Title: Science and Data Committee – Update on working group membership and approach for developing NFHP project effectiveness measures

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the Science and Data Committee's recommendations for developing an effectiveness measures framework for projects implemented by the National Fish Habitat Partnership including priority issues to be addressed in 2013.

Background: At its July 2012 Meeting, the Board tasked the Science and Data Committee to further develop recommendations to establish NFHP Project Effectiveness Measures Workgroup (Workgroup) membership, approach, and cost.

2012 Work Plan Outcomes

- Consultation was completed with Mark Humpert, Wildlife Diversity Director, (AFWA) to understand the framework development process used by the Effectiveness Measures Working Group of AFWA's Teaming With Wildlife Committee for evaluating State Wildlife Grants. Cost estimates were strengthened.

- Made initial contact with Foundations of Success, the consulting firm that worked with the working group identified above, and discussed options for facilitating the process. Development of a scope of work is underway that will outline potential approaches for the Board and committees to consider.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2013:

- Scope of work, timeline and products for the Workgroup will be completed in early 2013 after additional scoping is complete.

- The Workgroup will be established to include: 2 participants from the Science and Data Committee; participants from project tracking working group; and 3 representatives from Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Workgroup will have participation that is distributed across the U.S. and will use virtual meeting technology to minimize costs.

- The Foundations of Success will provide an overview on the Open Standards for Practice of Conservation to provide the needed background information about existing conservation project evaluation approaches. The Workgroup will evaluate the approach developed for common conservation project actions implemented through State Wildlife Grants to identify gaps in project evaluation under NFHP. This initial evaluation will better determine the scope of the effort, timeline, and outcomes for the working group.
  Resources: $18,000 is needed to contract services of Foundations of Success to facilitate framework development with the working group.