

Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: October 23-24, 2019

Board Members Present:

Chair Ed Schriever (At-Large State Seat)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited)
Vice Chair Chris Moore (MAFMC)	Doug Nygren (MAFWA)
Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Andrew Wilkins <i>for</i> Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Doug Beard (USGS)
Alison Bowden (TNC)	Pat Montanio <i>for</i> Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Jon Sjoberg <i>for</i> Chris Cantrell (WAFWA)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Margaret Everson (USFWS)	Bobby Wilson (SEAFWA)
Kim Dibble (AFS)	John Goodin (EPA)

Board Members Absent:

Sean Stone (CCA), Ron Regan (AFWA), Doug Boyd (At-Large Sportfishing Seat), Mike Leonard (American Sportfishing Association), Bobby Wilson (SEAFWA)

Other Meeting Attendees:

Daniel Wieferich (USGS, NFHP Staff, SDC)	Susan Wells (USFWS)
Ryan Roberts (AFWA, NFHP Staff)	Jessica Hogrefe (USFWS, Great Lakes Region Coordinator)
Gary Whelan (Michigan DNR, NFHP Staff, SDC)	Collin Moratz (USFWS)
Alex Atkinson (NOAA Fisheries, NFHP Staff)	Donovan Henry (USFWS)
Eric MacMillan (USFWS NFHP Staff)	Jerry Sweeten (Manchester University)
Rick Westerhof (Great Lakes Basin FHP Coordinator)	Heidi Keuler (USFWS, Fishers and Farmers FHP Coordinator)
Therese Thompson (WNTI Coordinator)	Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Richard Mitchell (EPA)	

Future Board Meetings:

- January 2020 Board Webinar – dates TBD
- March 2020 Board Meeting – dates TBD will be hosted by NOAA in Silver Spring, MD
- June 2020 Board Webinar – dates TBD
- October 2020 Board Meeting and FHP Workshop – Will be hosted by Idaho Fish & Game in Nampa, ID

Approved by Motion:

- June Meeting Summary; motion by Chris Moore, seconded by Bryan Moore.
- AFWA shall continue to maintain the copyright for the NFHP logo
- Board to endorse all 20 FHPs hosting an event for World Fish Migration Day 2020; motion by Dan Shively, seconded by Pete Aarrestad.

Other Actions:

- Board staff will circulate the Beyond the Pond Charter and Bylaws
- Gary Whelan will work with small team to continue NFHP Action Plan revisions
- Ryan Roberts will work with small team to modify the 2020 Waters to Watch campaign
- An ad-hoc committee will have conversations with Board members representing state agencies and put forward a Vice Chair recommendation to the Board in January
- Board staff awaiting nominations (end November) for the Tribal Board seat

Day 1 – October 23, 2019 Notes and Discussion

Welcome from Shannon Hanna (*Deputy Director of MI DNR*)

The group was welcomed by Shannon Hanna, the Deputy Director of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who shared background about Michigan DNR, its size (1600-1800 employees), and the portfolio of natural resource issues in the state. She highlighted that there are 154 fish species in Michigan and that the sportfishing industry is huge (between \$2 -5B depending on what measures are included) with 1.5 million recreational licenses sold. The state has 6 fish hatcheries and is working to pilot renewable energy sources to run them. The DNR has formed a sprint team to work on climate change issues and update a 2009 strategic plan. The state also has a large state forest system, freshwater dunes, and is working to obtain a “mass timber” building.

Welcome, Attendance & Board Business (*Ed Schriever, Board Chair*)

Board Chair, Ed Schriever, welcomed the Board and thanked Gary and Shannon for their welcome to Michigan. Ed introduced the two new Board members since our June meeting, Kim Dibble – representing the American Fisheries Society, and John Goodin (staff support Richard Mitchell) – representing the EPA. Ed put forward a Board meeting agenda revision to add a conversation about the Multistate Conservation Grant funding on Thursday at 11:15 AM. Ed shared the upcoming Board meeting schedule and that dates for future meetings will be set after mid-November when Ed solidifies the dates for next year’s Idaho Fish and Game Commission meetings. Ed highlighted that Stan Allen and Mike Leonard’s Board terms were renewed and that Chris Moore’s term is up for renewal in October. He also shared that Board staff have been working to fill the Tribal Board seat with an open call for interest through November. Ed reminded the Board that the goal is to replace Chris Moore as the Vice Chair with a Board members representing state agencies. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to have conversations with the state Board members and put forward a Vice Chair recommendation to the Board in January. Ryan Roberts reminded the Board that the NFHP trademark, managed by AFWA, comes up for renewal every 5 years and sought approval from the Board for AFWA to continue to manage the NFHP trademark. This was approved by the Board.

