

Steering Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm

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

Facilitator: Trent Liebich **Notetaker:** Melissa Heuer **Timekeeper:** Ted Eischeid

Notes:

1. Welcome new Steering Committee members

New Members: Knik, TU, Great Land Trust

Present in the room: Trent Liebich – US Fish and Wildlife, Marcus Geist – UAA, Jess Johnson – Fish and Game, Jessica Speed – Partnership Coordinator & Nature Conservancy, Ann Jennet Steer – UAA Conservation and Science, Laura Eldred – Department of Environmental Conservation, Eric Booton – Trout Unlimited, Ted Eischeid – Planner with the Mat-Su Borough, Theo Garcia – Knik Tribe and Conservation District, Mike Daigneault – Fish and Wildlife Service, Libby Kugel – Great Land Trust, Melissa Heuer – Susitna River Coalition

Present on the phone: Erika Ammann – NOAA Restoration Center, Christy Cincotta – Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Partnership Business:

- Steering Committee Notes:
 - Point of clarification: Not all committee chairs are on the steering committee as incorrectly indicated in the notes.
 - Proposal discussion should be removed from November Meeting Notes
- Presentation: Marcus Geist – Salmon Habitat Partnership Project Mapper – Mapping MetaDATA
 - See slide deck. Goal - How to combine all of the work the partnership has helped support over the years. Created a digital, spatial and information project type on the landscape. Showing National Fish Habitat Partnership funds. Snap shots of mapping data – Shows previous data, geography, type, and organized by strategy or project type.

Next Steps:

1. When can it go live?
2. Hosting? Who should host it – UAA?
3. How will it be maintained? – Either partnership staff or private funding to develop online submittal form.

4. How much more time is needed to add all past projects to database?
5. What would be annual expense and upkeep?
6. How is this useful for a broader partnership?

*Next Steps – They need to know what we want to do. Review the website and get back to Jessica with any questions

How to incorporate data outside of the NIFHAP to get that info online?
What are the services we want the project mapper to be able to provide?

- Progress from 2019 and Priorities for 2020
 - Update – Allocation/Accomplishment Report – Submitted around this time every year. All submitted and feeds into the performance reporting. Funding generally comes out April, May, June, - varies by federal gov happenings.
 - Organizational Focus Document –

*Send Jessica emails of priorities and feedback that should be included from 2019.

- Priorities in 2020 – There is an associated partnership work plan that connects with the organizational priorities. Worked with Ted with the Outreach Committee to create this.

*Should have outreach and science and data committee look at these to see if could take over.

Comments and follow up discussion

How to benefit from the addendum as a way to tie in activities to planning. Need to get it moving to get everything moving in 2020. Next two weeks.

- Building on Capacity:
 - Scope of work changes – Loss of capacity from TNC and other staffing and capacity challenges. There is a reduction in support from TNC of what they are providing. Now around .95 FTE, but not additional support as was historically available.
 - Work plan – is what is produced, how much time and capacity is needed. The Scope of Work helps address core operations in the work plan and helps to achieve the 2020 priorities to meet the basic core operations.
 - Comments – Has been reduction from TNC support network, from outside perspective seems like there is a lot to be done – one concern is that all of the coordination that ties us all together (like Jessica) if she were to disappear how

would we do this? Would be good to have someone do the basics and nitty gritty and some of the less complex work of the coordinator.

- Scope of work, how would implement – Comes out to a day a week – roughly \$20k/\$21k a year ask. How do we pay for this? Last year was surplus funding from BLM – Around \$30k that came to partnership that came as general support – to target landscape work (invasive, inventory on landscape). Didn't know until recently how much would be there, as a partnership need to determine what we want to do with those funds. NIFHAP funds annually, current award wraps up the end of June and may also have some funding there that could be used for 2020 priorities.
- BLM funding – money can sit with Fish and Wildlife Service for up to 5 years. Potentially seems like could get additional funding in the future. They are especially interested in Elodea, habitat monitoring, and growing the capacity of the department. Capacity and development committee wants to support organization and science and data committee. We're in it for Elodea outreach. Work with science and data committee to reach some of the larger goals. Can be used for Capacity. Mat-Su borough has space to house.
- Making sure there is capacity to share all of the great work that's being done. What did you accomplish. Spend the whole \$30k – in theory increasing partnership capacity would also better support the science and data team.
- Science and Data support – can pull more off of the organizational focus. – By the end of next week, Lots of potential around BLM aquatic tools. Could be a good fit and good potential for BLM fire power for making this happen. Science and Data should look at over lapping goals between aquatic aims and partnership rules. Workshop coming in February in Fairbanks. (Stream quantification tool) looking at the broader or more nationwide tool and Alaskanize it for the interior. Important for the relationship.
- Salmon Symposium Follow up
 - General Thoughts:
 - Salmon habitat – too much in allocation and management, want to focus on the habitat. Other departments have focus on commercial, subsistence, etc.
 - Roundtable was uncomfortable
 - Grow the ability of partnership to be an effective convener of habitat partnership issues. Does partnership want to provide a place for the difficult conversations to happen. Need to promote the difficult conversations and different perspectives.
 - Take away for next symposium:

