



KPFHP Steering Committee Meeting January 21, 2026 10:00 am to 11:30 pm Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM

Attendance:

Sam L. – KPB River Center	Present	Jess. J – ADF&G	Present
Maura S. - USFWS	Present	Erika Ammann - NOAA	Absent
Dave A. - TU	Absent	Syverine Bentz - KBNERR	Present
Ben M - KWF	Absent		

Advisors: None

Guests: None

Opening Business

- None

Presentations

- None

Reports

- KPFHP Coordinator Report (Dodson)
 - New from the NFHP Board

Part 1 of the National Assessment is complete, the next part will be completed this year. In the past, NFHP has received a grant for this work. However, this year, the remaining \$125,000 needed to complete the work will not be coming from the grant...the money will need to come from FNHP's congressional allocation. Therefore, the amount of funds available to the partnership will be a bit less than before.

The Board will consider a proposal from the partnerships committee to increase the funding

available to coordination and operations from \$125,000 to \$200,000. At present, KPFHP requests \$85,000. If the partnership wanted to review and update the MCAP, we could warp the request for the the work into coordination and operations and contract with KBNERR (FY27). Upside to this would not require the match. We could also include Mat-Su into this project and make it a MCAP for Cook Inlet on a whole. Mat-Su doesn't have CAPs, utilize Strategic Plan and focus on Freshwater strategies. We will look at this closer in future meetings.

Old Business

- Partnership Meeting

Discussed logistics for Partnership Meeting in Homer. Syverine offered to help out the meeting, provide logistics support from Homer. At present, 20 folks have signed up, several more have indicated they will attend. We will have a handful to participating online, Syverine and other KBNERR staff will help out on the tech side.

Jess can also help since, she will be in town for a bit, can do an update on the revised restoration guide (short talk). Will also try to bring some copies.

Need two more speakers. Added ADF&G for Beaver Dam analog. We will also get CRRC onboard for discussion. KWF, KHLT will also present. Once we get the speakers lined up, we'll get the agenda out. KPB (River Center), updates on new codes affecting salmon habitat.

New Business

- None

Round Table

- Partner updates

Syverine Bentz – KBNERR

- Ben out on leave
- AKSSF project funded \$500k to work on estuarine gradients
 - Info could help inform Marine CAP
- Congress passed a budget for NERRs

Sam - KPB

- Working on budgets
- Gravel pit focus – lots of permits
- RFQ is out for KPFHP project