Around the Room

Pat Montanio (NOAA) – NOAA regional staff continue to support coastal FHPs, the CA Fish Passage Forum is releasing FishPASS, a barrier prioritization tool, and we provide Board and Committee support. NOAA has also supported 3 projects that engage the rec fish community within coastal FHPs (ACFHP, SARP, and Kenai FHP). NOAA continues to support the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment work that is being led by Councils to characterize habitats. Indirectly, NOAA provides funding to NFWF’s Coastal Resilience Fund and encourages NFHP to look to this as a possible source of project funding when applications are accepted again spring 2020 (\$30M total in funding). NOAA is also developing a restoration toolkit (expected release spring 2020) with partner Restore America’s Estuaries to support community level projects which often struggle to develop. Finally, NOAA supports 10 Habitat Focus Areas which will be kicking off another round of new areas in the coming year and can look to NFHP to advise and partner on the selection of new areas.

David Hoskins (USFWS) – USFWS brought on Eric MacMillan in the last year who provides staff support to NFHP and USFWS Fish Passage Program. In FY19, the USFWS provided over \$4.1M in funding to FHPs for operations and fish habitat conservation projects. This was matched by \$14M in partner contributions. This year, the Service also increased operational support from \$75k to \$85k. This came mostly from reductions in funds the FWS uses for technical assistance and to administer the program, but also a small reduction in project funds. The USFWS was happy to have Board participation (via small team) in the FHP workplan and accomplishments report review process this year and hopes to have their engagement in future years. The

USFWS also supports NFHP and the FHPs by writing and administering financial assistance agreements, permitting and environmental compliance assistance, project development support for local partners, technical and engineering expertise during project development and implementation, and leadership to the individual FHPs. Regional and field staff also provide support by coordinating the work of FHPs with other USFWS habitat conservation programs.

Doug Beard (USGS) – USGS supports NFHP through in-kind work with the Science and Data Committee by Daniel Wierich and plans to continue to do so for the coming year. USGS has seen cuts and/or redirection of funds away from fisheries work and has not been able to replace the in-stream flow monitoring group (Ft. Collins, CO) which was a useful tool for NFHP. USGS will continue to do what they can to provide in-kind support to NFHP and the FHPs and would be interested in helping with any future assessment work (suggested this as a topic for the March Board meeting).

Doug Nygren (MAFWA) – MAFWA would like to keep in better touch with their member states to make them aware of NFHP and particular partnerships in the region (e.g. Reservoir FHP). A Reservoir FHP meeting was hosted in Kansas City and was well attended. The meeting focused on trying to build volunteerism to move the needle at the state and local levels. MAFWA highlighted the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance and how they’re working to leverage the work done by that organization. MAFWA encourages all Board members to reach out to their local Union Sportsmen’s Alliance.

Dan Shively (USFS) – Dan is back from his 5-month detail in the Alaska Region where became more familiar with the Alaska FHPs. The USFS conducted a gap analysis of their engagement with NFHP and identified Reservoir FHP and ACFHP as 2 partnerships where they can increase their engagement. USFS has been in contact with two employees who can be the POCs for NFHP engagement in ACFHP and the Reservoir FHP. Dan reiterated a thank you from Debbie Hart (SEAKFHP) for providing additional funds to the FHPs and highlighted the Congressional Wild Salmon Caucus work on the Hill. He also thanked the many people involved in hosting and participating in the NFHP Film Festival at AFS. USFS highlighted that it is on track to meet their goal in 2021 on the ‘Next 1000 Culverts’ campaign. The USFS has worked with SARP to prioritize and remove derelict dams on USFS lands. The USFS contributes \$3M to NFWF for the Bring Back the Natives Program. USFS is launching the Family Fishing National Forests initiative across the country to increase angling in National Forests with state agencies, American Sportfishing Association, and others. The NFHP Board helped with the USFS’s Rise to the Future Aquatic Strategy which was released in 2017 and the USFS will be establishing a steering committee to guide that effort.

