



**KPFHP Steering Committee Meeting
September 24, 2025 Minutes**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM

Attendance:

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

Advisors: Mike Daigneault

Guests: None

Opening Business

- New Steering Committee Members– Erika Ammann (NOAA) and Syverine Bentz (KBNERR)

With the resignation of Emily Mailman (NOAA) and Katherine Schake (KBERR) for the Steering Committee, Erika Ammann (NOAA) and Syverine Bentz KBNERR) will fill those vacant seats.

Presentations

- none

Reports

- KPFHP Coordinator Report (Dodson)
 - Coordinators' Workshop

Trent reviewed the recent Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators' Workshop held in Bloomington MN – September 16-17. It was a great event that allowed the coordinators from all over the country to share common challenges and solutions. Taking the information from the Workshop, the Alaska Coordinators will be getting together discuss

ways to improve each of their respective partnerships and opportunities to collaborate. Mike Daigneault has agreed to help facilitate these meetings.

Note: There are four Alaskan fish habitat partnerships and two with Alaska as a part of their region:

- Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
- Mat-Su Salmon Partnership
- Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (regional)
- Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
- Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
- Western Native Trout Initiative (regional)

Mike noted that there are a lot of new coordinators across the network and that he sensed a desire for them to connect more regularly to share resource and expertise. He also added that the board is now beginning to mature to the point where we will see more product and support for the partnerships from the board. One example is the resuscitation of Beyond the Pond (<https://beyondthepondusa.com/>), a non-profit arm that can fundraise for NFHP.

- NFHP Board Meeting

Mike discussed the operational model that the Intermountain West Joint Venture (<https://iwjv.org/>) has adopted. The coordinator, Dave Smith, gave a presentation to the NFHP board highlighting the success of the new process. In short, the JWJV decided that they achieve more conservation goals and impact far more habitat by concentrating all of their base funding to capacity instead of projects. In doing so they have grown from \$300,000 in annual funding to nearly \$5 million. Could this be a way forward for some of the FHPs.

Ben liked the idea of possibly supporting someone in a development role. He wondered if there was anything currently that would prevent the Partnership from pursuing those funds. At present there isn't anything that would preclude this. Mike noted that the board might need to alter to figure out how to evaluate the performance. So, there could be a few nuances that the board would have to consider. Trent noted that the IWJV would equate stats to people: i.e. x amount of habitat preserved because of this position.

Ben would like to keep this topic active on our future agendas. Trent noted that we would be discussing this at our Alaska Coordinator meetings.

Trent presented a few key elements for FHPs to note as NFHP undertakes its National Fish Habitat Action Plan – Third Edition.

- Engage the recreational fishing community in fish habitat conservation by ensuring that 75% of FHP steering committees have a recreational fishing organization representative on their steering committee by 2030.
 - We already fit this criterion – Trout Unlimited
- Each FHP (or multiple FHPs jointly) will host at least one meeting annually where partners and/or potential partners gather to discuss recent activities and discuss joint priorities for future efforts.
 - We already fit this criterion – Annual Partnership Meeting
- The Board's Communications Committee will develop an annual Communications Work Plan for the Board and FHPs by December 15 of each year and guidance/toolkit for use by FHPs by December 31, 2027. Each FHP will have a communications plan that incorporates the guidance and supports the Board's annual Communications Work Plan.
 - This is one we will need to work on with the Comms committee
- Each year, at least 25% of FHPs will host an event around a project or initiative where policymakers or regional conservation leaders are invited.
 - We could work this into our annual field trip or team-up with a partner org.; Our symposium could fill that bill as well.
 -
- Fish Habitat Partnerships will update their strategic plans no later than every ten years to identify priority conservation outcomes and develop strategies that influence fish habitat conservation work conducted by partners across the landscape.
 - Our strategic plan is older than 10 years, this fall/winter might be a good time to update it.

Also, of Note at the board meeting was the update on the National Fish Habitat Assessment. This assessment if required by NFHP to provide an evaluation on the condition of fish habitat across the country. The assessment will be complete for the contiguous US, by the end of the year. Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico will be completed in 2026. The information will be accessible to the FHPs. Mike pointed out that the data consistency is a challenge for this project.

