



Eastern Brook Trout

**JOINT VENTURE**

**A Fish Habitat Partnership**

**Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Annual Partnership Meeting  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory  
Frostburg, Maryland  
June 11-12, 2013**

**Day 1 Summary:**

**Review & Update Membership Lists (Doug Besler)**

Doug welcomed all Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) partners and convened the meeting. All EBTJV members should sign up on the new web portal at [www.easternbrooktrout.org](http://www.easternbrooktrout.org) as a general member or as a member of specific groups. We will not continue to maintain the yahoo groups after 1 July 2013.

**EBTJV Coordinator Updates (Steve Perry)**

The contract for the position was executed in January 2013.

Steve drafted an annual work plan for the coordinator that was submitted to and approved by the EBTJV Steering Committee (SC) on 19 March 2013. Main duties for the coordinator include:

- Coordinate efforts of committees / workgroups
- Serve as liaison with Board, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC), and other conservation initiatives
- Promote EBTJV to resource professionals and
- Perform business manager functions

**Past 6 months activities:**

- Reviewed EBTJV conservation strategy & provided recommendations to SC to update the plan.
- Assessed the degree to which the EBTJV priorities are being addressed by National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) funded fish habitat conservation projects.
- Determine how well the project scoring criteria align with the NFHP Board's minimum benchmark project prioritization criteria.
- Review project scoring criteria and develop recommendations to improve it.
- Partnered with Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) on Multistate Conservation Grant (MSCG) program's current White Water to Blue Water Initiative efforts
- Interacted with Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Team & Appalachian LCC

- Developed and distributed EBTJV's initial quarterly newsletter.

### **Appalachian LCC Update / Web Portal Demo (Jean Brennan / Dianne Timmins)**

AppLCC Projects Funded:

- Stream Classification for Appalachian landscape
- Future Energy Impact Assessment
- Understanding Land Use and Climate Change in App Landscape
- Hydrologic Foundation and Flow-ecology relationships for monitoring riverine resources in the Marcellus shale region.
- Web based tool for riparian restoration prioritization to promote climate change resilience in eastern US streams.
- FY13: Classification and geo-referencing cave / karst resources across Appalachian landscape
- FY13: Preliminary assessment and inventory (landscape level threats across the Appalachian landscape)
- FY13: Preliminary assessment and inventory of ecosystem services across the Appalachian landscape

How are we going to develop the website as a planning tool for our partnership and others in the community?

The website is a robust content management system for all partners that join – AppLCC, EBTJV, SARP, etc. Whatever features / tools one partner develops on the portal, other partners may utilize.

EBTJV data now exists in the cloud. Jean and the AppLCC can help us develop the tools on the website to interact with the data. We need to define how we would like to use our data and manipulate it.

Decision Support Questions / Data Needs Comments:

- Basic web mapping function (assessment ID) for non-GIS professionals
- Identify priority areas for projects (areas for protection, expand intact areas, etc)
- How threats (road density, barriers, etc) affect priorities, status, etc
- Flexible geographic scales
- NFHP Board disturbance index should be considered.
- Need to share new catchment assessment data as soon as possible
- Sensitive data can be restricted / managed as necessary. Data can be in the model while not being delivered to all users.
- Trout Unlimited CSI should be considered.
- Can you build site so state managers can update catchment information via mobile devices in real-time?
- Land ownership, land protection, easements, life stages, determine places to invest, connectivity, roads, acid, 303d, groundwater,

- Need to remember that the assessment is based on occupancy. Many underlying challenges in data layers like dams. Ability to update in real-time is fairly unrealistic for most state biologists. Five years may be a more realistic time frame for some states.
- Look at data that is available at the NE regional scale. There is a TNC standardized dams dataset. They also have a stream classification model. They are working on lakes and ponds. Conserved lands data set is available.
- TNC has a database of all culverts in MA.
- It would be nice to make a prioritization on a state scale based on data available in that state. NC wants to be able to identify the best catchments to do brook trout work in their state. They want the ability to go back in and assign a genetics rank for each catchment.
- Abundance data / density data should be included where available.
- Restoration lens and protection lens
- Select one state to move forward with an example of a state / local model. Data that is used in analysis may be different across the region.
- Standard data entry form / field may be different by region or state.
- Chain of custody / permission to enter data important. One set user that has permission to change data for a given state.
- Who will manage / maintain data in cloud for EBTJV? Meta data and curation are important.
- Need to ensure that we QA/QC results of models (not just data) with each state to ensure the results match their understanding of their system.

