



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 2

1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 1:30 – 4 pm

Call in # (907) 746-6347 ← ADFG conference room

AGENDA

Facilitator: Roger Harding

Notetaker: Frankie Barker

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from January & March meetings
 - Decision: approve decision-making practices
- NFHP funds for 2015 projects (David Wigglesworth)
 - Projects funded for fiscal year 2015 (Bill)
- Partnership budget (Jessica)
 - Decision: approve budget
 - Decision: approve travel funds for Jeff Davis
- FY16 RFP process (Jessica)
 - Discuss: process & RFP materials, Decision: when to send RFP out
- Consensus decision-making principles
 - Decision: approve principles

Wastewater management issues (Arni)

Committee Updates

- Science and Data (Jessica)
- Symposium Planning (Jessica)
- Outreach (Frankie)

National NFHP

- Fish Habitat Partnership Fund 501(c) 3 status (David Wigglesworth)

Other updates

- Oilwell Road fish passage project (TBA)
- FWS summer field projects (Bill Rice)

Upcoming Events:

- National American Fisheries Society(AFS) Meeting- August 15-20, 2015 in Portland, OR
- Alaska Chapter AFS meeting - November 2-6, 2015, Homer, AK
- NFHP National Board meeting October 8-12, Sacramento, CA
- FHP Coordinators Workshop concurrent with National Board meeting, exact date and confirmation TBA

Next meeting: July 14th, 2015

Facilitator: Need a volunteer

Notetaker: Christy Cincotta



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NOTES

Facilitator: Roger Harding

Notetaker: Frankie Barker

Steering Committee: Bill Rice, Erika Ammann (phone), Roger Harding, Frankie Barker

Coordinator: Jessica Speed

Guests: Jim Jenson (MSB), David Wigglesworth (FWS) (phone)

Absent: Jessica Winnestaffer, Kim Ryals, Corinne Smith, Christy Cincotta, Arni Thompson

Partnership Business

January & March meeting notes – Jessica noted that text was added in the January notes to include comments by Arni Thompson and the amount of the MSB state grant was changed to \$2.5million. January notes were approved with the changes. Bill commented, as follow up to the March meeting, that he and Jessica contacted Eric Huebsch of UCIDA and will get in touch to meet with Bill and Jessica next time he's in Anchorage. Bill indicated that Stormy Haught, who spoke to the steering committee last meeting about DOT culverts, is no longer with ADF&G. Roger and Dave suggested working with the local ADF&G offices to implement fish passage designs in DOT projects. Bill and Jessica suggested inviting ADOT to the next All Alaska FHP meeting. Bill indicated that a Fish Passage Summit is being organized for October in Juneau ; DOT & ADF&G will be invited. Jessica noted changes to the March notes on page 2. She will resend a final version of the March notes. The March notes were approved with changes.

Roger suggested postponing the decision-making process discussion to the next meeting.

NFHP funds for 2015 – David summarized comments by FHP coordinators regarding Mat-Su's application for funding levels. We were rated at level 2; no FHP's achieved the level 3 rating. He suggested that we demonstrate how our planning is informed by habitat assessment work and engage the Science and Data committee more directly including on climate change issues. Commenters noted that Mat-Su hasn't prioritized target areas, threats or data gaps. The word "research" should not be used in our projects since NFHP doesn't fund research. Bill said that he has a process in mind for prioritizing our plan objectives which he can present at our next meeting. Dave indicated that monitoring results need to be more clearly stated in our projects. For leveraging, we should err on the side of being more inclusive. Titles are important; we should focus titles on results. David suggested focusing on projects such as aquatic invasive eradication, fish passage and conservation easements. Bill and David discussed hosting an information meeting for all AK FHP's to discuss how to improve their projects to meet NHFP criteria.

NFHP funds for 2015 (continued) - Bill indicated that the final funding amounts have not yet been announced. He reviewed the list of projects for 2015 and indicated that most of the ones that fall below the anticipated funding level have other sources of funding available to them. Frankie requested that a press release be sent out when the grant awards are announced. Bill suggested that Katrina Mueller at USFWS could help with getting out a press release.

Partnership Budget – Jessica reviewed a revised version of the draft budget dated 5/5/2015. This includes funds from NFHP for the coordinator and symposium \$43,297 which would fund the coordinator position through June 2016. Funding is still needed for the symposium of \$11,000. The Symposium Planning committee is looking at sponsorship and charging for lunch as a way to fund the event. Frankie asked about comparisons of funding and actual expenses from last year. Jessica suggested reducing the conference and travel budget. Frankie suggested developing a list of conferences and trainings that the coordinator and steering committee members might want to attend, identify costs, other funding sources and prioritize the list. **Decision:** Budget was approved as presented. **Action:** Send Jessica conference & training events for FY2016. List will be reviewed at next meeting.

