

October 19, 2015  
 KPFHP Steering Committee Meeting  
 2pm – 3:15pm  
 Location: Kenai Watershed Forum, Soldotna

<b>Present</b>	<b>Telephonic</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jeff Anderson, USFWS	Sue Mauger, CIK	Robert Ruffner, KWF
Kyle Graham, USFWS	Adam Cross, USFS	Robert Harding, ADF&G
Rhonda McCormick, KWF	Ginny Litchfield, ADF&G	
Branden Bornemann, TU	Marie McCarty, KHLT	
Lisa Beranek, KWF	Erika Ammann, NOAA	
Edgar Geurron Orejuela, KWF	Paul Ostrander, KPB (removed at 2:20pm)	
	Peter Micciche, SOA/Conoco (joined at 2:10pm)	

Robert and Roger in California for National Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting

Adam Cross taking over representation of USFS as Mark Chilcote is under new assignment  
 Erika Ammann taking over representation of NOAA in place of Doug Limpinsel

**Project Q & A** (included under general meeting notes)

**Project Scoring**

Score and submit projects to Robert BEFORE close of business on Thursday, Oct 29  
 Scoresheets with all submitted scoring emailed to committee on Friday, Oct 30  
 Final ranking/discussion at regular scheduled meeting, Monday, Nov 2

**Budget**

Updated estimates have been provided, but won't be final till the spring  
 \$90K available for project funding  
 \$40K for coordination  
 2017 Symposium?

David Wigglesworth has been promoted to USFWS Deputy Assistant Regional Director of Fish and Aquatic Conservation ~ Congrats David!

Peter will contact first 3 presenters to review project presentations he missed

**Please schedule the first Monday of each month for KPFHP meetings at 2pm**  
**Next Meeting – November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## **2015 PROJECT PROPOSAL Q & A**

### **Reconnecting cold water habitat to the Ninilchik River**

**Alaska State Parks – Jason Okuly (Q&A by Sue Mauger – project partner)**

**\$11,045.00 Requested ~ \$11,057.69 Match**

This project was submitted and then withdrawn last year

Roger McCampbell has retired ~ project budget has been “reworked”

Project to fix damaged foot bridge on path to river

People are walking around the bridge and through a cold water in-flow

Existing kiosk allows for outreach opportunity

Good restoration opportunity for KPFHP

CAP – warming climate

**Comment** – Ginni visited the bridge and verified need for project

**Q** – Who is doing the actual work? What about permits and insurance?

**A** – Project on State Park land – should be covered for permit

Project includes hiring a crew chief

Local volunteers are available to work the project

**Q** – How would budget shortfall affect project?

**A** – Would mean bridge OR outreach would happen

Outreach portion could be achieved with just a few thousand dollars

Bridge not likely with reduced funding

### **Camera-based Stream Stage Monitoring System to Track Changes in Available Fish Habitat**

**Cook Inletkeeper – Sue Mauger**

**\$25,000 Requested ~ \$18,750 Match**

This is a new, innovative way of thinking

Past 2 winters have had low snow pack = low water levels in summer

No way to capture/track in small streams that don't have USGS gauge

USGS has used cameras in Washington for monitoring

Water levels will be tracked by focusing on a ruler in the stream

Project will include answering – Power needs for real time data? Camera needs?

Help from Weather Service or USGS (project partners)

PAC – warming climate

**Q** – Low cost is mentioned in objectives? Cost vs USGS stream gauge?

**A** – Project will include checking out different cameras,

Will consider location types (cell or satellite service), etc

Will compare with USGS gauging costs

Determine how to get better stream flow/level data

**Q** – What is the outreach piece of the project?

**A** – UAA professor involved

Biggest challenge is automation of image processing

USGS willing to put time into

UAA students will take on project aspects as well

Citizen based monitoring will engage people in new way

**Q** – How would budget shortfall affect project?

A - This is the first effort at this type of monitoring  
Don't know the scale-ability of project  
Less money would likely mean not achieving objectives

