

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm

Remote Meeting

Join via Teams: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Telephone dial-in: +1 571-447-9184

Meeting ID: 114 758 584#

AGENDA

Facilitator: Trent Leibich

Notetaker: Eric Booton

Land acknowledgment provided by Trent.

Attendance: Michael Mazzacavallo (ADFG), Eric Booton (TU), Trent Leibich (FWS), Melissa Heuer (SRC), Nick Decovich (ADFG), Jessica Speed (TU), Erika Ammann (NOAA), Mike Daigneault (FWS), Sue Mauger (CIK)

Partnership Business

- Approve November 2021 Steering Committee Meeting Notes (5 min) **November notes Notes approved!*

- Vacant Steering Committee Seats – Local government and At-large (Jessica) (25 min)
 - Discussion and decision on plan for filling

Anticipate Margaret Stern to represent SRC in the future

Intend to extend the period for the At-large Committee Seat to February to allow time for applicants to apply and join the March meeting

Consider reaching out to: Tyonek, Matt w/ BLM, MatSu FWC, recent funder of NFHAP Local Government Seat: seat formerly filled by MSB & currently written to be filled by MSB

**Start by updating the language for the At-large Committee Seat, share on website & email list - do more research for local government and reach out to potential candidates*

- Riparian Planting Day (Michael Mazzacavallo) (20 min) **Riparian planting day proposal (pending)*
 - Discussion and decision

At Fish Creek Park - received approval from Mat-Su Borough and considering June 11th or June 4th

- *Budget roughly 5k, Knik Tribe interested in donating plant material*
- *SRC & TU are happy to help find volunteer support*
- *Next steps; SC approval, engaging partners for support (\$, service, volunteers etc), Big Lake Community Council support (ideally to build relationship), determine a target date for the final decision of hosting or not hosting the event – **next Steering Committee Meeting?***

- NOAA Rec Fish Funding Opportunity (Erika) (10 min) **Rec fish funding announcement February 11th is the due date and there does need to be coordination with the Partnership*

- Report Out: Science to Conservation Outcomes – Cold Water Refugia Partnership Hosted Meeting (Jessica and Sue Mauger, Cook Inletkeeper) (30 min) ** Science to conservation outcomes meeting summary*

- Discussion and decision on next steps

Review/Overview of Cold Water Refugia Partnership Hosted Meeting

- *After reviewing thermal imagery, it is being found that much of the cold water refugia is located on unprotected lands*
- *Question arose of how to work with land managers to establish riparian protections based off the relevant data*
- *The warmest water temperatures in Cook Inlet are in the MatSu*
- *As a Partnership, this is a place where we can work to establish protections*
- *Next steps: approved by Steering Committee to meet with meeting attendees to help determine specifics*
- National level updates (25 min) (Erika, Mike, Jessica)

- Infrastructure spending – what are the opportunities and how best prepare?

NOAA and USFWS will be receiving funds, agency staff have been reaching out to groups for ideas and NOAA is considering reaching out directly to Tribes for fish passage projects and other projects (of the funding, 15% is reserved for tribes, and proposals with tribes are waived of match)

- *If you have contacts that should be included, email them to Erika*
- *An RFP is anticipated to be available soon (spring at the earliest)*

USFWS Funding – funding will be coming from numerous directions that can support our restoration work and we will want to be ready with a long list

- *A criteria is being created to determine how funding should be prioritized (however Mat-Su is not ranking high as “underserved”)*

- America’s Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act Transition – latest updates

- *Money is still flowing through USFWS and is still determining how to best manage distributing that money however there are hang-ups as USFWS waits for a continuing resolution*

- Mat-Su’s RFP – status and check-in (5 min)

- *FY22 Projects – the full list we submitted was approved in the spring, but we are still waiting to hear what the federal budget will be – and therefore how many projects we can fund.*
- *Project proposal review will occur in March with Jessica submitting full ranked list and other requirements to NFHP Board by March 31st.*

Committee Updates (15 min)

- Science and Data (Anjanette or Nick)
See committee update in meeting materials (bottom pg 4)
- Outreach (Eric or Jessica)
 - *Have been discussing the Riparian Planting Day – which we got approval for*
 - *Wasilla Museum display – discussing further at the next meeting*
 - *Further working with Knik Tribe for 1-1 match opportunities*
- Symposium (Jessica)
 - *2021 Symposium was a success with good attendance*
 - *There are good individual talks that can be shared around*
 - *Fill out the survey if you haven’t already*
 - *Grant Robinson will be leading the Symposium Committee next year*
- Capacity and Development (no updates)
 - *No updates from*