### **Range-wide Assessment Update (Jason Detar / Jason Coombs)**

#### **History of EBTJV Assessments (Jason Detar)**

Initial assessment was done in 2006. It was headed up by Nat Gillespie & Mark Hudy. They met with all of the state biologists and developed GIS layers based on those visits. The assessment was done at the subwatershed (6<sup>th</sup> HUC) scale. The plan was to update the subwatershed assessment in ~5years at a finer scale.

In 2011, we began updating the assessment at the catchment scale. The project started with Mark until he accepted a new job with USGS. Amanda Colton took over the project when Mark left USFS. Then, Amanda also accepted a new job and left the project. Jason Coombs is now leading the effort. The majority of the southern / mid-Atlantic states are in draft status. Those states are verifying the data and providing feedback to Jason. The comments will be incorporated and a final dataset will be made available soon.

**State contacts, thank you to those that have already submitted edits. Even if your data is accurate, please let Jason know so he can finalize that dataset.**

#### **Riparian Vegetation Planting Tool (Jason Coombs)**

This tool will be housed by the AppLCC and made available through all partner portals including EBTJV's site.

Purpose: To locate and prioritize locations where tree plantings would be most beneficial (30M raster) range wide.

Data: canopy cover, solar radiation, NHD+ stream layer with 100M buffer (30M Raster).

End Product: Web-based GIS tool

Features: User specified threshold values for % canopy cover or % rank solar radiation.  
User specified spatial extent for various geographic and hydrologic layers.

Jason is currently developing the tool and would like suggestions for new / improved functions from attendees:

- Add 100 year floodplain
- The ability to change buffer size would be valuable.
- Will the tool be available for users to download and use on their desk top GIS platform? All of the data will be available through the website / portal, but the tool will only be available through the website.
- How can we download the product of the tool for our area showing areas where planting is a good investment? Yes, you can export the output data set and use it however you choose. The goal of the portal though is to do this analysis through the community portal and make it available to everyone.

### **New Assessment - Habitat Patch Layer (Jason Coombs)**

Purpose: to update initial brook trout assessment performed at the subwatershed scale to the catchment scale.

End Products: NHD+ layer with trout occurrence, brook trout patch layer.

Scale – Currently done for PA south. Now includes Ohio. Data request was sent out to northern states. Data received from Maine, CT, NH, NY, and OH.

Currently writing script to automate process:

- Speed up analysis / reduce errors
  - Patches more numerous in northern states
- Reproducible
- Enable retrospective analysis
  - Produce patch layers through time
  - Quantify patch loss
- Establish framework for future analyses
  - Occupancy models
    - Catchments assigned probability of having brook trout

Questions:

- Increasing occurrence of Japanese knotweed. How do other states deal with this problem? Is it included in mapping/assessment efforts?
- What categories are being used for occupancy (intact, reduced, & extirpated) in the new assessment? Need to ensure we can compare apples to apples.
- What is the rule set for the new assessment?
- Can we overlay with EPA Level 4 eco-regions?

### **Brook Trout Genetics Presentation (Dr. J. Stauffer)**

Dr. Jay Stauffer, Penn State University gave a presentation to the group regarding his research into brook trout speciation within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### **Conservation Strategy Review (Steve Perry)**

Initial EBTJV Conservation Strategy (CS) was originally published in August 2007 and revised November 2007, July 2008, and November 2011. This year, Steve reviewed the current strategy and proposed a series of recommendations to the steering committee.