Kim Dibble (AFS) – AFS has been active in 3 categories –awards, meetings, and legislative support through the policy team. AFS worked with Ryan Roberts (AFWA) and Kara Meckley (NOAA) to develop the Stan Moberly award, the first of which was awarded to Stan Moberly at a plenary of the AFS/TWS meeting in Reno. Along with the late career award, AFS developed the Rising Star Award to recognize those doing excellent work for habitat early in their careers. This will be awarded at the AFS business meeting. AFS is also working on the Habitat Hero Hall of Fame for mid-career recognition which will be a wall of fame at the Freshwater Fisheries Science Center in Texas. The recent AFS/TWS meeting was hosted in Reno, NV and featured a 4-day film festival sponsored by NFHP. These films featured collaborative habitat work and brought a different perspective to the meeting. There is interest in having another film festival at the upcoming Vancouver meeting. AFS is also working to increase their presence on the Hill and cosponsored the briefing on the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act in March.

Andrew Wilkins (TRCP) – TRCP thanked many of the partners who have supported the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. TRCP reminded the Board that they are also engaged in awareness

building and education and the importance of making members aware of on-the-ground projects. TRCP is ready to draw attention to the work NFHP is doing and is always looking for more stories to share with members about the completed, ongoing, and future work.

John Goodin (EPA) – EPA is looking forward to re-engaging with the NFHP Board. EPA sees monitoring and data collection as adding value to the NFHP Science and Data Committee. A recently developed app called “How’s My Waterway?” will rollout in early 2020. The EPA’s non-point source program (under Clean Water Act Section 319) aims to control non-point sources of pollution. This funding opportunity is non-competitive to states and has funded \$170M of projects in the last couple years (>30 examples of fish habitat success stories). EPA also sponsors the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant with recent awards to Alaska and California.

Alison Bowden (TNC) – TNC founded several of NFHP’s Fish Habitat Partnerships, but may have seen a decline in TNC engagement in recent years as the organization had some internal shifting. TNC is hoping to re-engage in NFHP since their organizational restructuring and Alison will serve as FHPs’ point of contact. TNC has a new member on the ACFHP Steering Committee. TNC highlighted upcoming World Fish Migration Day (spring 2020) as an opportunity for us all to focus on fish habitat. There will be a symposium on May 15th in Plymouth, MA and family events on May 16th around the topic of river herring. TNC encouraged the Board and FHPs to all organize World Fish Migration Day [events and to register them with the World Fish Migration Foundation](#).

Stan Allen (PSMFC) – Stan raised to the Board’s attention the difference between Councils and Commissions and the reason for having both on the NFHP Board. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is quasi-governmental and is a state and local governmental organization that serves 5 states on the West Coast and Alaska. PSMFC highlighted their role in the NFHP Board Partnerships Committee which has implemented the FHP Evaluation process in 2015 and 2018 and will do again in 2021. The Commission also provides administrative support to the FHPs by providing a way to move funds from agencies to the FHPs and partners. Two PSMFC staff gave presentations at the AFS/TWS meeting in Reno and work behind the scenes to maintain the NFHP project tracking database. PSMFC contributes to the Board Science and Data Committee and supported several projects in PMEP, CA Fish Passage Forum, and the Pacific Lamprey FHP.

Jon Sjoberg (WAFWA) – WAFWA has 12 or 13 FHPs within their boundary and highlighted many of the accomplishments of the Western Native Trout Initiative including: building partnerships with external agencies (e.g. Open Rivers Resource Legacy Fund) to build capacity and fundraising, building portfolio of work with Interior Red Band Trout, and standing up the [Western Native Trout Challenge](#) to engage anglers and raise funds. The Desert FHP is undergoing a shift in their coordinator position, the new candidate is selected and due to start in early November. The Desert FHP will host a Steering Committee meeting in Texas November 18-19.

Pete Aarrestad (NEAFWA) –NEAFWA is not directly involved in supporting FHPs, but does support Pete as their Board representative. Partnerships in NEAFWA territory include: Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Atlantic Coastal FHP, Ohio River Basin FHP, and Great Lakes Basin FHP. NEAFWA wants to be more engaged informing the fisheries administrators about NFHP and ways to engage.

