

Science and Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Van Hare, Emily Seigel, Bob Pagliuco, Anne Elston, Neal Scheraga, Holly Eddinger.

Absent: Gena Lasko, Sandi Jacobsen, Tim Loux, Mark Guard, Andrew Hampton.

12/13 Agenda

- Overview of National Barrier Prioritization Tool (Kat from SARP)
- Assessment of Meeting Frequency, Duration and Platform. I will ask committee members to send me a list of their standing meetings, with the goal of transitioning to standing meeting times. (Holly)
- Discussion of upcoming RFP technical reviews (Holly)
- Report back from Interagency Fish Passage Workshop in Charleston. (Holly)
- Update on PAD, if any (Anne)
- Update on FISHPass, if any (Van)
- Outreach Calendar overview

12/13 Meeting Minutes:

Overview of National Barrier Prioritization Tool (Kat from SARP)

Kat Gave an overview of the National Barrier Inventory and Prioritization tool to the Science and Data Committee. The recording is available on the Forum Website.

Overview includes the inventory and prioritization features of the tool, information on data incorporated in California and status of incorporating the Fish Habitat base layer.

- Question: Is this available now?
- Answer: Yes, soon to be publicly available after recent update. The staging server is available to partners (That's us) at: <https://staging.aquaticbarriers.org/>
- Question: What Data goes into the Tool in California?
- Answer: The USGS has a road crossing database that is by itself (does not factor into generating prioritizations). That is what creates the high numbers of "potential road-stream barriers". The PAD is the other source of barriers/dams for California. Other states have different data sources based on the context of their barriers. The PAD has more varied barrier types than is currently reflected in the Tool. NHD water bodies and rivers are assessed for the whole country. This is easier for the southeast where there are few natural lakes. Dam does not go into the database unless it has been hand verified by arial view, using various channels such as the Low head dam task force. In California, there is not a lot of work because we must build these verification channels.
- Question: What's the status of the Baseline fish habitat layer?

- Answer: Brendan Ward transferred baseline fish habitat layer into data used for the tool. Barring major updates to the layer, there are not current plans for regular maintenance updates the same way there is with PAD data (quarterly updates)
- Question: Will the baseline fish habitat layer be a visual component of the tool?
- Answer: No, the plan is to have that as a filter and use that to generate metrics of habitat, for prioritization as to how much natural habitat is opened because of remediation.
- Question: Lidar models that generate huge numbers of potential barriers can have low reliability when ground truth-ed. How is the National Tool approaching this?
- Answer: Verifying via Lidar is only done in a small portion of the county where there is capacity for QA/QC. Not done in California.
- Question: In California, we have a lot of partial barriers and temporal barriers, such as fishways. How does the tool handle degrees of passibility?
- Answer: The tool currently treats complete barriers and partial barriers similarly in terms of mapping disruption to a waterway. We need to have a future conversation to determine the value of including more barrier types, and factoring degree of barriers, nature conservancy in the Chesapeake does a percentage of possibility above a certain point, which may be complicated to adopt on a wider scale. Conversation for our next meeting.

Suggestion: baseline fish habitat layers should have an attached date of update, like the PAD data does.

Van requests a copy of the higher resolution baseline fish habitat layer that Brendan transferred to the tool. Kat: Yes, we will get you that.

- Question for the Forum: Can we use the tool to focus on what barriers should be assessed? Is there a plan to use stream crossings from USGS as an option to identify barriers to be assessed?
- Answer: Let's chat with Anne and Neal to see if these data can be helpful to the PAD Plan.

Thanks to Kat for her time, looking forward to future collaboration. Kat leaves the meeting.

Assessment of Meeting Frequency, Duration and Platform.

Holly asked committee members to send me a list of their standing meetings, with the goal of transitioning to standing meeting times.

Send your meeting schedule to me via email. The Governance Committee has already done this.

How often should we meet?

- Frequency and engagement in meetings creates either a positive or negative feedback loop. If we don't meet, we won't be finding reasons to meet. If we meet regularly, we will end up finding more things to discuss and work on and have better ability to work towards those tasks.

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- Historically meetings have been 1x/month for an hour, more often during work on FISHPass. General favor is no more frequent than this, and option to have short (updates/check-in) meetings in slow seasons.
- Holly will try to get all Committee meetings close together (same day/week) with Governance Committee being last to allow us to report out to them.
- Holly moving all meetings to Zoom.

Discussion of upcoming RFP technical reviews

- RFP is open until January 19th. Will send out email for reviewers, please consider volunteering to review. The period to review and score projects is 2 weeks.

Report back from Interagency Fish Passage Workshop in Charleston

- The NFHP Board has voted to increase the availability of operations funding from 85k to 120k. The Forum will have to decide what to do with this funding. Options include outreach events, or assessments, or strengthening the options/presentation of a “packet” of resources to practitioners, with the forum acting as a service-center hub to help practitioners throughout the project process.
 - Question from Van: Wouldn't assessments be better funded as a project submitted to NFHP? Answer: Yes ideally, but sometimes it is hard to find the non-federal match for assessments. Projects submitted to NFHP all need 1:1 match. Using our “discretionary” funding on this relaxes that match requirement.
- Sandi should catch up on the S&D committee at a future meeting about the prospectus to support a statewide effectiveness assessment of roughened channels/fishways. This has so far been a discussion in the Ad-Hoc Policy and Permitting Committee, along with the idea of a survey of the effectiveness of streamlined permitting pathways in partnership with SusCon.
- Anne mentioned having channels for Committees to update each other would be good. All in agreement. Ideally, this would take the form of the Steering Committee Meetings. Historically those meetings being a full day in-person may make it harder to have frequent periodic updates. Holly suggests having some steering committee meetings as shorter, virtual meetings (2-3 hours virtual, every other meeting?). Will pitch this to GovCom in the new year.

PAD Updates:

- Neal finished QA/QC of region 2, (Go Neal- Kudos!). Anne to review. Next is starting on Region 1. Region 1 is being split into coastal and inland.
- They are working on a presentation for CDFW Anadromous program.
- Next Step is regional webinar for region 2, and expert review of region 3. In the new year, Holly to connect with Anne and start process.
 - Build contact list for webinar.
 - Ask contacts to self-identify their watershed.
 - Decide on Time and Platform (Holly recommends Zoom Webinar)
 - Send invite out for Webinar

- Use facilitation tools to focus Q&A and discussion to be most valuable to restoration practitioners without limiting the scope of participants.

Update on FISHPass

- None. Forum as a whole needs to decide what to do with FISHPass.

Outreach Calendar

- Van asks, is anyone at the Forum going to the Salmonid Restoration Conference?
 - Great Question! Holly S has not heard of anyone at the Forum going to the conference, though we should most certainly have presence there. This is a perfect use of the Forum outreach calendar. Forum website/Intranet/Outreach Files.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tZQ9SJV0sj40CxgL_T6MSG6vF3ZUwgBWmEop81JMmHQ/edit?userstoinvite=vchare@gmail.com&sharingaction=manageaccess&role=writer#gid=0

Meeting Adjourned.

Action Items 12/13

- Holly to send out 1) meeting notes and reminder to send schedules to Holly 2) request for project reviewers 3) email about outreach calendar.