### **Validation of Kenai Peninsula National Hydrography Dataset**

#### **Kenai Watershed Forum - Branden Bornemann**

#### **\$52,517 Requested ~ \$75,000 Match**

This is the continuation of a project that started with LIDAR 4 years ago

2011/2012 was the first update to NHD

Project is to address step 3 of 5 - adding to the data set

Project supported by State and NFHP

Match is a NFHP multi-state conservation grant administered through Roger Harding

Step 4 is fieldwork to validate, step 5 is complete to NHD+

Q - KWF will be contacting with St. Mary's U - is that competitive with other firms?

A - No, St. Mary's is the only one already qualified in the state

They have been identified as the partner to work with in NHD

They are in their 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year of working with this data

Q - We need to invest in NHD. What is the outreach? Educate about NHD and NHD+?

A - Project time includes working with AHTWG, which is viewed as outreach

Have been working as a technical advisor to AHTWG

Keeping AHTWG up to date on what Kenai Peninsula is doing

Only 2 projects are being worked on in the state by FHPs - KPFHP and Mat-Su

Other agencies and other partnerships interested in hearing progress

Q - What is the status of the multi-state grant?

A - The newest multi-state grant was discussed at the last meeting - there is no money?

That discussion was about the newest multi-state grant

\$75K match coming from Phase 3 of the original multi-state grant

Currently spending that original grant money on Phase 2

Q - How would budget shortfall affect project?

A - This project is scale-able to any amount

Being worked on piece by piece

1 or all of the objectives could be achieved

To date Mat-Sue has spent \$700K, Kenai has spent \$200K

Kenai approaching at slower moving perspective

### **Investing in the Long Game: Planning for Management of Invasive Species on Land Trust Properties**

#### **Kachemak Heritage Land Trust - Marie McCarty**

#### **\$10,000 Requested ~ \$2,000 Match**

Land Trust is responsible for perpetual management of Peninsula properties

Project to review conservation easement and land portfolio

Want to review for existing language for long term management of invasive species

Them trying to implement best practices for invasive species

Will evaluate existing language for conservation easement and management plans

Have easements from 1991 to current - have management plans on all, but they are different

Want to standardize language for best practices in the future

Can't change current easement language but can suggest to private landowners best practices  
Outreach – sharing results of portfolio review with other Alaska land trusts

**Q** - Land has terrestrial invasives. KPFHP is more concerned with aquatic invasives?

**A** - Property language being evaluated is on Stariski, Anchor, Kenai and Soldotna Creek  
Portfolio review will involve all parts of property management and all invasives

**Q** - On easement lands, is KHLT responsible for invasive control?

**A** - That is responsibility of landowner

Understanding how best practices can be encouraged to landowner

New easements going forward will have new guidelines – can't change old ones

**Q** - Will any of this change the valuations of the easements?

**A** - All of the easements are donated or part of court settlements

**Q** - How would budget shortfall affect project?

**A** - Would likely choose fewer properties

Would choose either easement language or management plan language

Later follow-up questions...

