



### **Steering Committee Meeting**

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4  
1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

**Tuesday January 12, 2016 1:30 – 4 pm**

To call in to the **ADF&G conference room: (907) 746-6347**

To start the conference call from ADF&G conference room: Dial 9 then 746-6347

## **AGENDA**

**Facilitator:** Frankie

**Notetaker:** Christy

**Welcome At-large Steering Committee member seat holder**

### **Partnership Business**

- Prioritization of Partnership Strategic Action Plan update (Corinne)
  - Update/discussion
- NFHP application update (Jessica)
  - Update/discussion
- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer standards (Frankie)
  - Discussion
- Process for joining Science & Data Committee (Jessica)
  - Discussion and decision

### **Follow-up on discussion of Anchorage based watershed/salmon group**

- Discussion

### **Committee Updates**

- Plan committee (Corinne)
- Symposium Planning (Jessica)
- Science and Data (Jeff, John or Franklin)
- Outreach (Frankie or Christy)

### **General Partner updates (all or any attendees)**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- NFHP Inland Assessment Results and Regional Feedback for Southcentral Alaska Webinar, 11-12 am January 14 2015 Anchorage, AK
- All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting February 9th, Anchorage, AK

### **Next meeting:**

- Tuesday March 8th 1:30-4pm



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### **Notes**

**Facilitator:** Frankie Barker

**Notetaker:** Christy Cincotta

**Steering Committee Attendees:** Frankie Barker, Christy Cincotta, Corinne Smith, Jessica Winnestaffer, Roger Harding, Jon Gerken, Arni Thomson, Marc Lamoreaux, Erika Ammann

**Coordinator:** Jessica Speed

**Approval of November meeting notes** – Approved.

#### **Welcome At-large Steering Committee member seat holder**

- Notes: Two letters of interest were submitted for this position, and the steering committee chose to invite ASA back on. Trout Unlimited intended to submit a letter of interest, and may apply in the future. The applicant who submitted the second letter of interest would be very welcome to assist the Partnership in another capacity as a volunteer – possibly with outreach

#### **Status of Seats and Recap** (Jessica)

- Notes: In 2015, Chickaloon took an at-large seat, MatSu Trails took an at-large seat, and Tyonek TCD took the Alaska Native seat. Later in the year, MatSu Trails vacated an at-large seat and the Native Village of Eklutna filled this seat. All three seats will have terms come up for renewal in December 2016. A fourth seat (another at-large) will come up in December 2017 (currently filled by ASA).

#### **Partnership Business**

- Prioritization of Partnership Strategic Action Plan update (Corinne)  
Notes: This committee includes Frankie, Corinne, Jeff Davis and Arni. Through the prioritization process, the committee selected four ~~overarching-priority~~ strategies. Next steps are deciding how to use information and how to involve this information in the RFP for our NFHP allocation-application? process. Corinne asked for input on other ways that strategies could be used. Corinne suggested sending the priority strategies to the membership and to the listserv, and Jessica suggested potentially through the coastal newsletter. Going forward, the steering committee may want to review this on an annual basis. We could do this exercise again at future symposiums, and potentially include geographic prioritization.
- NFHP application update (Jessica)  
Notes: Jessica submitted a 43 page application to USFWS for funding for operation of partnership and for distribution for specific projects in area. Putting together this application

is a lengthy process, and Alaska USFWS employees provided significant assistance as did Corinne and Frankie. This application will determine the amount of funding that we are able to distribute between projects and fund the Partnership coordinator position.

- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer standards (Frankie)

Notes: Frankie is developing the draft materials for this standard. The items needed include a memorandum that spells out the case for the standard, the ordinance itself, a resolution, and a list of frequently asked questions. Frankie has prepared drafts of most of these documents. The draft relates to new development and currently includes a 50ft setback for residential and 100ft setback for commercial/industrial, and focuses on high priority salmon streams. Frankie is asking for feedback on these documents and on specific streams to include in the ordinance. Following discussion she will explore the possibility of including all anadromous waters in the ordinance, 35 priority water bodies or top six. Water quality is not a priority for the public, but fish health is a priority, and so it is important to make the case for how riparian buffers connect to salmon. The partnership may want to provide a letter of support. Frankie is requesting feedback by Feb 1. Outreach committee may want to consider strategies to get the word out on the importance of riparian buffers, i.e. include information in newsletters, a letter to the list serve with an announcement, website, public seminars, etc.

