



Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday May 9, 2017 1:30 – 4:00pm

To call in to the **conference room: (907) 746-6347**

To start the conference call from conference room: Dial 9 then 746-6347

Notes

Facilitator: Christy Cincotta

Notetaker: Jon Gerken

In Palmer: Frankie Barker, Marc Lamoreaux, Jim DePasquale, Christy Cincotta, Amy O’Conner, Jessica Speed

On phone: Arni Thomson, Jon Gerken, Trent Liebich, Erika Ammann

Approve March 2017 meeting notes - Approved

Partnership Business

Strategic Action Plan review - proposed process (Frankie Barker)

- Frankie Barker drafted a proposed process to update the Partnership’s Strategic Action Plan. It was initially drafted with 5 steps and now has 12 steps. A refinement and update to the Partnership’s Strategic Plan is the current course. In that process we’ll want to define the priorities with a medium, high, low evaluation.
- Next steps are to form a Strategic Planning Committee. End of project (a finalized updated plan) is June 2018.
- Volunteers for this Strategic Plan committee are Marc Lamoreaux, Christy Cincotta, Mike Daigneault (nominated), Trent Liebich, and Jim DePasquale. Work will be conducted primarily in Fall and Winter. An earlier meeting should occur to approve the roadmap and evaluate what steps we really need. Planning committee should have at least one experienced member who has been through the process before.
- Contractor/facilitator could complete parts of the process. Kenai Partnership just completed revision with Heidi Shay as facilitator. Other ideas, Nautilus Impact Investing – Ian Dutton, or Frankie Barker.
- Planning committee can begin meeting at the end of May for initial scoping meeting.

Action Items: Look at 2013 plan, latest progress update, and Corinne’s spreadsheets. Jessica Speed will coordinate May date.

Partnership Priorities - conservation priorities for FY18 and this year’s RFP process

- A working group including Trent Liebich, Frankie Barker, Christy Cincotta, and Jessica Speed, updated the 2016 score sheet and guidelines for NFHP funds. Side by side comparisons had inconsistencies. Updates to the score sheet brought consistency in language so applicants are being scored on what is in the selection guideline framework. Other primary goal was to make sure the projects that are highest priority are rising to the top of

what gets funded. The scoring guidance column now has more detail to make scoring more uniform. The group tried to make it simple, objective, and consistent, with more emphasis on resource benefit and partnership priorities. Currently the priorities are conservation strategies and not objectives.

What do we want our priorities to be for the 2018 RFP?

- Priorities need to be set at the July Steering Committee meeting so we can announce this funding opportunity (which typically closes end of September). The committee discussed how terms are confusing and it was not clear if we want to focus on conservation strategies or objectives (strategies are goals and objectives are steps.) Elodea prompted this discussion and re-evaluation of RFP and priorities. Does elodea need to be a priority? Elodea specifically isn't an action it is an objective, but objectives aren't prioritized.
- RFP scoresheet is approved by committee. Finalization of scoresheet presented at next meeting.

Action Items: Put together a survey to determine this year's priorities for the RFP process. Send out a notice about pending call for proposals for NFHP funding. (Jessica Speed)

Partnership Budget (Jessica Speed)

- Budget expected expenses are 127k and income is 125k. Need to make up 2k. Should have salary savings from Jessica as an option. Suggest other options than salary savings. Approved with flexibility in making up the 2k.

Endorsement Letter Requests:

- ADFG/FWS Costshare project. Committee is in favor.
- Elodea project. Committee in favor.

Committee Updates:

- **Science and Data Committee:** Looking to provide assistance with Planning and Priority process and re-evaluating the index watersheds document.
- **Outreach Committee:** Hired an outreach contractor. Attending a variety of outreach events this summer including Cabela's, Jim Creek Stream Clean-up, Mat-Su Sportsmen's Show, Machetanz Elementary School and more slated for this summer. Committee has started planning for this year's site tour possibly on Montana Creek or Cottonwood Creek/Palmer Hayflats/Wasilla Creek for third week of August with invites to legislatures and partners. Next year is another progress report for the outreach committee and is included in the budget. Could use help with social media. We did have a volunteer for updating the website, but no longer. Alaska Center may have an intern who could do this. Outreach group needs more people.
- **Symposium Planning Committee:** 8 persons in group. November 8-9 is Symposium. Have had two meetings so far. This year is the 10th anniversary. Considering a storytelling event and possibly partnering with Palmer Museum or others to host, and/or hiring an artist to do a painting for the 10th year anniversary. Other ideas include video clips, salmon habitat trivia night (like the Kenai Symposium) and Eklutna dam removal video.

Action:

Amy O'Connor and Jessica Speed connect about intern

All – if you know of anyone who would be good for the outreach committee, talk with Jessica.

National Fish Habitat Partnership: All Alaska FHP meeting (Erika)

- All Alaska FHP – Distributed the meeting notes to steering committee. SASAP will draft proposal to become a salmon center for the University of Alaska. 2019 is year of the salmon

and want to make FHPs aware. Continued education on elodea identification for pilots, field crews, and others. Overarching issues for all AK FHPs, and Elodea was a topic.

Other Updates:

Salmon friendly design criteria (Jim DePasquale)

- Jim is reconfiguring a past NFHP award to partner with *Salmon Safe* to articulate salmon friendly development guidelines for the Mat-Su. This could also be bundled into a voluntary certification for a project to be “Salmon Safe Certified”. Residential design criteria document will be completed by Salmon Safe based on compiled guidelines and gap analysis that identifies shortfalls in regulations. The criteria must be practically applied. Draft document will be available by the date of the 2017 symposium.

Updates on Elodea (Jessica)

- As follow up from previous steering committee meeting, two meetings have occurred between Tammy Davis and Jessica Speed. Topics are identifying most at-risk waterbodies and outreach. Jessica will talk with partners to get more information on Mat-Su lakes. More follow-up to occur.

General Partner updates (all or any attendees)

- Frankie Barker’s position is being advertised. Her last day is May 31, 2017. This is Frankie’s last meeting, she will be missed.
- Amy O’Connor, The Alaska Center – Stand for Salmon group finished collecting signatures (n=300) to get the HB199 (AWC changes and more) for a ballot initiative.
- Christy Cincotta, Tyonek Tribal Conservation District – Reed Canary grass found all over Alexander Creek. Connection with where ADFG are doing pike surveys and where the reed canary grass is found.
- Jim DePasquale, The Nature Conservancy – 3D relief map of Mat-Su Basin is the cover page for any new ESRI GIS software purchased this year. Go Mat-Su!

Upcoming Events:

Jim Creek clean-up, May 13, 10am-4pm KRPUA
Shoreline restoration workshop May 16-17, Talkeetna

Next meeting:

Tuesday July 11th 1:30-4pm
Facilitator: Trent Liebich Notetaker: Amy O’Connor