Bryan Moore (TU) – TU works to encourage higher appropriations for Federal agency programs implementing fish habitat conservation. TU engages with several FHPs, especially those with trout streams, including EBTJV and SEAKFHP. TU has been following the issue of the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska which could impact fish habitat in Alaska and several FHPs. TU is starting up a new program summer 2020 to

conserve private and public lands on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. This project could lead to the Chugach Forest being the first National Forest without any aquatic organism passage barriers. TU also logs many volunteer hours in support of fish habitat work ~400k volunteer hours per year which is used to match Federal funding (they could potentially track how many of those hours support NFHP). TU has also been engaged in the Board Legislative Working Group and working to understand and explain to the Board the implications of the legislation.

Chris Moore (MAFMC) – The MAFMC is one of 8 Fishery Management Councils and covers the geography from NY-NC. All Councils are involved in habitat issues, however, not all are involved with FHPs. MAFMC formally joined the Atlantic Coastal FHP Steering Committee this year. MAFMC also supports NFHP through the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment. Assessment work will continue through July 2022 and will help to better define essential fish habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs). The MAFMC has a new website and does have opportunity to share the assessment work with other councils at their meetings.

In closing of this session, the Board Chair raised to the Board's attention the fact that the Board used to have a Federal Caucus. He suggested that the Board consider reviving the Federal Caucus as an opportunity to grow the support among Federal agencies, who do not have a seat on the Board, for NFHP and that this could be beneficial to the Partnership to have a more formal and regular meeting of the Federal Caucus.

Update from the Fish & Wildlife Service (*David Hoskins*)

David Hoskins shared an update on the NFHP funding, with a focus on the FY20 allocation. It was noted that the government is operating on a continuing resolution (CR) through November 21 and it is unknown when Congress will pass a budget for the full year. To get an early start on the FY20 process, the USFWS sent out the template for FHP reports on October 2nd; reports are due back to the USFWS in early January. There are no changes to the allocation criteria this year and the USFWS hopes that the NFHP Board can participate in the review of FY20 FHP reports, as they did in FY19. The USFWS will have additional discussions about whether any more of the NFHP dollars can be awarded to FHPs, but notes that there is not a lot more that we can shave off at this point. The USFWS already made substantial reductions over the past couple years in the amount of money retained for program administration and technical assistance. USFWS recommended that the Board focus not on how to further divide the pot of existing funds, but on how the Board can find additional funding for the program to give to the FHPs.

Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation (*Donovan Henry & Dr. Jerry Sweeten*)

Donovan Henry and Professor Jerry Sweeten, Manchester University, presented on restoration efforts in the Eel River, Indiana within the Ohio River Basin FHP. Since 2012, 3 dams in the Eel River have been removed and mussels have been reintroduced with initial signs of success. There has also been an experimental fishway (designed by Boyd Kynard) installed, thanks to a grant with the FHP and is being monitored using PIT tags systems. The many collaborators on these projects are working to assemble a guidebook of their successful restoration methods so that others may put them into practice. The presentation also highlighted the contributions of other USFWS programs, such as the National Fish Passage Program, to the Ohio River Basin FHP's work.

NOAA Announcement (*Pat Montanio*)

Pat Montanio highlighted that NOAA is working with recreational saltwater anglers as key partners and aims to better understand anglers' goals and foster a stronger voice of that group in restoration work. Pat shared with the Board that NOAA will have funds this year, similar to last year, available for coastal FHP projects that engage recreational anglers in habitat restoration or conservation. An informal request for proposals

(RFP) will go out to coastal FHPs in November; there will be an informational webinar in early December and proposals will be due in early 2020. NOAA will rely on existing funding mechanisms and partnerships to move funds. Pat also highlighted other NOAA work with the recreational community including the Chesapeake Bay workshops and Rod and Reef slam where highest prize goes to the angler who catches the most species over a restored oyster reef.

NFHP Action Plan Revision (*Gary Whelan, Science & Data Committee Co-Chair*)

Gary Whelan, Science and Data Committee co-chair, shared results from Board surveys about the elements (goals, objectives, and commitments) within the Action Plan that served as the first step in revising the Action Plan. Gary outlined an approach in which the Board would focus discussions where there was disagreement about wording or inclusion of Action Plan elements. The Board agreed to leave Action Plan goals 1 and 2 as they were and not make any changes. After substantial discussion about goal 3 and the overall approach to revising the plan, difficulty seeing the full picture without additional goals and objectives on the slides, the Board decided to push back further discussion on the plan to Thursday. The discussion on Thursday focused on documenting Board feedback on items where there was disagreement based on the survey results rather than wordsmithing specific goals or objectives as a full group. The Board discussed the inclusion of socioeconomics, the idea of “incentives”, assessment work, metrics to track progress, and the Federal Caucus as areas where further revision of the Plan should occur. In some places, it’s a matter of wordsmithing; however, in others, there are questions about whether or not to include these commitments or whether these are the right level of commitment. Gary will lead the remainder of the NFHP Action Plan revision work with a small work group (Pete Aarrestad, Doug Beard, and Board staff) and will present a revised version to the Board in March with further revisions likely beyond that.

