



### **Steering Committee Meeting**

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4

1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

**Tuesday March 8, 2016 1:30 – 4 pm**

To call in to the **ADF&G conference room: (907) 746-6347**

To start the conference call from ADF&G conference room: Dial 9 then 746-6347

## **AGENDA**

**Facilitator:** Corinne

**Notetaker:** Need a new volunteer-

### **Partnership Business**

- At-large steering committee seat schedule (Corinne)
  - Discussion & possible decision to approve
- NFHP Fund chapter agreement (Jessica)\*background material & agreement attached.
  - Review & discussion, possible decision to approve
- FHP 2016 budget (Jessica)
  - Review & discussion
- Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance - support letter (Jessica)\*will be sent later
  - Discussion & decision to approve
- Science and Data Committee Charter and co-chairs (Corinne) \*background material & agreement attached.
  - Discussion & decision to approve co-chairs
  - Select committee to review charter and make recommendations
- All AK FHP meeting (Jessica, Arni & Frankie)
  - Update

### **Committee Updates**

- Symposium Planning (Jessica)
- Science and Data (Jeff or Jessica)
- Outreach (Frankie or Christy)

### **Other:**

- House Bill 220
  - Update & discussion
- Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permitting policy changes (Frankie)
  - Update & discussion

## **General Partner updates (all or any attendees)**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Southeast Alaska Climate Workshop, April 12-15, 2016 Juneau, AK
- NFHP Steering Committee Meeting March 9th, 9:00A-12:00P Eastern time, Arlington, VA (open to the public)

### **Next meeting:**

- Tuesday May 10th 1:30-4pm



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## **NOTES**

**Facilitator:** Corinne Smith

**Notetaker:** Arni Thomson

**Steering Committee Attendees:** Corinne Smith, Christy Cincotta, Marc Lamoreaux, Frankie Barker, Arni Thomson, Neil Stichert (USFWS for Jon Gerken).

Steering Committee members at Dillingham meeting (SWIM): Jon Gerken, Roger, Erika Ammann

**Coordinator:** Jessica Speed

**Approval of January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes:** Approved.

### **Partnership Business**

- **At-large steering committee seat schedule** (Corinne)

Discussion & decision to approve.

Four of the nine steering committee seats have two year terms (three At-large seats and one Tribal), and were intended to be staggered with two terms completing in odd years, and two in even years. With multiple organizations not able to complete terms in recent years, the timing of seat completion has been skewed to one in even years and three in odd years. Corinne suggested getting this process synchronized again, and assigning letters to each of the seats to help track them. The Native Village of Eklutna seat, which replaced Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation in summer of 2015, will be extended to fit the new rotation schedule. All others remain the same. Find below an updated and approved At-large and Native Alaskan Steering Committee seat schedule:

Tribal: Tyonek Tribal Conservation District - term ends December 2016

At-large A: Chickaloon Traditional Council - term ends December 2016

At-large B: Native Village of Eklutna - term ends December 2017

At-large C: Alaska Salmon Alliance - term ends December 2017

- **NFHP Fund chapter agreement** (Jessica)

Review & discussion, possible decision to approve

There were lots of questions about the agreement that would make the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership a chapter of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Questions included conflicts of interest for current sponsoring organizations; what is the opportunity for feedback to the national group?; would an MOU be a better way to do this?; and what is NFHP's capacity to manage the fund? Existing partner/sponsor relationships in AK are fine now. The major question revolved around the need if any to join as a chapter. The group felt the need for a

**Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership**

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

lot more background and guidelines before we can have further discussion. Discussion also led to consideration of finding a Mat-Su-based organization that could become a fiscal agent for the Partnership and USFWS, and the need for a further evaluation of the pros and cons to various structures that would enable us to fundraise and provide organizational support.

Follow-up:

Jessica will send the Steering Committee's feedback and questions to NHP. Jessica will set up a conversation with relevant FWS and TNC grants staff to learn more about the advantages and limitations of our current structure with TNC as the fiscal agent.

- **FHP 2016 budget** (Jessica)

Review & discussion

For FY 2017, July 2016 to June 2017.

Jessica and Frankie to flesh out further and include comparative statements for 2016.

Improve format. Explore Outreach budget and hiring of contract coordinator and report back. The Group also wishes to flesh out the question of finding additional funds for Science and Data Committee and Outreach activities. The Committee agreed to schedule this as an agenda item for May meeting.

**Follow-up:**

Jessica – improve budget format and show a comparison from last year

Explore budget options including ability to hire an outreach contractor and funding for science and data committee.

- **Science and Data Committee Charter and co-chairs** (Corinne)

Discussion & decision to approve co-chairs:

The science and data committee charter is in need of updating and the chair seat has just recently expired. With few minutes left in the meeting the steering committee had a brief discussion about recommending that the science and data committee elect its own co-chairs. The steering committee formed a committee to review the charter and make recommendations. The group also suggested a need to clarify in the NFHP RFP process for USFWS funds what the science and data committee is being asked to do, and what not to do. The science and data committee should provide technical comments on proposals and not make recommendations to approve or disapprove. This will be included in the sub-committee work.

Review science and data charter and make recommendations to the steering committee:

Corinne, Jessica, Jon, Christy, and Jeff Davis.

- **Mat-Su Borough riparian buffer ordinance** - support letter (Jessica)

Discussion & decision to approve

Frankie sent out a list of 25 rivers and streams, deleted lakes. She is asking the Partnership to consider endorsement. Committee members were reminded that this is a Borough ordinance not statewide legislation. Draft letter approved.

Follow up:

Jessica to send draft for final review and approval again.

- **All AK FHP meeting** (Jessica, Arni & Frankie)

Due to time constraints we decided to table discussion and wait until the official meeting notes had been posted.

### **Committee Updates**

- Symposium Planning (Jessica). The tentative dates are November 16, 17, 18, 2016.
- Science and Data: Jessica reported with an attached update from Jeff Davis.
- Outreach (Frankie and Christy). Frankie reported on a draft of new annual report for the Partnership to inform member organizations and the public.
- There is a Joint meeting of Borough Planning Commission and Assembly on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 pm. Jessica Speed to do presentation for the Partnership.

### **Other:**

- **House Bill 220**  
Update & discussion  
HB 220 is apparently on hold for this session.
  - Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permitting policy changes.
  - Anchorage Mayors Office—invitation to meet with the Partnership. The Committee approves moving ahead with a letter to Susanne Fleek, Chief of Staff for Mayor Berkowitz.
- Follow-up:**  
Arni will circulate a draft memo for review by the committee.
- Corinne reported that she is having a discussion with Kyle Graham and Jack Sinclair, brainstorming about collaborations with the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership.

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