



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

5/13/25

In Attendance:

Michael Mazzacavallo (ADF&G), Anna Senecal (USFWS), Marykate Swenarton (TU), Emily Mailman (NOAA), Maija DiSalvo (unaffiliated), Matt Varner (BLM), Laurie Stewart (TTCD), Marc Lamoreaux (NVE), Kevin Keith (ADF&G), Cody Beus (KT), Jessica Speed (TU), Katherine Schake (KBNERR/Kenai FHP Steering Committee).

March meeting minutes

Approved, no edits.

Partnership Budget

FY25 Budget Status- Sept 1, 2024- August 31, 2025

- Incoming funds
 - o USFWS funding came in at 7K instead of \$8,100
 - o MSB open RFP for outreach, possibility to apply for additional funds
 - o Mat-Su Health Foundation- has funding for events
- Expenses
 - o Coordinator salary increase (includes benefits)/TU market adjustment- Jessica needs to get updated number ~102K
 - o Summer site tour- 1,200 estimated cost- could cut or partner with UAA or MSB
 - o Strategic plan update- 10K
- If as described could result in a deficit of \$1,700. Jessica to follow-up.

FY26 initial draft Budget - Sept 1, 2025- August 31, 2026

- Expenses
 - o 106K coordinator salary
 - o Symposium
 - o Strategic planning community session
- Potential Incoming Funds
 - o Network for Landscape Conservation - TU applying to cover partnership needs
 - o ConocoPhillips- TU applying
 - o NFHP extra funding for travel to national coordinators workshop. Going forward expectation is will come out of Partnership operations budget.
 - o Sponsorships for symposium and site tour

2025 Site Tour

- Ideas include:
 - o Kenai: Fish need land too
- AIS site tour
- MSB riparian setbacks education
- Restoration projects to showcase

2025 Symposium

- 1 day invited talks focusing on the Partnership's strategic priorities
- 1 day strategic planning community session

2025 Workplan

- Approved
- Consider changing workplan to occur on fiscal year schedule

Cook Inlet Joint Kenai and MatSu Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting Follow-up

Katherine Schake

Ongoing processing of notes and brainstorming sessions from the meeting by UAA and KBNERR

Opportunities across both partnerships-

- Outreach and advocacy for FHPs and need to raise awareness about what we do-entering policy space
 - o Legislative one pagers
 - o Legislative lunch and learns
 - o One or two pagers that go to the federal delegation
 - o Messaging to reach different audiences
 - o Committee?
- Marine Conservation Action Plan Update
 - o Affects all Alaska fish habitat partnerships
 - o Review of former Marine CAP Threats by partnerships
- Freshwater science to conservation actions
 - o GIS tool to understand groundwater recharge areas and other science
 - o Land acquisition through land trusts
- Engaging other fish habitat partnerships (4 geographic, 2 species related) in Alaska
- Funding?
 - o Using some NFHP funding
 - o Applying to other grants
 - o Money left in grant to UAA/ KBNERR for Joint Cook Inlet Meeting- needs to be spent by August

Strategic Plan Update

- Soliciting quotes
 - o Jessica has draft letter
 - o Looking for planning facilitation with a contract in place before November Symposium
 - o Want all tasks done by one contractor
 - o Steering Committee wants to review the document
 - o Want to request a menu of options from contractors low, medium, high budget options

National Updates

- American Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Reauthorization Act
 - o 1:1 match not for individual projects, for the whole partnership
 - o No match required for operations
 - o NFHP funding that goes towards tribes can be used as match for other projects
 - o Compressing timeline from RFP to awards being processed- less than one year from RFP to awarding as opposed to 18-month process right now. NFHP confirm updated RFP timeline soon.

Partner Updates

- ADFG
 - o MOA between Alaska Division of Habitat and Department of Transportation to streamline permitting for fish passage projects
 - o Previous MOA signed in 2000, new MOU signed in 2025 with updated guidance for stream simulation in culvert design and different options for surveying and design (like modeling)
 - o AIS working group meeting
 - Meadow Creek and Lakes
 - McRoberts system on Knik
 - Pike caught at Eklutna tailrace
 - Pike spawning report at Wasilla Creek- P Bradley to do netting to confirm
- TU
 - o TU cohosted USFS AOP Stream Simulation Design Workshop in Anchorage
- USFWS
 - o Budgeting for Southern and Northern Field Offices
 - Any agreements above 50K need secretary approval
 - NFHP fund recipients may need to supply updated budgets and budget narratives
 - o Loss of capacity and technical support
- Knik
 - o Knik getting ready for field season
 - o Following best practices for AIS mitigation in fieldwork
- TTCD
 - o Lease changes around development in preparation for West Su Access Rd.

- MSB
 - o RFP for communication and public engagement support for healthy riparian habitat and non-point source pollution is open.
- NVE
 - o Waiting for application approvals for two FHA Campbell Creek crossings on Radio Tower Road
 - o Working with ADFG on Eklutna Tailrace cleanup
 - o Pumped storage hydro feasibility
- BLM
 - o No updates
- NOAA
 - o Grant applications closed- availability of funds to disperse still uncertain

Committee Updates **See notes below agenda for more detailed written updates.*

- Symposium Planning
 - o None
- Ad-hoc committees
 - o Waterbody Setbacks Advisory Board submitted its final proposed updates to the current waterbody setback standards. Requires an Assembly member to move it forward.
 - o Plants for Salmon on Montana Creek on June 14
 - o RFP out for proposals for dirt work

Steering Committee

- Vacant seats
- Jessica to solicit letters of interest to fill