segment 3 and 4 opening for now vs segments 1 and 2. Why would people be expected to follow regulations on segment 3 and 4 and not on segment 1 and 2? Jeff responded that they are supportive of boating throughout the corridor but an only guarantee passes in segment 3 and 4 won't be cancelled at this time. There are no restrictions or lack of boater passes, there is just a limit in number of people in a given area. Kate then asked what can we do to open up segments 1 and 2. Jeff shared there is nothing anyone can do, this requires coordination with agencies and local jurisdictions. May get to place where segment 1 and 2 will be open but all he can confirm today is they are closed, it's not that they won't open but this is not happening today. Possibly next week there could be a different answer.
- Scott asked what are the issues in segment 1 and 2 that need to be resolved. Jeff shared the issues are access issues and coordination with staff regarding the back country. Need to coordinate with Warm Springs and put different protocols in these segments which are a bit different.
- Lynn Ewing needed to ask the tribes what is it they need to see opening of launches on tribal land. Brad shared the tribal council has been receiving lots of information, but they can't go forward until the council convenes. He added that people have to be patient, the issue is on their radar.
- Brian asked the question of what are the expectations/concerns in Maupin with crowds showing up. Lynn responded that there are no worries over this, The City knows that the number of people who will show up this year

will be lower than expected. They are prepared and ready to get things going.

- Jeff added that social distancing on the shore line with 25 or less will be an issue, which prior to closures this wasn't a concern. Want to keep people safe and have clear access to the river. Once folks are on the river, it is less of an issue. The intent is to re-open.
- Scott asked question regarding that he heard that the tribal government is on furlough. Brad added that tribal government is closed except for essential government staff. Tribal council is still functioning.
- Callie from Linda's River Shuttle- What guidance is given to boaters when they get their permit? Jeff responded that on the website there are links that share the information the government has given them. This information tells people what they need to know regarding procedures and masks. Staff to the extent they can encourage social distancing and may have rangers monitor launches of the use of this. They will not be facilitating boat launches but encouraging social distancing, encouraging following the governors orders and do a lot of education. Callie added that people don't want to end up in a situation of not knowing what the expectations are going to be. Josh pointed out that OSMB is doing the same thing as far as pointing back to the governor's orders. Steve from OPRD said they are doing the same, they are not the social distancing police and will be using signage.
- Kate Wallace – She is not satisfied when tribal council can decide when things can open, she needs to tell her clients when they can raft segment 1 and 2. Brad responded that tribal council has their own government and they make decisions when they see appropriate. Lynn added he also did not understand why we can't open launch ramps from Warm Springs to Maupin, or Sandy Beach and Harpham. He shared there are no large groups scheduled.
- Jeff added that it is not that the managers don't understand the economic issues for Maupin. Nobody asked for this situation. Everyone is doing their best for the safety and health of staff and communities. Working in collaboration to get out where are right now is what everyone is doing. Simply do not have a final answer today regarding segment 1 and 2. Lynn asked if can expect an answer by next week. Jeff added that we need to make a decision by next week and should be able to help folks.

- Drake R – local outfitter/guide. He felt there are conflicting information coming from the managers including this meeting today. What is the penalties of running a trip on segment 1 anyways? What is being enforced? Andy from Wasco Co. Sheriff said he has dealt with this situation in segment 1 and you will be cited for not having a boater pass and the citation is a \$450 fine. The question then was asked if that party was able to trip out. Yes they were because there was no place to pull out. Jeff responded that there has been no change in how the managers manage the river. They do their best to monitor the river. There is no conflicting information coming out. Drake added that there needs to be resolution as soon as possible or SRP's can or will be going out of business. He stated that if he ran the river and got a citation he would do it as the fine would not be a deterrent. Jeff reminded him that doing so puts his SRP permit outside of the guidelines which could mean losing his permit.
- Brian Skyes – Ouzel/ Will BLM required anything additional from the regular stuff from the outfitters as it relates to COVID. Jeff added: there is nothing prescriptive to the business under government guidelines. Outfitter/guides are required to follow guidelines of the governor. Responses from law enforcement, rangers and staff, if there is a question around guidelines, will reach out. Brian glad as less paperwork.
- Brad Staples – Deschutes River Jet Boats/ I would like to see segment 1 and 2 open. When is Heritage Landing open? David from OPRD said it would be open on May 21st. They are working on getting the scat machine working. There is access to the Columbia and then from Mack's to the mouth.
- Question was brought up regarding group sizes per location? Jeff shared they will be monitoring areas and may have to change group size, but already things are limited to 16. Steve confirmed. Brian Skyes added that groups of up to 25 but cannot travel together, otherwise groups of 10.

2:49 PM

Final Discussion, Tasks, Follow-ups, Action Items, etc.

- Jeff thanked everyone and appreciated their comments. He asked for a quick go around for closing remarks.
- CTWS – Brian/ giving into closures, this complicated and expect next week or two there will be more clarity and more to do to re-open. The tribes are sensitive to their community

and public safety. Brad agreed and shared we are working on what we with what we can. Fishing permits are still shut down until reservation opens up. Once tribal council reconvenes can make headway.

- OSMB – nothing more to add.
- ODFW- nothing to add
- OSP – nothing to add
- Wasco Sheriff – Nothing to add, just use common sense.
- Local Govt. – Today is the first day of this happily moving forward but have to continue to do so with caution.
- OPRD- nothing to add
- BLM – Tom added that he appreciates the coordination and communication. This is something we've never done before. There is a sense of grace and patience that we have to give each other. Jeff shared that BLM wants to get recreation back on board safely and hopefully with a reduction in restrictions next week. They are doing their best to provide updates and knows there are a lot of economic concerns out there, they understand that and are working diligently for the safety for everyone is the priority.

Next Managers Meeting: May 29th. 10 AM – 1PM. Location TBD.

ADJOURN: 3:00 PM