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Working Together for Healthy Watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

Subject: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee Meeting

Date and Time: March 1, 2021, 2 pm – 4 pm
Where: Virtual meeting
Call-in Information: See MS Teams info below
Completed by: Branden Bornemann, KPFHP Coordinator
Completed for: KPFHP Steering Committee

In attendance: Branden Bornemann, Benjamin Meyer, Senator Peter Micciche, Kyle Graham, Sarah Apsens, Brian Blossom, Adam Cross, Jessica Johnson, Coowe Walker, Katherine Schake, Samantha Lopez, Michael Daigneault

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION VIA MS TEAMS:

Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDQ1ZWI5NTQtMTM2Mi00YTE5LTNmMWItYjk3NzExOGNjYWlw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220cb923a0-63a4-4bb2-925d-30bc54f9bcb5%22%7d>

Learn More<<https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting>>

Meeting options<https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=0cb923a0-63a4-4bb2-925d-30bc54f9bcb5&tenantId=0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494&threadId=19_meeting_ZDQ1ZWI5NTQtMTM2Mi00YTE5LTNmMWItYjk3NzExOGNjYWlw@thead.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US>

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - a. February 1, 2021, beginning on page two
 - b. Approved
4. Guests
 - a. No guests scheduled
5. Coordinator Report
 - a. Following previous meeting minutes, beginning on page four
 - b. Kachemak Bay Science Conference March 15 – 18, www.kachemakbayscience.org
 - c. Katherine Schake joining us as representative from CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area)
 - d. “Needs Assessment” – will contact partners to set up potential interviews
 - i. May be best to wait until national FHP transition is complete before initiating this process

- e. Statewide FHP coordinating grant – signed agreement between statewide FHPs. Requested \$60k originally, reduced to \$25k
 - f. New board members on National FHP group. One local Alaska representative for “Local Gov’t”; Ted Eischeid from the Mat-Su Borough. Senator Micciche had also been nominated as a national board member but was not selected.
 - g. Proposed changes from DNR to instream flow reservations. Letter from Tim Troll sent to meeting attendees proposes a list of questions for DNR.
 - i. Question from Sen. Micciche: is DNR has authority to enact the proposed role via regulation? Intends to have staff find an answer to this question.
 - h. DEC has open comments period for 2020 Integrated Report
 - i. Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is hosting a meeting March 22 – 25
 - j. Attachment sent to meeting attendees about a study regarding light-penetrating riverbank boardwalks; pertains to Kenai Borough Anadromous Fish Habitat working group.
 - k. Question from Brian Blossom regarding zinc plating on elevated walkways. Discussion from Branden on existing local literature on this topic. Additional questions and discussion regarding potential nonpoint pollution sources.
6. Partner Reports
- a. Sarah Apsens (DEC)
 - i. 2020 Integrated Report public comment period is open
 - ii. Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Arsenic proposed to be moved from Category 3 to Category 2
 - iii. Zinc and copper currently still in category 3
 - iv. Cu / Zn from Kenai River Baseline Water Quality Monitoring project data did not meet QA/QC standards
 - 1. DEC looking at doing a project in summer 2021 focused on assessing and improving QA/QC for CU/Zn sampling and analysis.
 - 2. The ACWA grant that had been proposed may not have been funded because it was focused on QA/QC, which is typically not within the purview of these types of grants.
 - v. ACWA grants
 - 1. Homer Soil and Water Conservation District -
 - 2. Alaska Sea Grant – survey of harbor bacteria levels
 - vi. Question from Branden about turbidity
 - 1. Kenai River turbidity still in category 3
 - b. Jessica Johnson (ADF&G)
 - i. Streambank Restoration Workshop scheduled from May 12-13
 - ii. Usually 25 participants, this year 15 max
 - c. Adam Cross (USFS)
 - i. Question from Branden – request to provide an update on mask mandate on federal lands
 - ii. Upcoming vacancy for GS-7 for a fisheries subsistence tech
 - iii. Resurrection creek bridge discussion
 - d. Kyle Graham (USFWS)
 - i. EVOS RFP potential projects
 - 1. Moose Creek culvert replacement
 - 2. Invasive species
 - 3. Pt. Graham Corporation and Chugachmiut – fish passage, multiple locations. Historically underrepresented area for EVOS funding
 - ii. Took short course on Conservation Standards Practice, through USFWS
 - e. Mike Daigneault (USFWS)
 - i. Encourages to continue approach of coordination between various national fish habitat partnerships
 - ii. Remaining board seats on national Fish Habitat Partnership likely allocated by national personnel
 - f. Samantha Lopez (Kenai River Center, Kenai Borough)
 - i. Anadromous Working Group comments will be submitted to borough March 15
 - ii. First meeting with KPFHP

- g. Katherine Schake (Homer Soil and Water Conservation District)
 - i. CISMA – 1st quarter meeting last week
 - ii. Presenting at Kachemak Bay Science conference
 - iii. April 13 – 14, annual CISMA topics workshop
 - iv. New website: kenaiinvasives.org
 - 1. Aim to standardize messaging and be a topical landing page
 - v. Upcoming white papers on regional reed canary grass research and history; strategic management plan update
 - vi. Planning fieldwork for summer 2021
 - vii. Alaska HB 54 now in State House Fisheries Committee
 - viii. Alaska Weed ID app update coming summer 2021
- h. Brian Blossom
 - i. Question if KWF can provide specific examples of utility of instream flow program
- 7. Old Business
 - a. KPFHP sponsoring the Kachemak Bay Science Conference: March 15-18, 2021
 - b.
- 8. New Business
- 9. Action Items
- 10. Roundtable

Next Meeting:

KPFHP Steering Committee – April 5, 2020, 2 pm – 4 pm