



Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee October 17, 2024 meeting minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:37PM (at the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, in Homer)

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members: Emily Mailman (NOAA), Jess Johnson (ADF&G), Ben Meyer (KWF), Alexa Millward (TU), Katherine Schake (KBNERR), Jillian Jablonski (USFS)

Advisors: Peter Michicce (KPB), Michael Daigneault (USFWS)

Absent: Sam Lopez (KRC – KPB), Maura Schumacher (USFWS)

Guests: Syverine Bentz (KBNERR), Dave Acheson (TU), Rosie Masui (KBNERR)

Approve Agenda

Emily asked to add dates/planning for the 2025 membership meeting. Added to new business

Opening Business

- AD HOC Committee to Review Policies and Procedures (Dodson)

Trent reviewed the discussion at the September meeting for the need to review and potentially update the KPFHP's Procedures and Policies (P&P). Katherine and Jillian volunteered to be part of the review team (Sam later volunteered via email). A google doc of the P&P will be distributed for the team to review. The team will target later October/Early November to have its first meeting.

- Partner Contacts (Dodson)

Trent is working on updating the primary contact list for our partners. Keeping this list updated is important, especially if we follow the P&P requiring partners to vote for Steering Committee members. The list will be distributed the committee to help fill in some of the holes and to confirm/correct the contact for their organization.

Reports

- KPFHP Coordinator Report (Dodson)

Trent discussed the recent FHP coordinators meeting. Most of the meeting's topics centered around updates for how coordinators should report/enter new projects (FY26). One topic of note was the NFHP's collaboration with the American Fisheries Society to produce a series of articles in *Fisheries* to highlight, not only NFHP, but all 20 individual FHPs. KPFHP will submit our draft article to NFHP staff by January 31, 2025.

Open Topics

- AK Instream Flow Regulations (Meyer)

Ben followed up our Instream Flow Regulation discussion from September with a draft letter that could be sent to DNR as comments on behalf of the KPFHP. Most committee members noted that the comments were well done and seemed to "thread the needle" between advocacy and simple presenting information.

Jess noted that, since ADF&G is prohibited from commenting on DNR's comment request, she would need to get approval from her supervisor to be able to agree to the letter.

Michael suggested that FHPs should steer away from acting as an advocacy group. If the committee can't come to an agreement about the letter, then each entity should make comments separately. He felt that voting was held mostly for internal decisions.

Katherine suggested that the letter should reference our Strategic Plan and Conservation Action Plans. She further noted that some partners can advocate to certain degrees, while others cannot. In that instance, the FHP was a good way to for those groups to speak on a subject they would otherwise not be able to.

Peter felt that the letter, as written, covered folks who can't comment.

Further comments on the letter will be forwarded to Ben by October 24th. ADF&G may have to abstain from the letter. We will need to see if that will help remove them from ownership.

New Business

- Dates/Planning for 2025 Membership Meeting (Mailman)

Emily noted that, with the Alaska Forum on the Environment occurring February 3-7 in 2025, we should look at holding our membership meeting the following week. We will plan to have our

membership meeting the week of February 10, 2025 and likely hold the meeting in the Soldotna/Kenai Area.

Over the next month we will set up a planning committee and begin preparations for the meeting.

- **FY26 RFP Updates and Timeline (Dodson)**

The FY26 RFP doesn't necessarily need to be changed/updated as far as the requirements from the NFP. If the Committee would like pursue a different course, we still have time to do that. Making substantial changes to the RPF, i.e. calling for proposals addressing specific projects determined by the committee, seemed to be something the committee would possibly peruse next year. but making the process open to all partners and for projects of their own design (still keeping with the KPFHP mission).

The committee decided to not require those who are submitting a proposal to "pitch" their idea to the committee (as was done for the FY25 proposals). Instead the committee decided to have a Q/A opportunity for submitters at the membership meeting (week of February 10, 2025). In light of that decision, we will push back the due date for the proposals to February 21, 2025.

We will send out an updated FRP documents for the committee to review prior to Nov 1. The RFP is generally released the second week of November (Target November 15).

- **KPFHP Social Media (Dodson)**

Trent noted that the Partnership currently does not utilize any social media platforms and suggested crating a few accounts (Facebook and Instagram). Several committee members acknowledged the advantages to having social media and the attributes of each platform. However, it was cautioned that keeping up with posts was important to stay relevant and that it could be difficult to keep up, especially if we are using several platforms.

Ben noted that there are several tools that allow one to post once and it will distribute the post to all of your social media accounts (ie www.buffer.com). The committee will ruminate on the pros and cons of having a social media presence and decide at the next meeting.

Round Table

- **Partner updates**
 - Jess (ADF&G) noted she will be on the Kenai Peninsula the week of October 21 scouting potential cost share sites
 - Alexa (TU) indicated that this would be her last meeting. She will be leaving TU at the end of the month. Her hope is that Dave Acheson would be able to take her seat as a TU representative.

- Note: The steering committee can select an individual to fill a vacated seat, no vote from the partnership is needed. Dave will submit a letter of interest...we can decide at the November meeting.
- Rosie (KBNERR) informed the group that info will be forthcoming for the Join Fish Habitat symposium in April. The conference will likely be held at the BP Center in Anchorage. Look for info links on the website.
- Katherine (KBNERR) let the group know that they are working on a data synthesis project on the marine environment (esp. Phytoplankton). Looking for input on how to best make the info accessible.
- Dave (TU) shared that Trout Unlimited (Alaska and Kenai Peninsula Chapter) has provided funding to Fish and Game to extend the operation of the weir on the Anchor River until the end of October.

Steering Committee Members:

Appointed Members

NOAA – Emily Mailman (Appointed 1/1/2024)

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

ADFG - Jess Johnson (Appointed?)

Elected Members

KPB – Samantha Lopez (Elected?)

USFS – Jillian Jablonski (Elected 4/26/2024?) in Ho

KWF – Benjamin Meyer (Elected?)

KBNERR – Katherine Schake (Elected?)

TU – Alexa Millward (Elected by SC 9/15/23, resigned 10/17/24)

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche

USFWS - Mike Daigneault

Next Meeting:

TBD, November 2024 (Seward)

Upcoming Meetings/Events

NFHP Board of Director's Meeting – November 6

NFHP FHP Coordinator's Meeting – November 13

Mat-Su Salmon Symposium – November 18-19

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