



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4

1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday May 10, 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: Roger

Notetaker: Marc

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from March meeting
 - Decision: approve notes
- Partnership budget (Jessica)
 - Discussion & decision: approve budget
- Science and Data Committee Charter (Jon, Corinne or Jessica)
 - Discussion & decision to approve updated charter
- NFHP allocation application process & projects funded for FY16 (FWS staff)
 - Update & discussion
- FY17 RFP process (Jessica)
 - Discuss: process & RFP materials, Decision: any needed changes & when to send RFP out
- Requested Film fest support (Jessica)
 - Discussion & decision to approve

Committee Updates

- Science and Data (Jeff, Jon or Jessica)
- Outreach (Frankie or Jessica)
- Symposium Planning (Jessica)

National Fish Habitat Partnership

- NFHP legislation (Mike or Jessica)
 - Update & discussion
- NFHP Fund chapter agreement (Mike or Jessica)
 - Update & discussion

Other Updates:

- Meeting with Mayor's Office
 - Update
- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance
 - Update & discussion

General Partner updates (all or any attendees)

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting:

- Tuesday July 12th 1:30-4pm



Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday May 10, 2016 1:30 – 4 pm

To call in to the **ADF&G conference room:**

NOTES

Facilitator: Roger Harding

Notetaker: Marc Lamoreaux

Steering Committee Attendees: Frankie Barker, Corinne Smith, Jon Gerken, Erika Ammann,
Mike Daigneault Habitat Restoration and Partnerships Coordinator

Coordinator: Jessica Speed

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from March meeting
 - Decision: approve notes with one revision

Notes from March meeting were approved with a minor modification from Roger on his virtual attendance of the SWIM (Southwest Alaska Interagency) Meeting.

- Partnership budget (Jessica)
 - Decision: Budget, with discussed modifications will be distributed for approval by e-mail.

The new draft budget was improved in format. Committee discussed possible budget adjustments/improvements. It should include Symposium fees in the column with Estimated Leverage Donations and In-kind, possibly titled Additional Revenues.

- Science and Data Committee Charter (Jon)
 - Discussion & decision to approve updated charter with changes discussed, to be reviewed by e-mail.

A sub-committee drafted a simplified charter structure for the updated version that was discussed. The Science and Data Committee Charter Purpose and Responsibilities were tightened up to support Steering Committee direction. The Committee should have 8 to 10 core members, half agency and half non-agency, with no more than two from any one agency or organization. Anyone may sit in, including those with additional expertise on topics of consideration. There would be an agency Chair and non-agency Co-chair with unlimited number of 2 year terms. The Committee should "Evaluate technical merits of proposals submitted to the Steering Committee for Partnership funding or Partnership support."

Suggested modifications: Leave the decision to have a Co-chair in addition to a Chair flexible, including if they are agency or non-agency The S&D Committee should have regular quarterly meetings and report to the Steering Committee bi-monthly. Note-takers should rotate.

Discussion included the possibility of Jessica Speed could helping more with S&D activities organization to take some of the burden off the chairs. It could be advantageous to have a USFWS staff chair who can receive agency support for some NFHP activities, including communication of national NFHP information. The index watersheds project could be handled as a grant or contract.

- NFHP allocation application process & projects funded for FY16 (Mike Daigneault, FWS staff)
 - Update & discussion

More fundraising was suggested as NFHP funding is not expected to increase in the future. The allocation memo from headquarters shows Mat-Su and other Alaska partnerships competed well nationally. Only one partnership, from the lower '48 got a level 3 rating. Many ranked in level 2. The funding level of \$215,000 that Mat-Su received allows 5 projects to be fully funded, and one partially.

Although Mat-Su did not receive a level 3 ranking, we are being recognized for efficiency and work quality by others, including regional partnerships. David Wigglesworth said we had a great application and are recognized as doing great work.

- FY17 RFP process (Jessica)
 - Discuss: process & RFP materials, Decision: any needed changes & when to send RFP out

The RFP process for FY17 projects will be announced this summer. It's time to begin reviewing materials. The Steering Committee thought there would be little need for adjusting the methodology and RFP since there was a significant update last year. Jessica will be getting in touch soon to solicit input on any needed changes for this year.

