

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership  
Steering Committee Meeting Summary  
March 5, 2015

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members present:

- USFWS - Neil Stichert, Meeting Chair and Steering Committee Co-chair and John Hudson
- Trout Unlimited - Mark Kaelke, Steering Committee Co-chair
- ADF&G – Roger Harding; Jeff Nichols
- The Nature Conservancy – Norm Cohen and Christine Woll
- USFS – Sheila Jacobson and Julianne Thompson
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Brad Ryan, Meredith Pochardt
- ADEC – Gretchen Pikul
- Yakutat City and Borough: Rhonda Coston
- CCTHITA: Jessica Gill, Sitka Tribe of Alaska

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members Absent:

- At-Large Seat: Vacant

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart
- Scott Harris, Sitka Conservation Society
- Peter Chaillé, Tatoosh School
- Sarah Campen, Tongass Collaborative Stewardship Group
- Megan McPhee, UAF SFOS
- Guy Archibald, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC)

Welcome and Introductions – Neil provided welcoming comments, provided introductions for guests and noted that partnership is beginning a new phase, one less focused on operations and more on collaborative projects. Part of which is to invite guest contributors to speak on topics of interest to the partnership, such as the presentation to be shared today by Guy Archibald from SEACC

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

- Guest speaker – Guy Archibald, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council – Mining and Clean Water Program Manager – Update on water quality monitoring efforts in transboundary rivers in Southeast Alaska
- Partner Updates
- Steering Committee Seats - Update on Municipal Seat and selection of At-large Seat\*
- Upcoming Meeting Notice:
  - Forestry Fishery Forum with the Board of Forestry – Juneau, March 23rd\*
  - Beavers as restoration tool Workshop – Juneau, April 14th
  - RiverRAT: River Restoration and Analysis Tools – Juneau, April 15th
- 2015 Work Plan with outlook to 2016 – review and input
- NFHP Evaluation – due March 31st
- Upcoming funding calendar- AKSSF, others
- Partner Project Inventory Update

### Guest Speaker

Guy Archibald, Mining and Clean Water Program Manager for the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council provided an update on regional efforts to perform water quality monitoring efforts in transboundary rivers in Southeast Alaska. Points covered include:

- BIA IGAP program grant submitted (2 phases, would like to have support from SEAKFHP S&D Committee to review phase 2 submittal; **action item: Debbie will work with Guy to identify appropriate time to convene a SEAKFHP S&D committee meeting to review monitoring plan and provide input to phase 2 grant submittal. Phase 2 proposal due in July.**)
- Northern Fund grant – possible opportunity
- Working with other stakeholders to outreach to Alaska State Governors Office
- Working with EPA Region 10 on public comment options and other plans for monitoring
- Monitoring plan components:
  - Ambient water quality baseline data information collection – 5yr study
  - Estimated cost is ~\$200,000
  - Data collection to occur in three river systems, Unik, Stikine and Taku (with Unik identified as priority)
  - Looking for partners to support transportation and other data collection needs

### SEAKFHP Partner Updates

In a round robin fashion attending meeting participants shared updates from their organization including summer field season efforts:

- USFS – Sheila and Julianne shared partner updates for the USFS:
  - Monitoring reports for the Tongass, including 12-Mile are available (Debbie will route to group)
  - A decision on work in Luck may be made by April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Restoration work planned for Staney Creek and the NEPA process is underway for Shelikof
  - Plans are underway to solicit stakeholder involvement in the USFS Watershed Condition Assessment to be completed in 2016, look for more information coming soon on this
  - Work continues on the Forest Plan amendment, public comment is expected in August
- SAWC – Brad shared the partner update for SAWC:
  - Pursuing partner support for water quality and reservations of water rights for project areas near Haines, SAWC seeking fiscal sponsor for AKSSF grant
  - Applying to the NFF CLSF Grant for restoration focused training workshop on Prince of Wales, will include an in lieu fee component
- Tatoosh School – Peter shared a partner update for the Tatoosh School:
  - The school recently partnered with Southeast Conference on providing dedicated scholarships for SE AK based students
  - Beginning this summer the school will begin a new program called Leading Through Change
- Sitka Tribe – Jessica shared an update on projects underway by the Sitka Tribe:
  - Harmful algal bloom monitoring program underway
  - Herring Festival to take place in Sitka with many events kicking off in late March
- DEC – Gretchen shared an update from DEC:
  - Busy with ACWA grant proposal reviews
  - Working on Beach grants in Wrangell and Kenai, ACWA grants in Haines (snow management plan) and Skagway (rain garden project at Pullen Creek), a TMDL in Hawk Inlet (historic ore spill at the Greens Creek loading dock), and a revised TMDL at Granite Creek, Sitka
- TNC – Norm and Christine shared partner updates for TNC:

