

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
May 15, 2014

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
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- SEAKFHP At-Large Member – K Koski

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members Absent:

- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Brad Ryan
- Yakutat City and Borough: Bill Lucey (seat in transition)
- ADEC – Brock Tabor
- CCTHITA: Raymond Paddock

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart
- USFWS NFHP Coordinator: David Wigglesworth

Welcome and Introductions – Neil provided welcoming comments and noted that the focus for this meeting is a working meeting of the committee to refine the 2014/15 work plan.

Agenda and Meeting Objectives – Debbie provided a brief review of the agenda and outlined the following meeting objectives:

- Discuss and plan for the SEAKFHP Municipal Seat vacancy
- Discuss the upcoming AKSSF- Regional project/coordination meeting planned for May 19th
- Review progress to date on the 2014 AFS/AWRA Alaska Chapter Symposium
- Review the updated 2014/15 draft Work Plan and discuss prioritization

SEAKFHP Partner Updates

In a round robin fashion attending meeting participants shared updates from their organization including upcoming summer field season plans.

- Sheila shared USFS restoration project plans for the summer, including site visit plans for the fish passage stream simulation project, Sheila will send a site visit schedule to interested partners. Large scale scoping is beginning for work on Kruzoff Island near Sitka and work in Luck is on hold as a new implementation strategy and monitoring plan are being developed.
- Roger provided a brief update on statewide FHP efforts and an update on the NFHAP legislation making progress in Congress noting this may now be included as part of a larger sportsmen's bill.
- Mark shared an update on TU activities noting their recent work to elevate awareness of transboundary mining issues along the Canadian border. Working with other partners Wade Davis of National Geographic provided an insightful presentation on similar issues faced by the tribal communities in BC along the Nass, Skeena and Stikine watersheds. A summary can be found here: http://juneauempire.com/outdoors/2014-05-16/gold-fever-ails-alaska-borders#.U36Tx_k7uM6

- Neil shared work USFWS completed recently with the Takshanuk Watershed Council on Canary Creek in Haines and noted upcoming summer culvert work will take place in Holis. He also noted the efforts DOT is progressing on to mitigate for the Haines Highway – which will include 32 culverts and 20 miles of wetland mitigation.
- Cindy noted NOAA's participation in the Haines Highway work, EFH work on Kuiu Island and continued mapping efforts for ShoreZone
- Debbie shared an update on the 2014 NFHP Waters to Watch Campaign, noting the inclusion of the Twelvemile Creek Watershed project – details can be found on the NFHP website: <http://fishhabitat.org/content/twelvemile-creek-watershed-alaska> . Debbie also reported out on the recent presentation given as part of the Raincountry Flyfishers meeting and noted the recent interest by USFWS/Oregon State University colleagues on providing a workshop on the use of beavers as restoration tools for improved fish habitat (possible date for a Juneau workshop is November 20th).

SEAKFHP Municipal Seat Update

Bill Lucey is taking a job in Kauai doing invasive species work and will be leaving Yakutat in early June. Neil will check with Ronda Coston, CBY Planner to discuss continuation of CBY participation on the SEAKFHP municipal seat.

Upcoming AKSSF Regional Planning Teleconference

Debbie noted that SEAKHFP will host a regional discussion of potential project proposers on Monday, May 19th regarding projects for submittal to the AKSSF open call for proposals.

SEAKFHP 2014/15 Work Plan:

The group reviewed the current SEAKFHP 2014/15 draft work plan and prioritization outline and discussed various activities in greater detail. The group will review the current draft and share any additional items in time for plan to be finalized during the next meeting which will take place June 3rd.

Action Items:

- Neil to contact Ronda Coston at CBY
- Debbie to route updated work plan to Steering Committee for final input
- Debbie to send K and Cindy invite for next Coast FHP teleconference

Outlook to future SEAKFHP meetings and tasks:

- **Upcoming Dates**
 - SEAKFHP Steering Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 3rd 10am -12noon
 - SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee – tentative, late June depending upon project endorsement application requests
 - 2014 NFHP Board Meetings – June 25-26, November 5-6
 - 2014 AFS/AWRA Conference – Juneau, October 20-24
 - 2014 Restore America's Estuaries Conference – Washington DC, November 1-6
 - 2014 AKSSF Call for proposals – due 12noon July 16