



**Steering Committee Meeting
REMOTE MEETING**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:30 – 4 pm

Zoom link (online option): <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/95836296058>

Zoom call-in # (non-internet/telephone option): +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 958 3629 6058

AGENDA

Facilitator: Ted Eischeid

Notetaker: Libby Kugel

In attendance over the phone:

Anjanette Steer

Trent Liebich

Ted Eischeid

Michael Mazzacavallo

Erika Ammann

Theo Garcia

Melissa Heuer

Christy Cincotta

Jessica Speed (joined at 1:45)

2. Partnership Business

- Approve March 2020 Steering Committee Meeting Notes (5 min) **March Notes*

No edits proposed, minutes approved.

- National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) funded projects –

We submitted a report in January covering past projects. Thanks to everyone who put in a lot of work on this.

- FY21 project funding – update and discussion

A spreadsheet was sent out with a list of projects ranked. This is a competitive process. We are proposing funding 5 projects fully, with a 6th getting partial funding. The UAA project for riparian mapping would be partial funding. We are hopeful that next year we can find funding for the rest of this project so that it can be fully funded. Could split the project into two phases.

One pool of money for all the partnerships nationally and each partnership submits their report which generates a score that dictates their funding. Our partnership scored a level 3 (highest

ranking), and our funding was awarded proportionally. Coordinator is our number 1 project typically because the partnership doesn't exist without the coordinator.

The funding comes into USFWS, who distributes it out to the projects through cooperative agreements. The Steering Comm makes the decisions on which projects will be funded and to which level.

This year the money has come in pretty early, so likely we can get money out to projects so they can start this field season. We often don't get it in time for projects to be completed in the same field season.

Because of the pandemic, this year we have the option to right from the start extend everything for an extra year.

Question: what are the options for orgs whose projects don't get funded? How do we follow up with them?

It depends because the partnership and the USFWS both might have different messages to send. We try to reach out to the not funded projects to see if there's a way they can get their project done in another way.

USFWS provides technical assistance – they can help orgs develop a project idea or refine a proposal.

The Steering Committee accepts the proposed ranking.

- FY20 project funding – impacts from Covid-19?

No one had any impacts to share so far. Trent offered to provide assistance if anyone was having trouble spending their funds. Extensions are available.

- FY20 Partnership coordination and operations funding –update from last meeting

Jessica has requested an extension for the FY20 coordinator funds as she hasn't been able to work as many hours with working from home.

We had \$30,000 of unspent salary over a 4-year period. We've been able to use this to fund part of the project mapper project, and to contract someone to create science summaries for our outreach programs. Also using to fund DNR for Elodea survey and eradication work.

- Operating in a Covid-19 Context
 - Check-in: how are people and organizations doing? What are some of the current and potential impacts we should be aware of? How can we support the needs of our partners and community in this time?

Ted: Planning department at MSB has about 5 out of 25 working from their office (including Ted), with the rest working from home. Seems effective. MSB building is closed to the public.

- Discussion: summer site tour and other Partnership events amid Covid-19 context

We've been doing the summer site tours since 2015. Should we still offer it this summer? A virtual tour?

Idea from Erika: do a virtual project site tour through history using Anjanette and Marcus's mapper. Upsides to virtual tour is more people could attend. The mapper should be done by June 30th, as well as 3 of the science summaries. They could all be a part of the virtual tour. The MSB is working on a wetlands ordinance – timing could be good to promote that.

Doing a regular site tour might be logistically challenging with taking precautions (i.e. 30 people all driving themselves and trying to space out all 6 feet apart).

Steering Committee decided to just recommend that we do a virtual tour this summer.

- Project Mapper (Jessica)
 - Discussion of materials we should have posted online associated with Partnership outreach and coordination funded projects.

Agreement that having supporting documents available through the project mapper would be good. Having a link from each project on the map to the product of the project. Being able to show on the map is very helpful for our outreach.

Committee Updates:

(*suggested general format: what activity has occurred, what to expect in near future, and any decisions needed or items to be flagged for the Steering Committee)

- Science and Data (Anjanette)

Laura and Anjanette have been working with Jessica on providing resources for the science summaries. Jessica can pass all this along to Agnew::Beck who is putting them together. They will also review the science summaries once we have drafts.

Out of 10-12 data gaps listed in a report by TNC, the committee prioritized 5 to work on filling in that the group will be able to review.

- Outreach (Jessica/Ted)

Outreach committee is working on the science summaries and working with Anjanette on the project mapper. We had our first committee meeting this spring in quite a long time.

The science summaries are going to be completed by Agnew Beck who we chose through a scoring system. They will be used for a wide variety of uses to educate those who we work with and decision makers on good science-based information. They will be easily readable with good graphics and hope to produce more in the future if they are a success. Our deadline for getting these finished is late May/early June.

We used to be a part of Wildlife Wednesdays but haven't been able to participate recently. We hope to be involved again at some point.

Christy and Jessica are planning to meet soon to talk about hiring an assistant to help out with some of the coordinator tasks.

- Symposium (Jessica)

We've had one symposium planning meeting so far. The Palmer Depot is tentatively booked, and we can cancel within 60 days and get a full refund.

Do we want to keep it as an in-person event for now with a decision date? Do we want to just make it virtual?

There are 3 planning committee members and could use more. Libby volunteered to join the planning committee.

Any input from steering committee for keynote speaker or for a theme?

- Food security – salmon as our food
- Climate change
- We can look at last year's comment forms for suggestions too

- Capacity and Development (Christy/Jessica)

Partner and National Updates

- General partner updates – round robin style

Ted: MSB is working on a wetland ordinance. Should be hearing a lot more about it in July, it's due for action in September or October. MSB and AIDEA are looking at a tentative MOU for phase 2 of a project related to the West Susitna access road to open up for resource development and recreation. There are implications/impacts to salmon habitat.

Libby: GLT is still working with the MSB on park infrastructure at Settlers Bay Coastal Park. Later this week GLT will be working on the Wasilla Creek Wetlands project to create a connector trail to the Swan lake trail and boardwalk.

Christy: at Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, staff have been on half time as they figure things out. Trying to figure out how to continue regular work without flying to Tyonek frequently. Still planning to go forward with a culvert project in Tyonek this summer. Pike camp is cancelled.

Michael: ADF&G and USFWS are working to submit another AKSSF application. Had to cancel annual Mat-Su streambank restoration workshop.

Theo: Knik Tribe and Knik Conservation District are trying to figure out how to make changes to their field seasons to make them still work.

Erika: NFHAP Southeast partnership got funded. NOAA staff aren't allowed to use Zoom.

Anjanette: UAA staff have travel restrictions which will have an impact on the work they were hoping to get done this summer. She and Marcus are working on collecting all the information for the project mapper and hope to get it out by the end of June.

Jessica: At TNC, across the US they are doing climate resiliency mapping. Alaska has new improved digital elevation data.

Melissa: They've really been feeling all the effects of the business shutdowns. Been really involved in the West Susitna Access Road project. Lots of potential impacts and there hasn't been very much public comment on it. They're hosting a public webinar about it on Thursday.

- National updates (Mike or Trent)

Trent: Their office is closed to the public and working from home, with everyone still being very productive. Projects and workload still at a good level. They have a lot of projects around the state and expect that ones that aren't within driving distance will have to be managed remotely to the best extent they can or delayed.

Upcoming Events:

- Global Swimways Webinar, May 14, 2020 - <https://worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/global-swimways-webinar-marathon/>

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, July 14th 1:30-4pm

Facilitator: Christy Cincotta

Notetaker: TBD