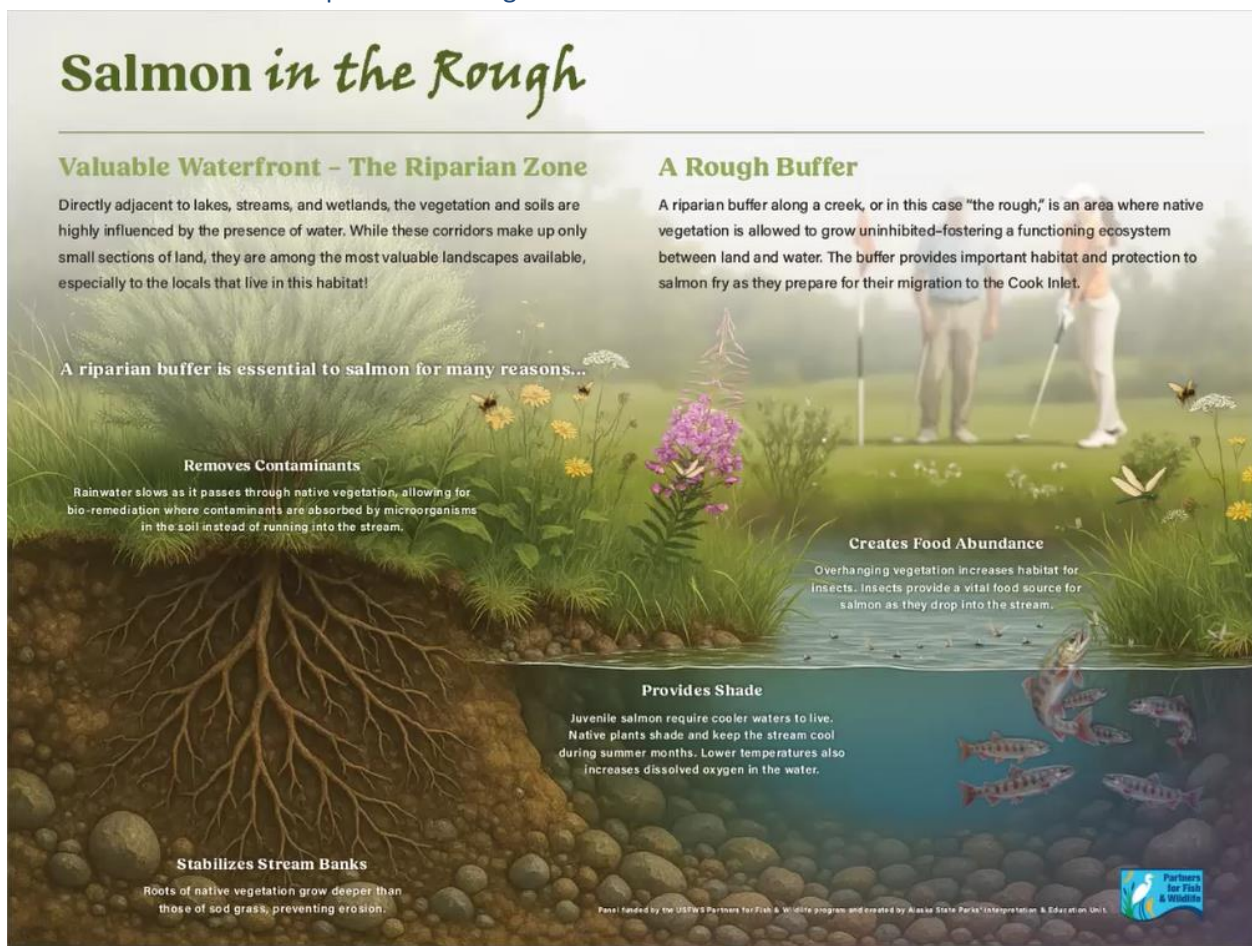
Jess – ADF&G

- AKSSF Grant for stream bank restoration on the Kenai
- Working with Sam on RFQs

- Working on planning for upcoming year
- Reviewing proposals
- Will chat with Maura on setting up the workshops timeline (First or Second full week of May is likely)

Maura – USFWS

- Budgets have been passed!
 - Working on coop agreements now vs June
- Working with Jess scoring projects for cost share program (Kenai and Kasilof rivers)
- Prunus working group
 - HSWCD and KPCISMA
 - Develop a strategic plan on Prunus control
 - Prunus monocultures have impact on food availability for juvenile salmon
 - Will give in a mention at Partnership Meeting
- Printing sign for the Kenai Golf Course to establish a buffer on their small salmon stream
 - Repaired the bridges that cross the stream



Steering Committee Members:Appointed Members

NOAA – Erika Ammann (Appointed 9/5/25)

USFWS – Maura Schumacher (Appointed 1/1/24)

ADFG – Jess Johnson (Appointed?)

Elected Members

KPB – Samantha Lopez (Elected?)

KWF – Benjamin Meyer (Elected?)

TU – Dave Atcheson (Elected 11/22/24)

KBNERR – Syverine Bentz (Elected 9/24/25)

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche

USFWS - Mike Daigneault

Next Meeting:

February 18, 2026

Upcoming Meetings/EventsJanuary

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – Anchorage -26-30

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting – Ridgedale, MO – 28-29

February

Alaska Forum – Anchorage – 2-6

KPFHP Partnership Meeting – Homer – 9

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