



Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 1:30 – 4 pm
Remote Meeting

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AGENDA

Facilitator: Margaret Stern

Notetaker: Trent Liebich

Attendees: Erika Amman NOAA, Michael Mazzacavallo ADFG, Trent Liebich USFWS, Eric Booton TU, Laurie Stuart TTCD, Emily Heale CIAA, Jessica Speed TU, Michael Daigneault USFWS

Partnership Business (105 min)

- Approve May 2022 Steering Committee Meeting notes (5 min) *May notes
 - Unanimous approval
- Status of NFHP funded projects (FY23) (15 min) (Jessica) *NFHP Board Project Review, All FHP Submitted Projects
 - We received NFHP funding for FY22 projects and those are being process; our FY23 projects are in the review stage at HQ and it appears that we are being recommended for mid-level (tier 2) funding which could be approximately \$196,000 for projects
 - This includes the coordinator funding
 - TTCD may not be considered as a tribal applicant; they are working on this issue and the nuances of being considered a tribal applicant....right now they're working on America the Beautiful Funding opportunities
 - Final decision is expected in August
 - 1:1 non-federal match appears to be a challenge for our partnership
 - Several recipients commented on the capacity issues in dealing with Grant Solutions and really appreciated the support from USFWS (i.e. Anna Freedman-Peel)
- Partnership Budget – *FY23 budget (pending)
 - Discussion and decision (20 min)
 - FY23 budget is slightly higher than previous years; the funding for the outreach coordinator will run out in ~December 2022
 - TU is discussing potential fund-raising options
- Partnership engagement: Recreational Rivers (Jessica) 10 minutes
 - Discussion and decision
 - Did not have time for agenda item – followed up via email
- Statewide BIL and Beyond – updates from Debbie Hart (Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership) (20 min) *AK Statewide BIL Coordination and Outreach Proposal, IJA Fish Passage Workshop

- SEAKFHP was one of the last NFHPs to be formally recognized; they used the Mat-Su NFHP as an example for how to establish a strong partnership and structure in Southeast....THANK YOU Mat-Su NFHP!
- There is a host of information regarding the various BIL funding opportunities being organized and consolidated so it's available to potential applicants
- This effort is currently a statewide group but the intent to break out further into sub-groups of regional representatives
- Debbie Hart will be in attendance at a USFWS hosted national meeting to discuss BIL funds and regional needs and concerns; Debbie will send out a survey prior to the meeting in order to get better understanding of AK partners concerns.....all parties/agencies with BIL funds have been invited
- If folks have anything they'd like to see/know about BIL funding please contact Debbie Hart coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org
- **Steering Committee Chair role (Jessica) (15 min)**
 - Discussion and possible decision
 - Chair positions have been very valuable, especially in situations like discussing the coordinator positions or requesting letters of support on behalf of the partnership
 - SEAKFHP currently has a tri-chair situation, Trout Unlimited, USFWS, and USFS; the thought being that they can share the workload of any extra demanding requests
 - SEAKFHP definitely recommends having a co-chair or tri-chair
 - SEAKFHP is very sensitive to USFWS role as chair while also being a steering committee member, fiscal sponsor, and award processing roles
 - So far it doesn't seem to have caused any hardship amongst partners having so much involvement with USFWS in various aspects of the partnership
 - Debbie is happy to answer any other questions about chair positions and their value to the partnership
- **Updated partnership project endorsement letter *Project endorsement – updated draft (10 min)**
 - Discussion and decision
 - Jessica will send out an email on this subject

Break (5 min)

Committee Updates (15 min) (*Find written committee updates below)

- Outreach (Michael and Eric)
 - Successful outreach event with local community members and streambank planting – Luke Byker with USFWS did an excellent presentation on fisheries, also a great presentation from USDA.
 - ~30 participants; >\$10,000 in donations and volunteer time that counts as non-federal match for the partnership
- Science and Data (Nick or Jessica)
- Symposium (Grant or Jessica) –
- Science to Conservation Outcomes – Cold Water Refugia (Jessica)*[workplan](#)
 - Trying to conduct a summer site-tour on the Deshka, it would be boat supported
- Capacity and Development

Other Updates (20 min)

- Partner updates (all)

