



BOARD MEETING BOOK

MARCH 22, 2021 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET
(ZOOM MEETING)



National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting Agenda

**Monday, March 22, 2021
3:00 – 5:00 PM ET**

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/96259811664?pwd=NjVGNDRTcW90eThzK3lLK3pEdHRYZz09>

Meeting ID: 962 5981 1664

Passcode: 939793

Dial by your location: 1 301 715 8592

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
3:00	<p>Welcome, Attendance, & Introductions <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff action to take attendance. • Board action to approve the agenda for this meeting. • Board action to approve the meeting summary from the February meeting. 		Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)
3:15	<p>2021 NFHP Board Meeting Schedule <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of future 2021 meeting schedule. • Next NFHP Board meeting will be Monday, April 26 from 3-5 PM ET. • Board discussion of planning for a future facilitated Board visioning session. 	Tab 1	Alex Atkinson (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff</i>)
3:30	<p>Screening of NFHP “Our Story” Video and “Getting to Know the FHPs” videos <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the NFHP mission & legacy. • Q&A about the FHP presentations. 		Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>)
3:55	<p>Updates from USFWS <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of FY21 funding and support from the USFWS. 		Steve Guertin (<i>US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>)

- **Board awareness** of the status of list of Tribal member nominees.
- **Board awareness** of the status of Interagency Operational Plan discussions.

4:10 Recap of Board Priority Actions

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the upcoming decision points of the Board.

Ed Schriever (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman*)

4:20 Board Priority Actions (by Committee)

Desired outcomes:

Partnerships Committee (PC):

- **Board awareness** of PC membership.
- **Board awareness and discussion of:**
 - PC strawman “project” definition;
 - Retrospective on NFHP non-federal match

Tab 2

Stan Allen (*Partnerships Committee Tri-Chair*) & **Therese Thompson** (*Partnerships Committee Tri-Chair, Western Native Trout Initiative Coordinator*)

Science and Data Committee (SDC):

- **Board awareness** of SDC membership.
- **Board awareness and discussion of:**
 - Process to develop FY22 project and evaluation criteria;
 - Process to develop national NFHP priorities

Tab 3

Gary Whelan (*Science and Data Committee Co-Chair*)

Legislative/Budget Committee:

- **Board discussion** of former Legislative Team of NFHP

Christy Plumer (*Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership*)

5:00 Adjourn

2021 National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Schedule

Background: The National Fish Habitat Board has many important actions to implement in short order following the passage of the ACE Act. Given this, the Board will be meeting monthly for the first portion of 2021. The meeting schedule for the latter portion of the year will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Meeting Schedule (through July 2021):

- **March 22, 2021 from 3-5 PM ET**
- **April 26, 2021 from 3-5 PM ET**
- **May 24, 2021 from 3-5 PM ET**
- **June 28, 2021 from 3-5 PM ET**
- **July 26, 2021 from 3-5 PM ET**

Title: Partnerships Committee Update March 2021

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness and discussion** of Partnerships Committee strawman “project” definition.
- **Board awareness** of the retrospective done by the Partnerships Committee of NFHP non-federal match to assist with planning for FY22 and beyond.

Background:

The Partnerships Committee serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Membership:

First	Last	Committee Responsibility (Representing)	Organization
Bryan	Moore	Tri-Chair (Board)	Trout Unlimited
Stan	Allen	Tri-Chair (Board)	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Therese	Thompson	Tri-Chair (FHP)	Western Native Trout Initiative
Alex	Atkinson	Staff (Board Staff)	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Alicia	Marrs	Member (FHP)	Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and California Fish Passage Forum
Branden	Bornemann	Member (FHP)	Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
Debbie	Hart	Member (FHP)	Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Heidi	Keuler	Member (FHP)	Fishers and Farmers Fish Habitat Partnership
Jeff	Boxrucker	Member (FHP)	Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership
Jessica	Graham	Member (FHP)	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Jessica	Speed	Member (FHP)	Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership
Joe	Nohner	Member (FHP)	Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership
Lisa	Havel	Member (FHP)	Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
Lori	Maloney	Member (FHP)	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Carter	Kruse	Member (Board)	Turner Enterprises
Doug	Boyd	Member (Board)	Sport Fish Boating Partnership Council
Steve	Perry	Member (Board)	Private Landowner, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

2021 Work Plan Priorities

Priority A: Define the term “project” for purposes of implementing the ACE Act.

