National Fish Habitat Board Meeting, March 9 &10, 2014 – Denver, CO

Members present:

Leroy Young (NEAFWA)	Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Ron Regan (AFWA)
Mike Stone (WAFWA)	Sam Rauch (NMFS)	Chris Horton (CSF)
Chris Moore (MAFMC)	David Hoskins (FWS)	Stan Moberly (AFS)
Mike Andrews (TNC Vice-chair)	Steve Moyer (TU)	Kelly Hepler (ADFG)
Gordon Robertson (ASA)	Tom Champeau (SEAFWA)	
Doug Boyd (SFBPC)	Chris Horton (CSF)	

Members absent:

Krystyna Wolniakowski (NFWF), Fred Matt (NAFWS), Ellen Gilinsky (EPA), Brad Gentner (CCA)

Motions approved:

- January Board Call Minutes Approved
- June Board Call – The Board agreed to using Adobe connect technology with a conference line for the June 25th Board call.
- 2014 Waters to Watch – The Board agreed to review 2014 Waters to Watch nominations via email.
- Southeast Alaska FHP – The Board approved the Southeast Alaska FHP for formal recognition.
- 501(c)(3) Update – Articles of incorporation and Bylaws were approved by the Board.

Updates and discussions:

- Chair Updates- The Chair indicated that he was first appointed Chair during the October 2008 Board meeting, and that the Charter states no Chair shall serve more than three consecutive two year terms. The Vice chair will lead transition efforts and present options to the ELT. It was noted that having a Chair in place is important as the NFHP Act moves through Congress. It was also noted that USFWS funds in the amount of 125k are available, preferably for use by the 18 FHPs.
- Board Performance Evaluation – Members of the committee noted that the results of the evaluation were mixed, and discussed how to interpret, address, and communicate the results. The Vice-chair will convene a committee and bring back a product which presents a more in depth look at the results. This was the second Board evaluation and it is anticipated that an evaluation will occur every three years.
- Corporate Engagement Strategy – The Board heard a presentation from Fishpond regarding branding from an industry perspective and perspectives on NFHP messaging, as well as an overview of online technologies that could be used to raise money for FHPs. Tom Champeau presented an update on NFHP core values. The group discussed whether the core values needed to be more focused, from a marketing perspective, and what the ultimate purpose is for this exercise.
- Science and Data Committee – The Board heard an update on the inland and marine assessments, in addition to the project effectiveness effort.
- Great Plains Habitat Assessment – The Board heard a presentation on the Great Plans habitat assessment effort and its uses.
- Communications Committee Update – The Board heard an update on the 2014 Waters to Watch timeline and process.
- Southeast Alaska FHP – The Board heard a presentation by SEAK FHP coordinator, Debbie Hart, who provided an overview of the FHP that included membership, conservation priorities, and accomplishments. Board discussed NOAA and Regional Fishery Management Council involvement in the FHP.
- FWS Funding Allocation – The Board discussed USFWS funding allocation with regard to process, providing

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review, and new FHPs.

- Joint Session with FWS Fisheries Assistant Regional Directors (ARDs) – The Chair led a discussion with ARDs regarding their working relationship with the Board, which focused around topics of funding and synergies with LCCs, JVs, and NOAA.
- Council Coordination Committee – The Board heard an overview of Fishery Management Council activities that were discussed at the Council Coordination Committee meeting in February. Topics that were highlighted included Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization, Council budgets, priorities, and opportunities for Councils to work on and engage in habitat related efforts such as NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas.
- 501(c)(3) Update – Board staff reviewed changes to the documents under consideration and next steps. Discussion centered around the relationship between the individual FHPs and the 501(c)(3). There was discussion on how the "chapter model" applies to the FHPs, as well as anticipated process for 501c3 Board selection. It was decided that some non-federal Board members would serve on the 501(c)(3) Board of Directors.
- Legislative Update – The Board heard an update on status of the National Fish Conservation Act both in the Senate and the House, and the role that FHPs can play to help provide support. The Bill was introduces as Senate Bill 2080 sponsored by Senators Crapo and Cardin.
- Proposal: Federal Agency Fish and Fish-habitat Related Grant Program Review - The Board was provided a brief overview by Stan Moberly and Stan Allen of a proposal for Federal Agencies to identify alignment with fish habitat goals and to pursue opportunities to achieve mutual fish habitat-related goals by designating a portion of existing federal grant program funding to national fish habitat partnerships. Discussion focused on the need to have a better understanding of existing federal grant opportunities that may be available to the Board, and also for the FHPs to collect the and articulate their strategic directions, communicate the priorities of the FHPs, and highlight how they align with federal agency habitat priorities. It was mentioned this could be a topic for discussion at an FHP workshop.
- Joint Session with State Fisheries Administrators – The Board heard presentations on individual state habitat conservation efforts and relationship with FHPs.

Action items:

- Tom Bigford, AFS, offered assistance with coordinating with RAE/TCS for the November Board Meeting.
- The Vice-chair and Board member Ron Regan will explore Board chair and vice chair transition options and share them with the ELT.
- Vice-chair will convene a committee and bring back a product which presents a more in depth look at Board Performance Evaluation results.
- Chair and Vice-chair commit to participating on partnership calls.
- Chair will talk to a contractor to see what re-marketing means and what it costs, and bring something back to the Board before June. The committee working on core values will continue to refine them per Board feedback.
- Board staff will draft a letter asking that SEAKFHP be considered for FY15 FWS-NFHP funds. Steve Moyer offered to discuss with Federal Agencies to help with providing FY14 funds.
- A joint Board and staff subcommittee will be formed to provide feedback for FY15 funding allocation review and process.
- Ryan Roberts will send a message to the FHPs requesting that they send letters of support for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.
- Vice-chair, Ron Regan, and staff will work with Agency heads regarding a review of potential alignment of grant programs with FHPs.

Future Board meetings:

- June 25, 2014 using Adobe Connect and conference line
- November 2014, Washington DC (in conjunction with the 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration)
- January Board Call

Board approved documents:

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1. 501c3 Articles of Incorporation
2. 501c3 Bylaws

Additional attendees:

Ryan Roberts, AFWA	Matt Menashes, AFWA	Heidi Keuler, FWS/FFP
Tom Busiahn, FWS	Steve Perry, EBTJV	Debbie Hart, SEAFHP
Cecilia Lewis, FWS	David Lawrence, NFWF	Neil Stichert, FWS
Chris Meaney, NMFS	Scott Robinson, SARP	Mark Hudy, USGS
David Wigglesworth, FWS	Karin Eldridge, FWS	Brian Elkington, FWS
Tripp Boltin, FWS	Doug Besler, EBTJV	Kayla Barrett, FWS/DFHP
Callie McMunigal, FWS	Steven Krentz, GPFHP	Jeff Boxrucker, RFHP
Joe Starinchak, FWS	Johnny LeCoq, Fishpond	Julie Devers, FWS/ACFHP
Mike Weimer, FWS	Christopher Estes	John Moore, BLM
Chris Cantrell, AZ	Jana Grote, FWS	John Lott, SD
Stewart Jacks, FWS	Scott Roth, AK	Todd Turner, FWS
Sharon Rose, FWS	Paul Day, WY	Steve Klosiewski, FWS
Bob Curry, NC	Buck Sutter, NMFS	Rowan Gould, FWS
Steve Miller	Tim Jennings	

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