

Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Call in # (907) 746-6347 ← ADFG conference room

Day 1 Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Jon Gerken/Jessica Speed

Notetaker: Christy Cincotta

Committee Members and Others Present:

<u>In-person</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Jim DePasquale	Amy O'Connor
Kelly Ingram	Jon Gerken
Jessica Speed	Jess Johnson
Christy Cincotta	Marc Lamoreaux

Partnership Business

Review Proposals for NFHP Funding

Jon Gerken provided an overview of the Science & Data Committee's review of each proposal. Committee members asked questions and discussed each proposal. **Committee member scores are due to Libby Benolkin by November 16th. Final decisions will be made during a Steering Committee teleconference on November 20th.** Recusal situations were discussed. The committee decided that if your organization has directly requested funds or is listed as key personnel/partners, then that member will be recused. Notes on specific proposals are below. Notes only cover information not included in the proposals or S&D committee notes.

1. Eklutna Dam, Conservation Fund: Main objective is dam removal, and habitat improvement is secondary. The budget is not totally clear and not detailed. Sounds like project will proceed with or without requested money. This is a huge conservation project in our backyard.
2. Fish Lake Recreation Area, MSB: The idea of this bridge may have mixed support within the community. The proposal calls for a small bridge which will not provide access for larger ATVs, which may continue to ford through the stream. Bridge seems like an afterthought in plan. Seems more recreation based than salmon based. Precautions to protect anadromous streams should be a standard.
3. Shell lake pike suppression, CIAA: Budget not completely clear. Pike suppression didn't occur in 2015.
4. Thermal Mapping, UAA: Temperature is being used as a proxy for habitat from a lower 48 model. Data extrapolation process is unclear.
5. Elodea, DNR: Budget seems low. Method may need to be changed. Significant urgency to this work.
6. Prioritizing salmon habitat, GLT: Is this funding for prioritizing or for utilizing the prioritization? Tools will be shared publicly, and GLT's last prioritization was used by many partners for many tasks.

7. Matsu trail improvement, MSB: Unclear what proponent would be using funds for and what specifically proposal is for. Good project but needs more specificity. No budget narrative. Area really needs improvement.
8. Framework for data organization, UAA: Proposal would support partnership in future decision making. Small budget. Tool will require minimal maintenance and upkeep. UAA will provide support to maintain site. Platform will be able to incorporate other projects in future. Nicely coincident with our strategic plan update. Could possibly be funded in administrative funds.
9. Stream Gaging, USFWS: FWS will pass funds to USGS to run gage. No budget narrative. Amount is consistent with amount requested last year. Difficulties expanding from Jim creek to Bodenber Creek. It would be unlikely that these two could be correlated. Other USFWS funds will secure remaining four years of project. Five years of data here would be really helpful.
10. Recurring Imagery, MSB: Project would capture human caused and natural change occurring within MSB. Index watershed, monitoring streambank restorations could use this data. Many partners have an interest in this, including NRCS, USGS, AK mapping community, MSB. By establishing ourselves with this program, we become a stakeholder that can have input on the process. Matsu borough doesn't have much funding for this, and it's not recurring. This would be the anchor funding for the borough's recurring imagery program.
11. Fish passage, MSB: No budget narrative, unsure exactly what 40k is being spent on. Good partnership. This would finish up the Caswell Lakes area culverts.

**Steering Committee Meeting
Teleconference
Monday, November 20, 2017 1:00 – 2:30 pm**

Day 2 Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Jessica Speed

Notetaker: Christy Cincotta

Others Present: Brianne Blackburn, Erika Ammann, Gillian O'Doherty, Jessica Speed, Kelly Ingram, Amy O'Connor, Jim DePasquale, Marc Lamoreaux, Jon Gerken, Libby Benolkin

Review Proposals for NFHP funding

Notes: The committee reviewed the excel sheet showing all scores for proposals and the resulting ranking. Jessica shared that last year the partnership received \$250,000 including \$75,000 for Partnership coordination. We don't yet know our funding level for the current proposals. There are two MSB projects with equal scores that may be close to the cutoff mark, and we may have to decide which ranks higher. When we find out our score and the amount we'll have to fund projects, we've been able to discuss again as a Steering Committee to make decisions. Data projects ranked lower than on the ground projects, and this needs to be addressed in score sheet for the future. Discussion of lowering Partnership coordination funds, but we need to do a strategic plan update this year which will require funds. The Committee approves the ranking as is and will review again in May when the funding level is determined.

Potential new Science and Data Committee Co-Chair (Jon)

Jon Gerken proposed Laura Eldridge as co-chair. She's been on the Committee for some time and has experience and lot of knowledge within the Mat-Su. The Science & Data Committee requests to

have her confirmed by the Steering Committee to be co-chair for next two years. Science & Data committee also needs to find 2 more members for committee. The committee will identify weaknesses in terms of knowledge and representation for future decision making. The committee is looking to include tribal representation. The Steering Committee approves Laura Eldridge as co-chair.

Process to fill At-large Steering Committee Seats (Jessica)

Application closing date and meeting review date: Jessica and Kelly suggest December 27 as a deadline. Steering Committee would meet to discuss first week of January to review applications and make decision. Steering Committee approves this timeline.

Action Item: Jessica or Kelly will send out a doodle poll to set meeting date.

Proposal for Coordination Funding

Jessica is working on this proposal and plans to include request for funds to contract support for strategic plan update.

Jessica's Maternity Transition Plan

Jessica's due date is December 15, continuing to work and communicate with Kelly for a smooth transition during her absence. Kelly can be reached at matusalmon@tnc.org or 907-865-5703.

Next meeting: January 9th, 1:30 to 4pm

** need Facilitator and Notetaker*