

# Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2021  
10 AM -11:30 AM  
ZOOM: 814-9521-5781

**Chair: David Spangler/ OPRD**

**Introductions and Guidelines:** David Spangler (OPRD); Jeff Kitchens (BLM); Scott Hege (Local Govt.); Jen Graham ( CTWS); Corey Heath (ODFW); Jason Seals (ODFW); Brenda Bremner (BIA); Josh Mulhollem (OSMB); Kat Smith (BLM); Mike Millay (BLM); Mary Fleischmann (Facilitator).  
PUBLIC – Brian Sykes (Ouzel); Alex Zarganes (Sun Country Tours); Brad Staples (Fishing guide); Ron Walp ( City of Maupin)

\*\* The agenda got jumped around due to Jeff having another, but minutes will be presented in their normal order.

## **Review of agenda/additions to the agenda/ Approval of Minutes from August 6, 2021 meeting.**

- There were no additions to the agenda. Motion made by Scott to accept the agenda and second by Jen. Motion passed.
- Motion made to accept minutes from August 6<sup>th</sup> IIT meeting. Motion made by Scott and second by Corey. Motion passed.

## **Old Business**

- Paddle Board issues during this past season. Any complaints: Jeff reported that not much more to do at this time. BLM is monitoring but there were no real complaints this past season. No need to make any decisions at this time regarding further actions.
- E-Bikes – BLM is collecting data on this issue. There have been complaints but need further data.
- Scenic Bike-ways update. Jeff shared that BLM is working with companies doing this or wanting to add this to what they already provide. There are mixed outside entities coming in for this activity. BLM needs to address impacts to resources and corridors. Talking with groups about this. There have been a couple of events already and complaints from outfitters of the impacts on the roads, etc.

- Status of surveys on Segment 4, OPRD reports a more robust work on this in the coming months.
- Fires this season – BLM reported that it was less than previous years and basically everyone dodged a bullet. There was the Rattlesnake fire, but able to get a handle on it.
- Toilet updates – Overall a lot of support from everyone regarding toilets being out of commission. BLM able to bring folks in to take care of the problem and everything is completed.

### **New Business:**

- Lower Deschutes Business Plan and Fee Proposals – Jeff gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached). Jeff gave history of how this proposal came to be from the RAC (Resource Advisory Council) subcommittee who saw the need to have some new fees for Segment 1 and 4 due to increases of non-boaterized use. This business plan needs the approval of the RAC and then the Managers group to move forward. At this time for the upcoming RAC meeting there may not be a quorum so things could be delayed until next spring. Jeff gave history of the 2004 common pool on the Deschutes and an overview of overall use. Segment 3 and 4 have had the least amount of use, but believe that is due to decline in the availability of fishing. Jeff shared an overview of fees on other rivers of the west and what is being proposed is in line or even cheaper. He also gave a breakdown of what operating costs look like on the river. In 2015 BLM looked at a new fee structure but due to numerous delays is just now able to make the proposal and go forward. The proposal is to make a flat fee of \$5 fee for all days of which \$3 goes to BLM and \$2 goes to OPRD. This would be all year, not breaking it into various fees at different times of the season (as in the past). Nonboaterized use needed to be addressed in Segments 1 and 4 due to increased use – needing to capture the hiking, biking and day use. Looking at \$5 per person for permits in those places with no vehicle access. This needs to be put forth to the Managers in November with the same presentation.
  - Comments from IIT?
    - Jen – CTWS/ no concerns at this time and will pass this information to Brad so he knows prior to Managers meeting.
    - Brenda – BIA/no comments
    - Josh – OSMB no comments, liked the comprehensive presentation
    - David – OPRD/ no comments, will be working with BLM regarding collection of fees. Working on the survey in Segment 4 which will be one area that will require these fees.
    - Scott –Local Govt. / had a question regarding the dollars which do not balance out the overall costs for the river, where does the increase come from to cover those costs? Wondered if flat fee will give a moderate increase in use as in the past the reason for

midweek fees was to drive use away from the weekends, and do not want to see a push back to weekends. Jeff shared that with common pool and applying for boater passes puts in place ways to moderate use. Still will be looking at seasonal/daily uses and the number of boater passes that will be available despite the change in fees.

- Corey with ODFW responded on the fees for hiker/bikers in segment 4. ODFW is seeking more information with concerns regarding the new fees. 70% of segment 4 is on ODFW lands and they would not receive any of those fees that BLM would collect with no lands in that segment. There is no designated camping on ODFW lands but ODFW oversees those lands. Need clarification. Need to sit down at the table and figure out collaboration. There is a need to later figure out this impact with private land owners as well. Jeff shared that he would let the RAC know the additional concerns.
  - Jason/ODFW that overnight fees are collected at the park for OPRD and those fees exist right now but are not related to back country fees.
  - Brad Staples shared that significant number of people hiking up segment 4 of which the majority are only on ODFW land and he believes that ODFW should get compensated.
- New chairs for 2022, OSP is up to chair IIT next year- need to find out who the designated person will be.
  - Mary needs updated information on members of IIT and Managers. If everyone could send her your information, email, address and phone number she will create a spreadsheet to share with everyone. Meanwhile Jeff sent her the most current updated email listing he had.
  - Discussion about meetings. Group decided that will finish out the year via ZOOM with hopes of next year being able to meet in person. Should have a better idea of in person meetings by mid to late January.

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

- Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs – Not a lot to share. COVID restrictions continue to be in place. Buildings are closed and travel is restricted. Carcass surveys are happening now. No status on opening of tribal lands at this time.
- OSMB- Nothing at this time.

- ODFW – Jason shared that steelhead season has closures all the way to the mouth, it has been a rough year and they have been having to implementing rules from mouth to Scherars. September extended closures on entire river for all steelhead angling. There are some fisheries still open. Moody to Pelton Dam is closed. Moody closures for all angling is closed until end of the year. Scott asked if the closures were based on the number of fish or due to water quality issues. Jason shared that the decisions were unrelated and that returns to Bonneville Dam are at historical low returns. He continued that within the Deschutes there is a recovery plan and they are looking at threshold and viability. Currently they are below abundance of thresholds and so they needed to do some actions. Crullers are still out until the end of October. They will be using a jet boat from Warm Springs to Trout Creek in November, December and early January – just a heads up if there are complaints. Corey added that addressing the water quality question issue that they are focused on the population of fish. In October there is public comment to PGE addressing the water quality issue.
- OPRD – David reported that their primary river ranger is leaving and they are interviewing through October to replace this position. This person will have a larger role in future. Duties will be split/shared with the existing additional rangers. New changes ahead but no change in the number of floats on the river. Will work on float schedule with BLM. There was less pressure this year due to no fishing. Their new compost toilets are working better and they have simplicity in use and maintenance. Closing out year float next Friday but will have patrols on up-trail. Had a lot of presence this year on the river. Almost fully staffed all season.
- BLM – Kat reported out on progress on Bake Oven housing and facilities. Things are moving right along there and staff did an incredible job. Toilets have been replaced and maintenance is back in place. Thankful for all the support from the public.
- Local Government- Continue to have high numbers with COVID but things are coming down a bit. Most folks are still not working in buildings. Scott will continue to keep us posted when that changes.
- BIA – nothing at this time.

### **Public Comment**

- No comments at this time

### **Next meetings:**

- Managers meeting – November 5 at 10 AM
- At next Managers meeting – Managers will establish meeting dates for 2022
- IIT will plan on meeting 2 weeks prior to Managers established meeting dates in 2022

### **Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM**