The following tasks are a result of Steering Committee action on those recommendations:

#### **Conservation Strategy Committee**

- Add a section to the CS that defines the various brook trout status designations currently being used by the partnership.
- Develop a description of the process used to prioritize sub-watersheds for conservation action and incorporate this description, along with associated maps, into the CS.
- Determine the processes being used to monitor and evaluate brook trout population responses (including increases in recreational fishing opportunities) to EBTJV related conservation actions and describe these processes in the CS.
- Describe and incorporate the catchment scale assessment methods and results in the CS.
- Review the range-wide and regional habitat objectives to determine if they should be modified in light of the findings from this finer scale evaluation.
- Review the relevance of using the sub-watershed prioritization process at the catchment scale.

#### **Science & Data Committee:**

- Identify and describe the ways the EBTJV is facilitating effective transfer of brook trout management technologies among its partners
- Develop a range-wide protocol for monitoring brook trout population trends.
- Determine the progress being made towards implementing the six data management strategies and five research strategies identified in the CS.
- Review the data management and research strategies currently identified in the CS and revise these strategies as necessary.

#### **Outreach & Education Committee**

- Develop and implement strategies that raise awareness about EBTJV project conservation outcomes among the partnership's community of support.
  - Develop and implement strategies that communicate the EBTJV's accomplishments to a broad audience.
  - Identify and communicate the EBTJV efforts to engage partners for the purpose of seeking solutions to regional and ecological threats.
  - Re-visit the intent of the five outreach / education focus areas identified in the CS to ensure agreement. They should form the framework for a comprehensive outreach and education plan.
  - Develop a comprehensive outreach and education plan, which includes targets, timelines, and metrics for measuring the plan's effectiveness.
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- Identify the outcomes from EBTJV related conservation actions to date, along with analyzing the progress these outcomes have made towards achieving the regional and range-wide habitat objectives.

A copy of the full report with Steve's recommendations is available on the website.

### **Assessment of EBTJV Priorities Addressed by NFHP Projects (Steve Perry)**

This review assessed how the EBTJV priorities were addressed by NFHP projects funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

EBTJV Conservation Priorities:

- Increasing recreational fishing opportunities for wild brook trout
- Protecting the best of the best habitat that supports existing, healthy wild brook trout populations
- Improving and reconnecting adjacent habitats that have a high likelihood of supporting stable wild brook trout pops
- Focusing on critical wild brook trout spawning and early life history habitat in sub-watersheds classified as intact
- Preserving genetic diversity of wild brook trout pops

Among funded NFHP project analyzed, the breakdown of projects in each subwatershed classification is as follows: 20% intact, 50% reduced, 9% extirpated and 12% where classification is unknown.

Where priority ranking could be determined, the scores ranged from 0.1 to 1.66, with the average being 0.91. For intact subwatershed, the average priority score was 1.41.

66% - improved recreational fishing

72% - improving and reconnecting adjacent habitat

34% - improving spawning habitat

20% enhancing early life history

20% conserving genetic diversity

7% unique life history strategies

Project Supporting the 12 Common State Level Objectives:

82% - Maintaining or restoring natural hydrologic regimes

54% - Mitigating factors that degrade water quality

35% - nongame species with brook trout

Coordinator Recommendations:

- Use the project's location coordinates to determine the corresponding subwatershed priority score where this information is missing (n=32).
- Add language to the EBTJV project application form that asks applicants who indicate their project will increase recreational fishing for wild brook trout, how the increase will be measured.
- Develop a process for tracking brook trout habitat protection efforts that are being completed with the use of other types of funding sources and through land conservation organizations.
- Add specific questions to the EBTJV project application form that solicit responses from the applicants about whether their proposed conservation actions will improve brook trout spawning and early life history habitat.

- Highlight the need for conservation actions that focus on lacustrine, large river and coastal populations of wild brook trout as part of the RFP announcement released during the next several funding cycles.
- Add a question to the EBTJV project application form that asks whether the proposed conservation actions will conserve: wild brook trout genetic diversity, lacustrine, large river, or coastal populations of wild brook trout.
- Add a listing of the common state-level objectives as part of the RFP announcement released during each funding cycle and modify the EBTJV project application form so that applicants can specifically identify which of these objectives are being addressed by the proposed project.
- Incorporate a list of the EBTJV's conservation priorities as a part of the RFP announcement released during each funding cycle and modify the EBTJV project application form so that applicants can specifically identify which of these conservation priorities are being addressed by the proposed project.

