



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

November 22, 2023, 10:00am to 12:00pm
In-person: Donald E. Gilam River Center, Soldotna
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92064166870>

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members: Adam Cross, Ben Meyer, Jess Johnson, Erika Ammann, Alexa Millward

Partners: Trent Dodson, Maura Schumacher, Brandon Drzazgowski, Mary Inovejas, Leah Ellis

Agenda:

Meeting started at 10:01am

1. Changes to FY24 ADFG project "Soldotna Creek watershed: conserving hydrologic conditions for fish".

Leah – Without filing for instream flow reservations, the project will not change much. The majority of the project will include fieldwork and data analysis. This data will be summarized in a report and used by ADFG to make management decisions. Another significant component is fish trapping and filing anadromous waters catalog nominations. Ben will lead that field work. Completing the application for reservations only takes about an hour, so there won't be any changes to the budget. Any entity that files these applications needs to be available in the future to potentially negotiate for water use. ADFG is working on a hydrology mapping tool to make this information publicly available. Leah will let us know when the map is completed.

- Here is one of DNR's mappers will all water rights information.
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=1f01d40c44054fd792395060067b4654&extent=-152.5523,60.8265,-148.4956,61.9147>
- Here is an outdated mapper of ADF&G water reservations. It was last updated in 2017, but does have links to water reservation certificates.

<https://adfg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=870494f7f10b4cfa850961554d9739dd>

2. Coordinator updates: RFP, Application for Congressional Designation, etc.

Melissa:

- a. RFP distributed last Friday (11/17). Thank you to those who provided input on the RFP. Webinar December 11th, 11:00am to noon. Go over the RFP in detail. Look at some of the changes in the application and scoring from prior years. Answer any questions.
- b. Congress Des: final stages of completing the application now. Will submit to steering committee around Dec 1 for feedback. Looking for any specific details or historic work we've done that I may have missed. Will need any comments back by Dec 15th.
 - i. Draft application is due December 31st
 - ii. NFHP Staff thinks all FHPs have a great chance of getting designation
 - iii. Other great byproducts of the application: filled in gaps in historic projects on website. Added a lot of project summaries and reports, including data sets to historic projects page. We now have project metrics summarized for all historic projects.

- c. FY24 NFPP (Nat'l Fish Passage Program) BIL Funding Opportunity Proposal update. Letter of intent submitted last Friday. Received support from 18 of the 20 FHPs. Thank you to everyone for your feedback.
 - i. Improve barrier inventories. Funding for each FHP to complete the work. Here is an example from Sara Strassman, coordinator for the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE):

DARE kicked off a road stream crossing inventory effort in the summer of 2023 and has groundwork laid for 2024. Our model of field data collection through seasonal interns has been successfully deployed across the Trout Unlimited enterprise and has completed a successful season in 2023 surveying more than 1,000 crossings. A four-person, summer crew with equipment, travel and salary expenses built in requires \$75,000. Therefore, a request of \$150,000 could fund 2 additional crews, expanding our work area by 8 additional counties. We would be creating 8 new positions per year and with stable funding, could retain select crew leads between seasons to conduct additional outreach and training with local road managers.

- ii. Support partner planning efforts, includes \$10K per participating FHP
- iii. Fund fish passage project design and implementation

- iv. Outreach efforts
- v. \$5-10 Mil total budget, mostly for design and implementation
- vi. Assoc. of fish and wildlife agencies – fiscal sponsor
- vii. FWS BIL Fish Passage Program staff determined a national level LOI would not score well. No funding in this program for planning and outreach. Projects need to address specific on the ground projects on a regional level. NFHP staff and coordinator will meet at the end of the month to discuss if there is a way to move forward.

3. **Annual Membership Meeting – should we have one?** Last membership meeting was in 2018. One benefit would be filling the gap between years with no symposium. Ben, Maura and Erika supported hosting a membership meeting in January or February of 2024.

Erika – NOAA will be hiring a new employee. This will be a good opportunity to introduce them to the group. This new hire will be taking over my role on the Steering Committee.

4. **Should we meet in December?** Not supported. We will schedule our next meeting for January 2024.
5. **Partner updates (funding opportunities, project updates, job openings, etc)**
Erika – Funding is still available for the Coastal Resilience Funding Opportunity. Please contact Erika for questions.
- Open Habitat Restoration Funding Opportunities: Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities (Applications due by December 19, 2023)

Adam – Has two season technician positions open. Please see the attached flier for details. Feel free to pass these opportunities on to anyone interested.

Brandon – 2023 Stream Watch Summary is now available:

<https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Stream-Watch-2023-Season-Summary.pdf>

Working on improving social media. Please share any posts or information you would like Brandon to share on Stream Watch social media. Also, working on a volunteer survey to improve the program.

Maura – Will be taking over Kyle’s role on the Steering Committee. Also gave an update on BIL funding. Her group has received letters of intent (LOI) for four projects on the Kenai Peninsula. FWS will be reviewing the letters over the next month.

Trent – KWF submitted a LOI for that funding opportunity. The project would replace a culvert in the Soldotna Creek drainage upstream of the highway work that will start next summer.

Ben – Has identified 17 miles of stream within 30 mins of the office that can be sample for Anadromous Waters Catalog nominations. Ben is partnering with TU for this project. Fieldwork will be completed summer 2024. This will include a new mapping tool: Net Map - <https://terrainworks.com/get-netmap-virtual-watersheds-and-tools>

Old Business:

Steering Committee Members:

NOAA - Erika Ammann
USFWS - Kyle Graham
ADFG - Jess Johnson
KPB River Center – Samantha Lopez
USFS – Adam Cross
KWF – Benjamin Meyer
KBNERR – Katherine Schake
TU – Alexa Millward
H2O – Coowe Walker

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche
USFWS - Mike Daigneault

Next Meeting:

TBD, January 2024

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