- Erika Amman described 4 funding opportunities currently open through NOAA fisheries ranging from \$300K minimum to \$15M maximum; Erika is the local point of contact so please contact her directly with any questions or if you'd like her to discuss funding opportunities with other partners / potential applicants
 - Some of these funds are available to native corporations
- CIAA is moving along with field season, getting smolt camps out and conducting some lake fertilizations near Homer
- SRC - ADA has submitted 404 permitting request for West Susitna Access Road
 - Susitna Basin Rec River public scoping workshops for proposed re-route of powerlines, next meeting is Aug. 2; contact Margaret Stern or Eric Booton for more information
 - Oil and Gas Exploration lease granted for Cook Inlet; appeals has been submitted in response to charge public \$200 to submit comments
 - Proposed coal mine near Skwentna in western Susitna; public comment period is open. Contact Margaret Stern with questions
- Jessica Speed will send out updates in an email; some highlights include a potential request to make a more permanent lake outlet on Wolverine Lake, some interest in toxicity to salmon from automobile brakes, etc.
 - Trent suggested having Luke Byker present to the group on Bioremediation at a future steering committee meeting

Upcoming Events: (5 min)

- IJFA Fish Passage Workshop, July 18-20, Shepherdstown, WV
- [Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board](#), 4th Wednesday of the month, 10-12pm
- Recreation Rivers Public Comment, virtual, August 2nd, 2022
- American Fisheries Society Meeting, August 21-25, 2022 Spokane

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, September 13th 1:30-4pm

Facilitator: Matt Varner

Notetaker: Theo Garcia

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

- **Outreach**
 - Hosted Plants for Salmon: Community Riparian Planting Day on June 4th in Big Lake. In total, 34 people planted over 100 trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants along the shoreline of Fish Creek. Majority of attendees were from the Mat-Su and included 11 kids. We had formal education presentations from NRCS and USFWS who both gave excellent talks connecting riparian plants to soil and water quality and as well as to fish! Thanks to Michael Mazzacavallo Theo Garcia, the outreach committee and supporters for a great event.
 - Continued planning for the summer site tour for community leaders. This is a little behind schedule with finalization of location and date occurring ASAP. Deshka River is still currently top pick.

- A proposal nominating the Deshka River as a 2022 National Water to Watch was submitted to the National Fish Habitat Partnership. We'll find out soon if it will be accepted.
- Alaska FHP's met with a communications consultant to create statewide FHP Branding. Some foundational branding productions and messaging are slated for completion by December 2022.
- Please share updates for monthly list-serve bulletins, and/or other Partnership outlets with Grant (grant.robinson@tu.org).
- **Science and Data**
 - Did not meet. Next meeting is planned for September – after field season.
- **Symposium Planning**
 - Symposium dates are confirmed as November 14th and 15th, 2022 at the Palmer Depot.
 - This is the Partnership's Annual General Meeting. It presents a great opportunity in bringing partners together. The committee is continuing to craft the format, if you have ideas and input, please let us know.
 - Some keynote speakers under consideration include Johnathon Moore/Simon Fraser University, Stephanie Carleson/Berkely, Emma Marris/writer, representative from International Year of the Salmon.
- **Capacity and Development**
 - Committee has been inactive.
 - Mat-Su's FY22 projects for NFHP funding have been working with USFWS to develop cooperative agreements. Big Thanks to USFWS staff for their support!
 - NFHP Board evaluated projects sent by FHP's and submitted their recommendations for FY23 NFHP funding to DOI.
- **Science to Conservation Outcomes – Cold Water Refugia** adhoc planning committee (Sue Mauger, Jessica Speed, Mike Daigneault)
 - In February, this committee held seven small group and individual meetings to learn more about specific tools and pathways to conserve cold water refugia in the Deshka River and Big Lake Basin. They reconvened a second large group meeting on April 21st to report out on the small group meeting findings, gain more input and clarify next steps and roles. **New since our May Steering Committee meeting: The resulting work plan from that meeting is attached.**

Steering Committee note-taker/facilitator list for 2022/early 2023

Facilitator:

Trent - January

Theo - March

Eric - May

Melissa /Margaret - July

Matt - - September

Andy - November

Laurie - January 2023

Michael - March 2023

New local gov seat - May 2023

Notetaker:

Eric - January
Michael - March
Melissa /Margaret - May
Trent - July
Theo - September
Matt - November
Theo – January
Laurie – March