### **EBTJV Project Ranking Criteria Alignment (Steve Perry)**

The NFHP Board recently adopted a minimum benchmark set of project ranking criteria at their meeting in February 2013. The need for this was an outcome of the FHP performance review test run that indicated that there was a wide array of ways in which FHPs ranked and selected projects. EBTJV's criteria are strongly aligned with the Board's minimum benchmark criteria.

Board Criteria / EBTJV Coordinator Recommendations:

- #1 - Direct linkages of project to specific FHP strategic plan priorities or NFHP action plan objectives or national conservation strategies
  - No new recommendation
- #6 - Leveraging of funds
  - No new recommendation
- #7 - Project protects aquatic habitat or addressed the causes and processes behind aquatic habitat decline.
  - No new recommendation
- #8 - Project has an outreach / education component in the local community.
  - No new recommendation
- # 2 - Project alignment / compatibility with conservation plans
  - The EBTJV can strengthen its linkage to this criterion by adding another component to Section IV – project planning and success that focused more specifically on determining if the project is also aligned with other conservation plans
- # 3 – Project id of specific measures of success and performance targets that are observable and amenable to pre and post project monitoring and includes social, economic and biological benefits such as enhanced recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing opportunities, increased public visitation, or innovative project designs that address specific fish conservation challenges.
  - The EBTJV can strengthen its linkage to this criterion by including another component under Section IV – project planning and success that rates the proposed project's description of its success measures and performance targets.

- #4 – capabilities / experience of project proponents to complete what is proposed
  - Add another component that assesses the capability and exp of proposed applicants.
- #5 – well defined budget linked to clear deliverable and outcomes
  - Add a component that rates how well the proposed project's budget is defined and is linked to its deliverable and outcomes

Questions:

- Potential use of new TRACs system?

### **Update on NFHP Board Activities (Steve Perry)**

- FHP Performance Evaluation:
 

The first formal performance evaluation of FHPs will occur in January 2015, covering a 3 year period (2012-2014), and then this process will be repeated every 3 years thereafter. Completed report will be due in April 2015. FHPs will be rated from 1-4 on each criteria. FHPs will be able to review / respond to the draft scores before being finalized.

In the test run of the performance evaluation, the EBTJV was the top ranking FHP, receiving 35.4 out of 40 total points. Most of our points were lost in measuring our success.
- NFHP Conservation Strategies were adopted by Board. FHPs are encouraged to incorporate these strategies into their plans.
  - Protect intact and healthy waters.
  - Restore hydrologic conditions for fish.
  - Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.
  - Restore water quality.

### **Conservation Strategy Session – Joint Meeting of the Northern & Southern Workgroup (Doug Besler, Steve Perry)**

Do we still need Northern & Southern Workgroups?

The work group will recommend that the SC dissolves the workgroups and function as one conservation strategy committee. The team recommends co-chairs for the committee with one representative from the northern region and one from the southern region – Jake Rash & Dana DeGraaf. Steve Perry will assist and do much of the heavy lifting for the workgroup to ease the burden on the co-chairs.

We will need to have a standalone workshop once the new assessment data is available to develop new prioritization system.

Need clear terminology and definitions.

Need to clarify EBTJV relationship with USFWS on project oversight and monitoring.

Need to ensure completion reports are received from grantees.



Need someone to help with the analysis of the new assessment data to help create our decision support tool.

EBTJV should send a letter to state directors asking for the brook trout to be added to or maintained in the state wildlife action plan.