- NFHP 20th Anniversary

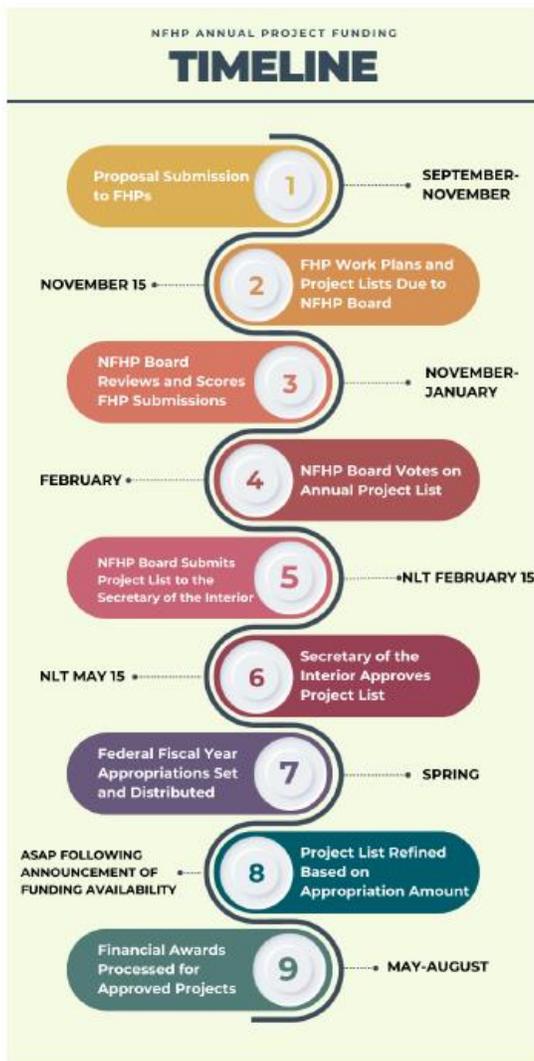
2026 marks the 20th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. NFHP will be rolling out Anniversary materials for the FHPs to utilize in the coming year. NFHP is also planning to hold a virtual event across all FHPs to celebrate the Anniversary. While, a date and time have not yet been determined, the NFHP communications committee is working on the agenda for the event as will be providing us with more info. As part of the 20th Anniversary, the American Fisheries

Society is providing NFHP room on the agenda at their Annual Meeting in Columbus OH. FHPs will put together a symposium to accomplishments over the past 20 years. In that vein, the Alaska Chapter of AFS will also provide a panel for the Alaska FHPs at the upcoming annual meeting in Fairbanks (March 2026)

Old Business

- New NFHP RFP Timeline

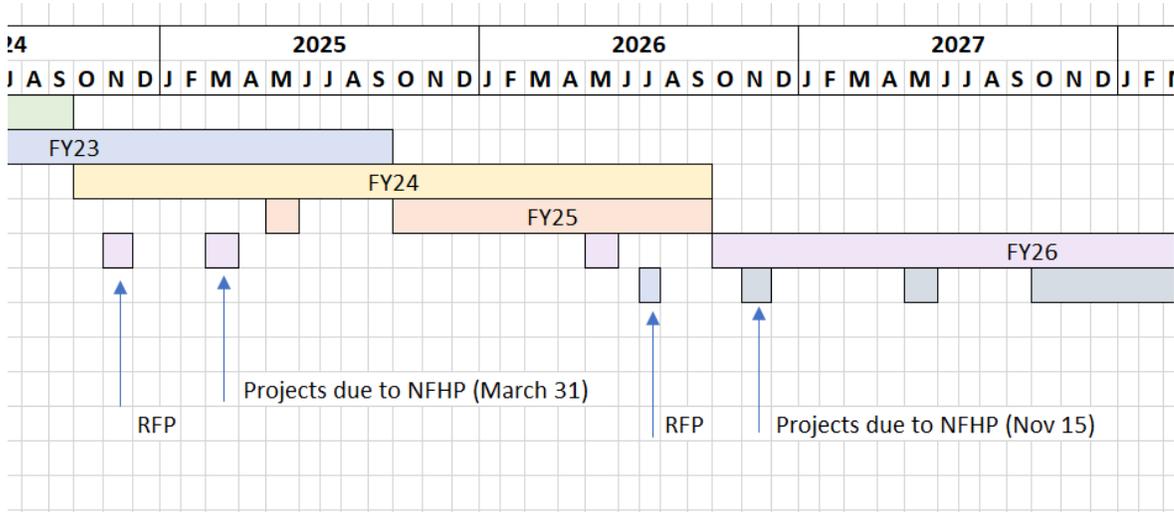
Trent reviewed the new project funding timeline for NFHP. Of note is that the date for FHPs to submit workplans and project lists was moved from March 31 to November 15.