Legislative Team Update (*Andrew Wilkins as a proxy for Christy Plumer*)

Andrew Wilkins provided the Board an overview on the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (the Act, HR 1747 and S 754) and its status. The Act would codify the National Fish Habitat Partnership, the Board’s functions, and create several oversight mechanisms. The Act passed House Natural Resources Committee favorably on September 25, with an amendment that includes U.S. territories in the range of the Partnership in addition to states, and awaits a vote on the House floor. In previous years, the legislation team worked to get the Act included with a larger Sportsmen legislation package, however, this year, the legislation seems to be having successes as a standalone bill. Next steps include increasing the awareness of this bill and the Partnership overall. Chris Moore raised the issue of how to get Congressional representatives in the field to see NFHP project sites since the Board has long wanted to do this, but has yet to be successful in setting up this type of visit. Andrew reminded the Board of an alternative option to bring the local experts to the Hill if we’re unsuccessful getting the member out to see the project and the importance of education and story-telling (education ≠ lobbying). Pat Montanio suggested that the Board consider inviting Congressional staff to our meeting field trips that are planned for the Board meetings. The Board also discussed how to utilize the “free press” that will likely accompany the upcoming World Fish Migration Day to continue the education on the Hill about NFHP’s habitat work.

Legislative Working Group Update (*Bryan Moore*)

Bryan Moore updated the Board on the progress of the Legislative Working Group. Bryan presented two draft documents for the Board to provide input on – 1) a draft letter to organizations represented on the Board to confirm they’d like to maintain their current representative and 2) draft transition guidance for the Board to implement if the legislation were to pass. The Board discussed minor changes to the draft letter and concerns about maintaining current seats for the Councils, Commissions and the current seat held by the Chair and suggested the Working Group explore options for the legislation language to be modified to

maintain those seats. These two draft documents will be revised and circulated to the Board for approval during the January Board call.

Great Lakes Basin FHP Presentation (*Rick Westerhof, USFWS and Amy Beyer, Conservation Resource Alliance*)

Rick Westerhof reminded the Board of the status of the Great Lakes Basin FHP which started in 2009 and spent about \$3.7M of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding in its first three years as an FHP. There was a period of inactivity for the FHP and the FHP recently re-convened their Steering Committee and will be revising their Strategic Plan. Amy Beyer, of the Conservation Resource Alliance, highlighted the ongoing work in Michigan to restore aquatic connectivity at the watershed scale, which included the Boardman River project. This effort to remove 3 dams along the Boardman River was a highly collaborative effort among partners and cost a total of \$27M. The USFWS played a significant role in this project by leveraging funding from other Service programs and providing technical and administrative assistance.

Day 2 – October 24, 2019 Notes and Discussion

Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation (*Joe Nohner*)

Joe Nohner presented to the Board an overview of the Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP's work in three main areas; scientific assessments, on-the-ground restoration, and education and outreach. The FHP formed in 2009, spans 8 states in the region, and focuses their work on inland lake habitats. Joe highlighted the MGLP Conservation Planner which is an online tool that has been developed to identify priority areas for restoration and is being widely used beyond the Partnership in other resource agencies (e.g. WI DNR). Examples of on-the-ground work included installation of woody debris, shoreline restoration, and fish passage installation. The Partnership is leading a natural lake shoreline marketing project in which professional photographers and writers educate homeowners, through photos and magazine features, about the benefits of and ways to achieve a natural lake shoreline. Joe shared that the Partnership's largest challenge is dealing with insular local organizations around these inland lakes that can make moving away from the status quo more difficult. FHP engagement with local landowner organizations can help to build trust with local community groups who are eager and willing to be educated on the threats facing these habitats and the ways they can help.