- One thing to talk about the issues, how to be provocative without crossing lines.
 - Making sure presenters know that they're providing information – recognize that the partnership is a group of organizations with it's own mission and own purpose that agree with what the partnership wants to accomplish. Don't want to alienate partners in the group. More thought and uncharted territory, but some close partners were offended. Goals around indigenous partners, more effective and diverse.
 - July Steering Committee – Have a keynote sorted out with approval and discussion
 - Moderator – how to handle the people asking the question so they get cut off – maybe they need to stand in a line to ask questions – people might be more reluctant to ask questions if they have to stand in a line.
 - Lots of good information – what did we hear and take away, the indigenous nuggets and climate change work.
 - When there are tricky presenters – may need a space to dialogue about difficult conversations
 - Felt like a big welcoming from Knik and Chickaloon – fill in data gaps with water quality studies and temperature studies with cross collaboration.
 - People were respectful
- Practical Logistics:
 - Small groups are hard to hear maybe not a good set-up for the symposium.
 - Helpful to have similar presentations grouped together.
 - Experience to have as much diversity and engagement on the planning committee the better.
 - Catering by Turkey Red – Great
 - Unlimited coffee and tea – Really nice environment

*If more comments send Jessica an email.

- National Updates – Fish habitat partnership allocations – Fish habitat legislation
 - Reports by partnerships due last Friday
 - 3 components:
 - 1. Is your partnership living or breathing – alive? That's where partnership coordination comes from
 - 2. Performance Criteria – How does each partnership perform
 - What have you done lately
 - What have you done the last few years
 - What are you going to do next year
 - This partnership has always scored well – this years submittal looks to be similarly well scored

- Regional coordinators – nationally are the review team. Will meet in February to score the 21 partnerships – Depending on scoring depends on how scoring is made and how funding is received. This year feels earlier because have a budget and are on track with normal planning. April/May is hopeful.
 - National level -national legislation to codify the Fish Habitat Partnerships – it's a line item in Fish and Habitat Partnership
 - Board is made of FWS state agencies across the country, non-profits, American fisheries society, teddy rosevelt conservation society, etc. The legislation codifies the program, increases the make-up of the board and diversifies it by adding industry – mining, agriculture, hydropower etc, and fundamentally changes how the funds will flow. Still be same amount of money \$7.2M – but would have \$2M off the top that is distributed to other agencies. Difference is funding all of the agencies for science support and up to 5% that service can be used to manage the administrative and budget aspects of program. The Allocation process that the partnerships currently go through – the responsibilities would switch to the board. They would score and submit a list of projects for approval to Fish and Wildlife – the process as to how this would happen is unknown. Completely unknown as far as funding for support from these agencies. The senate and house version are different. If the house approves the senate version than could be done. It's packaged with multiple other pieces of legislation – it's bipartisan conservation legislation. As a whole it's getting more traction. Expected to take effect next fiscal year, October 1st. Tons of uncertainty provides authority but doesn't provide the how.
- Upcoming Events:
 - National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting, 10-12am, January 15th, 2020
 - Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, February 7-19, Anchorage, 2020
 - National Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators Call, 10am-12pm, February 20,2020
 - American Fisheries Society Western Division Meeting, April 12-16, 2020 Vancouver, B.C.
- * Next meeting (Maybe) Tuesday March 10th – Jessica will send a Doodle for week before and after
- * Board of Fish Meeting – Jessica will send out comments