- The Partnerships Committee drafted the following definition of a NFHP project that they would like to recommend for the Board’s consideration:

“Projects include all activities that the NFHP Board, Fish Habitat Partnerships, and our partners perform, fund, or support in whole or in part, that coordinate, promote, and implement conservation (protect, restore and enhance) actions for fish and aquatic habitat.”

Priority B: Develop recommended approaches for how to meet the 1:1 non-Federal match outlined in the ACE Act.

- Retrospective of NFHP non-Federal match funding
- 3 interpretation options with examples:
 1. For each project that requests NFHP funding, that project must match 1:1 the funding it requests for NFHP funds with non-federal funds.

Example: If a project requests 50K in NFHP funds, it must show 50K match from a non-federal funding source.

2. If the Fish Habitat Partnerships had all of their projects considered as a block grant of sorts – all projects totaled up within the grant for the FHP must have 1:1 NFHP:non-federal match. Some of the projects within the block could have less than a 1:1 match, and some could have more, but overall the match would be at least 1:1 NFHP:non-federal.

Example: If Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP submits a list of projects requesting NFHP funds equal to \$300K, there must be at least 300K in non-federal source match for that list of projects. Some of the individual projects on that list may have more or less than 1:1 NFHP:non-federal match.

3. If all of the NFHP project requests were combined - across all FHPs and the Board - the 1:1 NFHP:non-federal match would need to occur at the topmost level of \$6.84M.

Example: The \$6.84M appropriated by Congress will be matched with at least \$6.84M from a non-federal funding source. Some of the individual projects may have more or less than 1:1 NFHP:non-federal match.

Priority C: Develop recommended approach for short term NFHP funding allocation process for FY22

Priority D: Develop recommended approach for “long term” (FY23 and thereafter) NFHP funding allocation process

Title: Science and Data Committee Report**Desired Outcome:**

- **Board understanding** of Science and Data Committee membership and responsibilities

Purpose:

The Board's Science and Data Committee's (SDC) was established in 2005 and its purpose is to provide scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals and objectives of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) in a scientifically sound and strategic manner.

Specifically the SDC is to:

- to advise on setting future science and data priorities to include national conservation priorities;
- develop strategies to support Board science and data priorities by ensuring the completion of appropriate fish habitat assessments;
- provide expert advice to the Board, FHPs and other parties on science and data analysis methods concerning fisheries habitat analysis and evaluation and on data transfer methods and standards; and
- develop liaison opportunities between the Board and FHP science and data committees to ensure smooth transition of needed information.

Membership:

The current SDC membership consists of 24 members including representatives from state fisheries agencies, FHPs, a marine fisheries commission, federal agencies, universities, and private industry (see table below). The SDC has three Board liaisons to provide guidance to SDC work along with additional resources and expertise. The committee has a diverse membership with expertise in rivers, lakes, estuaries, and marine systems along with experience ranging from assessing habitat on individual waterbody and stream segments to evaluating the condition of aquatic systems on large landscape and national scales. Associated with the SDC are five past members who are technical advisors that have maintained interest in NFHP SDC work and continue to provide input and expertise. Given the remarkable range of expertise and resources on the SDC, the committee is prepared to assist the Board, FHPs, and partners with any science or data task.

