

National Fish Habitat Board
Minutes of September 22, 2006 inaugural meeting
Snowmass, Colorado

Welcome and Introductions

On behalf of the Executive Leadership Team, John Cooper opened the inaugural meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) by introducing himself and asking all board members and attendees to introduce themselves. John indicated he would conduct the meeting until the Board selects a Chair

National Fish Habitat Action Plan Overview and Updates on NFHAP Key Components

The history of the National Fish Habitat Initiative and the resulting *National Fish Habitat Action Plan* that led to formation of the Board was presented and followed by National Fish Habitat Initiative Committee reports.

- Science and Data Team – The team is developing a set of indices that will be used to assess the condition of fish habitat at all spatial scales. A number of reports are scheduled to be completed between 2007 and 2010. Board members discussed the need for interim objectives and priorities to guide implementation of the Action Plan until the science and data effort is completed.

ACTION: The Board will have additional discussions at a future meeting on what the Board needs from the Science and Data Team, particularly with respect to developing interim goals and priorities. The Board also will discuss the efficacy of existing partnerships to help ensure that future successes are achieved and that lessons are applied to formation of new partnerships.

- Federal Caucus and Update on Executive Order – The Federal Caucus currently has 19 member agencies. A strategies and resources document has been written, and a draft Executive Order has been developed.

ACTION: The Board will consider holding its next meeting in conjunction with the senior-level Federal Caucus.

- Communications Recommendations- The Communications Team presented recommendations and a communications strategy. Recommendations included hiring a full-time communications expert.

ACTION: The Board decided to table this discussion item and address all staffing needs as one issue.

- Partners Coalition- Over 1200 individuals have signed up representing 506 organizations.

ACTION: Board members were asked to take affirmative action to encourage new partners to join.

- Strategy for Future Legislation - Draft legislation is being developed. Discussion centered on getting an authorization in place as soon as possible to take advantage of support in the current administration.
- FY06 and future Funding and Projects – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed its NFHAP funding history and activities. FY06 funds supported projects identified by five pilot NFHAP partnerships around the

country. FWS is currently developing guidance on the use of \$3 million requested by the Administration for FY 2007.

ACTION: The Board asked the Service to share the guidance with the Board for review prior to implementation.

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, and ESPN are all involved in fundraising for NFHAP through the More Fish campaign. The Board emphasized its desire to be kept apprised of and participate in all funding related strategies and prioritization for all sources of pending and future National Fish Habitat Action related funds.

ACTION: In a future meeting, the Board will discuss how partners with NFHAP-related funding link up with the Board.

Board Charter and related Board Operations

The Board reviewed and modified the draft charter.

ACTION: Gary Meyers moved that the revised Charter be adopted by consensus. John Cooper asked for consensus or objection. Charter adopted by consensus.

ACTION: The Board agreed to a phased-in approach for staff support. For the next 6-9 months, the Board will have at its disposal a 3 1/2 person contingent consistent with the Action Plan intent for leadership and support from state and Federal fish management entities (Susan-Marie Stedman, NOAA/NMFS; Tom Busiahn, DOI/FWS; and Christopher Estes, AK), with Eric Schwaab as staff lead for AFWA. Support will also be provided by Janet Cushing from USGS. This team will start working on administrative issues, funding plan, etc. Future staff may be added depending on need and availability.

Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships

Due to the time expended on the charter, action on this agenda item was postponed for a future meeting.

Future Funding

Due to the time expended on the charter, action on this agenda item was postponed for a future meeting.

Other Business

ACTION: The Board elected John Cooper as Chair and Doug Hansen as Vice Chair of the Board.

ACTION: The next meeting was scheduled for November 16 in Washington DC.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM. A social event planned for the evening was rescheduled and relocated to the hotel due to weather.

National Fish Habitat Board Final Agenda

Date: Friday September 22, 2006
Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Location: Erickson Room and Carroll Rooms in the Snowmass Conference Center

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:00 Welcome and Introductions John Cooper
Board
Core Work Group
Staff
Partners
Others

Meeting flow and procedures John Cooper

Board Logistics Susan-Marie Stedman
- Travel reimbursement as needed

9:00- 10:00 National Fish Habitat Action Plan Overview Doug Austen

10:00 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 Updates on NFHAP Key Components
- Science and Data Effort Douglas Beard
- Federal Caucus Mamie Parker
o Update on Executive Order
- Communications Recommendations Rachel Brittin
- Partners Coalition Bill Taylor
- Strategy for Future Legislation Gordon Robertson
- FY06 Funding and Projects Mamie Parker

12:00 - 12:30 Future Funding
- *More Fish* Campaign Development Jeff Trandahl
- Other funding Christopher Estes
- Guidance for NFHAP funding Christopher Estes

12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH (provided) Kearns Room

1:30-2:30 Board Charter and related Board Operations John Cooper
Susan-Marie Stedman

- Review / Modify / Adopt draft Charter (**Action**)
- Review draft Staffing Plan and budget considerations Christopher Estes
- Recommendation on how to move forward with Staffing Plan (**Action**)

2:30-3:15 Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Review description of Partnerships in Plan Doug Austen
- Review Summary of AFS Workshop Stan Moberly
- Review draft Partnership Criteria Tom Busiahn

3:15 – 3:45 BREAK

3:15-4:30 Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships (continued) John Cooper

- Review / Modify / Adopt Criteria or, if not ready to adopt, establish a process to finalize criteria (**Action**)

4:30-5:00 Other Business

- Action Items - Assignments to Board and Staff
- Schedule Next Meetings

5:00 pm -Adjourn

5:45 pm -Peace Ranch evening social (weather dependent)

Attendees: National Fish Habitat Board Meeting September 22, 2006

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National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

final minutes approved by Board

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