Beyond the Pond Update (*Ryan Roberts*)

Ryan Roberts reviewed results from an FHP survey that asked FHPs about whether or not they would support a cost-share model to fund a development director at Beyond the Pond. 11 FHPs responded to the survey and five of the respondents would support the cost-share model. However, FHPs noted that most do not have access to non-Federal funds to contribute to the position. The Board expressed interest in obtaining additional responses to the survey from FHPs who had not yet participated and the need to add clarity to the ask to FHPs (how much funding in total would be needed for this position and what is the job description). The Board discussed the vision for the development director to be self-sustaining; however, some expressed concern that that would be very difficult to establish in just one year. The Board asked about the Charter and bylaws of the Beyond the Pond Board and the Board Chair recommended that the Board make a decision about this at the March 2020 meeting.

Communications Committee Update (*Ryan Roberts*)

Ryan Roberts reviewed results from an FHP survey that asked about the effectiveness of the Waters to Watch campaign. 17 out of 20 FHPs responded to the anonymous survey. Most FHPs scored the campaign a 5/10 for effectiveness and noted a need to clarify the goals and objectives of the campaign. Ryan recommended three campaign adjustments: 1) include retrospective projects in the list of 10, 2) draft a template fact sheet

for FHPs to plug their info into for outreach when one of their projects is highlighted by the campaign, 3) announce the list of Waters to Watch in the spring (as opposed to the summer during field season). There was also discussion about engaging Board members in Waters to Watch events (press event, closing celebration, etc.) and better utilizing this campaign to NFHP's advantage on the Hill. Ryan will work with a small team of volunteer FHPs, Board staff, and Board members (Dan Shively and Chris Cantrell) to implement these campaign revisions for 2020.

Multistate Conservation Grant Update (*Ed Schriever & Ryan Roberts*)

Ed Schriever updated the Board that NFHP's combined application to the Multistate Conservation Grants was not successful this year. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's application for NFHP Project Tracking Database funds was successful. There were likely several factors behind why the combined application was not funded including fatigue with this particular application; however, Board staff does not yet have specific feedback from the review committee. This application differed from previous years since it centered around the theme of outreach and communications. This unsuccessful application now leaves a funding gap for some FHPs. The Board Chair advised that state Board members make an effort to engage their fish chiefs to gauge their level of support for the National Conservation Need developed for the 2020-2021 Multistate Conservation Grant cycle.

NFHP at the American Fisheries Society Meeting (*Kim Dibble & Ryan Roberts*)

Kim Dibble presented an overview of the new habitat-focused awards that NFHP has collaboratively developed. The inaugural Stan Moberly Award for Outstanding Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation, recognizing an individual for their achievement of significant success in a fish habitat career related to research, policy, management, education, project implementation, vision, communications and outreach or other endeavor, was awarded at the plenary on October 1, 2019 to Stan Moberly. There is also a new Rising Star Award for Early-Career Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation that will be presented to an early career nominee who achieved early-career success on projects related to fish habitat research, policy, management, education, project implementation, communications and outreach, or other endeavor. The 2019 Rising Star award was presented to Rebecca Krogman for her extensive work with the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership at Iowa DNR. The winner of the Rising Star award selects a Fish Habitat Partnership to receive a \$250 donation on their behalf. Ryan Roberts also reported out on the successful habitat film festival, Reno-vating Habitat for Fish & Wildlife, sponsored by NFHP at the AFS/TWS meeting. 80 films were shown in 14 film sessions broken up by theme. Around 500 people attended the festival over the course of 4 days and in some cases film-makers were there to speak and have a Q&A after their films. At the start of each session, a brief background presentation about NFHP was given and many attendees have been added to the NFHP list-serv. Debbie Hart led the coordination of this event along with a small team who assisted with film review, logo design, outreach materials, and session setup. Due to the success of this event, Debbie is hoping to set up another film festival for the AFS Western Division Meeting in April 2020 in Vancouver and will be looking for financial support from the Board to make this happen.

Boardman River Field Trip (*Gary Whelan, Brett Fessell, Frank Dituri, Andrew Muir, Rick Westerhof, and Heather Hettinger*)

Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians), Frank Dituri (City of Traverse City), Andrew Muir (Great Lakes Fishery Commission), Rick Westerhof (USFWS), and Heather Hettinger (MI DNR) gave background presentations before the Board field visit to dam removal sites along the Boardman River. The Board toured sites where the Brown Bridge, Boardman, and Sabin dams were removed and fish passage was restored. The Board also visited the Union Street Dam which is undergoing planning for near term modifications (project [FishPass](#)) for selective fish passage and where removal is not being pursued due to the presence of invasive sea lamprey.

