



## National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

**1:00 PM EDT – 4:00 PM ET**

**[Teams Meeting](#)**

Meeting6 ID: 286 091 253 157 29

Pa7sscode: 4BE6od2B

	Last Name	First Name	April 28
1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug (Gary)	X
3	Bevan	Connor	X
4	Bonds	Craig	X
5	Branham/Jepsen	Sharif/Sharmila	X
6	Carter	Julie	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	X
8	Golden	David	X
9	Horton	Chris	X
10	Kruse	Carter	X
11	Lohr	Steve	X
12	Micciche	Peter	X
13	Miko	David	X
14	Moore	Chris	X
16	Nakayama	Ian	
17	O Keefe	John	X
18	Perry	Steve	X
19	Rauch/Robinson	Sam/Carrie	X
	Rallston	Kellie	X
20	Ringia/Talayumtewa	Adam/Darren	X
21	Rivers	Pat	X
22	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
23	Schumann	Sarah	X
24	Shimoda	Risa	X
25	Slager	Jake	X

26	Trushenski	Jesse	X
27	Wagner/Hu	Paul/David	X
28	Wright	Charles	

**Other attendance (52 in total):**

- Jon Sjoberg
- Richard Mitchell
- Todd Ewing
- Trent Dodson
- Christopher Estes
- Heidi Keuler
- Lori Maloney
- Doug Nygren
- Martin Koenig
- Todd Ewing
- Jessica Coakley
- Debbie H
- Will Duncan
- Gordon Smith
- Grace Adams
- Tim Loux
- Trevor Luna
- Joe Nohner
- Sara Strassman
- Therese Thompson

Time (EDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
1:00 PM	<p><b>Welcome</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to new Board members</li> <li>• <b>Board vote</b> to approve January Board meeting summary</li> <li>• <b>Board vote</b> to approve April 28th Board meeting agenda.</li> <li>• <b>Board</b> member activities report out.</li> </ul>	Tab 1	<b>Tim Schaeffer</b> (NFHP Board Chair)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote to approve January Board meeting summary – motion Craig Bonds, Stan Allen</li> <li>• Vote to approve April 28 agenda, motion by Chris Moore, second David Golden</li> <li>• Carrie reported out on Dr. Nancy Foster Award deadline: (June 1) and NOAA’s NFHP funding opportunity (May 20)</li> <li>• Thanks to all who attended yesterday’s <a href="#">virtual 20th anniversary webinar</a>, will hear more about this during Communications update</li> </ul>			

1:15 PM	<p><b>National Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of NACC's work with FHPs, the S&amp;D Committee, and federal and state agencies</li> </ul>		<p><b>Kat Hoenke</b> (<i>Board Staff, NACC Coordinator</i>)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How FHPs interact with NACC</li> <li>• Started under SARP to <a href="#">inventory barriers</a></li> <li>• In 2022, BIL and IRA, SARP was funded to develop a national barrier inventory</li> <li>• National, grassroots effort to help partners find projects</li> <li>• Prioritization tool to assist in decision making</li> <li>• Objectives – inventory barriers, prioritize barriers, build community of practice</li> <li>• Inventory includes dams, assessed road stream crossings and waterfalls</li> <li>• Trained over 50 people in the SE in 2015</li> <li>• Culvert data has supported University research</li> <li>• Next steps: new data portal and login system, field deployable app, training portal</li> <li>• Using AI to assess outlet photos</li> <li>• USGS 3DHP LiDAR – LiDAR derived hydrography in development, may be able to get passability</li> <li>• FHP overlaps – can summarize inventory within their FHP boundary – how many miles have been restored, wetlands reconnected</li> <li>• Restoration calculator within FHP boundaries</li> <li>• Aquatic connectivity teams – some overlap within FHP boundaries (SARP and EBTJV)</li> <li>• Can filter to help prioritize FHP projects</li> <li>• Arkansas – SARP support, county government support, state support, and and is one of the most successful teams across the US</li> <li>• Can summarize stats and use in FHPs</li> <li>• <b>How are you bringing together existing databases?</b></li> <li>• <b>Do you get Tribal involvement in participating and sharing data?</b> Privacy of data is an issue</li> </ul>			
1:45 PM	<p><b>Update on National Fish Habitat Action Plan (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of the status of the Action Plan Revision</li> </ul>		<p><b>Jason Olive and Alex McOwen</b> (<i>Board Staff</i>)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to the USFS</li> <li>• We hope to have a version final and done for debut in late May or early June</li> </ul>			
1:55 PM	<p><b>FY2026 Fish Habitat Conservation Projects Approval Status and Next Steps</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board discussion and decision</b> on emergency action related to non-approval of FY26 project list</li> </ul>		<p><b>Tim Schaeffer</b> (<i>NFHP Board Chair</i>)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary of Interior has not yet approved project list</li> <li>• Many partners are desperately working to get thing moving along</li> <li>• ACE Act – Board has duty to promote, oversee, and coordinate</li> <li>• FHP coordination activities in 8204</li> </ul>			

3:05 PM	<b>The Fund</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of latest activities and <b>vote of non-Federal members on revised Fund Bylaws.</b></li> </ul>	Tab 3	<b>Julie Carter</b> <i>(Fund Board)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge members and Therese Thompson</li> <li>• Thank you to Governance Committee members for their review</li> <li>• Approved on April 13</li> <li>• Requesting approval of bylaws per their 2015 bylaws (vote of non-Federal members)</li> <li>• Review proposed changes...Board membership, FHPs as chapters,</li> <li>• FHPs do not need to be called Chapters to use the Fund to solicit donations</li> <li>• Question: <b>At least 3</b> or exactly 3? Suggest removing 3 so it reads, “The non-Federal directors from the NFHP Board...”</li> <li>• Motion to approve revised bylaws with Sarah’s change by: Stan Allen, seconded by: Pat Rivers, motion carries.</li> <li>• New website has been soft launched. Will promote later this year.</li> <li>• Flipcause was acquired by Software 4 Nonprofits, but will be at cost, looking at alternatives</li> <li>• 2022-2025 donations to FHPs didn’t outweigh the cost of having Flipcause.</li> </ul>			
3:35 PM	<b>Policy Committee</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of plans for NFHP events in DC around the July Board meeting.</li> </ul>		<b>Tim Shaeffer</b> <i>(Board Chair)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in FY27 President’s Budget for NFHP</li> <li>• Letters have been submitted to appropriate committees, requesting full appropriations</li> <li>• Encourage members to get into the field, Congressman Fitzpatrick may go for a site visit this summer</li> <li>• Tentative schedule highlighted for DC meeting and associated briefing and receptions</li> </ul>			
2:30 pm	<b>Communications Committee</b> <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary social media and website implementation.</li> </ul>	Tab 2	<b>Jake Slager</b> <i>(Board Member)</i> and <b>Ryan Roberts</b> <i>(NFHP Staff)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still working on growing reach, follow us on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram)</li> <li>• FHP storymaps – presented metrics and views</li> <li>• Social media campaign around highlighting NFHP projects successful with spreading awareness of NFHP</li> <li>• 90+ people attended the NFHP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – overall an engaging success!</li> <li>• Other updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ upcoming: FHP Fact Sheets Completed by July (Project started)</li> <li>○ July: ICast Policy Briefing</li> <li>○ September AFWA President’s Task Force Report</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
4:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>		

