Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: November 5-6, 2014

Members present:

Stan Allen (PSMFC)
Mike Andrews (TNC)
Doug Austen (AFS)
Tom Bigford *for* Doug Austen (portion of Day 2)
Tom Champeau (SEAFWA)
Whit Fosburg (TRCP) Day 2
Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)
Rowan Gould (USFWS) Day 2
Kelly Hepler (ADFG)
David Hoskins (USFWS)
Mike Leonard (ASA)
Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Steve Moyer *for* Chris Wood (TU)
Kevin O'Donovan (CCA) Day 2
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Mike Stone (WAFWA)
Buck Sutter *for* Sam Rauch (NMFS)
Cameron Thomas *for* Rob Harper (USFS)
Susan Wells *for* Rowan Gould (USFWS) Day 1
Leroy Young (NEAFWA)
By Phone: Ron Skates (NAWS)

Members absent:

Doug Boyd (SFBPC) and Kelley Myers (MAFWA)

Motions approved:

- Retain Kelly Hepler as Chair for the term of one year (terminating Fall 2015) and elect Tom Champeau to Vice Chair
- Partnership Committee 2015 Priorities
- National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc. Board of Directors (Federal members abstain)

Updates and discussions:

- Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping – Fall 2015 meeting will likely be held in northern California, exact location is TBD.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – An update on new Board members, as approved by the ELT, was provided.
- Partnership Committee Report - An overview of the FHP Workshop was provided noting panels, 501(c)(3) update, and discussion of 2015 FHP Performance Evaluation. An update on the Committee's 2014 accomplishments was presented, noting that the Partnership committee was reactivated. Suggested High Priorities that the Partnership Committee would take on in 2015 were also presented.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program - An update on timeline for 2016 and the MSCGP process was provided. FHP feedback with regard to jointly submitting proposals with the Board was generally positive.
- 501(c)(3) Update – The Board heard an overview of the 501(c)(3) and purpose, the desired make-up of the Board of Directors, and the proposed slate of Board of Directors: Kelly Hepler, Mike Andrews, Steve Moyer, Matt Menashes, Jon Johnson, Rich Rosengren, Dick Ludington, and Johnny Le Coq. Discussion included (but was not limited to) fundraising priorities, start-up costs, and how money will be distributed to the FHPs.
- FHP Performance Evaluation – A brief comparison of 2015 FHP Performance Evaluation and USFWS Allocation Methodology was provided, which was followed by a discussion of an approach to the 2015 FHP Performance Evaluation. Guidance provided by the Partnership Committee may involve minor suggested changes and/or guidance to the reviewers in terms of how they consider FHP responses to the 2015 Performance Evaluation.
- Legislative Update – The Board heard an update on the National Fish Conservation Act including that the Bill is well positioned to be included in the Sportman's Package in this Congress. A few technical issues

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have been raised by USFWS, which the coalition will work to resolve. They will seek to introduce the Bill in the Senate and the House.

- NFHP Awards and Foster Award – The 2014 National Fish Habitat awards were presented to Mat-Su Borough and Tim Birdsong. NOAA Foster Award winners Kelly Hepler and John Cooper were also acknowledged (previously presented during a RAE plenary session).
- Board 2015 Priorities and Draft Budget - The group walked through the Board priorities, as they pertain to NFHAP objectives. Board priorities include communications, science and data, and partnership committee items. Funding and staffing were discussed, and the 2015 budget was reviewed. Andrea's successor as Board Science and Data co-chair, Pete Ruhl of USGS was announced.
- Joint Meeting with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) Board – An overview of RAE and individual member activities was provided, in addition to a NFHP overview presentation. Members of both Boards discussed potential avenues for collaboration.
- USFWS FAC Strategic Plan Development – USFWS received comments from numerous entities including staff, states, tribal organizations, and NFHP Board. Comments have been organized and changes will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan with a goal of completion by the end of the calendar year.
- Partnership Presentation – The Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership provided a summary of activities and accomplishments in marine and freshwater environments.
- Report on the Performance Evaluation of the Board - A summary of qualitative responses was provided; the major take-home message was that the Board needs to focus on the activities that will make the biggest impact to the NFHAP mission which include funding, branding, good communication, and bringing more partners to the table.

Action items:

- The ELT will convene after the November meeting to discuss outstanding vacant Federal seat.
- Board staff will consider an introductory Board phone call between June and October meetings.
- The Partnership Committee will develop a more comprehensive work plan and timeline, internally.
- Staff will work with Partnership Committee to put together a survey to solicit feedback from the FHPs regarding future MSCGP applications before the Board's January teleconference.
- The Partnership Committee will work to provide guidance pertaining to the FHP Performance Evaluation in December. Board will consider Partnership Committee guidance at January Board meeting.
- An additional task will be added to the Board Priorities: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the NFHCA
- Board staff will consider prioritizing outreach to younger generations with potential assistance from FHPs.
- Partnership Committee and Science and Data Committee members will discuss approach for establishing effectiveness measures.
- A plan for the development and delivery of the 2015 Assessment report will be presented to the Board in January.
- Board staff will discuss current operating structure.
- Board staff will discuss the 2015 Budget in greater depth, including additional funds for an FHP video, a two-day FHP workshop in 2015, branding and marketing work, and science needs, for consideration by the Board in January.
- Board staff to consider potential avenues for collaboration with RAE including partnering on Hill efforts, sharing of NFHP national science and data, Board meeting scheduling, and others.
- Board staff will provide FHPs will with notes and contact information pertaining to individual RAE member groups.
- Staff will invite Board members to bi-monthly All-FHP conference calls.
- Feedback requested from the marketing/branding group in December.

Future Board meetings:

- January 14 teleconference, March 3-4 at TNC in Arlington, June 24 teleconference, October 20 -21 in

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California.

Board approved documents:

- June Board Conference Call Summary Notes

Additional attendees:

Kayla Barrett (Desert FHP)
Tom Bigford (AFS)
Tim Birdsong (SARP)
Kristan Blackhart (NOAA contract)
Jeff Boxrucker (Reservoir FHP)
Tom Busiahn (USFWS)
Elsa Carlisle Schwartz (RAE)
Lisa DeBruyckere (PMEP and CFPF)
Tim Dillingham (RAE – American Littoral Society)
Brian Elkington (USFWS)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Jana Grote (USFWS)
Roger Harding (AKDFG)
Cindy Hartmann Moore (SEAK FHP)
Lisa Havel (ACFHP)
Dianne Hoskins (RAE)
Dana Infante (MI State University)
Curt Johnson (RAE - Save the Sound)
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff - USFWS)
Jonathan Mawdsley (AFWA)
Bryan Moore (TU)
Andrea Ostroff (Board Science and Data Co-Chair - USGS)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Tim Richardson (Wildlife Forever)
Robert Ruffner (Kenai Peninsula FHP)
Pete Ruhl (USGS)
George Schuler (ACFHP)
Gordon Smith (HI FHP)
Kent Smith (ACFHP)
Joe Starinchak (USFWS)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Susan-Marie Stedman (NOAA)
Cameron Thomas (USFS)
Therese Thompson (WNTI)
Tim Troll (SW Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership)
Gary Whelan (Board Science and Data Co-Chair – MI DNR)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)
David Wigglesworth (USFWS)
Libby Yranski (ASA)
By Phone: Scott Roth (USFWS)

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