

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
February 15, 2013

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members present:

- USFWS - Neil Stichert, Meeting Chair and Steering Committee Co-chair
- Trout Unlimited - Mark Kaelke, Steering Committee Co-chair
- USFS – Sheila Jacobson
- ADF&G – Roger Harding and Jeff Nichols (alternate)
- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Jessica Kayser
- ADEC – Brock Tabor
- The Nature Conservancy – Dave Albert for Norman Cohen (Christine Woll, alternate)
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- CCTHITA: Raymond Paddock and Helene Bennett
- Yakutat City and Borough: Bill Lucey

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart
- Sitka Conservation Society: Scott Harris
- SAWC: Angie Eldred, communications coordinator
- USFWS NFHP Coordinator: David Wigglesworth

Welcome and Introductions – Neil provided welcoming comments and led introductions. Jess introduced Angie Eldred, SAWC's new communication and outreach coordinator. Angie shared a brief overview of some of the outreach efforts she will be working on over the next few weeks including a regional stakeholder database and SAWC newsletter.

Agenda and Meeting Objectives – Debbie provided a brief review of the agenda and outlined the main focus for the meeting which is to hear a report out from the SEAKFHP Science and Data working group with a recommendation to a request for SEAKFHP project endorsement from the USFS and The Nature Conservancy. In addition the following meeting topics were to be covered:

- *Share updates on the 2013 Spring Environmental Forum*
- *Share updates on the recently attended NFHP Organizational Development Workshop*
- *Share updates on SEAKFHP Logo/Website development*
- *Provide brief outlook to future meeting with Dave Albert regarding strategic planning and the use of a situation analysis tool planned for February 21st.*

SEAKFHP Science and Data Workgroup Update

Jeff provided an overview of a recent meeting held by the SEAKFHP Science and Data Workgroup which focused on review and response to a request by The Nature Conservancy and USFS-Tongass National Forest for endorsement by the SEAKFHP for a collaborative project entitled *Tongass Keystone Initiative* that will be considered for funding under the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grant. He also shared an update on the roles and responsibilities that the SEAKFHP Science and Data Workgroup developed to date and how these efforts guided recent review and discussion of this project endorsement request. (Note these roles and responsibilities are outlined in a framework document for the formal Science and Data Committee that were approved by the SEAKFHP Steering Committee via email as a follow-up action item from the committee's meeting in January. This document now resides on the SEAKFHP website). Jeff provided a written summary of the discussions and recommendations by the workgroup (attached for reference) and noted that the workgroup

recommends that this project be endorsed by the SEAKFHP given the evaluation described in the summary. He noted that the working group agreed that the project as a whole included strategic planning, participation from a diversity of stakeholders, and attempts to restore degraded fish habitat and populations/sustainability of salmonid species that are important for a variety of users in Southeast Alaska and closely aligns with efforts supported by the SEAKFHP.

ACTION ITEM: The committee reviewed the summary document, shared some brief discussion and unanimously agreed to endorse the project. Neil and Mark reviewed a draft SEAKFHP project endorsement letter and a signed copy was submitted to The Nature Conservancy and USFS.

2013 Spring Symposium Updates:

SEAKFHP, SAWC and CCTHITA representatives continue to meet to develop the agenda for the Spring 2013 Environmental Symposium. March 18-21 are the dates for the symposium with the 18th being a brownfield training day and the 21nd reserved for water quality training. Jess shared her recent outreach efforts with water quality trainers and potential trainers for the symposium. Brock offered his support for this training as well. The group spent time discussing regional needs for water quality training and the need for a larger discussion on the application and regional understanding of water quality standards.

ACTION ITEM – Jess will continue to work with Raymond, Helene, Neil, Debbie, and Brock to finalize a draft agenda to be shared via email with the SEAKFHP Steering Committee;

NFHP Organization Development Workshop Overview:

Neil, Cindy and Debbie provided overviews from the recently attended NFHP Organizational Development Workshop held in Portland, January 28-31st. Neil noted the strong participation by all FHPs and attendance by many NFHP Board members. He appreciated the linkages that occurred during the workshop noting they were especially helpful for the Alaska FHPs and with representatives from our adjacent FHPs WINTI and PMEP. Cindy gained a good understanding of those FHPs with coastal connections and made good contacts with the PMEP and other Alaska FHPs. She noted the strong fundraising presentations and follow-up materials provided. Debbie noted the strong focus on developing useful tools and outcomes from the workshop and will be posting summary documents to the SEAKFHP website.

ACTION ITEM – Debbie will post workshop summary materials to the SEAKFHP website.

SEAKFHP Strategic Planning Update:

Debbie provided a brief update on the SEAKFHP's strategic planning effort noting continued discussions with Dave Albert in utilizing the Conservation Action Planning method to help with the next step. Dave Albert will be presenting his thoughts on working with the group on a "Situational Analysis" to take a broad look at regional threats and appropriate strategies that may be adopted by the SEAKFHP in the form of specific goals and objectives over the next few years. This meeting is scheduled for February 21st.

SEAKFHP Web Site:

The SEAKFHP web site is now live. Debbie continues to upload and transfer archive materials and other website content. At a future meeting Debbie will navigate the web site with the Steering Committee and solicit comments for improved archiving and organizational structure of the site pending review from committee members.

ACTION ITEM – Debbie will request website input from Steering Committee members.

Action Items:

- The SEAKFHP Steering Committee reviewed the SEAKFHP Science and Data Workgroup summary document and unanimously agreed to endorse the USFS/TNC

collaborative project: Tongass Keystone Initiative. Neil and Mark reviewed a draft SEAKFHP project endorsement letter and a signed copy was submitted to The Nature Conservancy and USFS.

- Jess will continue to work with Raymond, Helene, Neil, Debbie, and Brock to finalize a draft agenda for the restoration session of the 2013 Environmental Forum to be shared via email with the SEAKFHP Steering Committee
- Debbie will post the NFHP “Excellence” workshop summary materials on the SEAKFHP website.
- Debbie will request SEAKFHP website input from Steering Committee members.

Outlook to future SEAKFHP meetings and tasks:

- **Upcoming Dates**
 - SEAKFHP Strategic Planning meeting – February 21st
 - NOAA Restoration Grant Application Due – February 19, 2013
 - SAWC/CCITA/SEAKFHP – Watershed Forum Spring 2013 – March 18-21
 - 2013 NFHP Board Meetings – June 25-26, October 21-25
 - 2013 WAFWA Summer Meeting – July 19-24
- **Parking Lot Items**
 - Future discussion needed on advocacy
 - Future discussion needed on SEAKFHP forest component role
 - Future discussion needed on the overlaps between upland restoration and riparian/in-stream projects. Should SEAKFHP integrate or segregate its focus?
 - Future discussion needed on how SEAKFHP will approach transboundary issues
 - Future discussion needed on how SEAKFHP may support smaller conservation groups compete for available funding in light of administrative/grant requirements
 - Future guest presenters:
 - Shorezone Partnership