**Lower Deschutes River Managers Meeting Minutes**

**May 17th, 2024**

**10 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises**

**5180 Jackson Trail Road**

**Warm Springs, Or 97761**

**ZOOM: 884 6244 6455**

**Password: 667418**

**CHAIR : BLM – Lisa Clark**

**10:00 AM Welcome and introductions:** Scott Green (OPRD); Lisa Clark (BLM); Mike Millay (BLM); Ross Kihs (OPRD); Cody Shaw (BIA); Alan Hanson (OSMB); Lane Magil (Sheriff- Wasco Co.); Brad Houslet (CTWS); Sara Gregory (ODFW); Tim Schwartz (OSP); Mary Fleischmann ( Facilitator).

**Review/ Additions to agenda/ approval of agenda:** (Motions need to be made)- No additions to

the agenda. Group discussed the difficulties of finding notification, agendas and minutes on OPRD’s website.

Discussion regarding how to make that easier to find, as it pretty much buried in the website. Scott Green

Will look into this and see if there is a way to flag it. Group approved agenda as presented.

**Approval of meeting minutes from Managers Meeting on February 9, 2024:**  Mike made

recommendation for clarification in the February 9, 2024 minutes regarding the all user pass and fees. A

$5.00 fee has been “approved” but is not in place at this time. Mary will make the change to the minutes and resend.

**Old Business**

* **Follow up regarding tribal members and boater passes – Brad** shared the following: Memo regarding Tribal member and tribal guide service and boating permit requirements. This memo formalizes the requirements for tribal members and tribal guide services and the needs of a Lower Deschutes River boating pass.

Segments 1 – 4: OAR-736-040-0071= Deschutes River Scenic Waterway boater pass system rules

10 (d)= Pursuant to ORS 390.851 (2), no Deschutes River Scenic Waterway boater pass will be required of:

(B) Any member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

* **All user pass- process for moving forward. – Lisa/Mike.** No updates except the changes Mary will make in February’s minutes.
* **Update from Scott G. regarding rule revision for property owners free boater passes.** Mr. Christianson wants clarification regarding grandfathering property owners free boater pass for family members. He is not happy with the limited number of passes that the current plan allows for family members. Scott will sit down with him to see exactly what he wants and that will all depend on the interpretation of ORS.
* **Report- out from Law Enforcement Annual meeting.** The annual meeting was well attended. Reviewed on agency resources and where there are joint patrols. Will share information via email when issues arise. Looking at PFD enforcement with zero tolerance. Looking at fire-closures and no open flames included with propane. Multiple agencies working together. Checking how to identify where issues are. Educate public regarding boater passes. Working to be readily available. June 1st there will be “Trout Fest” in Maupin. Steve Rodgers will be retiring the end of June. Building up what the patrol schedule will look like for the entire summer.

**New Business**

* **Recommendations from IIT working meeting regarding Charter responsibilities. – Brad H.** A few questions for the Managers regarding the Charter was having some language added regarding how often the Charter can be reviewed- specifically as there are numerous turn overs of staff at the various agencies. Would like to have something in print. Group thought that was a good idea, but there no specifics of adding that language. Group also thought it would be great to have the various groups review the Management Plan from time to time as well. There was not definitive decision on that. IIT shared language regarding (page 4 number 2) on IIT’s responsibilities and to add language regarding “utilizing” data and information from the Managers Fall/November meeting to assist to prepare work plan. It was also brought out that language in the Charter states the status of OMSB and OSP’s roll in the IIT is that they participate in the extent available and appropriate. That being said, would change the status of those entities chairing IIT meetings and Manager meetings. Therefore the following is how the rotation would be put into place:
* 2024 Managers/ BLM IIT/CTWS
* 2025 Managers/OPRD IIT/ Local Govt.
* 2026 Managers/ ODFW IIT/ BIA
* 2027 Managers/ CTWS IIT/ BLM
* 2028 Managers/ Local Govt. IIT/ OPRD
* 2029 Managers/ BIA IIT/ ODFW
* 2030 Managers/ BLM IIT/ CTWS
* 2031 Managers/ OPRD IIT/ Local Govt.
* 2032 Managers/ ODFW IIT/ BLM
* 2033 Managers/ CTWS IIT/ OPRD
* **Recommendations from IIT regarding projects for 2024. Will work on 2 year recommendations (2025) at their October meeting. – Brad H.**  Brad will develop a spreadsheet to track projects and time lines. Discussion with ODFW shared that in Group Segment 4 there are probably 4 – 6 sites that could be cleaned up and made available (not part of campsites that are currently there), In segment 1 there are sites that could be made available but need some clearance to open up. There is the potential for 35 new sites on segment 1 and possibly up to 10 additional sites on segment 4. Brad will share the spread sheet as it comes together. On the float will be looking at 10 sites in Segment 1 that are most realistic per guide conversations regarding making more sites. Also looking at max limits on sites to better provide less crowding.
* **Discussion regarding OPRD website:** Scott G will reach out to webmaster regarding how to find out what folks want to see, possibly red badge a list. One suggestion was for BLM to see what could be posted on Rec.Gov. It would be good to look at FAQ (frequently asked questions) with a link at to OPRD’s website. Group is asked to send suggestions to Scott G.
* **Spring float for Managers/ IIT to see conditions on River. Two choices for dates: July 19 or July 26th. Logistics to be figured out and not sure how many from IIT will attend – depends on the dates.** Group decided on July 19th as the float date. It will be from Warm Springs launch/put- in to Trout Creek to look at potential campsites. Group will meet from 9 to 10 am at Warm Springs…if you have life jackets, bring them. Suggestion to arrive at put-in by 10 am. Suggestion also is bring a snack or lunch. At this point those who signed up are: Chase Brown, Katie G, Alan Hanson, Scott Hege, Brad Houslet, Shaw Bodie, Mary F and maybe Jason Seals.