Jeff Davis submitted a request to the steering committee for assistance with travel expenses to the American Fisheries Society meeting in Portland, August 2015. He estimated his expenses for travel, per diem, lodging and registration as \$2,300. **Decision:** Steering Committee members suggested covering only part of his costs since our travel budget is limited. **Action:** Jessica will talk to Jeff and see how much he can cover himself.

USFWS has offered to provide funding for Frankie to attend the AFS conference as a local government representative.

FY16 RFP Process – Jessica updated the scoring sheet from last year based on feedback from the steering committee and sent it to Bill for editing. The final scoring sheet and RFP guidelines can be approved at the July meeting. Bill suggested sending out the RFP after the July meeting with a due date of September 28.

Steering Committee Alternates - Bill suggested that each steering committee member designate an alternate to attend meetings if they are unable to attend. Jessica has talked to Kim Ryals who has not been able to attend meetings thus far due to a conflict with her organization's meetings. She is trying to get their meeting dates changed.

Guest Presentation: Jim Jenson, MSB Operations & Maintenance Division Manager, Public Works Department, spoke about the fish passage projects from last year and upcoming ones this summer. Regarding the Oilwell Road project that was reported in the Frontiersman, they did have problems with the contractor (Tews) and hired extra staff to oversee the project on site including an intern who stayed there the whole time. MSB required the contractor to redo some of the work because they were not using proper techniques. The contractor kept changing staff and asking for time extensions. In the end, despite the problems with the contractor, the final product was good. MSB plans three projects this summer at Buddy Creek, Meadow Creek, Crystal Lake Road and Willow Creek Parkway. Contractors for these projects will be Western and Ahtna. DOWL has designed the projects and will be helping to supervise on-site. David asked how the fish passage standards that the MSB Assembly approved have been implemented. Jim indicated that once the ordinance passed, the Borough Attorney insisted that they redesign projects to comply with the new standards and inform developers about compliance. Jim indicated that his staff might make a presentation about the fish passage projects at the November 2015 symposium.

NOAA Habitat (Beluga) – Erika asked about mitigation opportunities in Upper Cook Inlet for salmon since they are prey species for Beluga. NOAA has identified fish passage projects in the Kenai but are looking at Mat-Su for more mitigation possibilities. David and Frankie suggested

talking to Great Land Trust about conservation easement opportunities in estuaries. GLT has done prioritization of high value conservation lands for salmon. Bill suggested that NOAA look at the list of projects that were suggested for the Port of Anchorage mitigation. Bill can provide a list of fish passage projects that need funding.

Committee Updates

Science and Data – The committee has held two meetings. Jeff Davis is the Chair. They are looking at index watersheds, habitat modeling and stream mapping. Bill indicated that stream mapping work is moving along and is already being used on the ground. TNC is leading the current hydromapping and is seeking funding to complete the mapping for the entire basin Symposium Planning – Jessica reported that the committee is discussing keynote speakers with the idea of having a second keynote like last year. They are thinking about having a film festival on the first evening of the symposium. Steering committee members thought that would be a good idea and a draw for the public. They are looking at fundraising ideas including sponsors and charging for meals.

Outreach – Frankie indicated that the Outreach Plan (2015-2019) is completed. The Annual Report is likely to be a biannual report (2014&2015) since it has not been drafted yet for 2015. She noted the 10 part Kingmaker series in the Frontiersman newspaper by GLT highlighting property owners and others who have worked to protect salmon in the Mat-Su. Jessica indicated that our Waters to Watch submission for Alexander Creek was accepted. A press release should be coming out soon on that from NFHP. The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission is working with GLT on the Baby Salmon Live Here campaign, helping to identify sign locations and sponsors.

Other Updates

- Roger indicated that the deadline for the multi-state AFWA grant is coming up. Letters of Intent are being solicited with full proposals due in July. They have \$70,000/ per year for three years available and Alaska now qualifies even though we are only one state.
- Frankie reported that the *Mat-Su Salmon Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Upper Cook Inlet* is complete and has been sent to the steering committee. There is an *Information Inventory and Data Gap Analysis* that accompanies the research plan that has also been sent by email. The next step in the project will be to issue an RFP for projects.

Next Steering Committee: July 14, 2015

Facilitator: Bill Rice

Notetaker: Christie Cincotta