



Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday July 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: Arni

Notetaker: Corinne

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from May meeting
 - Decision: approve notes
- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance (Frankie and Jessica)
 - Update, discussion of partnership role and decision
- FY17 RFP for National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding(Jessica)
 - Discuss: process
 - Decision: any needed changes

Committee Updates

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

Other Updates:

- Tri-borough Salmon Commission
 - Update and discussion
- Salmon and Society Workshop
 - Update and discussion on potential Alaska FHP engagement
- Salmon habitat policy - Board of Fisheries
 - Update and discussion

National Fish Habitat Partnership

- Joint National Coordinators and Science and Data Committee Workshop(Jessica)
 - Update & discussion of FHP participation
- General national or statewide updates (Mike and/or Jessica)
 - Update & possible discussion

General Partner updates (all or any attendees)

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

Upcoming Events:

- NFHP board meeting, Florida, October, 2016
- Joint National Coordinators and Science and Data Committee Workshop, Florida, October 24th, 25th, 2016
- Salmon & Society Workshop, Anchorage, November 1-3th, 2016 - <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2016/salmon-and-society/>
- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, Palmer Depot November 17th and 18th, 2016

Next meeting:

- Tuesday September 13th 1:30-4pm.
- Note taker: (need a volunteer) Facilitator: Marc



**Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday July 12, 2016**

Notes

Facilitator: Arni

Notetaker: Corinne

Present:

Arni Thompson

Gillian O'Doherty (for Tracy Smith, new NFHP coordinator for ADF&G)

Marc Lamoreaux

Jessica Speed

Corinne Smith (phone)

Frankie Barker (phone)

Sarah Wilbur ADF&G came in to update on Moose Range

Partnership Business

- Notes from the May meeting were approved with the correction of one typo.
- Jessica sent out the partnership budget and the science and data committee charter about two weeks ago. Budget comments and questions are due to Jessica by July 26th. At the last meeting, the committee decided to approve the budget and charter via email.
- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance: Frankie updated us on the status of this ordinance. The borough's Fish and Wildlife Commission announced support for it in May. The Planning Commission held a hearing in May, and miners from the Cache Creek district showed up to protest. The commission decided not to support because of concerns about the process of public notice. It will likely be introduced to the assembly on August 2nd with a public hearing on September 6th. Comments can go in at any time to the clerk or Frankie, and people can speak at the September meeting. Frankie is working with Jeff Davis and Laura Eldred (ADEC) to shorten the list to 8 – 10 most threatened streams. We discussed how the partnership can support this ordinance because it does further some of our riparian protection goals. Some NGO partners who play advocacy roles will be encouraging people to support it. TNC is interested in supporting it and Corinne will contact the Alaska Sailing Club for possible support. GLT will be meeting with assembly members about other work and will educate about buffers, too. Jessica will include it in the Partnership newsletter and/or email with a link to the letter that the Partnership already sent in support and explaining why. Gillian suggested adding it to the website and social media so that it's easy to share. Frankie would like more data on impacts to show the need for buffers. Tracy and USFWS have some of that for some waterbodies. Louisa at Palmer SWCD has numbers for GLT's priority waterbodies, too.

- FY17 RFP for National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding: Jessica Speed, Jessica Winnestaffer, and Frankie have reviewed the materials and process. The goal is to send the RFP July 22nd with proposals due September 30. Gillian noted that the date the funds will be available needs to be clear and met because delayed funding can make it difficult to do field projects in the time proposed. Corinne noted that these delays could also affect our application for funds next year. Jessica will send the draft RFP timeframe to the committee for review.
- Science & Data Charter: Gillian thinks that people on that committee should recuse themselves when their own projects are discussed for funding. Corinne noted that it will be made clearer to the committee that their task is not to recommend funding, only to review technical merit, and hopefully that will diminish the impetus to advocate for their projects. We discussed the fairness of the process. Jessica will address this in the charter draft in the RFP process and run it by this committee for feedback. Gillian noted that with new limits on number of people on the committee from organizations, that only she and Sam Ivey will represent ADF&G.

Committee Updates

- Science and Data Committee: Neither Jon or Jeff was at the meeting to provide an update. Jon sent out a proposal for index watersheds selection a few weeks ago, including specific streams and criteria. Feedback was due last week, and Gillian noted that she needs more time. The deadline for feedback will be extended.
- Outreach Committee:
 - The itinerary for the Site Tour is still in draft form. The focus will be on the Palmer-Butte area with possible side trips to the Eklutna Tailrace and Wasilla Creek boardwalk that GLT built. A date has not been set yet.
 - Jessica and Arni were at the Partnership booth at the Eklutna Powwow and got a lot of good feedback.
 - The website format has been updated. Some information and content needs to be updated. Please send notes about that to Jessica.
- Symposium Planning Committee meets tomorrow. Dan Schindler of University of Washington will be the keynote speaker with the theme and topic to be determined yet. He is not charging a fee and we'll cover travel. Frank Rue, former ADFG Commissioner and TNC Salmon Director, is a possible 2nd speaker.

Other Updates:

- Tri-borough Salmon Commission: Cook Inletkeeper has gotten in touch with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor and Anchorage Mayor and is waiting to hear from Mayor Halter. Marc, Arni, and Christy offered to be a part of discussions.
- Sarah Wilbur (Habitat, ADF&G) came in to update us on the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (east of Palmer-Fishhook Road and north of Glenn Highway, [map](#), [ADNR website](#)). The bridges on crossings of Wasilla Creek were built by the Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District for ATVs. Larger vehicles (jeeps, trucks, side-by-side's) are creating their own crossings, which leads to stream damage and cutbanks. Non-motorized users have stopped using the area. Ron Benkert, acting manager for the Palmer Habitat office, would

like to put together a team to address the crossings this fall/winter, including bridges, revegetation, and outreach to users. Troopers are aware of the issue but it's difficult to get there with a vehicle due to the ruts. Frankie suggested this would be ideal for NFHP funding. Howard Delo might be helpful with his column to educate on where to go with side-by-sides. AK Trails is interested, too. Sarah will share photos with Jessica.

- Salmon and Society Workshop will be in Anchorage from November 1-3th, 2016. The AK FHP coordinators have talked with organizer Milo Atkinson of UAF about possible presentations and invitees for the workshop, and the coordinators have had a follow up call about an FHP session. This committee expressed interest in the FHPs participating, maybe as a breakout session. Jessica will follow up with FHPs and Milo.
- Salmon habitat policy proposal to the Board of Fisheries: Jessica shared this policy proposal from fishermen about applying the state's Sustainable Salmon policy to ADF&G permitting decisions. Alaska Center for the Environment solicited signers and Marc signed for tribe after some modifications. It is on the agenda as an FYI, through there was interest in discussing whether the partnership would want to sign on at the September meeting.

National Fish Habitat Partnership

- Joint National Coordinators and Science and Data Committee Workshop will be Oct 24 – 25 in Panama City, FL, adjacent to NFHP board meeting. This year the focus is on the national habitat assessment. NFHP usually funds travel for the coordinator and one other person; Jessica suggested someone from Science and Data Committee.
- Mike was not in attendance to give any updates on national or statewide. Jessica will send any updates via email after talking with Mike

General Partner updates

- Arni thinks the Fish Expo in November (concurrent with our symposium) is a good forum to share about the fish habitat partnerships.
- Jim DePasquale won an award from ESRI for his map of the Mat-Su Hydrography dataset. There is interest in having copies of that map and putting it on the website.

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