**Round Table Discussions and Updates**

* **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs –** Law enforcement they lost Tom but have replaced him with Ron Gregory so folks will be seeing him and talking with him. Will be keeping up with dumpster clean up at Scherars.
* **OSMB/ Oregon State Marine Board –** Have a new program and pushing boater safety advocates across the state with currently 6 staff. Folks can request them for events. Will have floats with BLM river rangers in some cases for a day or two.
* **ODFW/ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife –** Looking for replacement for Corey H who retired. Start of Steelhead is open **but** if the threshold changes it could be closed.
* **Wasco Co. Sheriff Dept. –** No report
* **OPRD/ Oregon Park and Recreation Departments –** Starting river patrols this weekend. Have one trained river ranger and are down one ranger. Looking at using volunteers. Rangers will go every Friday. Will have staff will help on John Day. They are full up with seasonal staff.
* **BLM/ Bureau of Land Management – Working** on getting the ROK’s in campsites but do not have one at Blue Hole. The 15 that BLM have been totally installed. There is a total of 15 ROK’s. Still have feed tubes at Beavertail, Oasis and Wapiti. They are borrowing equipment for brushing along the roads. There will be a Public Land event. Looking at a lifejacket loaner station and working with Oregon State Marine Board. They are short on river rangers this year. John Day River has no river rangers (there was discussion regarding the issues). They are having help at the Depot House, a teacher and also looking at adding movie night. Looking at issue regarding the speeding on river access roads they are also watching the photographer/s who take picture of folks going down the river and making sure they have an SRP. They need that to sell photos. Also working on reminding large groups about not taking over some campsites…check out what is more suitable. E-Bikes on access roads. They are legal but not allowed from Mecca to Trout Creek. They have applied for fund from the American Outdoor Act which would be used for graveling, picnic tables and major improvements. If they get those funds it would not happen until 20026 – 2027, Next appropriation isn’t until 2025.
* **Local Government –** No Report
* **BIA – Bureau of Indian Affairs-** At the end of July Nate comes on board and has a close relationship with BLM. Looking at fee increases and figuring out transition of payments. “ Interagency agreement” would be up to $5.00. Want to get involved with volunteering.
* **OSP – Oregon State Police-** No updates. Wanting to get on the river as much as possible. Will share info with OPS regarding concerns and also on the John Day.
* **Sheriff/ Wasco Co. –** Things appear to be calmed on the Deschutes right now. Question regarding hunting license on uplands, if they are a quide they need to have an approved SRP.

**Public Comment:** No public comments

**Final Discussions, Follow up, Action Items:**  Mary will follow up with clarification in minutes regarding BLM and all user fee. Many needed clarification regarding their agencies role with IIT meetings and Managers meeting. Mary will send out outline/clarification about this. IIT will be working on 2 year plan at their next meeting.

**Next Meetings:**

* **Managers –** 
  + **November 8 – Prineville**
* **IIT –**
  + **October 25th - Maupin**

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:30 Am