**Q** - If new donors are required to manage invasives, would that change value of property?

**A** - It does matter on both purchased property and on the donation side

There is an appraisal on conservation easements

Not sure what that would be for cost

**Q** - Can the difference in appraisal values be reflected as match?

**A** - Can't rework new rules or language on prior lands

New draft of language would only be applicable on new easements

Management plans are on properties already owned

**Q** - Can give a dollar amount to the lost activities you can do on owned property for match?

**A** - Don't know

Appraisal might cost too much money

There are restrictions on the agreements/easements

Will look into it

## **Using environmental DNA to access and eradicate invasive species from the Kenai Peninsula**

**Kenai Watershed Forum – Edgar Guerron Orejuela**

**\$43,938 Requested ~ \$18,682 Match**

Don't want to rely on responsive management

Current surveying techniques are not quite effective

DNA is next big step in early detection, with quicker response

Project includes researching DNA markers for Northern Pike, Elodea & Waterweed

Waterweed not in Alaska YET

Can avoid expensive management costs by pre-empting with eDNA

Outreach includes finding eDNA field proof methods and writing protocols

Making "how to" videos – sampling method is very sensitive

Reach out to landowners with lakeside property

Long run plan to provide kits (video & sampling) to volunteers for assessment

**Q** - Where will the money for the evaluation of samples from volunteers come from?

**A** - It's included in the project requested funds

**Q** - How many samples can be processed with requested funding?

**A** - UAF lab is doing the analysis

They have already been involved in developing the eDNA for Pike

They have estimated \$100 per sample

**Q** - Timeline of notification for the submitted AKSSF RFP; possible additional \$340K match?

**A** - December

Dr. Westley is the P.I. for AKSSF grant, and he is partner in this project

**Q** - How would budget shortfall affect project?

**A** - Part of the project is do-able with less funds

Would not reach all systems desired

2016 field season will happen regardless – it's part of the match

It is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 field season project

### **Stream Watch: Making a Difference for Kenai Peninsula River Resiliency**

**Kenai Watershed Forum – Lisa Beranek**

**\$23,150 Requested ~ \$29,178 Match**

Volunteer driven stream restoration/outreach/education program

Volunteers from local/Anchorage/out of state/out of country train for Stream Watch

2015 Summer Statistics: 100+ volunteers

Removed 148 lbs of fishing line

Removed 1800 lbs of riverside debris

1400+ hours on debris removal

150 feet of erosion control completed

2 miles of fencing was installed/maintained/removed for healthy riparian protection

400 volunteer hours during maintenance portion

Leverage public land manager by filling in gaps for needed hands-on restoration

Specifics on upcoming projects tricky as projects are tackled as presented

Past projects have included erosion control and removing fish passage barriers

Outreach includes training volunteers to converse with the public on the river

Communicating: fishing regulations, river stewardship, bear safety, invasives, etc

Working to approach on-site as well as prior to arrival to in-water status

Contact with Cabelas and other organizations in efforts to inform before arrival

Increased presence on social media

Project covers portion of volunteer coordinator salary

Recruit volunteers, train, facilitate projects happening, field support

CAP – Targets 4 &7, of Freshwater CAP and 3 goals of strategic plan

**Q**- How does the timeline of the program relate to the funding cycle?

**A** - Another funding source will help fill the gap

KPFHP Funding available in July – works fine with timeline

**Q** - Is the bulk of the work on public lands?

**A** - Only one project has ever been done – in partnership with KHLT – on nonpublic land

Project done with property owned by KHLT

**Q** - How would budget shortfall affect project?

**A** - Would not be able to meet all of the deliverables with less funding

### **Stream Temperature Monitoring Network: 10 Year Assessment**

**Cook Inletkeeper – Sue Mauger**

**\$7,075 Requested ~ \$15,000 Match**

Five year assessment completed in 2012

Sue and KWF (with some EPSCoR funding) have keeping temperature sites going since

Possible because of data loggers available

Data loggers have 5-7 year life span – all are dying

Need money for loggers for use by CIK and KWF

10 sites would provide year round data

2 deployed in spring through summer, then replaced with 2 for winter season

Once pulled they are downloaded and checked for accuracy

Project would allow money for more loggers and to write a 10 year assessment

10 year assessment has captured new conditions from previous 5 years

**Q** - What is the technology of choice now? Tidbits?

**A** - Hasn't changed – still tidbits/hobo temploggers

New statewide minimum data standard they meet

It's what has been used from the beginning and works well

Only limitation - can not "stream" live – you must visit the site to pull logger

**Q** - How would budget shortfall affect project?

**A** - Less money would mean fewer loggers

This is an investment in 5 more years of data and 10 year update