First	Last	Committee Responsibility	Organization
Stan	Allen	Board Liaison	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Michael	Bailey	Committee Member	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Doug	Beard	Board Liaison	USGS
Peg	Brady	Committee Member	NOAA
Timothy	Birdsong	Committee Member	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division
Wesley	Daniel	Committee Member	USGS - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program
Joan	Drinkwin	Committee Member	Pacific Marine & Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership
Jessica	Graham	Committee Member	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Kat	Hoenske	Committee Member	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Dana	Infante	Committee Member	Michigan State University
Daniel	Isaak	Committee Member	U.S. Forest Service
Pete	Jacobson	Committee Member	MN DNR - Retired
Jeff	Kopaska	Committee Member	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Lori	Maloney	Committee Member	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
James	McKenna, Jr.	Committee Member	US Geological Survey - Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science
Richard	Mitchell	Committee Member	USEPA - Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
D. Moe	Nelson	Committee Member	NOAA/NOS Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment
Craig	Paukert	Committee Member	US Geological Survey - Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Kate	Sherman	Committee Member	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Jesse	Trushenski	Board Liaison	Riverence
Bruce	Vogt	Committee Member	NOAA - Chesapeake Bay Office
John	Young	Committee Member	USGS - Eastern Ecological Science Center
Gary	Whelan	Co-Chair	Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division
Daniel	Wieferich	Co-Chair	USGS



Christopher	Estes	Committee Technical Advisor	Chalk Board Enterprises LCC and Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Retired
Jonathan	Higgins	Committee Technical Advisor	The Nature Conservancy - Global Conservation Approach Team
Scott	Sowa	Committee Technical Advisor	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Field Office
Jennifer	Bayer	Committee Technical Advisor	US Geological Survey, Cook, Washington
Kirsten	Larsen	Committee Technical Advisor	NOAA/NMFS

2021 Priorities and Outcomes:

Priority 1: Science and Data Committee Operations (SDC Co-Chairs)

- Begin new SDC membership team building and provide an overview of the past SDC work to all committee members.
- Review existing and develop a proposed SDC Terms of Reference for Board approval.
- Begin coordination efforts with Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) on science and data needs and develop a list of FHP needs that the SDC can assist in resolving and filling.

Priority 2: Support Development of Key Board Priority Needs (SDC Co-Chairs)

- Develop National Fish Habitat Conservation Priorities options for Board consideration
 - Assemble past Board National Fish Habitat Conservation Priorities as background material.
 - Assemble and summarize Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) projects over the last 5 years to determine current capacity for protection, restoration and improvement of fish habitat.
 - Propose a series of National Fish Habitat Conservation Priority options for Board consideration for use in FY2023 in consultation with the Partnership Committee.
- Develop NFHP project selection and evaluation criteria options for the Board's consideration in collaboration with the Partnership Committee.
 - Assemble and summarize existing FHP and other grant program habitat project selection and evaluation criteria as background information for the Board.
 - Review existing literature on project selection and evaluation of project success as a white paper as background information for the Board.
 - In collaboration with the Partnership Committee, propose project selection and evaluation criteria options for Board consideration and use in FY2023.

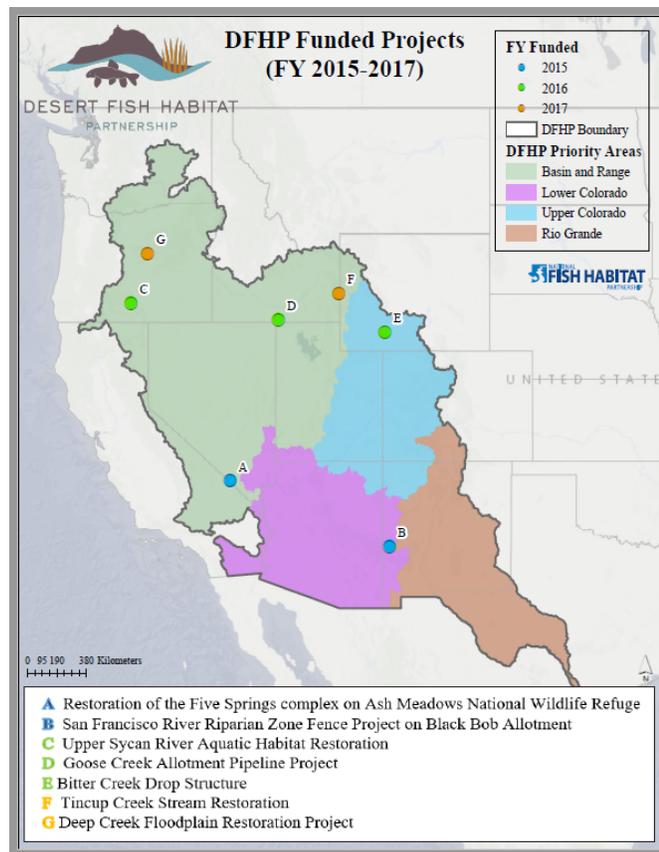
Priority 3: Continue work on the NFHP Project Tracking Database (Kate Sherman, Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission)