- Collaborative work with Sealaska and USFWS on dam removal project on Rose Creek on Dall Island
- Plans to work with USFS this summer on Staney Creek restoration efforts
- Looking for match funding to help support work on Kruzof
- Conducting community monitoring in Kaasan, including AWC and stream habitat mapping work
- Continuing retrospective analysis work on Klawock Lake, anticipate final draft before summer (perhaps late April)
- USFWS – Neil and John shared partner updates from USFWS:
  - Continue to support SAWC's efforts to develop the final instrument for the SE AK Mitigation Fund
  - Shared program updates with UAS ANSEP students (14 undergrads, Keith Cox is the program contact)
  - 4 fish passage design completed, working to complete design on Picnic Cove at Lena Pt. in Juneau
  - Working on storm water analysis for lower Jordan Creek, partnering with CCHITA and CBJ
- NOAA – Cindy shared the partner update for NOAA:
  - Linda Shaw is working on invasive species section of Western Regional Plan
  - Kachemak Bay is Alaska region selected for the Habitat Blueprint Program
- ADF&G – Roger and Jeff shared updates for ADF&G:
  - Board of Fish is underway in Sitka
  - Anticipate working on 17-18 monitoring projects across SE this summer
  - Will engage a number of technicians and student interns
- TU – Mark shared an update from TU:
  - Currently staff are working on outreach efforts on Tongass 77 with key stakeholders in Washington state

#### SEAKFHP Steering Committee Seats:

- Municipal Seat Update: City and Borough of Yakutat was retained in the open municipal seat; Rhonda Coston will be the lead contact. **Action Item: Teri Camery from the City and Borough of Juneau is also interested in participating more directly with the SEAKFHP, she returns in April and Debbie will work with Rhonda and Teri on ways the two may support each other and needs of municipal entities in the region.**
- At-Large Seat Update. Three nominations were received for the open At-large seat, these include: Chuck Caldwell, private citizen; Megan McPhee, Fisheries Asst. Professor at UAF, SFOS; and Michele Metz, Lands Manager at Sealaska. The SEAKFHP SC discussed various options for selecting a nominee to the open At-large seat. Discussion also included options to broaden the current SEAKFHP bylaws and number of seats to accommodate placement of each of these entities on to the SEAKFHP Steering Committee. The group decided to table further decision on the open seat until they could vet other options more thoroughly. **Action Item: Debbie will share a selection of additional SC seat options that the SEAKFHP SC can consider between now and the next SC meeting. Debbie will also contact each of the nominees and provide an overview of the discussion held on this topic.**

#### Regional Meeting Updates

- Debbie shared an overview of the Forestry Fisheries Forum planned as part of the meeting of the Board of Forestry on March 23<sup>rd</sup> including a panel of 2014 AFS Fishery/Forestry session presenters. **Action Item: SEAKFHP members are encouraged to participate, Debbie will work with others to create an archive of forestry/fish habitat related reports on the SEAKFHP website**

- USFWS staff in conjunction with Portland State University are hosting two training opportunities in Juneau in April: Beavers as restoration tool Workshop – Juneau, April 14th /RiverRAT: River Restoration and Analysis Tools – Juneau, April 15<sup>th</sup> **Registration is open for both, contact Debbie for more details.**

#### SEAKFHP 2015/16 Work Plan and Strategic Action Plan:

Due to meeting time constraints the group agreed to review the action plan via email between now and the May meeting. **Action Item: Debbie will send the work plan draft around one more time requesting additions and look to the May meeting for formal adoption.**

#### SEAKFHP Partner Project Spreadsheet

Jeff shared a brief update on the developing SEAKFHP Partner Project Spreadsheet and noted incorporation of additional feedback by DEC and USFS folks. The next step will be to assess the best mechanism for getting other partner input (online version for access by other partner members). **Action Item: Jeff will continue to spearhead review of the spreadsheet and coordinate additional partner project input. Debbie will explore online archive/input options.**

#### Action Items:

- Debbie will work with Guy Archibald, at SEACC, to identify appropriate time to convene a SEAKFHP S&D committee meeting to review transboundary river baseline water quality assessment monitoring plan and provide input to phase 2 of the BIA IGAP grant submittal. Phase 2 proposal due in July.
- Debbie and Rhonda will work with Teri Camery for ideas on ways to support the municipal interests in the region and coordinate those with the SEAKFHP SC.
- No action was taken on the open At-Large Seat. Debbie will share a selection of additional SC seat options that the SEAKFHP SC can consider between now and the next SC meeting. Debbie will also contact each of the At-large seat nominees and provide an overview of the discussion held on this topic.
- The Forestry Fisheries Forum is planned as part of the meeting of the Board of Forestry on the afternoon of March 23<sup>rd</sup> including a panel of 2014 AFS Fishery/Forestry session presenters. SEAKFHP members are encouraged to participate. Debbie will work on an archive of forestry/fish habitat related reports on the SEAKFHP website.
- The SEAKFHP 2015 Work Plan is available for review and partner input. Debbie will route the action plan to all partners for input.
- The SEAKFHP Partner Project Spreadsheet continues to make progress. Jeff will spearhead review of the spreadsheet and coordinate additional partner project input. Debbie will explore online archive/input options.

#### Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:30-5:00pm Forestry Fisheries Forum presentation and group discussion on Forestry/Fish Habitat related topics
- Late March/early April – SEAKFHP S&D Committee meeting on transboundary river water quality baseline monitoring plan (TBD)
- April 14<sup>th</sup> Beavers as restoration tool Workshop – Juneau
- April 15<sup>th</sup> RiverRAT: River Restoration and Analysis Tools – Juneau
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Next SEAKFHP SC Meeting (tentatively at the ADF&G Conference Room)
- May 20-22 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Native American Fish and Wildlife Society National Conference
- August 16-20, 2015 National American Fisheries Society Conference (Portland, OR)
- Additional scheduled 2015 SEAKFHP SC Meetings:
  - Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 12:00; DEC Water conference room on the 2nd floor
  - Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 – 12:00; NOAA Conference Room
  - Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 12:00; USFWS Conference Room