



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 2

1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday, July 14, 2015 1:30 – 4 pm

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

AGENDA

Facilitator: Corinne Smith

Notetaker: Christy Cincotta

Welcome Native Village of Eklutna

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from May meeting
 - Decision: approve decision-making practices (deferred from May meeting)
- Changes on the Steering Committee
 - Discussion: Bill Rice's move and what that means for the Partnership
 - Decision: discuss and confirm if Steering Committee members should have alternative representation from their organization attend our meetings in their absence.
- FY16 RFP and schedule (Jessica)
 - Discussion: discuss if any changes to RFP materials
 - Decision: when to send RFP out and approve review schedule
- Partnership Strategic Action Plan objectives
 - Discussion: prioritization of Strategic Action Plan objectives

Committee Updates

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

Project Endorsement

- Decision: endorsement of project by The Nature Conservancy to coordinate the partnership and further its science goals

Other updates

- Organization and/or summer field projects updates

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
Thriving fish, healthy habitats, & vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin

Upcoming Events:

- National American Fisheries Society(AFS) Meeting- August 15-20, 2015 in Portland,OR
- NFHP National Board meeting October 8-12, Sacramento, CA
- FHP Coordinators Workshop concurrent with National Board meeting, exact date and confirmation TBA
- Alaska Chapter AFS meeting - November 2-6, 2015, Homer, AK
- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium November 18 & 19 Palmer, AK

Next meeting: September 8th, 2015

Facilitator: Need a volunteer

Notetaker: Arni Thomson



Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday, July 14, 2015 1:30 – 4 pm

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

Draft NOTES

Facilitator: Corinne Smith

Notetaker: Christy Cincotta

Steering Committee: Frankie Barker, Arnie Thomson, Roger Harding (phone), Marc Lamoreux, Doug McBride

Coordinator: Jessica Speed

Guests: David Wigglesworth (phone)

Absent: Jessica Winnestaffer, Erika Ammann

Welcome Native Village of Eklutna: Corinne Smith welcomed new Steering Committee member Marc Lamoreux, representing the Native Village of Eklutna. Attendees gave brief introductions. Marc gave an overview of his work with traditional lands and the environmental department, and explained that much of their work has focused on the Eklutna River and salmon habitat.

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from May meeting: Brief discussion of waste water treatment issues that had been tabled from May meeting. Arni requested that a future meeting include an informational presentation on septic issues. Frankie suggested Mike Campfield from the Borough may be able to answer questions. **ACTION:** May meeting notes were approved.
- Decision: approve decision-making practices (deferred from May meeting): The committee discussed meeting procedures that were laid out in March meeting notes. **ACTION:** Meeting procedures laid out in March notes were approved.
- Changes on the Steering Committee
 - Discussion: Bill Rice's move and what that means for the Partnership: Doug McBride gave an update that Bill Rice has relocated to Colorado and that USFWS is actively recruiting for his replacement. USFWS's intent is that Bill's replacement will serve as their representative on the Partnership steering committee. USFWS is recruiting for a both an engineer and a Branch Chief, and it is likely that the Branch Chief will be selected sooner, most likely by September. Doug will likely be at the September Partnership steering committee meeting and will possibly be able to bring Bill's replacement. Neil Stichert from the USFWS Juneau office (currently runs the habitat restoration program there) is the interim Branch Chief, and will be working from Juneau.
 - Decision: discuss and confirm if Steering Committee members should have alternative representation from their organization attend our meetings in their absence: Frankie suggested that it might be helpful to have alternates for organizations come to steering committee meetings even if the primary is there.

Corinne stated that the real intent is for the named committee member to attend meetings. Involving more people may build the strength of the group.

ACTION: Alternatives are encouraged by committee consensus.

