



Steering Committee Meeting - Virtual
Tuesday, September 14, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84068564869?pwd=YzNGSUZncHkwWVRLTStxdDdXQ25XUT09>

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Meeting ID: 840 6856 4869

Passcode: 020660

MINUTES

Facilitator: Trent Leibich

Notetaker: Ted Eischeid

Zoom technical issues; Ted submitted a TEAMS link to group; Meeting started at: 1:50 PM.

No quorum.

Attending

Jessica Speed, Partnership Coordinator, Trout Unlimited

Trent Liebich, USFWS

Michael Mazzacavallo, ADF&G

Anjanette Steer, UAA

Nick Decovich, ADF&G

Emily Heale for Andy Wizik, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA)

Partnership Business (75 min)

- Approve July 2021 Steering Committee Meeting Notes (5 min) **July Notes*
- *No Quorum; No concerns were raised in discussion; need formal approval at next meeting with quorum. THIS ITEM MOVED TO THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL.*
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Updates (20 min) (Ted and Jessica)
 - Board updates

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

- *Ted gave a brief report; will be submitting draft National Conservation Priorities being considered to Steering Committee for feedback back to him by Oct. 1; NFHP Board will consider these priorities at their next meeting at the end of October.*
- *National guidance on FY23 RFP process [*NFHP FY23 FHP RFP Guidance](#)*
- *Jessica discussed FY23 national guidance;*
- *Reviewed national document; March 31 deadline for FHP submitting proposals to NFHP Board, etc.... Earlier this year we started operating under these new timelines; need the National Conservation Priorities from NFHP, presumably by the end of October; Jessica thought most of the project criteria were reasonable, but noted #1 and mentioned a few others were slightly problematic; 1:1 nonfederal match requirement an issue and at what level that applies to; evaluation plan components;*
- *Concerns: 1:1 NF match ratio – it has not been a problem collectively for all our projects, but it could be if we do not have big high match ratio projects annually, and can be a problem for individual projects, especially for the coordinator project and other individual projects like university sponsored projects; a granting program by definition just moves money, whereas a cooperative agreement process, like the what the NFHP program has had through USFWS, needs substantial involvement that supersedes a simple granting program; assuming that cooperative agreements are the preferred model – there are legal implications depending upon how things are defined; with a granting agency model you potentially lose the technical support that the cooperative agreement model provides for.*
- *What's the status of FY23 projects? USFWS has traditionally run the funding aspect; FWS Wildlife and Sporting Foundation does Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson types of revenue sharing; Wildlife and Sport Fishing Restoration moves this money as grants to states; FWS has started using this model in working with partners and it seems to be going well; Trent feels this model/hybrid would be used in the NFHP program in the future.*
- *Mat-Su Salmon Partnership FY23 RFP for National Fish Habitat Partnership Funds (30 Min) (Jessica)*
 - *Discussion and possible decision regarding method to update process including tentative RFP time-frame based on National guidance*

- *Its due to the NFHP Board on March 31 for FY23; SHP has said we want to have RFP out for 60 days, with 30- day review – 90 days; RFP should go out when? Consider establishing a committee to review the RFP process SHP should use for this year? Who would like to serve on this? Committee could meet in late October; Jessica, Anjanette, Trent – also query the SC members to see if anyone else wants to join this committee;*
- *Timeline discussed; Finalize RFP by late December; have RFP open January-February; Have S/D committee and SC review in March, so list can be submitted by March 31 deadline to NFHP board. Coordinator will also need time to package the project submission list and other NFHP Board requirements before the March 31st deadline.*
- **Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Budget (Jessica) (20 min) **Partnership Budget***
 - *The Partnership has an annual budget the SC approves annually.*
 - *Sent draft FY22 budget, with budget to actual for FY21.*
 - *With fiscal sponsor change from TNC to TU and new funding cycle for cooperative agreements some spending awkward to track/display and proposing a modified Partnership budget cycle of Sept 1 to August 31.*
 - *FY22 budget numbers are draft and need to be reviewed by TU internally*
 - *In general, suggest the SC consider additional funding opportunities for future, in addition to the \$85,000 NFHP funding the Partnership has been receiving for coordination and operations. It will be needed for ACE Act 1:1 non-federal match regardless.*
 - *Suggest the SC reviews and finalizes the FY22 budget when updated information provided, and the SC considers reviewing the FY23 Partnership budget at the May 2022 meeting.*

