National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call Summary: June 25, 2014

Members present:

Stan Allen (PSMFC)	David Hoskins (USFWS)	Sam Rauch (NMFS)
Doug Austen (AFS)	Joe Larscheid (MAFWA)	Mike Stone (WAFWA)
Brad Gentner (CCA)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)	Leroy Young (NEAFWA)
Kelly Hepler (ADFG)	Doug Norton *for* Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Libby Yranski *for* Gordon Robertson (ASA)

Members absent:

Mike Andrews (TNC), Doug Boyd (SFBPC), Tom Champeau (SEAFWA), Chris Horton (CSF), Fred Matt (NAFWS), Ron Regan (AFWA), Chris Savage (USFS), Krystyna Wolniakowski (NFWF), and Steve Moyer (TU)

Motions approved:

- March Board Meeting Minutes Approved

Updates and discussions:

- Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping – The Board heard a brief overview of the Federal Leadership Meeting and overview of recent Partnership Committee developments. The Partnership Committee will be jointly chaired by Steve Perry, Stan Allen, and Mike Stone, each taking on a respective task. It was noted that the committee would appreciate more defined tasks. The Board heard an overview of the USFWS-NFHP FY14 Allocation process and that it had resulted in a reshuffling of funds. A desire to move funds more quickly to the ground, while also providing more time for documentation preparation and review was noted. A template to help with submissions and review is under development. A request that more detailed FHP performance results be made available was made.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – It was noted that the ELT would convene in July to examine terms, members who have moved on, and the chairmanship. It was noted that Board members whose terms are up could be reappointed, and knowing their desires would be helpful. It was noted that participation rates would be reviewed so that they have active members.
- Corporate Engagement Strategy Update – The Board heard an overview of an education and outreach campaign for which funding assistance from NOAA and others including FishPond, Johnny Morris, and Patagonia is currently or will be sought. The Communications Committee is also engaged in this effort.
- Mitigating Impacts to Waters and Wetlands: In-Leu Fee Programs – The Board was informed that a presentation had been made to the FHPs regarding 404 programs under the Clean Water Act. It was noted that there are several states without an In-Leu Fee (ILF) program, but that it would be a heavy lift for an FHP to sponsor an ILF program when considering their current capacity and scope. An FHP can still carry out a project without being a sponsor.
- NOAA National Saltwater Fishing Policy - The Board heard a presentation on the purpose of the policy, intersections with habitat, and opportunity for comment. Discussion included how 'conservation' is defined and policy linkages to NOAA Focus Areas. It was noted that with regard to commitments from FHPs, communication from Board should be clear and presented as an 'ask'. It was noted that the policy does not apply to non-coastal states, but the coastal FHPs may be an avenue.
- Legislative Update – The Board heard an update on the National Fish Conservation Act including that the bill was expected to move to the Senate floor in the next week or so, and that action was hoped for during the first week in July. The Bill has more provisions this time, but they are largely the same. They are working on introducing in the House of Representatives.
- 501(c)(3) Update – WNTI representative provided the Board with guidance on selecting members for a 501(c)(3) Board. No concerns from the Board regarding staff recommendation proposed in the Board

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book materials.
Action items: • The Partnership Committee's top task will be preparing for the November workshop. • Board members will be solicited for whether there are any topics the Board would like to see the Partnership committee take on. • USFWS will work with regional coordinators to provide desired detailed feedback to FHPs regarding the FY14 USFWS-NFHP funding allocation. • ELT decisions will be reported back to the Board • Subset of staff and/or Board will follow-up on In-Leu Fee Programs • A list of 501(c)(3) Board members will be put to vote by non-federal National Fish Habitat Board members in either July (via email) or November (in person) • Staff will look into 501(c)(3) Chapter policies
Future Board meetings: • November 5-6, 2014, Washington DC (in conjunction with the 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration) • January Board Call
Board approved documents: N/A
Additional attendees: Kayla Barrett (DFHP) / Steve Perry (EBTJV) / Scott Roth (USFWS) Karen Eldridge (USFWS) / Rob Harper (USFS) / Joe Starinchak (USFWS) Brian Elkington (USFWS) / Robin Knox (WNTI) / Buck Sutter (NMFS) Christopher Estes / Cecilia Lewis (staff, USFWS) / Therese Thompson (WNTI) Emily Greene (staff, NMFS) / Chris Meaney (staff, NMFS) / Susan Wells Roger Harding (ADFG) / Ryan Roberts (staff, AFWA) / Gary Whelan (SDC co-chair, MI DNR)

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