Draft National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call Summary: January 16, 2013

Members Present:

Kelly Hepler, Chair (ADF&G)
Steve Perry, Vice Chair (NH FGD/ NEAFWA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC) – for Randy Fisher
Mike Andrews (TNC)
Doug Boyd (SFBPC)
Jim Estes (FLFWCC) for Nick Wiley
Brad Gentner (Gentner Consulting Group/CCA rep)
Rowan Gould (US FWS)– for Dan Ashe
Chris Horton (CSF)
Bob Mahood (SAFMC)
Stan Moberly (AFS)
Steve Moyer (TU) – for Chris Wood
Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Gordon Robertson (ASA)
Mike Stone (WY GFD/WAFWA rep)
Chris Savage (US FS) for Anne Zimmerman

Members Absent:

Joe Larscheid, Fred Matt, Krystyna Wolniakowski

Motions Approved by Consensus:

- Agenda and October 16-17, 2012 Meeting Minutes: Approved with correction. Add Matt Menashes to list of attendees.

- 2013 Board Priorities and Budget: Approved. Discussion of the Priorities and Budget included the following points:
  - Stan Moberly noted the importance of striving for measurable conservation results, and to have these stated in plain English so that individuals can understand progress being made by the Board and Partnerships. It was stated that this needs to be emphasized as a desired outcome of the Board and that the Board should move in this direction.
  - Per a request by Ron Regan, staff confirmed the task in Priority M requiring $953,000 in funding is not built into the budget. The Funding Committee will look into how these funding needs can be met.
  - Stan Moberly asked how the development of a national set of conservation strategies will impact future budgets. This is unclear at this point, however it is expected the development of these strategies will fold into other efforts being undertaken by the Board such as the effectiveness measures working group.

Updates and Discussion:

- Steve Perry is retiring from NHF&G but will remain as the Board's NEAFWA representative through the February 2013 meeting.
- Gordon Roberson provided an overview of the fate of the Sportsman Bill in the 112th Congress and potential strategies for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act in the 113th Congress.
- Jeff Underwood provided comments on the allocation of FWS 2013 project funds to FHPs. Discussions with the FWS Director need to take place, no decisions have been made, and if the Board or NFHP community has ideas, the Service is willing to listen. The Service and Board members recognized fiscal challenges, and some Board members suggested different options should be considered by the Service to ensure an equitable result. This issue will be discussed in more detail during the February Board meeting.

Action items:

- Board chair will talk with AFWA (Ron Regan) about filling upcoming Board vacancies.
- Keep America Fishing one-pager on the Sportsmen's Package will be shared with the Board when the meeting minutes are disseminated. (See: http://fishhabitat.org/news/national-fish-habitat-conservation-act-included-2012-sportsmens-package)

- The Board chair requested the congressional affairs team provide an update on the Sportsmen's Package future and a strategy for the 113th Congress at the February Board meeting.
- Tom Busiahn will share with Jeff Underwood a set of criteria developed by the Board for allocating funds.
- A discussion of the Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries program reorganization will be added to the FWS project fund allocation discussion at the February Board meeting.

Future 2013 meetings:

- February 26th & 27th - Arlington, VA
- June 25th and 26th - Salt Lake City, UT
- October - TBD

Board approved policy and/or technical documents:

- 2013 Board Priorities and Budget

Additional attendees:

Chris Meaney, NOAA Fisheries-HQ and Board staff
Tom Busiahn, FWS-HQ and Board staff
Matt Menashes, AFWA Director of Ops and Board Staff
Andrea Ostroff, USGS, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee
Ryan Roberts, AFWA and Board Communications Director
Cecilia Lewis FWS HQ and Board Staff
Amy Unthank USFS Board Staff
Jeff Underwood, FWS- HQ
Doug Besler, EBTJV Steering Committee Chair
Robin Knox, WNTI
David Wigglesworth, FWS Alaska
Libby Yranski, ASA
Cindy Williams, FWS Southeast
Christopher Estes, Chalkboard Enterprises LLC
Dan Shively, FWS Pacific Northwest
Scott Roth, FWS Mountain-Prairie
Callie McMunigal, FWS Northeast