- FY16 RFP and schedule (Jessica)
 - Discussion: discuss if any changes to RFP materials: David Wigglesworth discussed USFWS's role in the process, and explained that the initial screening ensures that all projects going forward are ones that could be funded with NFHP dollars, and he suggested that it be stated in the RFP that decisions will be made based on what is presented in the initial proposal. Jessica suggested that we try to encourage participants to get in touch early on to develop good proposals by asking questions before deadline. Frankie suggested that a section on the application guide list individuals to call with questions, and that this list should include Doug McBride, Neil Stichert, Jessica Speed, David Wigglesworth, Libby Benolkin, and Jon Gerkin. David stated that NFHP can't fund long term monitoring projects, and that this should be made clear to applicants. The committee discussed match and leverage. The group discussed that the Partnership did not received a rating of three last year because proposed conservation action were all viewed as having the same weight, but adding wording to encourage projects in core area and prioritizing objectives could help address questions that NFHP has had about Mat-Su's strategic focus and action. Frankie suggested adding points to the qualifications section. The group discussed different point values for performance measures.
 - Decision: when to send RFP out and approve review schedule: Jessica gave an overview of the RFP process and timeline. Frankie and Jessica will work together to make changes discussed by the Steering Committee and will send out the RFP shortly. David Wigglesworth mentioned that the scoring should be sent to USFWS no later than November 10. To meet this deadline, the steering committee and science and data committee should be reviewing proposals concurrently. **ACTION:** Schedule and changes were approved.
- Partnership Strategic Action Plan objectives
 - Discussion: prioritization of Strategic Action Plan objectives: Doug shared a list prepared by Bill Rice ranking priorities based on ecosystems and objectives, with each assigned a value of high, medium, or low. Marine ecosystems need to be added to the list. This prioritization could change over the years, as new issues emerge or issues are addressed. Defining priorities could increase the likelihood of higher funding for the partnership to continue to fund projects. David suggested that in next year's RFP that this list should be provided to applicants. Corinne stated that in the first strategic action plan there was a prioritization, but this wasn't included in re-write. The committee discussed whether or not to include the science and data committee in the prioritization process, and when this task should be completed. **ACTION:** Steering Committee identified and approved highest priorities on Bill's list for the RFP and will not rank medium and low priorities at this time. A more in depth prioritization process will be completed at a later date. These priorities will be tied to the RFP process by giving bonus points for high priority projects. A committee was selected to determine a process for prioritization: Corinne (to convene), Frankie, Doug, Arni, and Jeff Davis from the Science and Data Committee.

Committee Updates

- Science and Data (Jessica): Bill was involved with committee and subcommittees, and these seats are now taken care of through Jeff Davis and others. Jessica would like to help Jeff

more with coordination. Jessica will be checking in to see if a mapping subcommittee is still needed. David asked about index watersheds. Jeff and Jessica will work together this fall to have a watershed index product to share.

- Symposium Planning (Jessica): Richard Nelson will be the keynote speaker. This speaker has a greater focus on social science and is interested in doing an evening public event as well as day time event. Fundraising for the event is ongoing. We are 10-15k short, but have had good meetings, including with Sportsmans' Warehouse and others.
- Outreach (Frankie): Outreach committee is planning a site tour for mid-late August. Frankie suggests that steering committee members participate and that each member invites one person from their own organization or from other that wants to get more involved. This may be a good opportunity to bring more USFWS people as there have been recent changes. Lisa of Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association is checking on available dates for charter planes. We should think about if we can come and who we should invite, and should send names to Jessica Speed. Doug advised that more time is needed for this itinerary. Committee is developing a press release on NFHP partnership awards.

Project Endorsement

Decision: endorsement of project by The Nature Conservancy to coordinate the partnership and further its science goals: The Nature Conservancy is requesting a general project endorsement letter for Partnership coordination. **ACTION:** Letter will be reviewed and approved over email.

Other updates

- Frankie stated that the Mat-Su Borough put out an RFP for proposals, and that pre-proposals were due today. Frankie also mentioned that at the next meeting we discuss ways to approach the new mayor of Anchorage about bringing back the Salmon in the City program.
- Doug McBride requested that the Partnership get involved with an issue surrounding the Deshka campground. This campground has been abandoned and it not being maintained and this is causing habitat issues. Frankie indicated that she will bring this up to the wildlife commission, and asked that Doug come to a wildlife commission meeting to discuss. **ACTION:** The first step will be for Doug and Frankie to bring this issue up to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and we will move forward from there.
- Roger indicated that he will work with Jessica and others on Baby Salmon Live Here signs.

Upcoming Events:

- National American Fisheries Society(AFS) Meeting- August 15-20, 2015 in Portland,OR
- NFHP National Board meeting October 8-12, Sacramento, CA
- FHP Coordinators Workshop concurrent with National Board meeting, exact date and confirmation TBA
- Alaska Chapter AFS meeting - November 2-6, 2015, Homer, AK
- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium November 18 & 19 Palmer, AK

Next meeting: September 8th, 2015

Facilitator: Christy **Notetaker:** Arni Thomson