



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4

1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm

NEW CALL-IN #: 1-605-475-5602

Participant Code: 5878992578

Host Code: 6180414499 (Jessica S. will call)

AGENDA

Facilitator: Jess Johnson

Notetaker: Ted Eischeid

All were present via telephone because of COVID-19 precautions:

Anjanette Steer, UAA.

Ted Eischeid - MSB

Melissa Heuer– Susitna River Coalition

Christy Cincotta – TTCD

Trent Liebich –USFWS

Erica Ammann - NOAA

Theo Garcia – Knik Tribe

Michael Mazzacavallo – ADFG

Jess Johnson – ADFG

Jessica Speed – TNC/SHP

Mike Daigneault- USFWS

1. Welcome new Science and Data Committee Co-Chair Anjanette Steer (5 min)

2. Partnership Business

- Approve January 2020 Steering Committee Meeting Notes (5 min) **January Notes*
 - DECISION: Approved without objection.
- Project endorsement request from Trout Unlimited (10 min) **Endorsement request*
 - Discussion and decision
 - This (project support) is a service we should provide; perhaps change approval process to one where “if you don’t respond by a date certain a nonresponse will be taken as a position of support.”
 - Consider giving a 3-week approval period with no response being implied consent.
 - Some organizations need more than 3 days for support, so more lead time (like 3 weeks) for partner and supervisory sharing/response.
 - 3 weeks lead time is what’s currently written in Partnership guiding document.
 - Need to be sure that letters of project support provide specifics on project for SHP support consideration.

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

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

- Since deadline for project application is past, is this request still relevant? [Yes]
 - DECISION: Project is endorsed without objection.
 - Partnership budget and activity - remainder of FY20 and looking forward to FY21 (35 min)
 - **Partnership budget (pending)* (Jessica)
 - Discussion and decision
 - Jessica walked us through the 2020 project that expires June 30, 2020, and will discuss draft 2021 budget (follows state fiscal year calendar).
 - FY20 Discussion
 - Funders discussed: BLM funds weren't used, so those will go into FY21 budget.
 - There is some year-to-year funding carryover that can making tracking and reviewing more challenging.
 - We have underspent on salary due to time off for Jessica (e.g., maternity leave), (~\$30k unspent salary). Her time has expanded from a .85 to a .95 FTE for the SHP.
 - Proposal to spend this surplus: Potential for asking for a 6 month extension for us to spend it; however, it would be better to have this money spent or obligated by June 30, 2020.
 - Proposal on how to spend:
 - Project Mapper Task 1 = ~\$7k.
 - \$9k – for BMP science summaries (n=2-4 separate summaries).
 - Elodea spring surveys on remote lakes = \$9k.
 - Elodea on-hand herbicide product = \$5k
 - Who/where/how would this product be stored? [TBD – one idea was to buy directly and give to DNR to store/use. The more directly TNC can spend monies the better – as is more efficient, just need to ensure that invoice is dated and deliverable completed by June 30. Transferring monies to DNR first might delay processing past the June 30 deadline. Noted that the invoice needs to be in hand no later than June 29th so it can be processed on June 30th.
 - Project Mapper – FY21 budget involves task 2 and 3, which is to more efficiently get project data/output data up in a timely fashion.
 - Can we forward fund Project Mapper task 2 and 3? Anjanette clarified, thinking ahead, task 2 and 3 should keep the mapper data current.
 - Needs to be finalized soon...
 - Mapper component has previously been approved; the science summaries are already part of our strategic plan; Elodea part fits with strategic plan goals, but specifically is a newer direct ask of Steering Committee.
 - FY21 Budget Discussion:
 - See handout.
 - Some unknowns in crafting this.
 - Some infusion of BLM funds; some additional SHP outreach and support.
- Partnership outreach and operations support (15 min) (Christy or Jessica)

