



**Steering Committee Meeting - Virtual  
Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:30 – 4 pm**

Zoom <https://troutunlimited.zoom.us/j/4181977380?pwd=Nmh2WXFpQWUzb2ZCQnd6ZTQ1S0hPdzo9>

Standard dial 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 418 197 7380

Passcode: 526898

**AGENDA**

**Facilitator:** Michael Mazzacavallo

**Notetaker:** Andy Wizik

**Attendance:** Michael Mazzacavallo (ADFG), Andy Wizik (CIAA), Ted Eischeid (MSB), Eric Booton (TU), Trent Leibich (FWS), Margaret Stern (SRC), Anjanette Steer (UAA), Nick Decovich (ADFG), Jessica Speed (TU), Erika Ammann (NOAA)

**Partnership Business (75 min)**

- Approve July and September 2021 Steering Committee Meeting Notes (5 min) *\*July and September Notes*

*Approve meeting notes: Approved notes*

- National Fish Habitat Partnership Updates (20 min) (Ted and Jessica)
  - Updates from October 2021 NFHP Board meetings *\*DOI response to NFHP projects list, \* FY23 NFHP conservation priorities below*

*Ted: National Board did approve conservation priorities.*

*Presentation from Lori Mahoney: further dialog w/FHP's. 2021 busy year because a lot of changes occurring. Future challenges make dialog more important so talent within FHP's can propose solutions. As an FHP we should be looking at these problems and proposing solutions. National board has developed a work plan. The board had proposed a face-to-face meeting to help build relationships, but it did not get approved.*

*Jessica: Ted also volunteered on committee to help move things forward. Thanked him for his board service which helps keep us connected to the national board.*

*FY23 National Conservation priorities are found on last page of agenda. Carried over broad priorities from prior cycle. Board makes broad high-level decisions and staff is intended to make them happen but sometimes that raises its own questions.*

- Mat-Su Salmon Partnership FY23 RFP for National Fish Habitat Partnership Funds (15 Min) (Jessica)
  - Discussion and decision regarding time frame and process

*S and D Chairs met in late October, then RFP committee met 1st wk of November. Discussed RFP. Acknowledged lots don't know, and/or is not fully clarified from language in the act, but we proceed as best we can (as other FHPs are) and can benefit from other FHP's getting their RFP's out, and guidance continues to be disseminated as more Partnership's continue to reach out and ask questions. Now that board finalized national conservation priorities in late October, we can work on the FY23 RFP.*

*This year we recommended a full proposal rather than pre-proposal as was done in the past.*

*Question for SC: When do you want RFP announced? Sub-committee discussed having RFP out just before Christmas but may not be good timing since most folks are out. Jan 3 is the first business day of new year. Jan 12–13 is next SC meeting so may be a better time for RFP finalization.*

*JS will update RFP late-Nov or early-Dec to send out to steering committee for approval second week of December. Hopefully have the SC approve before Christmas. If that doesn't work we have back-up in the form of January meeting – but that will shorten the request for proposals period.*

*Timeline:*

- *Jessica update RFP for Sub-committee review - Nov 30th/December 1st*
- *Anjanette and Nick also send out some food for thought for updating RFP priorities to sub-committee. (perhaps a menu of options to consider) (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>/Dec 1)*
- *RFP Committee meets the following week (Dec 7/8 or 9) - shares edits in advance of the meeting for Jessica to incorporate, and any other/immediate feedback on priorities.*
- *Following Monday (Dec. 13th), send out proposal to SC - full RFP and recommended cons priorities, approval due the 17th? And placeholder meetings to discuss if needed on the 17th and 20th*
- *That would have us something approved before the holidays and ready to go before January 3rd.*
- *Doodle(s) will go out to solidify dates.*
  
- *At-large, Steering Committee Seat Update (15 min) (Jessica)*
  - *Discussion and decision on process to fill*

*SC is a 9-person committee w/ 6 standing and 3 at-large seats who can serve two consecutive two-year terms. Current at-lg seat holding organizations are Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (1<sup>st</sup> term expires Dec. 2022), Susitna River Coalition and Great Land Trust. Both SRC and GLT's two-year terms expire in December of 2021. Thanks to both these organizations and representatives on the Steering Committee for their great service. Both are able to re-apply for another two- year term.*

*Application process is to send a letter to SC describing why you would be a good fit. Reviewed by SC in January Mtg. Announcement for applications will go out at the symposium.*

- *Community Member Request: MEA Proposed Power Route (20 min)\*[Request letter and documents](#)*
  - *Discussion of request and decision*

*A local Mat-Su resident reached out to JS regarding MEA proposed power route. TE recommended sharing the letter with the MSFWC.*

*While SHP SC is not comfortable weighing in on a specific route, we could use science summaries and other resources to help MEA make decision. By sharing those resources we would potentially begin a conversation that could bring us to the table as a resource. TE: one issue may be how MEA controls ATV use on the pwr rte. By passing along the riparian science summary it may help steer them towards the road and away from the Little Su. MM: because this is going to public comment, Mike assumes that ADF&G and USFWS will chime in. JS: There are letters in the packet from ADF&G et al.*

***JS: Can draft a more formal letter to let MEA know who we are and that we are offering resources or have a less formal email and still share the science summaries. She will draft letter for committee to review***