- Process for joining Science & Data Committee (Jessica)

Notes: This committee is relatively new, and has a charter that Bill Rice put together. After the symposium, two people wrote and asked to join. The charter does not have much information on how new members should come on board and probably needs an update. Jeff has asked for Steering Committee input on how new members may join. There have been several subcommittees in the past, but now it is one core group of about 8 people. Committee is still relatively small and may be able to incorporate more people and bring new perspectives. Frankie suggested that Jeff contact each of the interested individuals to provide more information including time commitment and then see if they are still interested. Jessica W suggested that maybe all requests should come through the Steering Committee in the future. Corinne suggested if people are interested in joining this committee and know what is involved, that we should leave this up to the science & data committee to determine if additional perspectives are needed. Jessica will send out the charter to everyone for us to review. The decision at this time is to invite these two interested individuals to the science & data committee, and for the steering committee to review committee recruitment in the future.

### **Follow-up on discussion of Anchorage based watershed/salmon group**

- Notes: Arni has been trying to get in touch with David Wigglesworth to make a plan to begin a dialogue with the mayor of Anchorage. This group is interested in supporting Anchorage to form some type of watershed group to connect with on salmon issues. Prior to the March meeting, Arni will get a status update from David W and will send the steering committee an update.

### **Committee Updates**

- Plan committee (Corinne): Update included above.
- Symposium Planning (Jessica)

Notes: The 2015 Symposium had a good turnout, great keynote speaker, and positive evaluations. This was the first time we charged and we received \$4,800 income from fees including \$700 in donations at the symposium. This helped to fill the funding gap, and the Partnership came out ahead. This committee has not met since the symposium, but Jessica

will be checking in with them soon. A decision needs to be made about location and date soon. The Depot is currently open for preferred dates. A deposit is ~~needed~~-needed. If it's fully refundable, Erika suggests reserving it now and then looking at dates and deciding if it should be moved. An effort will be made to avoid potential conflicts. Committee will look into dates at next meeting. Jessica will send out a summary of the evaluations.

- Science and Data (Jon): No updates at this time.
- Outreach (Christy):  
Notes: At the last committee meeting, we discussed overall accomplishments in 2015, including the site tour, wildlife Wednesday partnership, finishing the outreach pan update, NFHP project press release, and the symposium. We also brainstormed 2016 outreach goals, which included setting up \$1 for conservation agreement with sporting goods stores, greater involvement at public outreach events, creating a bumper sticker, developing a trifold brochure, developing short videos about each of our twelve conservation strategies, and possibly of hiring a contractor to implement these tasks. Currently, the committee is working on a progress report (2014-15) and updating the work plan and goals for 2016, and the committee will meet later this month or in early February. Frankie mentioned that photos are needed for the 2014-15 biannual report.

#### **General Partner updates (all or any attendees)**

- Arni mentioned that currently a lot of jobs are being cut ~~for~~at development companies.
- Roger pointed out that the results of the inland Alaska assessment of fish habitat will be available through a webinar on Thursday.
- Jon mentioned that Libby is helping David in regional office and may be contact person for NFHP. At USFWS they are still trying to backfill several positions. Fisheries still has a few positions to fill. Jon is now Fisheries Branch Chief for USFWS. Heather Hanson is the new engineer for USFWS.
- Christy mentioned that TBCD is planning their 2016 field work.
- Jessica W shared that Chickaloon is planning upcoming moist air incubator work with sockeye salmon.
- Corinne shared a stream mapping project update: updated NHD dataset for the Mat-Su is now available.
- Marc mentioned that Eklutna is working towards removal of an old dam on Eklutna River.
- Frankie shared that two new planners have started at the Borough. Fish & Wildlife Commission Chair stepped down, position will be filled at next assembly meeting.
- Jessica S shared that she has finished up NFHP application and now has more time to work with other committees.

NOTE: The next steering committee meeting will include 2016 budget, riparian buffer standards, and updates on meetings.

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#### **Next meeting: Tuesday March 8th 1:30-4pm**

- Notetaker: Erika, Faciliator: Corinne