NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

National Fish Habitat Board Call - January 15, 2014

Members present:

Leroy Young (NEAFWA)	Stan Allen (PSMFC)	
Mike Stone (WAFWA)	Sam Rauch (NMFS)	Chris Horton (CSF)
Chris Moore (MAFMC)	David Hoskins (FWS)	Stan Moberly (AFS)
Krystyna Wolniakowski (NFWF)	Mike Andrews (TNC Vice-chair)	Steve Moyer (TU)
Brad Gentner (CCA)	Gordon Robertson (ASA)	Tom Champeau (SEAFWA)
Doug Boyd (SFBPC)	Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Chris Horton (CSF)

Members absent:

Fred Matt (NAFWS), Ron Regan (AFWA)

Motions approved:

- October Board Meeting Minutes Approved

- Continue Board Operations and Revisit the 2014 Budget Based on Updated FWS Budget Figures
  - Staff provided an overview of changes from the draft budget presented at the Charleston meeting. Noteworthy changes included the amounts for reallocating MSCG funds to FHP needs, the 2013-2014 carryover, a reallocation of coordination line funds to a FHP in person meeting in conjunction with the RAE TCS conference in November in Washington DC, additional funds moved to support effectiveness measures work, and allocation to communications for registration and booth space at the RAE TCS Conference.
  - Additional information regarding the FWS source funding was provided to the Board. Noting that the amount of FY14 funds is uncertain, there is the possibility that there may be additional money available that could be redeployed. This is in addition to FY13 funds that FWS has committed to add the agreement with Michigan State University.
  - Discussion focused on what the best use of this money would be. It was proposed by the FWS that the money be applied to the FHPs under the new FWS allocation methodology. Concern was raised by some Board members that taking this approach would affect the science and data line.
  - The Board deferred the decision on how to allocate funds and the Board budget until the March meeting when the outcome of the congressional budgeting process will be clearer.
  - One non-Board member meeting participant indicated that it will be important for the Board to bring the FHPs into the discussion on what to do with these funds.

- Board Chair Authorized to Appoint a Subcommittee to Assist in the Review Process
  - The FWS project allocation process is performance based and competitive, and includes an opportunity for the NFHP Board to provide feedback.
  - The FWS provided a brief overview of the process, and Board members and call participants provided feedback. Comments and recommendations included:
    - Appreciation for including the Board and developing an equitable process.
    - For criteria where percentages are listed, consider using qualifying language of "at least"
    - Requests for feedback provide to FHPs so they know how to improve.
    - Requests for persons outside of the FWS to assist with scoring.
    - Concerns that FHPs large in size and scope will be at a disadvantage.
    - Clarification on how to apply.
    - Recommendation to collect feedback on the criteria.
    - Clarification that onshore and offshore species are important, and that there appears to be

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a fair amount of latitude for all trust resources.
- The Board should work with the Sport fishing and Boating Partnership Council during their piece of the evaluation.

➢ It was clarified that the FWS allocation process only applies to the 18 existing FHPs. The service wants to implement, learn, and adapt as necessary, and that this could be revisited.
➢ The Board passed a motion authorizing the Chair to appoint a subcommittee of Board members and staff to assist in FHP review.

Updates and discussions:

- 501c3 - Changes to the articles of incorporation and bylaws were presented to the Board following up on a Board request made at the October Board meeting in Charleston. The changes included clarifying the role of the 501c3 and specifically including the NFHP Board in the articles of incorporation. Staff discussed the recommended process for appointing members to the 501c3 Board of Directors, and fielded questions from Board members on the Board of Directors makeup and relationship to the NFHP Board in terms of reporting. Staff indicated that the AFWA Executive Committee needs to be briefed on the recommended appointment process, and this will happen at the North American meeting held in Denver in March.
- Corporate Engagement Strategy – Progress is being made on the strategy and will be shared with the Board in advance of the March meeting. John LeCoq is working closely with the group to help the FHPs assist with branding as well as with exploring the potential for raising money for the Partnership directly from an online consumer checkout. It was indicated that companies want to support fish habitat, but do not know how. The engagement strategy and draft NFHP core values will be discussed in March. Board member Mike Stone asked that the core values be condensed and synthesized in order to evoke more feeling.

Action items:

- AFWA to synthesize 2014 Board priorities into one document and share with the Board.
- Board members to send comments on the allocation process to Tom Busiahn.
- Board members to send comments on the draft NFHP Core Values to Ryan Roberts.
- Board members to send comments on the 501c3 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to Matt Menashes.
- The corporate engagement strategy will revise the strategy and share with the Board.

Future Board meetings:

- March 9th and 10th 2014, Denver Colorado
- Late June or July 2014 (date TBD), web or video conference
- November 2014, Washington DC (in conjunction with the 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration)

Board approved documents: None

Additional attendees:

Ryan Roberts, AFWA	Matt Menashes, AFWA	Heidi Keuler, FWS/FFP
Tom Busiahn, FWS	Steve Perry, EBTJV	Debbie Hart (SEAFHP)
Maureen Gallagher, FWS	Cecilia Lewis, FWS	David Lawrence, NFWF
Emily Greene, ACFHP	Chris Meaney, NMFS	Scott Robinson, SARP
David Wigglesworth FWS	Karin Eldridge, FWS	Brian Elkington, FWS
Tripp Boltin, FWS	Doug Besler, EBTJV	Kayla Barrett, FWS/DFHP
Callie McMunigal, FWS	Steven Krentz, GPFHP	Jeff Boxrucker, RFHP
Joe Starinchak, (FWS)	Johnny LeCoq, (Fishpond)	Julie Devers, FWS/ACFHP
Mike Weimer, FWS	Umi Muawanah, FWS	

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