New Business

- KPFHP RFP timeline discussion

Per the new NFHP timeline, we would need to move our RFP timeline. The Committee reviewed that current timeline with a proposed new time line.



In the new timeline, we will move our request from proposals from November (as seen in the FY26 funding time line – ink) to June (as seen in the FY27 funding time line – gray).

- Workplan Timeline

The Steering Committee reviewed the workplan timeline with the proposed RFP dates and deadlines. The committee will consider this timeline and discuss more at the October meeting.

Round Table

- Partner updates

Sam - KPB

- River Center has been working on a lot of compliance regarding the 50ft habitat buffer
- West District streams have been adopted per the update – effective Oct 1
- Next year the borough will update the Northern District
- Currently at the Floodplain managers meeting
 - AK is well ahead of the everyone else in floodplain management

Erika – NOAA

- Reviewing final round of tribal fish passage proposals – no word on funding at this time
- Excited to get back with the fish habitat partnerships

Syverine Bentz – KBNERR

- Wrapping up Salmon Watershed Stewardship projects – maximizing stewardship patriation and access
- New phase on fish habitat improvement project via beave dam analogs on Stariski Creek
- Lauren Sutton can be a good resource for the Marine CAP update and strategic plan update

Ben – KWF

- Completed our MOU for the Baseline Water Quality Monitoring project – 16 different signatories
- National Coastal Resilience Fund grant to work on expanding mapping anadromous habitat. Looking to design a predictive model on where this habitat could be occurring.
- Kenaitize received funds via KPFHP to expand the Water Quality project.
- Enjoyed the Fish Need Land Too field trip this summer – would like to do a similar event in the Central Peninsula in 2026

Maura – USFWS

- Beaver Dam Analog project for restoration project at the excavated Soldotna Creek Tributary EPA Violation.
 - 27 BDAs
 - Can give a short presentation at the next meeting
 - Also give SC a look at the project after the meeting
- CRRC applied for funding to remove some net pens from English Bay Lakes. The net pens are now removed.
- There are several banks that have been damaged this past summer with the increased traffic - would like to put together a working group to address this.
 - Will be out for a survey
 - Dave noted that Mayor Micciche was also looking to address this as well

Dave – TU

- Resurrection Creek tout earlier this week
- TU getting grant for invasive work in Tyonek
- Mat-Su site visit with Chickaloon tribe good turn out with officials – we should look to do the same
- TU film festival October 13, fundraiser for KP chapter

Jess – ADF&G

- Lot of good restoration projects this year
- Site visits this October
- Encourage folks to apply – seems to be a down turn in applications

- The new updated streambank guide is in the final design phase and hope to get printed copies by end of October. Limited run of printed copies, most will use the PDF.

Mike – USFWS

- Many projects in play, funding from last year supports this year’s projects
- Most habitat projects and funding seem to be supported on both sides of the aisle...outlook is positive

Steering Committee Members:

Appointed Members

NOAA – Erika Ammann (Appointed 9/5/2025)

USFWS – Maura Schumacher (Appointed 1/1/2024)

ADFG – Jess Johnson (Appointed?)

Elected Members

KPB – Samantha Lopez (Elected?)

KWF – Benjamin Meyer (Elected?)

TU – Dave Atcheson (Elected 11/22/24)

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche

USFWS - Mike Daigneault

Next Meeting:

October 15, 2025

Upcoming Meetings/Events

October

November

Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium – Palmer – 20-21

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