

Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2023

10 AM – 1 PM

ODFW Office

3561 Klindt Drive

The Dalles, Or.

ZOOM – Meeting ID: 836 7565 0194

Password: 912400

Chair –ODFW – Jason Seals

*** Note to public participants. If you could please refrain from asking questions or comments until the public comment period, unless the IIT or Managers request input from you prior to making a decision on something. This 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. Thank you. Mary/facilitator.

10:00 AM **Welcome and introductions:** Jason Seals (ODFW); Brad Houslet (CTWS); Matt Newby (OSP); Brenda Bremner (BIA) Mike Millay (BLM); Mary Fleischmann (Facilitator)

PUBLIC : Keith Richardson (Land user)

Review /Additions to agenda/ Approval of agenda and meeting minutes. (Approval of minutes from February 10, 2023)

- Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Brenda, second by Jason. MOTION passed with no additions.
- Approval of minutes from February 10th, 2023 IIT meeting. Motion made by Mike, second by Matt. MOTION passed.

Old Business:

- Review Charter and discuss additions and/or ready to make recommendation for approval at Managers next meeting. – Charter

was unavailable for this meeting. Jeff Kitchens contacted Mary and hopes to have it available prior to the upcoming Managers meeting. Managers and IIT members will then have an opportunity to read it. IIT will review and discuss at their fall meeting and make recommendations to the Managers at their fall meeting.

- Status of Ecommerce solutions options – Mike shared there are two different scanning opportunities of which one uses a barcode. Currently one is stalled due to capacity issues. The scan and pay is being pushed out until the fall. There will be a pilot ROK station set up at Trout Creek and Mecca within the next 6 weeks. This will be used for drive-in campsites only at this time. This uses credit cards. The hope is eventually that all river users will be able to utilize this tool. Mike announced that Lisa Clark is not the official Deschutes Field Manager. Discussion regarding funding this year which is kind of unique. The agency is being asked to be conservative with funding so things are tight right now. The fiscal year ends Sept. 30th and at that time if more funds become available then there will be more ROK stations placed on the river. As stated right now this system can only handle drive-in camping sites and not boater passes as the system can't link with Rec.Gov. There is talk about having a computer set-up at Depoe House with a printer for boater passes. People could potentially stop by there to get boater passes. Issue currently is that there were 3 land based rangers but they dropped out so need more staffing in the future for the Depoe House to work. The hope is that with more funds that this ecommerce solution could be put into place on the Deschutes and the Crooked River.
- OPRD follow up with Deschutes River Usage Study – Scott was out sick so Mike reported on the work he has looked into regarding this study from the BLM's perspective. He has made contact with a few folks, he attended a River Symposium and made contact with the University of Montana to find out what setting something like this entails. BLM has a user agreement with Fairbanks University which has a good foundation. They are booked out this year but maybe in 2024 could see if this project can get off the ground which again depends on funding. He has been in the works with meetings with Universities and at this time OPRD has not been looped in yet.

New Business:

- Status of contract with Imperial for salvage clean-up. – Mike reported that there was a discussion at the outfitter/guide regarding this issue. Lisa is looking at salvage as a case by case basis at this point. The situation is tricky as when funds are requested for service this triggers an SRP, and so Lisa can authorize this work on a case by case. It is a gray area. When Angel used to do this salvage, he did not request funds for the service. Funds trigger SRP's and while Imperial would like a long-term agreement for a set amount there is work to be done in how to make this happen. It also opens up the discussion if this service needs to be put out for a bid. Question raised regarding the salvage side of things. We all want hazards out of the river it is just how to we make this happen. If it comes down to solicitation for bids, then it also opens up some way of demonstration of qualifications for performing this service. Question regarding where do funds currently come from? At this point it is "charging of user", and then another question raised what about if a user who needs the service decides not to pay for the salvage.
- Report out of Annual Law Enforcement meeting – highlights. No report as Matt was in training and unable to attend.
- Follow up of actual number of free boater passes for land owners on the Deschutes. Segment 1 and 2.-There were no real numbers shared. Mike reported that this issue is a state statute /ORS, therefore BLM has no say in this issue. Keith Richardson who was present had raised the issue initially. He shared that currently has made contact with state representatives and local representative which is what it would take to take up the issue of a change in the ORS. Currently the language states that home owners who live on the river/residents in the house/ primary residence, are allowed to have the free boater passes. Keith's concern is his parents are too old to float anymore and wishes that family members who visit would have those opportunities.
- Mary's new contract is now in effect until April 2024.