## **Day 2 Summary**

### **Science & Data Committee Breakout Session (Jason Detar)**

- Monitoring Database - Jeff Horan, Merry Gallagher, & Tai-Ming Chang volunteered to help Jason Detar and Callie McMunigal with the monitoring database. The group will ensure that data fields necessary for utilizing the website to track monitoring are included in web enhancements. The group will also begin compiling a list of projects and monitoring contacts.
- GIS Assistance / Science Coordinator – The group felt pretty strongly that the EBTJV is in need of assistance managing its science and data. There are many options for filling this need including: GIS support from partner agencies, using part of the \$90 base funding from FWS to support a position, co-funding a position with the AppLCC for a GIS professional to manage our data, and / or hire a science coordinator to manage our data, give presentations, update the assessment every 5 years, etc.
- How are we going to demonstrate success from our projects?
- Assessment & Climate Change Vulnerability Ranking – Jason Coombs is currently working on these projects under a contract from James Madison University. He hopes to have the draft assessment out to the northern states to review this winter. Jeff Horan expressed concern over the timeline for the products and noted that the regional director of FWS is interested in having the products available soon. He asked how FWS might help by making calls to state directors or asking for resource support.
- Suggestion for new requirements for projects: Annual briefing for the life of the project. Capturing the human dimensions of the project benefits (improved fishing, hiking, boating, water quality, etc). Must have some sort of mechanism to capture benefits from human dimensions that are outside of the traditional community.

### **Subcommittee Report Outs**

#### **Grants & Development / Business Plan Committee (Steve Perry)**

Participants: Nat Gillespie, Gary Berti, Geoff, Glenn Erikson, Steve Perry

- Recommending that the SC change the name of this committee to the Business Planning Committee.
- They will draft a business plan using the template from the FHP training.
- They are looking at setting up a 501(c)3 fund to begin fundraising immediately.

### **Science & Data Committee (Jason Detar)**

Participants:

- Main focus area has been updating the range wide assessment. Jason Coombs is managing the project and it is well underway.
- We started a project tracking database for EBTJV projects earlier this year. This is a basic spreadsheet to track what kind of monitoring is going on and where. Tai and Merry agreed to take over this project.
- We discussed a strong need for hiring a science coordinator or GIS technician to assist with the assessment and 5 year updates, data management, data requests, serve as a liaison with other organizations / research efforts, etc. We will work with the SC to develop options for this new position / support.

### **Outreach Committee (Dianne Timmins)**

Participants:

- Reorganize the website to make it more user friendly.
- Update the member directory to include information on all members – title, position, organization, expertise, etc. This will make the member directory searchable. They will ask for changes to the website so that once you become a member, you are immediately prompted to enter this information.
- Add the ability to add links to state / partner websites. We currently have the ability to use showcase pages which may serve this function. Anything added to another site that is set up as a showcase page, automatically feeds to our page.
- Invitation to all members to use the calendar on EBTJV's website. Members should add any related events to the calendar.

### **Multi-State Conservation Grant Program Update (Steve Perry)**

EBTJV received MSCG's in 2005 and 2009 to meet needs as a partnership. The past couple of cycles (2012 and 2013), we have applied collectively with ACFHP and SARP under the White Water to Blue Water Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to:

- Collectively advance each of the three partnership's habitat assessments
- Coordinate partner engagement and outreach activities.
- Implement strategies to enhance each FHP's organizational capacities.
- Retain and enhance critical capacity to implement each of the FHP's strategic plans.

Ongoing Activities:

- RFP is being developed for an outside assessment of the FHPs.
- Regular calls / meetings of S&D committees.
- 

Phase 2 – 2013 Grant - \$195,000 geared toward building on outcomes of the 2012 grant. One difference is that the 2013 grant resulted from a proposal that the NFHAP Board submitted on behalf of the FHPs.

Phase 3 – 2014 Applications - The NFHAP Board prepared another letter of intent for the latest funding opportunity. EBTJV has requested \$65,000 in funding assistance. We will find out in late June / July if we are asked to submit a full proposal through the Board. Any potential funding would become available in 2014.

### **Partnering with the EBTJV in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Jeff Horan)**

Goal Implementation Team- Oversee workgroups for teams based on four outcomes (wetlands, fish passage, stream health, submerged aquatic vegetation).

