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July 20, 2022

Katherine Brown
USEPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Hello Katherine,

Since the year 2000 Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) has led efforts to monitor, maintain, and improve water quality in the Kenai River. We rely on partnerships with many entities including state, federal, municipal, tribal, and non-profit organizations to make these efforts successful. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to renew collaboration with Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) on this project as well as begin more formal collaboration with Salamatof Native Association (SNA).

Details of our collaborations with Kenaitze and Salamatof continue to evolve, and a first step is reviewing the project Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to ensure it meets required standards, and is appropriately detailed for collaboration with tribal organizations. KWF is currently in the process of applying technical updates throughout the QAPP to reflect current standards and techniques, guided by the local Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation office and the USEPA Quality Assurance Project Plan Development Tool¹. The current draft reflects several requests made by EPA specific to collaborating with Kenaitze and Salamatof. The final draft will include additional updates related to field collection techniques and data management. Details are listed in the attached addendum to this memo.

The opportunity to formalize our collaboration with local tribal organizations is among this project's most meaningful and valuable mileposts. We look forward to continuing to provide important environmental data to our community. For the most current news on KWF's water quality monitoring efforts, see the "Latest News" section on the water quality section of our website².

Thank you for your assistance and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Meyer'.

Benjamin Meyer, Water Quality Coordinator
hydrology@kenaiwatershed.org
(907) 232-0280

CC: Moses Jordan, Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Yvonne Weber, Salamatof Native Association

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/quality/quality-assurance-project-plan-development-tool>

² <https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/science-in-action/research-information/water-quality/>



Addendum to memo to Katherine Brown from Kenai Watershed Forum, July 20, 2022

The following list reflects the both currently in progress and completed to the “Kenai River Water Quality Multi-Agency Baseline QAPP.” Completed items have a checkmark, while items in progress have a bullet point.

Updates Requested by EPA to QAPP

- ✓ Add Kenaitze Indian Tribe and Salamatof Native Association and EPA to the distribution list
- ✓ Add Kenaitze and Salamatof Environmental Programs to Field Monitoring staff pool/agencies that receive training
- ✓ Add KIT to pre-public notification if results exceed Water Quality Standards
- Have KIT collect samples at nearby or additional site(s)?
 - *Response: this potential addition would best benefit from completing the review of existing water quality results 2000 - present, then choosing where additional sampling sites would be best located if deemed necessary. Data review is anticipated to be complete by Spring 2023.*
- Resume temperature monitoring element?
 - *Response: local scientists have expressed a strong need for water temperature monitoring beyond the few currently existing sites. The process of choosing which monitoring locations to include will require additional discussion and planning to execute. We look forward to these conversations in Fall 2022.*

KWF Technical Updates Currently in Progress

**Note that some technical updates are currently reflected in the draft QAPP, while others are still in the editing process. The most current draft QAPP document may be accessed with the “download” button at https://bit.ly/draft_qapp_2022.*

- ✓ Modify field collection SOP to reflect that sample filtration for dissolved metals sample will be performed in the laboratory rather than in the field by sampling crews
- ✓ Update fieldwork SOP to most current version (July 2022)
- Transition data management SOP to use the Ambient Water Quality Management System (AQWMS) (<https://www.awqms.com/>)
- Remove language specific to a previously concluded project (2019-2020) that focused on collecting copper and zinc data specifically
- Outline in greater detail steps of action if some results do not fully meet QA/QC standards (e.g. results from duplicate samples > 20% relative percent difference; others)
- Finalize list of references
- Update software descriptions of Hydrolab / Minisonde calibration from Hyperterminal to Hydras
- Remove Winkler method for measuring dissolved oxygen



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- Full revision and expansion of section A6 for clarification
- Miscellaneous copyediting and formatting improvements