



Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89914481073?pwd=TjVtNVA4QnhZeGtSdmppaWJ2WVZrQT09>

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AGENDA

Facilitator: Libby Kugel

Notetaker: Theo Garcia

Attendance

Jessica Speed, Trout Unlimited/Partnership Coordinator
Grant Robinson, Trout Unlimited/Partnership Outreach Coordinator
Libby Kugel, Great Land Trust
Eric Booton, Trout Unlimited
Trent Liebich, USFWS
Michael Mazzacavallo, ADF&G
Ted Eischeid, Mat-Su Borough
Anjanette Steer, UAA/Center for Conservation Science
Mike Daigneault, USFWS
Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe
Melissa Heuer, Susitna River Coalition
Nick DeCovich, ADFG
Erika Ammann

Welcome Grant Robinson – Partnership Outreach Coordinator

Welcome Grant Robinson as the new Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Outreach Coordinator. He brings multimedia journalism and communications skills that include TV video production and photography to professional writing and event coordination. Some may have met Grant in his role covering fisheries, environmental and outdoor issues with KTUU -TV Channel 2 news. Since leaving the television news industry in 2020, he has worked as the Public Information Officer for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Grant lives in Anchorage and is an avid sports fisherman who is passionate about conserving fisheries.

Grant's 1st day was June 24th as the Partnership Outreach Coordinator, which is a 12- month, 14 hour/week position. His standard work hours will be 11am to 1pm during the work week with remaining hours completed evenings and/or weekends.

Thanks to Eric and Melissa for helping with interviews and the hiring process, and big thanks to our fiscal sponsor Trout Unlimited, who will be hosting Grant as a part-time employee on behalf of the Partnership. You can find some related articles he's written about the Partnership's work and/or Mat-Su fisheries related below. A very special additional thank you to the capacity and development committee (Gillian O'Doherty, Christy Cincotta, Ted Eischeid, Trent Liebich) who conceived of, and articulated this idea long ago as a pilot effort to increase the effectiveness and resiliency of the Partnership by increasing staff capacity.

please do not hesitate to reach out and help him feel welcome – and be an additional resource. The more he knows about the Salmon Partnership, the Mat-Su – lands, waters and people, and fish context, the better equipped he will be to facilitate effective outreach. Find him at grant.robinson@tu.org.

Also, among other projects, Grant will be handling ongoing communications including website, social media, monthly updates to the Partnership email list and blog posts. If you have ideas or updates you would like shared, please reach out to Grant.

Partnership Business

- Approve May 2021 Steering Committee meeting notes **May Notes*
Notes approved and put in partnership files and on website under resources tab.

- Finalize organizational priorities **Draft Organizational Priorities*
Eric Booton and Michael Mazzacavallo met with Jessica to complete proposed updates on this document. These are the organizational priorities and identified objectives found in the Partnership's 2019 Addendum to the Strategic Action Plan. We are updating organizational priorities that covered 2019 -2020, now we are updating for 2021 and 2022. They help to more specifically guide activity of the Partnership - especially outreach, and efforts of Coordinator and our new outreach coordinator.

Changes are nominal and include:

- *Went from six priorities to five. I.e., morphed three outreach focused to just two.*
- *Priorities overall include dissemination of science, community outreach, supporting holistically addressing aquatic invasive species, organizational health and working to ensure continued and strategic granting program.*
- *Consist of priorities, objectives, and then actions – that happens at staff and/or committee level.*

Proposed changes were approved.

- National Fish Habitat Partnership updates (Ted and Jessica)
 - Discussion: Project funding and other Board updates

We are part of a broader national network of fish habitat partnerships across the country, with significant benefits including the ability to compete for funding to cover Partnership coordination, operations and outreach as well as funding for local Mat-Su Salmon habitat related projects. Ted is on the NFHP Board and shared updates since our last meeting

- *Mat-Su's FY22 recommended projects for funding were reviewed by the NFHP board and should receive anywhere from \$258,000 with potential for as much as \$360,000 (this 2nd amount would fund six projects on our list).*
- *Many questions remain related to the FY23 RFP process, that continue to be discussed by the NFHP Board and other partners. Significant actual and potential changes brought on by the legislation related to the funding opportunities include who will be managing awards in FY23 and 1:1 non-federal match requirements at project or partnership level.*
- Mat-Su Salmon Partnership budget **Partnership Budget (pending)*
 - Update and discussion

Tabled for next meeting

- Partnership hosted volunteer planting day (Michael Mazzacavallo/Jessica) **Volunteer Planting Day Proposal*
 - Introduction and possible decision

*This is a proposal for the Partnership to host a volunteer planting day – submitted, initially to the outreach committee this spring who was supportive of the idea, and who has now forward the proposal on to the Steering Committee for consideration. *Find proposal at bottom of notes.*

Approved. This could also help with 1:1 non-federal match requirement for Partnership coordination and outreach.

Action: Michael, Jessica, and possibly Grant and other interested members of the outreach committee will meet in the field to scope out potential sites and report back to the Steering Committee with a more specific plan, including budget for an event held in spring/early summer 2022.

