

Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting Minutes

February 11th, 2022

Yahoo, a new year

10 AM – 1 PM

Chair: Senior Trooper Matthew Newby

10:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions:** Scott Hege (Local Government); Jeff Kitchens (BLM); Corey Heath (ODFW); Brenda Bremner (BIA); Chase Brown (ODFW); James Eisner (BLM); Jen Graham (CTWS); Josh Mullhollem (OSMB); Mike Millay (BLM); Matthew Newby (OSP); Tim Schwartz(OSP); Jason Seals (ODFW); Evan Seidl (OPRD); Kat Smith (BLM); David Spangler (OPRD); Beth Hartwood (BLM); Ben Kirsch (Staff attorney for Deschutes River Alliance).

Review/Additions to agenda/ Approval of agenda / Approval of Minutes from the October 8, 2021 meeting.

Scott motioned to approve the meeting agenda, Jeff 2nd. Motion passed. Scott motioned to accept minutes from October 8th meeting, Brenda 2nd, Motion passed. Scott asked if anyone knew who Andy a permit holder was as Mary unable to catch name. No one knew who that was.

Old Business: / Ongoing business

- E-Bikes /Scenic bike ways. - David (OPRD) stated that there have been no changes, it is status quo. Corey (ODFW) shared there were no changes he deferred to Chase who shared that signage has been reposted especially in wildlife areas. Matthew (OSP) shared that signs are faded out but there is signage at multiple sites. Spent last year educating people and seemed to be a smaller issue. Chase (ODFW) added that a new metal sign (4 x 4) will be going up at MP 2, which is a nicer sign and will be highlighted in red. Just need finalization of its completion. Jeff (BLM) shared that there are different guidance and directions for all the agencies regarding this issue. He suggested that we continue to monitor this but do not need to keep on the agenda at this point unless there are some significant changes or issues.

- Updates on Lower Deschutes Business Plan and Fee Proposals? Jeff (BLM) discussed that the plan has completed the process after public input, presentations to and approval from the RAC and then support from Managers group. Next steps to get the information out. This will be done with posters (once updated) and press releases. This will mean a \$5 per day, per person for walk in camping in Segments 1. This will go into effect March 1, 2022. There is still work to be done with other partners to develop a game plan for implementation on Segment 4. This requires filing with Federal Registry which can mean a 6 – 8 month process, so no implementation in 2022. BLM has heard the concerns from partners and want to make sure that everyone is on the same page for implementation can happen.

New Business:

- Mary's contract: David(OPRD) advised that money from boater passes helps sponsor the contract to have Mary facilitate (set up meetings and locations, compile agenda's, write minutes and send all information out to partners). Her contract is being renewed and she is willing to continue.
- Meetings – Scott Hege has been great at assisting setting up zoom meetings the past two years. Had an issue for this meeting, but David set it up through OPRD. Jeff shared that pre-pandemic we used to have conference all lines for IIT meeting which historically we don't get a lot of public input. As we are looking at creating a hybrid model when possible, he suggested we set up a specific account for these meetings. David (OPRD) stated that they will work with Mary to set up some kind of zoom account or figure out a way for her to have access to an account.

Round Table Discussions and Updates

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs –Jen shared there are no updates. COVID closures continue on Tribal Lands with no idea of when they will be opening up. Positivity rates right now are high.
- OSMB/Oregon State Marine Board – Not much to add. They are trying to have more direct contacts with un-motorized boaters and working on messaging.
- OSP/ Oregon State Police- Compliance has been fairly good on the river as far as permits and equipment. They hit lifejackets hard and that is showing improvements. Keeping an eye on E-bikes. Will start float patrols tomorrow.

- ODFW/ Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife- Corey, Chase and Jason reported out. The annual trout sampling will be happening in February and the first part of March at North Junction and also from Pine Tree to Beaver Tail. They will be using jet boats and just want to give folks a heads up. Jeff requested that they get information to BLM as they are the ones who deal with the calls and complaints. ODFW is also in the process of a region wide plan for steelhead management. They want to know what is going on and what will things look like in the future. The release of these plans should come out in the next few months. Chase shared that E-bikes are one concern, but noxious weed control on both sides of the river is also a concern. The plan is to work with other groups and figure out access to these areas the 1st week of May. There is also an issue with grazing allotments with dozens of cattle in riparian areas due to broken down fences. Can't get a vehicle down there to get supplies to the area and are trying to work with the railroad but they are not making contact.
- Wasco Co. Sheriff Dept. – No report today
- OPRD/ Oregon Park and Recreation Department- David reported that they are in the process of gearing up for the season. Floats will be Thursday and Friday's with overnight and day patrols. Looking at being at Harris on weekends. Have had contacts with backpackers who don't understand the rules. Evan will be main river ranger with river duties. They are working on getting trail counters up instead of relying on game cameras. Chris Parkins is back with OPRD but is working on the coast. Staffing level they are looking at working with partners, and to float with OSP when available.
- BLM/ Bureau of Land Management –Already talked about fee structure. Looking at completion of or removal or replacement of noncompliant toilets on segment 1. All of them have critical issues such as to close to cultural, archeological or wildlife habitat. Some are in flood plans. Talk with the City of Maupin to move the new scat machine to City Park. Coordinating with the Chamber to find volunteers to help at the Depot House, one of the issues there is that internet is not great there, but working through it. COVID/ BLM notifications regarding mask reductions may/should come in March. The Dept. of Interior is looking at the re-entry phase, which mean can engage in person meetings. There has not been any clear guidance but hope to entertain this come spring. BLM is on board for in person. Billing and post use reports, Beth is doing a great job with SRP's. BLM does an audit of these every four year. Contact Beth for more information. Jeff shared that this could be a very

busy fire season this year so will be putting out lots of information to users of the river. Delbert (artist in residence) will be on the river with BLM and working with the Tribes to coordinate concerts. Jeff wanted to give Mike Millay a shout out and thanks for his taking the lead with working on fee structure program. Kat Smith will be coordinating with OPRD river rangers and other partners for pre-season meeting. Want to make sure we support each other with coverage on the river.

- Local Government – Not a lot of stuff. The Sheriff is setting up everything for the season. Wasco Co. COVID numbers have been super high but are coming down. Scott shared concerns regarding fires this year and working on messaging to the public that now is the time for fire fuel reductions, not wait until fire season.

Public Comment

- No comments from public

Final Discussion, Follow up, Action Items, Recommendations to Managers

- Review of the Lower Deschutes Managers Group Charter/ review to see if there are any additions or changes. New information for newer partners and members. Corey wants to share with Klamath River agencies.
- Fire Season- where will we be at, who are primary contacts with BLM as well as various county agencies.
- Annual law enforcement meeting with Sheriff Magill, Sherman, Wasco, Jefferson Counties and other agencies. There are new law enforcement officers in the Prineville District with one on the Lower Deschutes River
- Mary will set up in person meetings for May with hopefully WIFI capacity.

Next Meetings

- Managers meeting: February 25th 10 am – 1 pm
- IIT meeting : May 6th 10 am – 1pm
- Managers meeting: May 20th 10 am – 1 pm
- IIT/Managers – Field trip? August 12 / all depends on fire season
- IIT meeting: October 21 10 am – 1 pm
- Managers meeting: November 4th 10 am – 1 pm

Meeting adjourned.

- Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.