Other Updates (20 min)

- Partner updates

Melissa SRC

- *West Susitna Access Road – 12/7 Assembly Meeting featured overwhelming opposition to the road and highlighted lack of outreach, vote was postponed for 12/21 where it received lots of opposition, unfortunately the Resolution passed.*
 - o *AIDEA is moving along with their aggressive timeline*
 - o *MSB will be conducting outreach*
 - o *It's anticipated that AIDEA will be asking for more funding*
- *Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Management Plan*
 - o *Had the first Advisory Committee meeting on 12/20*
 - o *State has an appetite to move fast*
 - o *A far amount of public involvement so far*
 - o *Next meeting should be scheduled soon*
 - o *SRC has information about West Su Access Rd and Rec Rivers Management Plan on their website.*
 - o *To get updates from DNR about Rec Rivers plan, go here - <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/susitna-revision/>*

Michael ADFG

- *Likely hosting in May the streambank restoration workshop*
- *Making progress to do baseline assessment work of removing abandoned vehicles at Eklutna Tailrace*

Trent USFWS

- *Stream Crossing Workshop is March 15-18*

DEC

- *Convening a group to discuss contaminants from brakes in Anchorage streams*
- *Terri Lomax is organizing a working group to stay updated on 6ppd-quinone – next meeting is in June. Let Jessica know – she'll forward the invite.*
<https://www.alaskasnewssource.com/2021/09/18/scientist-samples-anchorage-creeks-chemical-that-could-be-killing-fish/>
- *Attached is the results from the samples Anchorage Waterways Council collected over the summer.*
- *Scientist samples Anchorage creeks for chemical that could be killing fish*
- *An Anchorage scientist is sampling local creeks for a chemical that can be deadly to fish. She found it in high concentrations in one area.*
- *Highlights from December Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships meeting (Jessica)*

Upcoming Events:

- *National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting, February 16-18, 2022*
- *Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings (public welcome), 3rd Thursday of every month, 4pm (except summer)*
- *American Fisheries Society [Alaska Chapter Meeting](#), February 28 - March 4th*
- *[5th Annual Lamprey Information Exchange Monthly Webinar Series](#), 2nd Tuesdays in 2022*

Next meeting:

- *Tuesday, March 8th 1:30-4pm*

Facilitator: Theo Garcia

Notetaker: Michael Mazzacavallo

Committee Updates (find list of committee members [here](#))

- **Science and Data**
 - Anjanette participated in the science to conservation outcomes meeting.
 - Provided input on subcommittee developing FY23 RFP, including identification of conservation priorities.
 - Are prepared to engage in the FY23 RFP review process in February/March of 2022.
- **Outreach**
 - Continued development of riparian planting day event, collaboration with Wasilla Museum on salmon exhibit and collaboration with Knik Tribe to meet outreach goals and 1:1 non-federal match for Partnership Coordination and outreach. Next Outreach meeting is January 18th.
 - Please share updates for list-serve or other Partnership outlets should be shared with Grant for posting.
- **Capacity and Development**
 - Did not meet – no updates.
- **Symposium Planning**
 - **Main event - November 17, 2021**
 - The keynote talk by John McMillan, lamprey talks and overall presentations and topics were very well received. Lots of complimentary comments about the organization and general format – kudos planning committee and Grant!
 - We had about 150 registrants for the Symposium, with actual attendance ranging from 85-120 people fluctuating throughout the day. Survey (you can still fill out [survey](#) if you've not already).
 - Access individual video recorded [talks here](#) -
 - **Science to conservation Outcomes - Cold Water Refugia Meeting - November 18, 2021**
 - This was a partnership hosted conversation to explore moving stream temperature data Sue Mauger and partners have been collecting in Deshka and Big Lake systems to tangible conservation outcomes – specifically identifying potential conservation tools and pathways to conserve identified cold water refugia.
 - We had 21 people in attendance, who appeared engaged and appreciative of the Partnership hosting the conversation and seemed a very positive first step.
 - **Communicating Science to non-scientists Training - November 18, 2021**
 - We had 49 people register and about 32 people attend this 90-minute training by Cathy Angell
 - Mostly focused on improving power point presentations, but with strategies that could be applied more broadly.
 - I thought this was a very well- done training and seemed well received and appreciated.
 - Symposium planning committee will be convening this winter – reach out to Grant or Jessica if interested in participating.