- Update and discussion of options to acquire capacity support
 - Last meeting we got approval to use BLM funds for this position work.
 - This person would work about 8 hours/week.
 - Outreach Committee met to discuss this.
 - Discussed challenges about how to house this money; ran into some hurdles with fiscal agent regarding employees versus contractors.
 - If we want this to be a long -term position, it's not likely a good fit for TNC to hire someone under their umbrella. TNC can provide a short-term hosting, but not long term.
 - NEED: a brainstorm on how to organize the details about this... Need a long term solution.
 - Need to develop a 'statement of work' to get someone hired.
 - Jessica will work with the Capacity and Development Committee to get details worked out.
- Partnership science summaries – priority audience and priority purpose (25 min) (Jessica)
 - Discussion and decision
 - Referenced in the budget discussion.
 - These are tools to summarize the best science on specific topics.
 - Proposal to get up to 4 topics covered in the short term:
 - Audience for these summaries?
 - Assembly persons, general public, state legislators, professional nonscience staff – need short 1-4 page summaries that shows the best state of scientific knowledge on specific topics germane to salmon habitat (riparian buffers, wetlands, etc. – items regarding salmon habitat).
 - Service and purpose of work?
 - To parlay the best state of scientific knowledge in lay terms for targeted audiences.
 - Anyone who would like to assist in developing initial thoughts on this please contact Jessica.
 - On the 12 threats to salmon/habitat, consider developing a 1-2 page on each threat – why it's a threat, what can be done about it? The science summaries would be slightly longer (up to 4 pages).
- Annual Tasks for Science and Data Committee (25 min) (Anjanette or Jessica)
 - Discussion and decision – what tasks do we want the SDC to explore this year?
 - Previous brainstorming from a small group (Laura, Anjanette and Jessica) has already done this – any additional ideas to what is below?
 - Jessica – Anjanette – Laura committee ideas:
 - How to identify and applied standardized data protocols for aquatic data:
 - Matt Varner AIM program as model?
 - AK10 for stream temperature data/ expand into other sample parameters?
 - ID need for the RFP process to be more directed with projects in mind that will meet the Strategic Plan goals. May need the Project Mapper up first.
 - SHP Science Summary Papers –there are four topics identified in Addendum, with two noted below already approved. Should the RFP have a component that keeps the information dynamic?
 - Elodea impacts on salmon
 - Riparian mapping

- What can we do to help the MSB on freshwater resources?
 - Wells
 - Impaired waters
- Ideas for workshops and trainings that the SHP can help with.
 - Elodea
 - Emerging management practices.
 - Listserves?
- Other ideas? Looking for SC input. Include all the Steering Committee in your idea emails.
- Help the Partnership stay aware of and communication emerging science/management regarding salmon/habitat.
- Identify priority data gaps for the Partnership. This information would help us respond more proactively and quickly to funding opportunities.
- Consider providing an opportunity for SC members to rank this list (as well as add additional ideas to consider).
 - Let Jessica know by email what your thoughts are on this topic.
- Ted will develop a table with ranking spaces and spots for new ideas P|?_:"- send this to Jessica for use.

Committee updates (as needed): (20 min)

- Science and Data (Laura)
 - See “annual tasks” brainstorm previously noted.
- Outreach (Jessica)
 - Jessica will be sending email to create an Outreach Committee – please respond if interested. We need your help.
- Symposium (Jessica)
 - Possible dates: Palmer Depo is available Nov. 12/13 or the following week 16-20 (some overlaps that week with other conferences). Nov. 11 is a holiday for some people and might complicate volunteer time available to set up for a Nov. 12/13. Nov. 13 is a Friday and it might reduce participation because of people wanting a long weekend. Thanksgiving is Nov. 26.
- Capacity and Development (Christy or Jessica)

Partner and other relevant updates: (15 min)

- Update and discussion of House Bill (HB) 280 - establishment of Alaska Invasive Species Council (sent out earlier)
 - Link to bill; appears there are committee meetings this week that can be viewed live online: <https://legiscan.com/AK/bill/HB280/2019>
- Might not have broad support at this point.
- Is this something we want to discuss further? At minimum it’s good for the Steering Committee and partners to be aware.
- Thank you to Anjanette for bringing this to the SC’s attention.
- National updates
 - Congress is preoccupied with COVID-19, so movement on legislation of interest to SHP is at a stand still.
- Partner updates
 - Ted: MSB is working on a wetland mitigation ordinance.

- Jess: Working on the Mat-Su area streambank stabilization workshop to occur on May 18-19; info will be shared with SHP when details are finalized.
- Jessica: Partner Request: working on Facebook updates/listserve announcements – if as a partner you have events/announcements you want shared please send them to Jessica. If you have fisheries expertise and can assist in vetting information to be posted, please let Jessica know.

To Do's?

- How to spend the \$30,000 by June 30th.
- Science and Data work tasks for the next year?
- See **yellow** highlights.

Upcoming Events:

- ~~American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter Meeting, March 23-26, 2020 Fairbanks, AK~~
Cancelled
- American Fisheries Society Western Division Meeting, April 12-16, 2020 Vancouver, B.C.

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, May 12th 1:30-4pm

Facilitator:

Notetaker:

ITEM	PRIORITY RANK (1=HIGHEST PRIORITY)					
Identify applied standardized data protocols for aquatic data						
RFP process to be directed to projects that will meet the Strategic Plan goals						
Develop SHP Science Summary Papers						
Assist the Mat-Su Borough on freshwater resources						
Develop workshops and trainings that the SHP can put on						
Help identify emerging science/management regarding salmon/habitat						
Identify priority science gaps related to achievement of goals salmon/ habitat in the Mat-Su						