Break – 5-10 min

Committee Updates (40 min) **Find written updates below*

- Symposium Planning (Libby or Jessica) Update and discussion, see committee updates below (20 min)

- *Symposium registration opened last week; virtual this year, one day for the standard format; encouraging people to share the symposium link, and to consider giving a short presentation; Day 1 an opportunity for the SHP to share information with attendees – any feedback we might share with Partners? HOW COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IS CHANGING IN COOK INLET AND ITS ASSOCIATED IMPACTS; N.D. – COULD DISCUSS THE ‘CONSERVATION CORRIDOR’; OR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT APPROACHES; NEW RFP PROCESS GIVEN THE CHANGES WROUGHT BY THE ACE ACT.*
 - *Day 2 of Symposium? OUTSIDE ACTIVITY? PROFESSIONAL TRAINING?*
- Science and Data Committee (Anjanette or Nick)
 - *Will meet at the end of September to discuss the RFP process; an opportunity to look at draft National Conservation Priorities.*
- Outreach (Eric or Jessica) – update and discussion, Site Tour follow-up (20 min)
 - *See update on Agenda; Salmon Site Tour; Talked about the site tour debrief meeting; Jessica still seeking feedback.*
 - *Proposed Riparian Planting Day scoping trip coming up on Sept. 24.*
- Capacity and Development (Jessica)
 - *No meeting, no updates.*
- **Partner Updates** (20 min)
 - *MSB- Upcoming MS4 permit requirements for MSB an opportunity for SHP to consider; e.g., annual stream clean ups (volunteer hours have potential to be used for nonfederal match).*
 - *Emily Heale – sitting in for Andy Wizik.*
 - *Trent Liebich, FWS – a new strategic plan in the works; no major upheavals expected; completed a lot of fish passage projects this year, but mostly on road accessible areas (versus fly in only areas); stimulus program may add a lot of funds for salmon conservation the next five years.*
 - *Jessica: future opportunities for on-site meetings rotating among the various partners. That is what was done in the past.*

Upcoming Events

- Eklutna Water release, September 18th
Trent gave an update; water release of 150 cfs for a week to study the impacts on the river
- Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting, September 23, 2021
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting, October 27th and 28th, 9-5.

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, November 9th 1:30-4pm

Facilitator: Michael Mazzacavallo

Notetaker: Andy Wizik

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

- Symposium Planning
 - Symposium registration and call for abstracts is [open at this link](#). November 17th will be virtual with a keynote talk from John McMillan who will share his observations related to salmonid and habitat recovery following removal of the Elwha Dam, as well as a variety of local presentations. The planning committee is exploring outdoor and/or virtual social and professional development opportunities and seeking ideas.
 - Symposium is an opportunity to both share information and solicit input from the partnership. What would the Steering Committee like to share and/or learn from attendees?
 - Any topics of particular interest where a panel or some other suite of presenters or creative outlet would be of interest?
- Outreach
 - Held Summer Site Tour on August 26th. 45 ppl RSVP'd. approx. 32 at maximum, 41 individuals throughout the day. Notable attendance and representation: ADFG Commissioners office, City of Wasilla representation, MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission, MSB Deputy Borough Manager and Assembly member, City of Palmer Mayor, Tribal representation, Senator Sullivan's and Governor's office. Find associated materials on the [Partnership website](#).
 - One positive outcome: invitation from Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center to collaborate on local salmon story.

- Good ideas for improvements for 2022 site tour e.g. similar to Symposium have a different moderator per session, with discussion space at end of each stop and/or whole tour. Thanks to Grant and the many who contributed!
 - Eklutna River is a National Fish Habitat Partnership Water to Watch this year.
 - Scheduled scoping day on calendar for Riparian Planting Day.
 - AK FHP's have hired a consultant and are meeting end of September to map out some joint outreach goals.
 - Any updates for list-serve or other Partnership outlets should be shared with Grant for posting.
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- Science and Data
 - Provided input for the Site Tour
 - Busy summer field Season - did not meet since July meeting.
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- Capacity and Development
 - Did not meet – no updates.

Meeting ended at 3:55 PM.