#### 1. Wetlands

Goal: 30,000 acres restored, 150,000 acres enhanced

Key Factors: Slope and residence time, vegetation, private ownership

Strategies: Target areas that benefit living resources (black ducks) and water quality

Performance Assessment – Two year milestones (4,000 acres restored and 20,000 acres enhanced every two years)

#### 2. Fish Passage

Goal: open 1,000 miles of fish passage by 2025 (shad, eel, brook trout)

Key Factors: downstream barriers, target species, hydrodynamic conditions

Strategies: Target priority projects using a collaborative federal and state prioritization process.

#### 3. Stream Health

Goal: Implement 700 miles of stream restoration

Strategies: implement stream function framework that identifies critical stream functions to be assessed for stream restoration.

#### 4. Brook Trout

Goal: Restore naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an 8% increase in cumulative occupied brook trout patch area by 2025.

Strategies: Work with EBTJV and other partners to ID priority restoration areas using 2012 assessment data.

Jeff showed a map of NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Targeted Watersheds. The map is based on eastern brook trout habitat, river herring habitat, and oyster priority areas.

NFWF grant applications were due early June. Typically they have around \$10M and approximately 1/3 of that goes towards brook trout projects. Match requirements are problematic in some areas. In the future, EBTJV could review applications and provide official letters of support to the applicants.

### **Targeting Projects within Chesapeake Bay (Jennifer Greiner)**

This fall marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the relationship with EBTJV and the latest science. They anticipate getting questions on where they should target brook trout funding. Propose using allopatric brook trout catchments, Audubon priority forest blocks, and state designated healthy watersheds to identify priorities. They are also using

oil and gas well locations and climate change vulnerability maps for the old EBTJV assessment to identify areas.

They would like to be able to set restoration targets using our assessment data by the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in October 2013.

Chesapeake Bay Program has a land conservation goal of 2M new acres by 2025.

### **Habitat Assessment Models & Decision Support Tools for Aquatic Habitats (Todd Petty)**

This project was funded by the NALCC and is being done by West Virginia University and Downstream Strategies for the North Atlantic LCC boundary.

Project Objectives:

- Quantify fish population and habitat conditions at a spatial scale relevant for conservation
- ID and quantify effect of dominant stressors on the landscape
- Prioritize spatially explicit conservation actions
- Predict conservation benefits within the context of climate change.
- Link inland, estuarine, and coastal assessments.

### **Group Discussion / Meeting Feedback (Doug Besler)**

- Capture projects being done by partners or others throughout the partnership through our website.
- Continue with annual FHP meetings with possible focused workgroup meetings in between. Combining meeting times / locations with other group meetings make sense. Field trips such as the ones that ACFHP does at each SC meeting are a great idea. Move the meeting around the FHP boundary. In the past, meetings were more focused on committee work. The blend of presentations and committee work is great now, but warrants additional meetings or workgroup meetings during the year.
- Chesapeake Bay Goal Implementation Team meets twice a year.
- Suggest establishing quarterly conference calls for committees.



Eastern Brook Trout

**JOINT VENTURE**

## **A Fish Habitat Partnership**

### **EBTJV Steering Committee Meeting University of Maryland Appalachian Laboratory Frostburg, MD 12 June 2013**

Attendees: Callie McMunigal, Doug Besler, Emily Greene, Jason Detar, Merry Gallagher, Dianne Timmins, Steve Reeser, Geoffrey Day, Glenn Erikson, Steve Perry, Mike Shingleton, Dana Ohman, Dana DeGraff, Nat Gillespie, Tai-Ming Chang, Rachael Muir, Fred Henson, Emily Greene, Jason Coombs, Gary Berti, Michael Hopper, Steve Perry, Tai-Ming Chang, Jean Brennan, and Neal Hagstrom.