- Kate Sherman (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, PSMFC) continues to maintain and improve the NFHP Project Tracking Database. Work was funded using NOAA (FY2018) and MSCG (FY2019) funding previously but new funds are needed to continue this work. Assuming funding is obtained, the following effort will continue:
 - Working directly with FHP coordinators to assist with reporting requirements for funded project. Create standard queries for accomplishment reports, and project location maps for FHP's (Figures 1 and 2 show examples).
 - Assist FHPs with data management plans and maintain a help service for FHPs working with their data on the system.
 - Improve reporting capabilities of the data management system with the development of semi-automated reports for the annual accomplishment reporting.
 - Maintain the database on PSMFC servers including server maintenance, server updates, and data backups.
 - Provide project information for any FHP and Board outreach needs.

Figure 1: Example Q2 standardized table output from NFHP Project Tracking Database. Example from EBTJV.

Project Title	FHP Priority Species	FHP Priority Area	Brief project description (max. 250 characters)
Nash Stream Restoration & Columbia Road Culverts, Odell, Coos County, NH	Brook Trout		This Project restored the habitat for native fish in the Nash Stream watershed using well-established process-based restoration principles.
Upper Shavers Fork Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration, WV	Brook Trout		Enhancement of aquatic habitat connectivity and genetic exchange within the Upper Shavers Fork fluvial metapopulation of wild Brook Trout.
Sparta Glen Brook Restoration, NJ	Brook Trout		This project restores critical instream habitat within Sparta Glen Brook, including natural pool regimes and spawning areas, restores toe of slope protection, and further stabilizes upland fringe areas, as well as the riparian corridor along a 0.68 mile s
Great Pond Tributary Culvert Replacement, Little Cards Brook, Franklin, ME	Brook Trout		This project will replace the existing multiple round culvert with an open bottom arch culvert, with span that exceeds 1.2 times the bank full width requirements.
Watershed Connectivity Project, Beebe River Watershed, Campton and Sandwich, NH	Brook Trout		This project removes and replaces five stream crossings in the Beebe River Watershed on a 5,435 acre parcel recently acquired by The Conservation Fund. These crossings are on five separate tributary streams that flow into the Beebe River.
Restoring a Brook Trout Metapopulation within the Little Cataloochee Creek & Anthony Creek Watersheds, Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Brook Trout		The purpose of this Project is to restore Brook Trout into 2.64 km of Little Cataloochee Creek and 2.8 km of Anthony Creek within its native range in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) as identified in the GRSM Fishery Management Plan.
East Branch Passumpsic River Dam Removal, VT	Brook Trout		This Project removes a deteriorating dam, which will improve natural flow regimes, free-flowing river conditions, water quality and temperature, sediment release and transport, and connectivity resulting in the restoration of Aquatic Organism Passage.
Enhancing and Connecting Wild Brook Trout populations in the West Mountain Wildlife Management Area, VT	Brook Trout		This Project replaces one impassable culvert with a bridge, removes one culvert, and improves 1.25 miles of Brook Trout spawning and juvenile rearing habitat.

Figure 2: Example of standardized map output of project locations from NFHP Project Tracking Database. Example from DFHP.



Priority 4: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System (Daniel Wieferich, USGS In-kind support)

- Maintain existing NFHP data products developed by the 2010 and 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessments.
- Begin coordination with FHPs to determine how to integrate FHP datasets and systems into the Board's data system.
- Continue viewer development to summarize and display existing National Fish Habitat Assessment Data in needed formats.
- USGS has been working on open source solutions to summarize habitat condition indices and disturbances to the National Hydrography Dataset(s) and associated ecological and jurisdictional areas. These efforts will help support future regional and national assessments of fish habitat condition and will also support communication of information in future generations of NFHP data system.

Report written by: Gary Whelan (MI DNR Fisheries Division)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)
Board Science and Data Co-Chairs
March 10, 2021