



44129 Sterling Highway | Soldotna, AK 99669 | 907-260-5449 | www.kenaiwatershed.org
Working Together for Healthy Watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

Subject: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee October Meeting

Present: Branden Bornemann, Ben Meyer, Kyle Graham, Tony Munter, Katherine Schake, Casey Greenstein, Mike Daigneault, Erika Ammann, Samantha Lopez, Sarah Apsens, Adam Cross, Jess Johnson, Jack Buban

Date and Time: December 6th, 2021

Where: Virtual Meeting (see end of document for Zoom link)

Completed by: Branden Bornemann, KPFHP Coordinator; Jack Buban, Kenai Watershed Forum

Completed for: KPFHP Steering Committee

1. Call to Order **Meeting begins at 2:02 PM**
2. Approve Agenda **Agenda approved at 2:02 PM**
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting **Meeting minutes approved at 2:03 PM**
4. Coordinator Report - **all Alaska FHP meeting just happened organized by Mike Daigneault, had some National Fish Habitat Partnership members there and while questions were asked about match, fiscal agents, etc. there were not clear answers on this -RFP is open for about 2 months so the hope is that we can have a wide array of strong applicants, contact Branden if there is any issues with getting to the 1:1 non federal match -Jack Buban is leaving**
5. Partner Reports
 - a. Permanent Members:
 - i. ADFG - Tony Munter - **nothing really new to report this month, Branden: Any update on the Soldotna Creek tributary? (EPA and DEC are investigating to make a decision but most likely a resolution will not be happening anytime soon) Partnership funds might be able to help remediation efforts in that area if we ever get to that point**
 - ii. NOAA - Erika Ammann - **Wednesday December 8th is a funding opportunity webinar \$800 million is going to the DOT for FY22-26 for culvert replacement and removal, NOAA is getting \$491 million to provide funding and technical assistance to restore marine, estuarine, Great Lakes ecosystems and to help prevent flooding in coastal communities.\$400 million for fish passage (15% of that is for native tribes), AKSSF parent organization PCSR (Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery) is getting \$172 million in chunks of \$34 million up until 2025, State of**

Alaska usually serves as "middle man" but that may or may not change due to the large nature of the funds available

Branden: Is there anything we can do to explore AKSSF requesting more funds? (letting the head of proposals for the state know that there may be a lot of more projects proposed because of the large amount of funds present)

- iii. **USFWS - Kyle Graham** - talking to folks internally about the CAP update and possibly reflecting the nature of Mat-Su CAP Planning heavy involvement of fisheries folks

Involved in all Alaska FHP meetings last week, brainstorming ideas for fish passage projects, meeting with Hilcorp (?) talking about fish passage on the Refuge

After the CAP there could be an update with the Salmon Creek Fish Passage project, working on updating amendments to various projects, habitat biologist position is open in Anchorage that is focused on Southcentral and the Matu-Su so feel free to inquire and pass along to parties

Have been allowing some projects funded to keep going past 5 years
We have some work to do to establish an ongoing list of fish passage projects like we used to and like Southeast, and the Mat-Su have

b. **Non Permanent Members:**

- i. **KBNERR - Coowe Walker**

- ii. **KPB River Center - Samantha Lopez** - Education Outreach Event with the River Table w/ KWF at River Center next week, sent out 3100 flyers to individual property owners, there is a little over 6000 parcels but that is split across 3100 owners

- iii. **USFS – Adam Cross** - spend most of the time on budgets and continuing resolutions, things look good for the water quality project with one more meeting happening next week

Spruce Bark beetle response phase II working on, Res Creek restoration is putting out a call for bids for early next calendar year

Someone dumped about 15 drums of "oily substance" in the Chugach in 2018 and is finally going to court for it.

Seward Ranger District Ranger is retiring and having Ruth come in as a 120 day temporary while the position is being filled

Tony - How did the culvert turn out after the big rain event at Snug Harbor Road (mile 5.7)? (It performed well) Similar scenario in Girdwood with emergency structures and the Anchorage office is most likely going to be in the driver's seat for that multi-million dollar project

- iv. **DEC – Sarah Apsens** - raw data report from water quality monitoring results are up on the DEC website, working on sampling design for the upcoming summer with a few less sampling occasions because of budget restrictions, Clean Sea SeaGrant fellow survey is collecting responses (125 responses so far)

Branden: DEC is getting a working group together to discuss 6ppd quinone study and implications

- v. KWF – Ben Meyer - working on about half a dozen or so different projects, recruiting members for CAP session, made another trip out to Vogel Lake for rotenone degradation as part of northern pike eradication efforts, working on project to give comments on City of Kenai Land Management Plan with increased mapping capabilities, working to recruit some more collaborators for the KPFHP RFP such as updating the list of places that need fish passage
Kyle Graham- USFWS closing in on a projects looking at all stream crossings in the state using GIS, every stream line crossing on the Peninsula whether its an ATV or road
- vi. KP-CISMA – Katherine Schake - Casey Greenstein started working with HSWCD as a contractor about a year ago,
two new documents for RCG on the peninsula, History of RCG on the Peninsula & State of Science Literature Review
Just had a CISMA meeting and the main topic was wondering what the main priorities are now that the purpose of the group has expanded, some of what came out of this could be helpful for CAP. For example involvement of citizen science emerged as a priority and so did monitoring and early detection regardless of taxa
KBNERR monitoring program for harmful algal blooms is being cut so conversations are being had about how to supplement that funding

c. Advisors

- i. State Legislature – Peter Micciche
- ii. USFWS - Mike Daigneault, Emily Munter - nothing specific to mention
- iii. ADFG - Jess Johnson - meeting with Emily and Anna to brainstorm projects for streambank restoration next summer, been working for 2 years updating a streambank guide that is getting close to a final product

6. Old Business

- a. FY23 RFP released (extended deadline to January 28th) - this has been released and is available both through email and also on the KPFHP website. The reason for this is to give folks more time than we have ever had to gather support and funds and align more so with many of the other partnerships. Still a little unsure of what will need to be sent to the NFHP
Use the February meeting to go over proposals and any scoring questions, till about February 11th and then late February submit the ranked habitat partnership projects to the NFHP
No clear answers on when the funds will become available for FY22 projects and that holds true for the future as well because working on a continuing resolution
- b. CAP Update - 2 or 3 years that is in the works to happen. Working with Rob Sutter, first pre session meeting is this Friday and this will give us more clarification

7. New Business

- a. FY 23 RFP Review and Analysis - anticipated February 7th analysis and review session
- b. New(ish) RFP Scoring Rubric (see attached) - made some slight changes the scoring system without making any changes to the criteria

8. Action Items
9. Roundtable

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM

Future Meetings:

- Monday January 3rd, 2022 @ 2PM
- Monday, February 7th, 2022 @ 2PM - RFP Review and Scoring Session
- Monday, March 7th, 2022 @ 2PM
- Monday, April 4th, 2022 @ 2PM

Zoom Information:

Topic: Kenai Watershed Forum's Meeting Room
Join KWF Zoom Meeting (computer access, video and/or audio)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6785578964?pwd=U3dqaGVrcTBoaERTdFJ4MDIPdzJiUT09>
Meeting ID: 678 557 8964
Password: 246419

Join KWF Zoom Meeting (phone access)
1-253-215-8782

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