



**Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Notes**

3/11/25

In Attendance:

Laurie Stuart
Matt Varner
Jessica Speed
Anna Senecal (notes)
Majia DiSalvo (facilitator; remote)
Erin Larson (UAA; non-steering committee member)
Michael Mazzacavallo (remote)
Marc Lamoreaux (remote)
Emily Mailman (remote)

Partnership minutes

No edits to Jan 8th strat meeting notes
No edits to Jan 14th regular steering committee notes

Finalizing ranked project list for FY26 NFHP funding

All reviewers produced the same rank order (different values, same order) for the four proposals received for funding.

Partnership coordination
AWC and AIS surveys
Mat Su fish passage
Watershed planning

Emily: do we communicate ranking, process to partners?

Jessica: communicate to partners after application is submitted

Laurie: no funding guarantees this year. Should be communicated to partners. (Note: though there are never guarantees that Mat-Su will receive NFHP funding to provide for local projects from year to year).

Jessica: During the process, they may be aware of the general ranking or see a ranked list, but not the values.

Watershed planning proposal discussion

Needed more communication with partnership and leveraging existing data sources.

Need to engage partnership

When is the packet due? March 31. Potential to revise?

Conflict between outreach emphasis and scientific watershed plan.

No notion of final deliverable and accessibility.

Two ways to go, try to rewrite, or sit down and give frank feedback: “scored low because of x, y, and z”

Give some more time to really understand how the plan is going to be used, go back to partnership, understand the policy implications and final plan applicability.

Applicant has Mat Su health foundation funding? Perhaps we should invite them to talk.

Important to give feedback, it’s important work

Pitch to not submit this application to move it forward, but provide good constructive feedback, meet and support applicant to resubmit next year with a stronger application

Restoration center feedback provided to applicants via evaluators’ recorded scoring comments.

Can resume steering committee seat soon on the Partnership if interested. Would be great to have them back.

Action: Everyone go into your comments and make sure that they are clean, thorough, specific and kind. Send an updated version by the end of the month.

Action: Jessica will filter comments for themes and Emily will review compiled comments for completeness and accuracy for relay to SRC, cc Laurie. Timeframe early April

Action: Jessica will invite applicant to receive feedback in person, support future proposal development, also discuss how proposal relates to the MSSHP strategic plan and pending plan update. Invite to attend a regular meeting. Early April? May is next SC meeting.

All members agreed to proposal rank order and to submit the three proposals: Habitat Partnership coordination, AWC/elodea surveys, and fish passage (in that order)

Partnership FY25 budget

Staff position is the highest priority for funding (above events) for the continuity of the organization
Fundraising discussion – addressing funding gaps

Alaska Community Foundation strengthening organization funding opportunity has been rescinded for FY25

Emily: Rasmussen opportunities? Laurie: tend to prefer capital programs over capacity building
Jessica: Murdock Charitable Trust (fiscal sponsor may disqualify), also Mat-Su Health Foundation (may be the most productive), also corporate sponsorship

Action: Jessica to follow up with a clearer budget status “where are we at?”

Action: Based on budget status review, reach out to potential financial sponsors listed above to request sponsorship (either filling gaps re: coordinator function) or, if all gaps are filled, requesting strategic planning support.

Annual 2025 workplan draft

ACE act is a statutory guideline. No other structural guidelines exist.

What is the organizational structure that best supports the partners?

Matt: Partner scoping – what value does the partnership bring to partners? Also a scoping/front loading data collection exercise rolling into strategic plan updates.

Laurie: Coordinator as catalyzer for a network. Outreaching, making space for partnership connection

Strategic plan update and summer site tour (costs associated with) pending federal funding and fundraising outcomes.

Matt: identify items to redline if funding doesn't materialize

Laurie: how does the workplan intersect with meeting calendar? What events need to be on our calendars?

Jessica: Do high level priorities still make sense to people?

Action: Partner scoping – what is the value of the partnership to the partners?

Action: identify budget items to red line if funding does not materialize. Revisit workplan when confirm budget status.

Cook Inlet Salmon Symposium

Facilitated dialogue with Kenai partnership topics:

What is working well from their perspective?

Thoughts on a partner-based focus?

Opportunity for more partner scoping – what service do the partnerships serve to communities?

Group discussion/workshop ideas:

Resource or capacity sharing discussion

Strategic planning workshop for Fish Habitat Partnerships?

Discussion of overlapping priorities and how we achieve them?

How do we better serve partners?

Action: prepare for strategic planning on Day 2 “you, me, we” (“me” FHP and UAA – “you” partners, attendees)

Action: reach out to all partners (Conoco Phillips i.e.) or potential partners to attend the meeting (community councils)

Action: Erin to meet with KFHP next week, pitch day two strategic planning

Action: If you want to speak or have presenters/session ideas, send an email to Erin or Rosie Masui rmmasui@alaska.edu

Action: local keynote speaker. Erin to check in with Debra Call.

Notes and updates

Next meeting 5/13/25

Theo Garcia: facilitator

MaryKate Swenarton: Note taker