



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
December, 2022 Meeting**

Date and Time: 2:00 PM December 5th, 2022

Where: Kenai Watershed Forum/Virtual Meeting (see end of document for Zoom link)

Completed by: Melissa Smith, KPFHP Coordinator; Kenai Watershed Forum

Completed for: KPFHP Steering Committee

1. Call to Order, Time:
2. Roll call
 - Erika Amman Kyle Graham Jess Johnson Coowe Walker
 - Samantha Lopez Adam Cross Sarah Apsens Tony Munter
 - Ben Meyer Katherine Schake
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting
4. Coordinator Report
 - a. Meeting with Steering Committee Members
 - b. FY24 RFP update
 - i. FY2024 RFP was distributed. No major changes from last year. Are there any comments/suggestions about the ranking process from prior years?
 - c. 2023 Science Symposium update
 - i. Tentative dates are 4/20 and 21. Waiting for confirmation from KPC.
 - ii. I am looking for volunteers to assist with planning.
 - iii. Katherine - CISMA is interested in partnering with KPFHP to host a joint meeting this spring.
5. Partner Reports
 - a. Permanent Members:
 - i. NOAA - Erika Ammann
 1. Absent
 - ii. USFWS - Kyle Graham
 1. Absent
 - iii. ADFG - Jess Johnson
 1. Working on ranking 2023 projects. Number of projects have decreased as supply costs increase.
 2. ADFG is wrapping up the HBII hiring process. Position is involved with the Mat Su cost share program.
 3. Working with Ben on a spruce tree cabling project in Soldotna

b. Non-Permanent Members:

- i. KBNERR - Coowe Walker
 1. Working with the KPB assembly to revise the ground water amendment, which currently doesn't have any provisions for fish.
 2. Working with the City of Homer to acquire peatlands.
 3. Looking at incorporating beavers into climate mitigation projects to increase carbon sequestration.
 4. New Davidson fellow from UAF is studying the effects of aquaculture on benthic communities.
- ii. KPB River Center - Samantha Lopez
- iii. USFS – Adam Cross
 1. Prepping for phase 2 of a bank restoration project on the Resurrection River.
 2. Is aware of two open positions with partner organizations. (Contact Adam for more details. Positions available with Trout Unlimited and National Forest Foundation)
- iv. DEC – Sarah Apsens
 1. Has been working the past month on data review and analysis in water quality.
 2. Wrapping up the second year of a two year water quality monitoring project on the Kenai.
- v. ADFG – Tony Munter
 1. Recently finished the permitting for DOT's Baycrest to Anchor Point project, which will reconstruct the Sterling Hwy from milepost 157 to 169. It will take 3-4 years, and include 6 fish passage culverts. Many aspects are comparable to the 45 to 60 project near Cooper Landing.
 2. Working on many fish passage projects peninsula wide.
 3. Working on streambank projects as well.
 4. Kathrine asked if there were any opportunities for outreach to private land owners in regards to invasive species presence on their properties.
- vi. KWF – Benjamin Meyer
 1. Wrapping up a project identifying land parcels with cold water refugia. Contacted land owners about conservation practices.
 2. Wrapping up quality assurance project plan for agency baseline project.
 3. Mentioned the National Coastal Resilience Fund – NFWF funding opportunity. The entire Kenai Peninsula is considered coastal and would qualify for project submissions. John Morton has more details.
 4. Gave a presentation to the KRSMA board on baseline monitoring project.
 5. Steering Committee members may get a change in calendar invites for future meetings as responsibilities transfer to Melissa.

- vii. KP-CISMA – Katherine Schake
 - 1. Has a biennial public outreach workshop planned for this spring, in addition to annual spring training.
 - 2. Gave an update on invasive species legislation. There is interest in forming an invasive species council in response to European Green Crab.
 - 3. Matt Bowser has identified a new reed canary grass area and determined it was not worth treating. Now shifting efforts to monitoring for other invasives.
 - 4. Entering agreement with Chugach National Forest to monitor high traffic areas.
 - 5. Excited about Anchorage Soil and Water is getting up and running.
 - 6. Planning outreach and education efforts to local plant retailers about selling invasive plants.
- c. Advisors
 - i. State Legislature – Peter Micciche
 - 1. Absent
 - ii. USFWS - Mike Daigneault
 - 1. Absent
- 6. Unfinished Business
- 7. New Business
 - a. Review of “KPFHP Policies and Procedures” (last updated 4/29/2015)
 - i. Will review at our next meeting. For examples, do we still need term limits and member elections? Trout Unlimited would like to have a seat on the steering committee.
 - b. Steering Committee Assessments
 - i. Will be emailing out to steering committee members.
- 8. Action Items
 - a. Summary sheet / Story Map of 2022 Conservation Action Plan

Zoom Information:

Melissa Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6609924238>

Meeting ID: 660 992 4238

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNGa95SH0>

Future Meetings:

Monday, January 9th, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. In-person at the River Center

Addendum A: Proposed Timeline for FY24 RFP

- Sept 29th, 2022 - NFHP board approves [FY 2024 National Conservation Priorities \(link\)](#)
- December 5th, 2022 – KPFHP announces FY24 RFP to wide audience
- February 15th, 2023 – Closing date to receive proposals from applicants
- February 17th, 2023 – Steering committee members receive proposals to score
- March 6th, 2023 – Coordinator receives all proposal scores from steering committee members
- March 31st, 2023 - Due date for the Coordinator to submit projects to the NFHP board

Melissa Smith

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