



Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee March Meeting - Draft Agenda

March 22, 2024, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

In-person: Donald E. Gilam River Center, Soldotna

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92064166870?pwd=UDNHaVRyWGswWmR0cmxETWtjVnVPZz09>

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members: Jess Johnson, Katherine Shake, Samantha Lopez, Alexa Millward, Ben Meyer, Emily Mailman

Partners: Carson Chambers, Mary Inovejas, Sue Mauger, Branden Drzazgowski, Alanna Shaw, Emily Heale, Ashley Lutto

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Partnership Business Updates – Melissa: The NFHP Board will be meeting in Anchorage this July 31 and August 1 with an optional fieldtrip to the Kenai Peninsula on August 2. I would like to schedule a meeting to discuss field trip options, including the crooked creek juvenile salmon monitoring project from 2019.
3. Review of FY25 proposal ranking process
Melissa – recapped the purpose of the meeting: to discuss and rank FY25 funding proposals. Explained the meeting procedure.
4. Presentation of Proposals and Q&A
The following people gave a two minute presentation on their FY25 proposal:
 - a. Alanna Shaw - Kenaitze's Kenai River Baseline Water Quality Monitoring, Kenaitze Indian Tribe. This project is adding 3 new water quality testing sites that are of concern to the tribe; one at the Tribe's educational fishery site, one near the Tribal office, and one corresponding to a hotspot. This would also be a capacity building opportunity for the Tribe.
Katherine – What are your thoughts on the majority of the funds going to KWF and not the Tribe?

Alanna – This is acceptable to the Tribe since we want the work done and currently do not have the capacity to complete it.

- b. Emily Heale - Marten Lake Flow Control Repairs, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. CIAA is seeking funding to repair flow controls, flow control structure at the outflow of Martin Lake which is in the Big River Lake system. The flow control ensures. There's adequate water flow from the lake to ensure adult salmon can make it into the system to spawn, and also, so juvenile thing make it out of the lake.

Emily M. – Why have salmon only been documented in the system 11 out of 28 years?

Emily H – The lake is not continuously monitored. There may have been years they were simply not observed or the flow was too low to allow passage.

Ben – How many similar structures does CIAA have throughout the Cook Inlet?

Emily H. – Three: Martin Lake, Daniels Lake, and Packards Lake on Kaligin Island.

- c. Sue Mauger - Salmon Safe Agriculture - Growing Practices for Farming on a Salmon Landscape, Cook Inletkeeper. This project is targeting new farmers who are converting land into farm land. We do not have a high amount of farm land on the Kenai Peninsula so we have a real opportunity to be proactive about conserving salmon habitat.

Ben – What is the target area?

Sue – The Kenai Peninsula lowlands, so southern and central Kenai Peninsula where the land is suitable for agriculture.

- d. Carson Chambers – Baby Salmon Live Here, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust. This project is to disseminate existing science to partners and decision makers. The outreach products are “BSHL” signs, King Maker, and babysalmon.org.
- e. Samantha Lopez - River Center Access and Restoration Demonstration Project, Kenai Peninsula Borough. This project would install a 32 by 6 ft. elevated walkway and 200 feet of spruce tree revetment at the River Center. This will also act as a demonstration site for landowners to see what can be done on their own property.

Jess – I have some ideas for project monitoring

Ben – Is this ELP boardwalk replacing an old section?

Samantha – No, this will be a new section of boardwalk.

- f. Brandon Drzazgowski - Stream Watch: Volunteer Restoration and Outreach on the Kenai Peninsula, Kenai Watershed Forum. This projects is to fund the ongoing efforts of Stream Watch. We will train volunteers to work sites from Anchor Point to the Russian River, including litter pick up, peer-to-peer education, and restoration events. Building a community of stewardship. This also includes Stewardship days for untrained volunteers to get involved with conservation events as a group, including 3 miles of habitat protecting fence.

- g. Alexa Millward - Outreach as Early Detection and Rapid Response: Raising Awareness, Aquatic Invasive Species, Trout Unlimited. This project will develop and disseminate outreach material about invasive species to the angling community primarily, including our master guide program and various public

outreach events.

Ben – how are invasive species currently reported?

Ashley – The invasive species hotline is the best option.

5. Executive Session: Proposal Discussion

At approximately 2:00pm the Steering Committee entered and executive session to further discuss the ranking of the proposals. All members of the public were excused from the meeting at this time. The final ranked list and total points are as follows:

1. KPFHP, Coordination (100)
2. Kenai Peninsula Borough, River Center Access and Restoration Demonstration Project (94.83)
3. Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Kenaitze's Kenai River Baseline Water Quality Monitoring (92.67)
4. Kenai Watershed Forum, Stream Watch: Volunteer Restoration and Outreach on the Kenai Peninsula (92)
5. Cook Inletkeeper, Salmon Safe Agriculture - Growing Practices for Farming on a Salmon Landscape (90.14)
6. Trout Unlimited, Outreach as Early Detection and Rapid Response: Raising Awareness, Aquatic Invasive Species (89.8)
7. Kenai Watershed Forum, Creating Kenai Watershed Stewards through Adopt-A-Stream Education Programs (85.33)
8. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, Marten Lake Flow Control Repairs (84.43)
9. Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Baby Salmon Live Here (82.50)

6. Next meeting: TBD April, 2024

Steering Committee Members:

NOAA – Emily Mailman

USFWS – Maura Schumacher

ADFG – Jess Johnson

KPB – Samantha Lopez

USFS – Adam Cross

KWF – Benjamin Meyer

KBNERR – Katherine Schake

Alexa Millward – Trout Unlimited

Coowe Walker – Headwaters to Ocean

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche

USFWS - Mike Daigneault

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