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*Working Together for Healthy Watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula*

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## **Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee Meeting**

Date and Time: Jan 4 2021, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: Virtual zoom meeting

Completed by: Branden Bornemann, KPFHP Coordinator

Completed for: KPFHP Steering Committee

1. Call to order
  - a. In attendance: Branden Bornemann, Leah Ellis, Kevin Keith, Adam Cross, Jess Johnson, Kyle Graham, Marcus Mueller, Michael Daigneault, Sarah Apsens, Tony Munter
2. Approve Agenda
  - a. Approved
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting
  - a. Last meeting on December 7, 2020
4. Guests
  - a. Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Instream Flow Reservations
    - i. Presentation from Leah Ellis and Kevin Keith.
      - This is a “proactive” program to reserve water quantity for fish and wildlife; recreation, navigation, and water quality.
      - Need at least 5 years data for a reservation application
      - Filed for water rights on 18 rivers that include 150 river miles in the Kenai Peninsula
      - Fieldwork: quantify seasonal variation in water quantity
      - On the Kenai; projects on Anchor and Stariski watershed; also on Quartz Creek, Dave’s Creek, and others.
      - Send discharge measurements and data in if you have them.
      - Important to make these kind of baseline reservations in the context of competing future interests.
      - Question as to “How discharge is changing on the Kenai Peninsula” was posed. Kevin and Leah estimate about ~20 years of data would be needed to address these kinds of questions.
      - Open invitation to members of KPFHP steering committee to join to observe fieldwork on Quartz Creek or others.
5. Coordinator Report
  - a. No written report for this meeting
  - b. Anadromous Waters Task Group meetings are continuing. All are welcome to attend the meetings
  - c. No changes for updates to the National partnership committee meeting
  - d. Alaska FHP coordinators are meeting later this month
6. Partner Reports
  - a. Adam Cross (USFS):
    - i. Continuing involvement with the Aquatic Organism Passage group

- b. Kyle Graham (FWS):
    - i. Most recent federal budget includes coverage for National Fish Habitat Partnerships. Specific numbers for funding not yet available but will be forthcoming. Aim to have funding in place by mid-summer.
    - ii. North Road project (Kenai Spur Road Extension): six million dollar project North of Nikiski. Four million committed to project, one million committed to EIS, appx. one million remaining. Possible allocation of these remaining funds towards culvert replacement. Also looking in to a control plan for reed canary grass.
    - iii. Greater amount of use than anticipated for North road thus far observed
  - c. Tony Munter (ADFG):
    - i. No updates at this time, will be passing on updates to Emily Munter.
    - ii. Branden looks forward to communicating with ADF&G habitat about some upcoming work funded by AKSSF mapping anadromous watersheds.
  - d. Marcus Mueller (KPB)
    - i. Recently saw easement given to KWF for *Nikolaevsk* project
    - ii. Staff change at Kenai River Center, Samantha Lopez new director
    - iii. Bridge at Ninilchik River (Brody Avenue): some local discussion among local neighborhood group suggests this bridge is not fully serving local needs. Provided some ideas for how to possibly correct this problem, including a change in access route.
  - e. Mike Daigneault (FWS)
    - i. No updates (yet) about transition in national program
  - f. Jess Johnson (ADFG)
    - i. In process of reviewing streambank restoration guide
    - ii. In process of determining plans for spring workshops in context of COVID
  - g. Sarah Apsens (ADEC)
    - i. Expecting results from 2021 – 2023 RFP ACWA grants
    - ii. Public comments period for integrated plan report still open
7. Old Business
- a. KPFHP sponsoring the Kachemak Bay Science Conference: March 14-17
    - i. Dates may not be solidly fixed, likely to be at a later date
    - ii. Next group meeting Feb 1
  - b. Establish small working group to help identify potential projects for 2022 RFP and recommend adjustments to scoring/review process based on current Strategic Plan and CAP
8. New Business
- a. None
9. Action Items
- a. None
10. Roundtable
- a. None

***Next Meeting: Feb 1, 2021; 2-4 pm***