



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 2
1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 1:30 to 4pm

NOTES

Present:

Corinne Smith (The Nature Conservancy)

Frankie Barker (Mat-Su Borough)

Jessica Speed (Partnership Coordinator- The Nature Conservancy)

Jessica Winnestaffer (Chickaloon Native Village)- Notetaker

Arni Thompson (Alaska Salmon Alliance)

Christy Cincotta (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)

Roger Harding (AK Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish)

Bill Rice (US Fish and Wildlife Service)- Facilitator

Franklin Dekker (US Fish and Wildlife Service- Hydrologist)

Debbie Hart (Coordinator Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership)

Therese Thompson (Coordinator of Western Native Trout Initiative)

(On the Phone) Erika Ammann (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries-Restoration Center).

Partnership Business

Alaska Trails endorsement letter proposed by Steve Cleary

The Steering Committee needs to know the following:

1. Who are the partners that will work on this proposal?
2. Who are the partners that already support this project? Encourage Steve Cleary to contact Chuck Kaucic at Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District.
3. How this project will benefit the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership and meet some of our goals? The endorsement request should reference our Strategic Plan.
4. When is he planning to undertake mapping the Mat-Su Region?

Jessica S. will follow up with Steve Cleary and ask him for more information. If he provides more information, then the Steering Committee will have another opportunity to comment and discuss.

Update on application for NFHP funds (Jessica)

Jessica S. submitted an application on January 5 for US Fish and Wildlife Service funds for the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership. Corinne, Bill and Frankie all helped Jessica S. a lot with the application that requested a ranking of Level 3. Last year (2014) we were ranked a Level 2 and received \$275,000 for Partnership coordination and grant awards to our partners for projects within our boundaries. This year the application took a long time, but it was less effort than last year.

All AK Fish Habitat Partnerships Meetings- January 14, 2015 in Anchorage (Bill)

Roger and Erika were a part of the agenda creation. Roger reported that in the morning (9-11 am) there is a meeting specifically for the coordinators of the fish habitat partnerships including a National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) update; NFHP funding allocation discussion; another report of each Partnership due March 31; and discussion of possible MOAs between Alaska Partnerships.

Erika reported that in the afternoon the All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships Meeting will look at building greater involvement in FHP's, current cross FHP activities, and care and feeding of the Fish Habitat Partnerships; Fish Habitat Action Plan Update; science and data update; stream temperature discussion; state wildlife action plans; communications and outreach (the steering committee has received the agenda). Steve McQueen with the North Pacific Management Council and Matt Varner with BLM, will attend to discuss possible collaborations.

Committee Updates

Science and Data (Bill)

Bill would like to step down from being the Chair of the committee. Jeff Davis is interested in being the Chair. This will be discussed at the next Science and Data Committee meeting. Bill recently sent out the notes to the steering committee of a recent Science and Data Committee's Index Watersheds Sub-Committee meeting. There will be another Index Watersheds Sub-Committee meeting in February. Franklin will be making a map for this discussion. Additionally, Christine Woll with The Nature Conservancy is working on a salmon habitat model and looking for input from the Science and Data Committee (and others).

Last Friday there was a NFHP National Habitat Assessment teleconference. NFHP is trying to assess the fish habitat across the nation. Bill is taking the lead on providing statewide Alaska assessment updates by the deadline of February 23. This National Assessment is a 'score card' for US Legislators to understand the fish habitat issues around the country.

Could the Science and Data Committee calculate the annual partnership measurements (Table 8 on page 110 of the Strategic Action Plan) for use in the annual report the outreach committee will be publishing in the spring

Outreach (Frankie)

The Outreach Committee consists of Frankie Barker, Catherine Inman, Katrina Muller, Lisa Ka'aihue, Jessica Speed, and Kim Sollien. An upcoming meeting will discuss writing a Mat-Su Salmon Partnership newsletter in the near future; an update of the Outreach Plan; an Annual Partnership Report. The Annual Partnership Report could highlight a few of the annual partnership measurements. Please send project photos and photos of Mat-Su salmon, people, streams and lakes to the Jessica S for inclusion in outreach materials.

It was discussed during the meeting that various groups and individuals were using the Partnership name in their newspaper articles to support various stances. While this shows our impact, how we may address the point of view of the Partnership to the public should be a topic for future discussion. Perhaps this spring and on a somewhat recurring basis the Partnership should provide a article themselves to re-iterate our view and the balance we try to find. Note: the outreach committee is addressing this need.

Symposium Planning (Jessica)

The November 2014 symposium had the largest turnout of people yet! It went really well. Presentations were put on the website recently. A media list needs to go on the website. Unfortunately the keynote speech was not published on Addressing Alaskans due to it being 'too heavy on the science with too many references to the slides.'

The Symposium Committee met in December to discuss the feedback. Jessica S. would like to write a post-symposium letter in the newspaper (annually) to thank the sponsors, provide some of the symposium highlights, and provide additional education about the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership to the general community.

Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission research plan update (Frankie)

The Mat-Su Borough was funded \$2,500,000 as a state capital award from the state legislature in FY2013 for fisheries and fish protection. \$900,000 of this allocation was spent in 2014 on culvert replacements. Additional funding has been spent on a Data Gaps Summary and developing a Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Upper Cook Inlet.

January 21-22, 2015 there will be a facilitated stakeholder workshop to identify and prioritize issues and options in the Mat-Su Salmon Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Upper Cook Inlet. This workshop will be in Wasilla and is open to the public. There will be representation from the Partnership there.

Note, Arni Thomson raised objection to the Partnership sending representatives to the workshop for the following reasons: *"The Partnership has an operating principle not to engage in activities or issues pertaining to fishery management allocative decisions. The Mat-Su Borough has repeatedly demonstrated their long term allocative agenda to eliminate commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. Their "Monitoring and Research Plan" is just another disguised attempt at allocation. Also, the Plan is an effort to manipulate the research projects of both state and federal agencies. Therefore the Partnership should not be involved. Participation in minimal discussions at the Workshop about a plan that has already been developed will be used by the Borough to create the impression to the Legislature and others that the Partnership is in general agreement with the Research Plan."*

Upcoming Events:

- January 14, 2015 12:00 - 4:30 All AK FHPs, FWS Regional Office, Anchorage.
- January 14 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST, NFHP Board Meeting – available via webex
- March 4-7 Kenai Salmon Partnership Meeting and Kachemak Bay Science Conference including keynote address by David Montgomery

Next meeting: March 10th, 1:30 to 4pm

Discuss the need for Mat-Su Septage and Leachate Facility
Frankie Barker as Facilitator and Corinne Smith as Notetaker