



### **Steering Committee Meeting**

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4  
1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2019 1:30 – 4 pm**

### **MEETING NOTES**

**Facilitator:** Jessica Johnson      **Notetaker:** Christy Cincotta      **Coordinator:** Jessica Speed

**Other Attendees:** Erika Ammann, Trent Leibich, Melissa Heuer, Mike Daigneault, Marc Lamoreaux, Ted Eischeid, Jessica Speed, Tom Capiello

#### **Partnership Business**

- The July 9 meeting notes were approved. Notes are posted on the [Partnership website](#).
- Update on Steering Committee membership (Jessica Speed): Adrian Baer moved on from Alaska Center and Kristen Collins will be taking his place on the Steering Committee. Jim DePasquale's vacated seat has now been filled by Melissa Heuer with the Susitna River Coalition. The group welcomed Melissa, who shared a brief introduction for herself and her organization. Steering Committee members gave brief introductions to Melissa as well.

Jessica Speed noted that the Native Village of Eklutna seat on the Steering Committee terminates in December because they've served 2 terms and will need to take one year off before re-applying. Tom Capiello's first term ends in December but he can reapply if interested.

- FY2019 NFHP Funding (Trent and Jessica)
  - Decision: approve FY19 project ranking for submittal to U.S. FWS  
This year the Partnership received \$291,000 from the National Fish Habitat Partnership. USFWS needs us to submit a final project list for funding from the Steering Committee to move forward with funding projects. Trent gave overview of project list, including partnership coordination and outreach. One request had to be reduced to fit within the total funding limit, the Elodea control project submitted by DNR. Trent spoke with DNR about this, and even if this amount isn't enough to truly eradicate, it is enough to suppress Elodea to reduce risk of being a vector and spread out to other waterbodies. DNR is using a two-pronged approach – reducing the likelihood of Elodea as a vector and getting at full treatment for eradication. The Steering Committee approved moving forward with the project ranking list provided by Trent and Jessica.
  - Decision: approve RFP review process and schedule for FY20 funds  
Jessica provided an overview of the review process and schedule:
    - FWS receives all proposals and provides initial review.
    - All proposals and any relevant FWS comments go to the Science and Data Committee and Steering Committee for evaluation.

- SDC reviews and provides feedback by November 8. SC has opportunity to review, then meets to review and discuss proposals at November Steering Committee meeting to be scheduled during the week of November 25. The following week, the SC members will submit final scores to Jessica, who combine and share with SC.
    - The SC will reconvene by phone and if no issues will submit final ranked list of projects to FWS.

The Steering Committee approved the RFP review process and schedule.
- Partnership funding opportunity
  - Discussion: funding opportunity and how to best support Partnership goals and needs  
 Jessica and Trent shared updates on BLM meetings about a funding opportunity through BLM to support the Partnership. Earlier this year, Jessica, Trent, and Christy had meetings with a BLM representative to discuss overlapping goals, and the potential for BLM funding for partnership coordination, symposium, Elodea control, and other needs. Trent and the BLM representative have been working on an interagency agreement to distribute BLM funds to the Partnership through FWS. Currently, it seems likely that we will be receiving \$25-30k in funding, but we are awaiting more information on BLM's goals with funding. Jessica sent out clarifying email to BLM and to ask for more particulars on funding. Trent is also looking into this further with the contracting office. Jessica mentioned that use of capacity and development committee is a great way to strategize for future and current funding opportunities.

**Committee Updates:**

- Symposium Planning: Jessica shared that registration for the Symposium is now open. Keynote speakers will focus on indigenizing salmon management. We'll also most likely have an equity dialogue during the symposium. Jessica thanked the SC for supporting this new direction and the indigenous focus. The SC discussed other ideas for the symposium agenda, including the opportunity to share community knowledge at the beginning of each session. The symposium planning committee is still working on ideas for an evening event. Jessica asking for help finding presenters for the symposium. Tom Capiello is interested in including a speaker to focus on tribal opportunities to get water rights in Alaska. This year there is less TNC capacity to support the symposium, so the committee is looking for ideas to meet capacity and asking that SC members help out as needed (IT, registration booth, etc).
- Outreach: Committee is not currently active. The most recent outreach event was the site tour in August. Jess, Ted, and others discussed the benefits of the site tour as a way to connect with partners and introduce people, include MSB employees, to the work of the Partnership and to build awareness of salmon habitat conservation work in the Borough. Suggestion for next year: it was hard to hear some speakers, but maybe amplification would help.
- Capacity and Development: Christy shared that the group has met recently to discuss BLM funding and other funding opportunities, to discuss and draft scope of work documents for Partnership organizational needs, and to discuss a task list for the strategic focus document.
- Science and Data: No meetings since May.

**Partner Updates:**

Relevant updates from anyone in attendance:

- Melissa Heuer – There is a Wild Game Feed event coming up on November 2.
- Erika Ammann– NOAA is working with Cook Inlet beluga team recovery planning and looking for restoration projects that NOAA can suggest for permits, such as restoration projects that would aid in forage fish for beluga whales. Some Tyonek fish passage projects have been listed as suggestions on Hilcorp permits. If SC members have ideas, please share.
- Mike Daigneault – EPA is working on developing a statewide compensatory mitigation project list. Mike suggested that Erika connect with Matt Lacroix about working together on these project lists. Mike also added that the RFP for the NRCS Regional Conservation Partners Program has come out recently. Regional partners can put together proposals around areas of concern, and this may of interest to the Partnership or individual partners. Proposals due in December. Christy shared that the new RFP is more limited in previous years, and she will get more info from NRCS and share.
- Jess Johnson – recently hired Michael Mazzacavallo to run the Mat-Su streambank restoration cost share program and assist with culvert work.
- Tom Capiello – Tom talked about long term gages for stream flow in the Borough, and that levels were way below average this summer. The month of August saw the lowest flows ever recorded in gage histories. Others talked about low flows in other streams noted around the area. Jessica Speed – Jessica asked if anyone has ideas for speakers to invite around climate change, particularly due to issues observed this year.
- Christy Cincotta – Christy shared that TTCD installed two culverts replacements this year, is continuing to manage the Elodea Task Force, and expanded pike control efforts within the District in 2019.

### **Upcoming Events**

- All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting, October 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-1pm, Anchorage, AK
- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, November 13 and 14, Palmer, AK

**Next meeting:** TBD November –This meeting will be timed with proposal review. Jessica will send out a doodle poll.

**Facilitator:** Tom Capiello

**Notetaker:** Ted Eischeid