Title: Partnership Committee

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the Partnership Committee's 2012 work plan outcomes and Board concurrence for the Partnership Committee's proposed priority issues it will address in 2013.

Background: At its April 2012 Meeting, the Board tasked the Partnership Committee with addressing the following priority issues during 2012:

1. Provide guidance that assists with the implementation of the Board's 2012 Multi-state Conservation Grant project, which is focused on enhancing the leadership, managerial, and conservation delivery capacity of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

2. Assist with growing the community of support for Fish Habitat Partnerships.

3. Develop a minimum benchmark set of fish habitat conservation project prioritization criteria that all Fish Habitat Partnerships should consider using.

2012 Work Plan Outcomes

- The Partnership Committee reviewed and discussed the proposals submitted by two training consultants that are linked to the NFHP's 2012 Multi-state Conservation Grant Project objectives. The Partnership Committee recommended selecting River Network as the vendor for conducting the requisite training with two conditions – River Network is willing to modify its on-line organizational assessment tool to better meet FHP needs and former River Network clients are contacted to determine their satisfaction level with River Network's performance.

- The Partnership Committee discussed how it could best facilitate approaches that would help FHPs with strengthening their community of support. As a first step in addressing this need, the Partnership Committee is attempting to gain a better understanding of each FHP's outreach-related goals, objectives, and strategies in an effort to identify common needs. Once these common needs are categorized, the Partnership Committee will be positioned to assist in the development of tools that can be used by FHPs to strengthen their communities of support.

- The Partnership Committee is reviewing the current suite of criteria FHPs use when prioritizing fish habitat conservation projects in order to develop a minimum benchmark set of criteria that all FHPs should consider including as part of their project prioritization process. An initial draft is being refined down to a smaller core set of criteria, as well as being better defining the intent of these core criteria.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2013:

- Guidance that assists Fish Habitat Partnerships in establishing strong, strategic priorities and associated milestones or targets that tracks progress and outcomes.
  Budget need: $5,000 to assist in supporting a face-to-face meeting of FHP representatives

- Development of a process that builds consensus support among Fish Habitat Partnerships for Multi-state Conservation Grant proposals submitted by the National Fish Habitat Board on their behalf.

- Establishment of a vetting process for fish habitat conservation projects submitted to non-NFHP funding sources that need endorsements from Fish Habitat Partnerships.

- Identifying approaches for estimating the costs for FHPs to achieve their priority conservation outcomes.