



**Steering Committee Meeting  
REMOTE MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm**

Zoom meeting link (online option): <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/95615121082>

Call-in (non-internet/telephone option): 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 956 1512 1082

**AGENDA**

**Facilitator:** Christy Cincotta

**Notetaker:** Eric Booton

**Round of Introductions** for guests

Nelli Williams, Trout Unlimited, Alaska Program Director

Steve Cohn – The Nature Conservancy, Alaska Chapter Director

**Partnership Business**

- Partnership fiscal agent change
  - Update on transition and new potential sponsor – Shift from The Nature Conservancy as a fiscal sponsor to Trout Unlimited
  - Letters have been provided by both TNC and TU regarding changes in fiscal sponsorship, contact Jessica if you need them
  - Transition from TNC to TU will occur in early September 2020
    - Steve Cohn (The Nature Conservancy, State Chapter Director) spoke on the difficult decision to step down as fiscal sponsor as a result of shift in Nature Conservancy direction and downturn in funding. This decision is not a reflection on the effectiveness of the Partnership or Jessica Speed.
    - Nelli Williams (Trout Unlimited, Alaska Program Director) honored to be approached to further support the Partnership as fiscal sponsor
      - TU is involved with Fish Habitat Partnerships from the National Board level, to partnerships across the country and throughout Alaska.
    - There is general understanding and support from the Steering Committee as well as immense gratitude for TNC for their dedication and TU for stepping in.
    - There are some additional details and logistics that need accomplished before everything is finalized.
  - Partnership FY21 funding and budget *\*Partnership FY21 Budget (pending)*
    - Revenue: Two scenarios are presented, one of which is with a virtual symposium
      - Current revenue forecast looks good for FY21 with help from excess NFHP funds
      - TU hopes to contribute more than 5K
    - Expenses: Coordinator will now be a FTE
      - There are some differences in overhead and benefit costs between TNC and TU fiscal sponsorship

**Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership**

*Thriving fish, healthy habitats, & vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin*

- 6K wiggle room for general contracts or cushion
- Decision: Does budget receive approval from Steering Committee? – Approved
- Planning for the 2020 Partnership site tour and 2020 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium
  - 2020 Site Tour
    - Was determined to have it virtually
    - Generally hosted in August, and recommended to be pushed to late September or early October to accommodate fiscal sponsorship and planning
    - Ideas - Virtual event highlighting the project mapper, launching and discussing new outreach materials
      - Can short videos be included on the project mapper for some of the projects? Ted interested in helping make this happen next summer, MSB can also possibly support with GIS Story Maps
      - **Suggested Event Project Mapper & online session with Mike Gracz and info on Wetlands Ordinance** (follow up with Outreach Committee regarding timing and event)
      - *Maybe include in Symposium*
  - 2020 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium
    - Agreed that it will not be an in-person event – SC approves virtual
    - A vision for the event has not been created but it would have to be a simplified version – Tentative Nov 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and have general agenda and could be hosted via Zoom (or similar)
    - Someone would need to be hired before Jessica leaves in August to keep symposium moving
    - Questions and concerns about loss of in person networking, technology, duration on a webinar,
    - Thoughts – partners to share short videos of their work, expand tidbits section for brief presentations, share good news, simplify with a big evening event and exciting key note
      - 3 symposium sessions + Keynote Address, Community Corner (share other perspectives)
- Other Partnership business to consider
  - August 2020 Social Media & Communications while Jessica is away – TU is interested in helping
  - Further Social Media Outreach & Communications – TU is interested in supporting as well
  - September – the RFP for National Fish Habitat Partnership funds will need to be reviewed and approved by the September 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.
- Approve May 2020 Steering Committee Meeting Notes *\*May Notes*
  - May 2020 Steering Committee Meeting Notes are approved

### Committee Updates:

- Science and Data (Laura)
  - Science and data committee input on fall RFP for NFHP funded projects
  - Identifying data gaps for the partnership
  - Providing feedback on science summaries
- Outreach (Jessica/Ted)

- Science summaries *\*Draft Riparian Summary*
  - Have been distributed, please review by July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to have your suggestions incorporated.
- Symposium (Jessica)
  - Covered above
- Capacity and Development (Christy/Jessica)
  - Focus was previously hiring the additional capacity, now it has shifted to fiscal transition
  - Will revisit hiring additional capacity in September after transition.

### **Partner and National Updates**

- General partner updates – round robin style
  - NOAA (Erica) – No NOAA Updates, Erica will be out on maternity leave starting in August and will return in November/December
  - MSB (Ted) – Shared [Wetlands Ordinance project page](#) being provided for MSFWC for action in September then will move to MSB Assembly, characterized as a more conservative ordinance
  - GLT (Libby) – Recently helped open a new trail Swan Lake Trail in the Palmer Hay Flats, paired with a virtual event that was well received
    - Wrapped up a project conserving lands on the Kenai River
  - TU (Eric) – successful virtual premiere for Eklutna Film, film will be released to the public in September 2020
    - Continued involvement in Eklutna mitigation process as a stakeholder
    - Fiscal Sponsorship transition!
  - USFWS (Trent) – Ongoing projects, in the process of new hires
  - TTCD (Christy) – Pike suppression activity continuing in a limited way
    - Applied pesticides (elodea or pike?)
    - Shared a video “The Great Pandemic Salmon Release” to share releasing salmon in the classroom fish during COVID
  - ADF&G (Michael) – Working on getting 2020 cost share projects in the ground
  - TNC (Jessica) – There was funding available for Elodea suppression that had to be canceled due to COVID
    - TNC Alaska conservation focus on Bristol Bay, Southeast Alaska and climate change
- National updates (Mike or Trent)

### **Next meeting:**

- Tuesday, September 8th 1:30-4pm

**Facilitator:** Michael (ADF&G)

**Notetaker:** Need a volunteer!