Attendance: Bill Rice (USFWS), Frankie Barker (MSB), Kim Sollien (GLT), Cecil Rich (USFWS), Jessica Speed (TNC), Sue Rodman (ADF&G), Jessica Winnestaffer (CVTC), Laura Allen (USSWCD), Eric Rossel (NMFS), Jessica Speed (TNC)

**NFHAP RFP’s (**Bill**)**

Two things from last year’s discussion to consider: 1) do we want to encourage larger more multi-organization projects, 2) do we want to review our Strategic Action Plan with regard to encouraging projects in certain areas. The list of projects that have contributed to the goals of the Strategic Action Plan hasn’t been updated in 2011 or 2012 and Bill says it probably won’t be updated until spring 2013, so maybe that could be reviewed before the 2013 RFP.

About 40% of MSB culverts do not have known anadromy and have not had anadromous waters catalog surveys.

TNC, MSB, and GLT are working with ISER and Earth Economics to quantify the economic value of ecosystems for the various services that they provide. This project will be studying the entire Mat-Su Basin.

MSB’s first Wetlands Plan will be reviewed for borough assembly approval in early August 2012.

Would be good to require a letter from the landowner on which a hands-on project will be conducted documenting landowner consent or agreement of the project. GLT has a good sample letter which could be included in the packet.

The Strategic Action Plan’s Executive Summary will be emailed with the NFHAP RFP with the link to the full Plan.

Cecil recommends that project titles should be detailed and specific to the project tasks, as the National NFHAP Board reviews the titles and the executive summaries (but not the full proposal, usually).

It would be nice to have a list of past projects funded by NFHAP and even an example of a well-written proposal.

Proposals will be due on September 14, 2012. Bill Rice will email steering committee members with proposals the following week and rankings of the proposals will be due to Bill by October 3. We will have a steering committee meeting to review the proposals, on October 9, 2012.

**Salmon Symposium Planning for 2012 (**Jessica S.)

The Salmon Symposium will be November 7 & 8, 2012. Bob Lackey, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University, will be the keynote speaker. He has a strong fisheries and policy background. He will have two talks on the first day (one in the morning- 45 minutes broad picture presentation of results of the Salmon 2100 Project; one in the afternoon- 20 minutes and discussion about Mat-Su implications) and he plans to attend both days of the symposium.

There will be a groundwater workshop on the day following the symposium, November 9, 2012. USGS (Janet Curran and Colin Kikuchi) will host the workshop.

Bill suggested having a ‘state of the Mat-Su salmon science/data and state of the policy’ discussion at the symposium. Bill might be willing to present on the science. Mark Mastellar might be a good presenter for the policy piece.

Ecotrust conducted a method of habitat association stream modeling in the Copper River Basin and it might be good for Mat-Su to consider conducting a similar modeling effort. Erica McCall Valentine with Ecotrust might be available to present about this. Jeff Anderson (USFWS) has also been doing juvenile fish habitat modeling on the Kenai Peninsula.

Next planning meeting is Wednesday, July 19, 2012.

**National NFHAP Update**

Jessica Speed and Katrina Mueller have been developing a new Mat-Su Salmon Partnership website. There will likely be a site representing all AK FHPs that will have links to individual AK Partnership websites that Katrina Mueller has offered to put together. The Mat-Su Partnership website will probably be running in late summer.

Sue suggested highlighting the successful accomplishments of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership. It would be great to have a tab on the website with an interactive map of project locations and a button to read a short summary of the projects. These projects could be just NFHAP funded projects on the National NFHAP website and a more inclusive project list on the Mat-Su website including projects that are not funded by NFHAP that work toward the Mat-Su Strategic Action Plan goals.

Jessica Speed needs photos for the website with credit to the photographer.

**Partnership Support for Coordinator**

The Coordinator position needs about $70,000 per year to be maintained. There is funding until March 2013. It is also possible to apply to the Sustainable Salmon Fund for this funding that could be wrapped into other priority tasks of the SSF. It would be great to have more outreach (newsletters, website development, tracking accomplishments within Partnership, update Strategic Action Plan, etc.). Cecil said about 6 of the 17 Partnerships nationally have used some of their NFHAP funding allocation for Partnership coordination and each Partnership is allowed to use up to $90,000 per year for this.

Frankie says it would be good to have a discussion of a fundraising plan for coordination (Corinne and Jessica Speed are charged with setting up this meeting of the steering committee). Bill would like the coordinator position to be funded for two years, so that we can stay one year ahead of the NFHAP grant cycle.

Note: ConocoPhillips Alaska wants to fund conservation efforts.

**Upcoming Events:**

Mat-Su Conservation Lunch- approximately the third Wednesday of each month which includes planners, agency personnel, and others that are interested in conservation issues in the Mat-Su Borough. Contact Kim Sollien if you’d like to be on the email list for notices of this brown-bag lunch gathering.

Training on Methods for Surveying Aquatic Invasive Plants- Friday, July 13,2012 from 10 am-12 pm at Wasilla Lake’s Newcome Park.

Friday, July 20, 2012- Rain garden planting at Sutton Library.

Salmon Stock will be August 3-5, in Ninilchik.

**Next Meetings:**

September 11- Facilitator: Sue Rodman, Notetaker: Kim Sollien

October 9- Facilitator: Bill Rice, Notetaker: Jessica Speed