The meeting was called to order by EBTJV Chair Doug Besler at 2:50 pm. The first order of business was for the Chairman to establish a quorum. A quorum of 14 EBTJV SC members were present: Alan Heft, Callie McMunigal, Doug Besler, Jason Detar, Merry Gallagher, Michael Hopper, Dianne Timmins, Steve Reeser, Glenn Erikson, Mike Shingleton, Nat Gillespie, Tai-Ming Chang, Rachael Muir, and Gary Berti

The following notes summarize other business conducted during the meeting:

- **Motion to dissolve northern and southern workgroups.** Jake Rash and Dana DeGraaf will function as co-chairs of the Conservation Strategy Committee.  
Motion by Merry Gallagher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne Timmins  
Motion approved by voice vote.
- **Motion to change the name of the Grants & Development Committee to the Business Planning Committee.** Nat Gillespie will chair the committee  
Motion by Merry Gallagher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne Timmins  
Motion approved by voice vote
- **Motion to extend coordinator's contract for a one year period through 2014.**  
Motion by Glenn Erikson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Berti  
Motion approved by voice vote.
- **Motion to approve Steve Perry's project ranking criteria recommendations as a trial run for FY14.** The review team will be tasked with evaluating the new criteria during FY14 and editing them for future years.  
Motion by Callie McMunigal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merry Gallagher  
Motion approved by voice vote.
- SC Members will provide SC representative updates following the meeting (NY, ME, FWS, etc).
- Steve, Callie & Dianne will work on resolving the mapping issues so that applicants can identify their priority score either through an online mapping ID

function or by entering lat / long coordinates and having the system automatically look up priority scores.

- **Motion to approve Board’s definitions of protection, enhancement, and restoration and to house definitions on the website and include in application package.**

Motion by Dianne Timmins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Erikson

Approved by voice vote

- **Motion to accept “best of the best” definition to include priority scores from 1.36 to 1.66**

Motion by Dianne Timmins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Erikson

Approved by voice vote

#### 2012 MSCG WWBW Grant Tasks:

- Initiation of regular webinar meetings between EBTJV, ACFHP, and SARP S&D committees to identify and assemble data pertaining to existing threats to aquatic habitat in the eastern US.
- Development of a list of action items resulting from the join S&D committee webinars that will be the focus of these committees’ efforts moving forward.
- ID of key target audiences and the development of core messages to be delivered to these audiences.
- Completion of the FHP operational assessments and development of a Sustainability Plan for the three FHPs. This task is estimated at \$20-25K range. We may only have \$12-13K available. EBTJV has \$2300 left in the FY12 MSCG grant for contractual services. Does the SC want to use this funding for the operational assessment? Glenn Erikson will assist Steve Perry with this task.
- EBTJV Annual Operational Budget Update  
Each year, \$65,000 is needed to cover coordinator salary / expenses. This is currently covered by the 2012 / 2013 MSCG for FY13 and FY14.
- FY13 Web Tool (Database, Project Tracking, Mapper, etc.) Project  
During the 19 March 2013 conference call, the SC approved up to \$90K for the development of web support tools as part of its 2013 project list. Callie McMunigal & Dianne Timmins have been working on scoping out more specific costs and need approval from the SC for these specific projects. They presented those needs to the SC for approval. During the discussion, Jason Detar requested that part of that \$90K be redirected from the web / support tool development to fund a science coordinator / GIS technician position. Steve Perry recommended that \$10K be redirected for travel support for 2 meetings during 2014.  
**A motion was made to use \$40K for Web Development, \$40K for Science Support, and \$10K for Travel Support for 2 meetings in 2014.**  
Motion by Dianne Timmins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tai-Ming Chang  
Motion approved by voice vote
- BLM Grant Training Workshop at NCTC  
**A motion was made to send two EBTJV members to the 3-day BLM grant writing workshop at NCTC.**  
Motion by Dianne Timmins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Berti  
Motion approved by voice vote

- Annual Report  
**A motion was made for the EBTJV Coordinator to develop an annual report.**  
Motion by Steve Reeser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Detar,  
The motion was approved by voice vote.
- EBTJV Endorsement of Projects  
A suggestion was made to task the review team to work with Steve to develop an endorsement process.

The steering committee meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.