**Break – 5-10 min**

**Committee Updates (30 min) \*Find written updates below**

- Symposium Planning (Libby or Jessica) - update and space for discussion of Partnership hosted Symposium events

*Grant will be the tech host for this year. Over a hundred folks signed up. We have 30 minutes for tidbits. Email JS or Grant with tidbit title. Communicating science to non-scientists. 20+ folks currently signed up. EA will pass along info to more NOAA folks. EB discussed sending it out to other FHPs. EA suggested the Kenai FHP group. Science to conservation outcomes discussion moving forward. The idea is that we have filled a data gap so how can we put that data into action and what mechanisms can be used. Also, what differences/obstacles are there when comparing the Deshka to the Big Lake area as far as making progress with conservation projects? We have 8 people signed up and a facilitator. Facilitator will cost about \$1,000 and JS will continue working towards putting this together.*

- Science and Data Committee (Anjanette or Nick)  
*ND: doesn't have any new information that we haven't covered.*
- Outreach (Eric or Jessica)

*EB: Wasilla Museum visit with curator who discovered partnership from site tour. We saw the space and heard what the goals were. Will be discussed at next outreach committee meeting December 7th. Group discussed oral histories which may be included in the exhibit. Would be a good way to preserve some of the past salmon stories as things change and elders pass.*

**Capacity and Development (Jessica)**

*JS: no updates, group did not meet.*

**Partner Updates (20 min)**

- General partner updates – round robin style

*TE West Susitna access road project. AIDA accepted \$8.5 million for phase III work for the access road. Moving forward at state level MSB has been involved in outreach and TBD whether that support will continue. State rec. river advisory board reconstituted which may be related to the project. New representation on the MSB Assembly. New Assemblymembers coming onto MSFWC possibly J. Sumner. New Mayor Edna Devries. New resolution in front of Assembly: resolution to ask MSFWC to work more on wildlife issues. Commission has strong fish bias but does have some upcoming wildlife issues on their docket.*

*EB: Eklutna water release. Videos and pictures will be available on the website soon and will provide tidbit at symposium.*

*TL: Infrastructure bill has a lot of money for fish passage work. Has not yet seen how that money will be dedicated to region but will find out. There is also a \$200 million ear mark for invasive species. Federal land transportation program is also in the bill but TL is not yet sure how that will play into things.*

*EA & JS: Discussed NOAA Rec funding potential for 2021–2022. EA stated that a new RFP is forthcoming and she would keep us informed.*

*EA: To people who have used the EFH mapper, we have been working to update the program and make it more user friendly.*

## **Upcoming Events**

- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, November 17<sup>th</sup> with associated events November 18<sup>th</sup>. \*details in Symposium committee update
- Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting, November 18, 2021
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting, TBD, 2022

## **Next meeting:**

- Tuesday, January 11th 1:30-4pm

**Facilitator:** Andy Wizik

**Notetaker:** Melissa Heuer

Notes: Next mtg. Jan 11. Can anyone fill Andy's facilitator role? Trent volunteered

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

- Symposium Planning
  - **Salmon Symposium 9-4:30pm November 17<sup>th</sup>.** We have nearly 100 people registered as of 11/3/21. Find agenda, Symposium flyer and registration information on the [Partnership website](#). If you have not yet registered and plan to attend, please do so.
  - **Science to Conservation Outcomes Partnership Hosted Conversation – 9-12pm, November 18<sup>th</sup>.** Currently six confirmed, with another 7- expressing interested, but not officially RSVP'd. It appears we will have adequate numbers to proceed with hosting.
  - **Communicating Science to Non-scientists training 1:30 to 3pm, November 18<sup>th</sup>.** This free virtual training is currently limited to 50 seats, with 17 filled as of 11/3/21. [Learn more and register here](#), and don't delay signing up if interested.
  - Thank you to our Symposium sponsors, planning committee and volunteers.
- Outreach
  - Michael and Jessica scoped out three locations for the inaugural Partnership riparian planting day (Fish Creek Park/Big Lk, Susitna Landing/Willow and Newcomb Park/Wasilla). Fish Creek Park is the preferred location and relevant landowner has been contacted for approval. The committee plans to have a proposed location and rough date for Steering Committee approval in January.
  - Andy, Eric, Emily and Jessica met with the curator of Wasilla Museum and visitor Center in late October for a preliminary meeting regarding collaborating on their permanent salmon exhibit – to be developed this winter/spring. This is an exciting opportunity, and we look forward providing more updates in January.

- AK FHP's have been in early stages of working on funded joint outreach goals. That grant (\$25,000) may be extended for a year – through 2022 and would allow for a more impactful effort. We should find out soon.
- Any updates for list-serve or other Partnership outlets should be shared with Grant for posting.
  
- Science and Data
  - Chairs are involved in Sub-committee work to develop the FY23 RFP.
  
- Capacity and Development
  - Did not meet – no updates.

### **National Fish Habitat Partnership FY23 Conservation Priorities**

1. Protect intact healthy waters
2. Restore hydrologic conditions for fish
3. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats
4. Restore water quality
5. Coordination and operational support for FHPs to make on-the-ground progress within program appropriations