NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: July 26-27, 2011

Members Present*:*

Steve Perry – Vice Chair and Chair
John Frampton
Scott Robinson – for John Frampton (Day2)
Bryan Arroyo for Dan Ashe
Chris Horton
Fred Matt
Thomas Bigford for Eric Schwaab
Stan Allen for Randy Fisher
Mike Andrews
Mike Stone
Joe Larscheid
Stan Moberly
Steve Moyer for Chris Wood
Brad Gentner
Gordon Robertson
Anne Zimmerman (phone)
Ron Regan (phone)

Members Absent*:*

Kelly Hepler
Krystyna Wolniakowski
Douglas Boyd
Bob Mahood

Key Discussion Items:

Status of Fish Habitat Partnerships
Driftless Area Restoration Effort Partnership presentation
Board involvement with Multistate Conservation Grants
Allocation of 2011 FWS funds
Presentation on Predicting Aquatic Habitat Condition for 7 Fish Habitat Partnerships
Science and Data Committee update
National Fish Habitat Conservation Act legislation
Economic benefits of NFHAP projects
National Fish Habitat Partnerships operational costs
Board engagement on National Ocean Policy
Board priority setting
Habitat protection as a component of NFHAP
Action Plan revision

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Decisions Made:

Voted upon

- Approved agenda and minutes from April 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved use of web-ex and conference call line for future meetings. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved change of name and logo from "National Fish Habitat Action Plan" to "National Fish Habitat Partnership". Motion passed unanimously. Board clarified the importance of messaging this change as an enhancement of the existing NFHAP brand rather than as a significant rebranding endeavor.
- Approved proposed "Project Endorsement Template for Fish Habitat Partnerships" on endorsing projects that are not funded by NFHAP sources or proposed by FHPs but that address one or more of the strategic priorities of a Board-recognized FHP or of the Board itself. Motion passed unanimously. Board clarified that this template would serve as guidance and is not required for FHP use.
- Approve test-driving proposed "Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation Measures" with all the FHPs to evaluate how the process and measures work and to have the Criteria Development Committee report back the outcomes to the Board. Motion passed unanimously. Board clarified that these measures would be subject to change depending on how well it works and understanding that these would serve as a means for completing the 5-year FHP reviews called for in the FHP Policy and Guidance document.
- Approved forwarding both options of the "Draft Framework for Allocating NFHAP Funds" to FHPs for review and feedback and final Board decision in October. Motion passed 10 in favor, 3 opposed.
- Endorsed draft Secretarial Order (with the inclusion of a missing sentence describing NFHAP as science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory) for USDA, NOAA, and FWS to begin interagency clearance. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved proposed "Context Schema and Timeline for Setting Fish Habitat Board Priorities". Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved use of revised proposed definition of habitat protection as a working definition: *"Protection under the Action Plan is voluntary and non-regulatory actions that maintain, or prevent the decline of, aquatic habitat and aquatic resources that depend on that habitat."* This working definition may get further refined by Board staff as revision of the Action Plan progresses and further definition of the Board's concerns regarding the negative perceptions by some members of the public about a subset of protection approaches. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved broad storyline categories and next steps for Action Plan revision.

Agreed, but not voted upon

- Board materials will be provided to Board on jump drives. Paper board books are still available upon request.
- Templates for FHPs to use in developing websites should be made available to FHPs but they shouldn't be required to use them.
- The Board should consider engaging with AFWA during the development of the MSCG National Conservation Needs that are released in March.
- The Board would like to use the proposed approach used to estimate economic impact of NFHP projects for advocating purposes, but recognized that they were on the low side. The Board would like to add variables to the analysis and review again in October.

Action items:

- Distribute article addressing peer reviewed support for the National Assessment funded with NFHAP funds (Gary Whelan/Karen Abrams)
- Provide additional data to include in economic analysis for Brad Gentner (Tom Busiahn)
- Use USB drives, web, and/or other appropriate technology to provide future Board Books electronically (Karen Abrams)

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Future meetings:

2011
October 19-20 – Albuquerque NM

2012 (tentative dates)
Jan 12 – conference call on budget
April 17 and 18 – Washington DC to coincide with Casting Call
Either the week of July 9 or week of July 16 – New Hampshire or Maine?
October 17-18 – Missouri?

Board approved policy and/or technical documents

- April 2011 Board meeting summary
- Guidelines for FHP endorsement of projects
- FHP Performance Evaluation Measures
- NFHAP Funding Allocation Framework options
- NFHAP secretarial order (with missing language added)
- Proposed Board Priority setting "Context Schema and Timeline"
- Habitat Protection Definition
- Action Plan broad storyline categories.

Additional attendees:

Susan-Marie Stedman, NOAA-HQ and Board staff
Karen Abrams, NOAA-HQ and Board staff
Tom Busiahn, FWS-HQ and Board staff
Ryan Roberts, AFWA and Board Communications Director
Matt Menashes, AFWA and Board staff
Gary Whelan, MI DNR, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee
Andrea Ostroff, USGS, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee

Maureen Gallagher, FWS-Midwest
Steve Krentz, FWS & Great Plains FHP
Aaron Woldt, FWS
Steve Hewitt, Wisconsin DNR
Cecil Rich, FWS
Scott Roth, FWS
Louise Mauldin, FWS & Driftless Area Restoration Effort
Rob Simmonds, FWS & Ohio River Basin FHP
Paul Pajak, FWS (phone)
Jeff Hastings, Trout Unlimited & Driftless Area Restoration Effort
Don Kirby, WI Waterfowl Association
Bob Hansis, Grant-Platte/Sugar Pecatonica Basins
Jeff Boxrucker, Reservoir FHP
Patrick Rivers, MN DNR & Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
Duke Welter, TU
Mike Parsley, USGS
Emily Greene, Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership
Amy Unthank, USFS (phone)
Steven Krentz, FWS & Great Plains FHP (phone)
Pam Thiel, FWS
Heidi Keuler, FWS & Fishers and Farmers Partnership

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