- Requested Film fest support (Jessica)
 - Discussion & decision to not approve

Publicity at this event, reaching a diverse audience including the Fly Fisher Association could be beneficial. However, it is questionable to pay for it with NFHP funds or other funds raised for other purposes. We could offer to trade for publicity at Partnership events. We can talk to them about other mutually beneficial opportunities.

Committee Updates

- Science and Data (Jon)

Moving forward on index watersheds project. Considering which watersheds would be indexed. This will be presented to the Science and Data Committee, then to the Steering Committee for consideration.

- Outreach (Frankie)

Produced a fancy biennial report with lots of pictures, people and quotes. Planners and assembly are excited. We can pass it to our agencies, boards, etc. It's in the same format as last time.

Jessica's presentation to the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission and Assembly was great, and well received.

Wildlife Wednesdays have been well presented and attended. Jon Gurken's Baby Salmon Live Here presentation had the most attendees – at least 50. There is discussion around hosting King of Fish book discussion as part of the series next fall.

Marc and Jessica will work on a booth with the Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) Environmental Department at the NVE Pow wow.

Outreach Committee will be working a website update.

Jessica and committee members will be getting in touch with Cabella's to see about potential of rounding up purchases to give to conservation.

Summer Site Tour plans are just beginning. What projects and places should we visit on summer tours? Jon Gerken suggested- The ADF&G weir at Jim Creek. Highlight past restoration and GLT protection in the area. NVE is proposing to further assess and remediate ATV stream damage there. Also, possibly Wasilla and Cottonwood Creeks.

- Symposium Planning (Jessica)

Symposium dates this year are Thursday and Friday November 17th and 18th at the Palmer Depot. The Committee is contemplating a public event hosted Saturday the 18th. We are still in the process of determining a keynote. Please let us know if you have any ideas – either local or someone from out of state.

National Fish Habitat Partnership

- NFHP legislation
 - Update & discussion

It sounds like the legislation they reviewed is going to conference committee. Land protection/purchase support under NFHP is in the legislation, and we would need State approval to directly fund land purchases for habitat conservation. There are a lot of unknowns as to the ramifications of the legislation if it passes. It appears the way funds are distributed among federal agencies would change. Some would go to agencies with less current NFHP involvement, like EPA, who could therefore become more active with NFHP partnerships, so it would probably change activities, and greatly change FWS' ability to provide support to the partnerships. The remainder is distributed amongst proposal from the NFHP Board.

- NFHP Fund chapter agreement (Mike or Jessica)
 - Update & discussion

At the last Steering Committee meeting the committee reviewed a document that would need to be signed for FHP's to become a chapter of the National Fish Habitat Partnership Fund. Mat-Su was uncomfortable with the agreement, as were other FHP's. To address this, NFHP made all FHP's who signed a conditional expression of chapter interest Chapters with no requirement to sign any paperwork. Apparently, there is no harm to partnerships from being a chapter. The goal of the National Fish Habitat Foundation is to create a means to raise additional funds for the FHP's and where needed to provide a non-profit organization that could potentially be used as a fiscal agent. Mat-Su is not in need of a fiscal agent, but could benefit from funds raised on our behalf. There are still many unanswered questions, Jessica will update the Steering Committee as she learns more.

Other Updates:

- Meeting with Mayor's Office
 - Update

Arni heard from Susanne Fleek-Green and it sounded like she was interested to meet, but we haven't heard back from her. Jessica sent a follow-up email last week. At this point we will stay tuned and hope to hear back from her. Kenai FHP is interested to attend a meeting if it materializes.

- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance
 - Update & discussion

~ Monday May 16, probably 6:00 or 7:00, the MSB Planning Commission will consider the ordinance. Frankie will give the staff report. We need someone to present the Mat-Su Partnership

letter of support as Jessica is unable to attend. Also, as many testimonies (under 3 minutes) as possible would be beneficial. People can also send Frankie comments.

General Partner updates (all or any attendees)

Multi states conservation funds \$12,000.

NTWP \$125,000 includes Coordinator position for several years.

The booklet Economic Benefits of Parks and Trails in the Mat-Su Borough is online. Earth Economics presented it to the Assembly with favorable reception. Every 1\$ in parks and trails in the Mat-Su Borough leads to \$5 of return on investment.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting:

- Tuesday July 12th 1:30-4pm