Round Table Discussions and Updates

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs – Trying to recruit. Looking at on-line payments for Harpham and Sandy Beach which will be on their website rather than at the location.
- OSMP / Oregon State Marine Board – no report

- OSP/ Oregon State Police – Matt did not have anything to report.
- ODFW/ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Flows currently are way up (11,000 CFS at Sherars). Crooked River is between 500 – 1000 CFS and dropping which will make a difference regarding the Deschutes. Steelhead season will start open. Final numbers of 1600 above Sherars. Prediction is critical low status at Bonneville. July 1 ODFW will start monitoring and closures are likely which would occur August 15th. They are hiring crawler's and will have 3 at Sherars, Macks and Heritage come July 1. Ebikes – Chase is making sure that signs are up and there will be enforcement this year. Due to weather they have only been out once for Trout counts.
- Wasco Co. Sheriff Dept. – No report
- OPRD/ Oregon Park and Recreation Department – No report
- BLM/Bureau of Land Management – Mike shared that again Lisa Clark is the new Field Manager. They have a robust crew with 6 river managers, but are short on land based rangers. The maintenance contract in place for toilets, fire rings and micro-trash are put in place. They are able to use pressure washers which means the toilets are the cleanest they have ever been. They have renewed 6 different contracts. Bakeover facilities are open and occupied. There is a new shop facilities, showers and kitchen. Partners and agencies are free to use the facility, and all are encouraged to come check it out. BLM met with tribal folks regarding basic gravel improvements at Sandy and Harpham. Looked at 2011 fund agreements regarding applying gravel footprint down the launch as well as weed abatements. Looking for NEPA documents regarding improvements. Lisa will report out at Managers meeting regarding these improvements. Brad with CTWS shared that looking to BLM for clarity regarding not having to do a NEPA for this work. The understanding is that if there is MAJOR improvements, then and EA/NEPA has to happen. Currently this falls under day to day operations and BLM would like to get his work done ASAP once approved. Discussion regarding 3 trails along the cliff walk/wall at Trout Creek. There currently is an active Eagle nest on one of the walls and all trails are closed at this time. A BLM biologist is willing to open the west trail, the most south trail but the main wall where the Eagle nest is will remain

closed. It was also brought up that Peregrine Falcon are also in this area.

- Local Government – No report
- BIA/ Bureau of Indian Affairs – Brenda mentioned that she continues to work on the emergency action plan regarding the Happy Valley Dam. She has made contact with local state police getting involved and figuring out who works for whom in case contact is needed in an emergency.

Public Comment

- No further comments

Final Discussion, Follow Up, Action Items

- Discussion regarding potential August field trip. Jason suggested visiting the PGE SWW (selected water withdrawal) tower at Billy Chinook. One of the things to look at would be the collection of fish. Mike also suggested what could happen at the same time would be a visit at Mecca regarding the ROK stations. Demonstrations could happen regarding what the screen looks like, which is in Spanish and English. There would be one in place at that time at Mecca.

Next Meetings

- Managers May 19th 10 – 1pm Maupin City Hall
- August – field trip?
- IIT – November 3rd 10 – 1 pm Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises
- Managers – November 17th 10 – 1 pm BLM Prineville Office.

Meeting adjourned. 11:00 AM