Committee Updates (*find list of committee members [here](#)*)

- Symposium Planning
 - Symposium dates are November 17th and 18th – at the Palmer Depot (if held in person).
 - The committee will be finalizing a shortlist of keynote speakers to invite next week and has been fundraising.
 - A decision will need to be made soon if the Partnership will be hosting the event in person, remote, or hybrid (that will greatly affect fundraising needs and planning).
- Science and Data
 - Provided input on summer site tour
 - Did not meet since last meeting
- Outreach
 - Further development of summer site tour itinerary on Little Susitna River - confirmed date is Thursday, July 26th.
 - Committee welcomed new Outreach Coordinator - Grant Robinson!
 - Committee learned about a potential outreach collaboration with Knik Tribe to meet outreach goals and 1:1 non-federal match for Partnership Coordination and outreach.
 - Any updates for list-serve or other Partnership outlets should be shared with Grant for posting.

- Capacity and Development
 - Did not meet – no updates.

Partner Updates

MSB:

Assembly wants Army Corps to come talk to Assembly – 6pm – Army Corps will come talk about the permitting process.

Ted asked to do a research paper on coop agencies on enviro impact

Center for Conservation Science:

NERR – UAA ground water proposal and threats to salmon etc.. they didn't get funded, but one weakness was apparently outreach. She wanted to share with the group – ideas for funding. She'll send out a copy to the group.

TU

Sept 15 – active duty or retired members of the armed forces

Aug 28 – family bike ride in Eklutna area to highlight project

ADFG

Eklutna Tail Race – to start forming a group of partners to start removing cars to fix up the stream banks.

14 ppl showing up – representing 6 dif orgs, and lots of positive feedback.

Knik

He sits on NACD – SC to do with Tribal aspects (trying to get more participation and outreach – to strengthen activities in AK).How it might relate to our projects, or if looking for letters of support – he may be able to help.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14th, 2021

*Note: Correction: September 13th was written on the meeting agenda, not 14th.

Scheduled facilitator: Trent Leibich

Scheduled note-taker: Ted Eischeid

*pls let Jessica know if any issues with that.

Upcoming Events

- Eklutna Water release, September 18th
- Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting, September 23, 2021
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting, July 26, 2021 from 11am-1pm AK time.

Memo

To: The Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership's Outreach Committee

From: Michael Mazzacavallo, Steering Committee Member

Date: 4/9/202

Re: Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Community Planting Day

Through talks with Jessica Speed, it has become clear that the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership is looking to organize another outreach event more geared towards community involvement and education. The Partnership currently organizes two excellent outreach events by hosting the Annual Science Symposium and the annual Site Tour. While the Symposium provides the local scientific community an annual event to network and present their research and the Site Tour is a great event for the Partnership to engage local leaders and law makers and showcase the work of the Partnership, there is no event geared at directly engaging and educating local community members. One promising possibility is to organize and host a riparian planting/stream cleanup day. A riparian planting day would be a simple and easy way to improve stream habitat, clean the air, and strengthen community conservation with one event.

Not only are these projects great ways to improve the health and stability of Mat-Su streams, but they are a great way to effectively engage the community and bring awareness of the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership. Because these projects do not require extensive research, technical expertise, or a great deal of money, a planting event would be a relatively easy conservation project to get off the ground, even this year. With the upcoming call for proposals, I think it is an excellent time to consider an event like this.

Benefits for the partnership:

- Hosting a planting day will allow the Partnership to better meet one of its Core Values of “through a highly effective education and outreach program, community members understand the value of healthy salmon habitat, what salmon habitat needs are, and what salmon-friendly land ownership, recreation and development looks like.”
- Improve the community's awareness of the Partnership and community engagement.
 - These events would bring community awareness and support to the Partnership, as well as allow the Partnership to engage the community directly.
 - For example, people will be more open to the Partnership's white papers or other information disseminated if they know who we are.
 - Would allow the Partnership to engage and build relationships with the Mat-Su community, beyond the agencies and scientific community.
- When done right, planting projects are visible and tangible products that can become massive awareness builders.
- Will allow for the Partnership to improve NFHP scoring by meeting more organizational objectives and by completing an additional on the ground restoration project each year.
- Now that the Partnership needs to provide 1:1 match to NFHP funds, volunteer hours would provide non-federal match to help support the coordinator position.

Benefits to the environment:

- A healthy riparian buffer helps to stabilize streambanks, mitigate flood impacts, provide shade to keep water cold, and helps to filter pollutants that might otherwise run directly into the waterway.

- Hosting a riparian area planting event will provide another on-the-ground project the Partnership can report nationally with measurable results and tangible and very real effect on our rivers.
- Trees live a long time and will provide long-term benefits to the community both ecologically and esthetically.
- A large part to the success of any restoration project is community buy-in and support. When more community members are active participants in the restoration work, there will be an emotional attachment to the project and a better understanding of future projects.

Education Benefits

- Planting Days will allow science minded folks to engage on a level with non-science folks. Not in a lecture hall or over a presentation, but outside along a salmon stream.

Budget

- This would be a relatively inexpensive project. Anticipated cost, including plant materials and equipment as well as snacks and beverages for volunteers, is \$6-8k.

If the outreach committee is interested, I would be happy to help with planning, logistics, site selection, permitting, etc. Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Michael Mazzacavallo, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Steering Committee Member & Alaska Department of Fish & Game Habitat Biologist

Division of Sport Fish, Research & Technical Services

Phone: 907-267-2891

Email: michael.mazzacavallo@alaska.gov