



**National Fish Habitat Board WebEx Summary: June 29, 2016**

**Members present:**

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Mike Leonard (ASA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)
Mike Andrews (TNC)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Doug Beard (USGS)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Sean Stone (CCA)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Dan Ashe (USFWS)	

**Members absent:**

Doug Boyd (SBPC), Whit Fosburgh (TRCP), Kelley Myers (MAFWA), Ron Regan (AFWA), Ed Schriever (WAFWA), and Ron Skates (NAWS)

**Approved by motion:**

- Chris Moore moves to approve the June Board Meeting Agenda with noted revision; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Bryan Moore moves to approve the Finance Committee Charter and Bylaws; seconded by Chris Moore. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to add the Pacific Lamprey as a Fish Habitat Partnership; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to approve the March National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call/WebEx Summary; seconded by Ellen Gilinsky. No opposition noted; motion passes.

**Updates and discussions:**

- Housekeeping – It was made known that the Fall Board meeting will be held October 26-27 in Panama City, FL and a joint FHP and Science and Data Committee workshop will likely precede it (October 24-25). A potential field trip on either October 27 or 28 highlighting SARP shoal bass work on the Chipolla River is also being considered. The Beyond the Pond Board of Directors may also meet during that week.
- Executive Leadership Team – All Board members whose terms were up for review in 2016 were re-appointed for another term. The ELT has decided to keep the NFWF seat vacant for the time being.
- Executive Session Outcomes and Next Steps - Staff provided an overview of their recommendations for addressing the action items and parking lot items generated at the Board Executive Session in March. The focus of the overview was given to those items which will be discussed in greater depth at the October Board meeting, which include Topic 4 - Board Committees and Working Groups; Topic 6 - Board Funding; Topic 8 - Purpose and role of FHPs; Topic 9 - Relationship between Board and FHPs; Topic 10 - New FHPs; and Topic 12 - Marketing and Branding. With regard to topic 6 the Board discussed the need to conduct demand driven versus supply driven work and the need to survey the FHPs and their partners. The Board also discussed how photos can be shared with FHPs for their use.
- USFWS Funding Methodology – The Board was provided with a summary of the FWS-NFHP FY16 process and allocations, the details of which can be found in Tab 4 of the Board Book. It was noted that the funds for most FHPs have been provided to the regions, which will then move the funds out to the FHPs. NOAA is working to provide funds to the Southeast Alaska FHP for nearshore priorities.

- 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment – The Board was provided with an overview of the process, noting the members of the writing team, the number of comments received on the draft report and the desire for the Board to provide feedback on the beta website by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board was also provided with a brief demo for navigating the report.
- Legislative Update – It was noted that the NFHP legislation was included in the Sportsman’s Act within the Senate Energy Bill, but that it was not included in the House Sportsman’s Act and Energy Bill. The next step is to conference the two bills, and if it goes to conference, the NFHP bill will be in play. Advancement of the MOU has been paused until the legislation plays out, at which point how and whether to move forward will be decided.
- Budget and Finance Committee Update – An overview of the Budget and Finance Committee charter was provided to the Board, including its need and function, key objectives and responsibilities, and deliverables, the details of which can be found in Tab 7 in the Board Book. It was clarified that this Committee would not be taking final actions but rather would be making recommendations, and that the Committee would not have fundraising responsibility but rather strategy development responsibility.
- Pacific Lamprey Candidate Partnership – The Board viewed a presentation noting the Board staff’s recommendation that the Board recognize the Pacific Lamprey Candidate as an official Fish Habitat Partnership. The presentation also outlined specific places where additional clarification from the Pacific Lamprey group is needed -- either in a separate cover letter or when it updates its strategic plan. The Board discussed whether the FHP should be approved given that it would be considering whether or not to continue accepting new FHPs at the October meeting. It was also acknowledged that if it was approved as an FHP, it would not be eligible for USFWS-NFHP funds.
- Partnerships Committee Update – The Committee’s new membership and re-prioritized tasks were made known to the Board and are also available in Tab 9 of the Board Book. Comments on the draft document of interdependence are expected by the end of July.
- NFHP 10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee Update – The Board was made aware of the different components of the Anniversary plan which includes an infographic, advertisements, and other outreach materials, in addition to involvement at events such as a Capitol Hill briefing, the AFS Annual meeting, and the AFWA annual meeting. Further details and the associated costs of these items are available in Tab 10 of the Board Book. It was noted that NOAA had provided some funds to help cover costs and that AFS is assisting with the Capitol Hill briefing.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update – It was noted that several Partnerships had come together to submit an LOI, which also included some funds for 10-year Anniversary activities. Concern was expressed with regard to the fact that one FHP submitted its own LOI, separate from the joint-FHP LOI, and what that could mean for future rounds.

**Action items:**

- The Joint FHP-SDC workshop will be added to Tab 1c.
- FHPs and their partners will be surveyed regarding what they want from the national assessment, what products they want, and how they are using the existing products.
- The Communications Committee will work with FHPs to identify an avenue through which high quality pictures can be shared and used.
- At the Fall 2016 Meeting, the Board will develop a transition checklist for to the new Administration.
- Any comments with regard to the outcomes of the Board’s March executive session should be sent to Emily Greene ([emily.greene@noaa.gov](mailto:emily.greene@noaa.gov)).
- The SDC will provide a navigation of the habitat assessment website on a monthly USFWS regional coordinator call.

**Future Board meetings:**

- October 26-27 in the Florida Panhandle
- No new Board members were approved in 2016, so an introductory summer call will not be held.

**Board approved documents:**

- March Board meeting summary
- Budget and Finance Committee Charter

**Additional attendees:**

Julie Carter (WNTI)  
Karen Eldridge (USFWS)  
Jessica Graham (SARP)  
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)  
Julie Henning (USFWS)  
Elsa Haubold (LCC Network)  
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)  
Pat Montanio (NMFS)  
Joe Nohner (MGLP)  
Steve Perry (EBTJV)  
Bill Rice (USFWS)  
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)  
Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)  
Therese Thompson (WNTI)  
Tim Troll (SWAK)  
Jeremy Voeltz (USFWS)  
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)  
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)