Draft National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call/Webex Summary: January 14, 2015

Members present:

Stan Allen (PSMFC)
Mike Andrews (TNC)
Tom Bigford for Doug Austen (AFS)
Tom Champeau (SEAFWA)
Bryan Moore *for* Chris Wood (TU)
Doug Norton *for* Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)
Kevin O'Donovan (CCA)
Anita Thompkins *for* Rob Harper (USFS)
Sam Rauch (NMFS)
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Ron Skates (NAWS)
Mike Stone (WAFWA)
Jeff Underwood (USFWS)
Leroy Young (NEAFWA)
Libby Yranski *for* Mike Leonard (ASA)

Members absent:

Doug Boyd (SFBPC), Kelly Hepler (SDGFP), Chris Moore (MAFMC), Whit Fosburg (TRCP)

Motions approved:

- January Teleconference Agenda
- November Board Meeting Summary
- Amendments to 2015 Board Priorities excluding Priorities (A) and (D)
- Remaining [amendments to 2015 Board Priorities] – Federal agency members abstain from vote
- 2015 Budget excluding AFWA State funds [for 501(c)(3) work]
- AFWA state funds [for 501(c)(3) work] – Federal agency members abstain from vote
- Revisions to Performance Measures
- [2015 Performance Evaluation] Timeline and Team
- [NFHP 2015 Assessment Report] Plan
- Adjourn

Updates and discussions:

- Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping – Room block for Spring Meeting in Arlington will be provided shortly. Fall 2015 meeting will likely be held in Sacramento, determining a meeting space.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – The group heard an update on recent ELT activities: Dr. Doug Beard of USGS will be starting on the Board in July and no action has been taken on NFWF vacancy. The group also learned that Kelly Hepler has taken a new position with South Dakota and there will be no change in his position on the NFHP Board.
- Board Priorities and Budget – The group was briefed on revisions to the draft budget and priorities. There was discussion of unfunded needs, prioritization and whether carry-over funds might be used to address.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program – The group was made aware that an NCN was developed by the Partnership Committee [to be put forward for consideration by AWFA] for FY16. It was noted that there should be language in the NCN noting that FHPs and FHP actions are voluntary; staff will do what they can to clarify. Additionally, a survey has gone out to the FHPs, and based on the results the Partnership Committee and staff will provide recommendations for an approach to future MSCGP grant processes for Board consideration in March.
- USFWS Allocation Process – Allocation process requires that the Board be provided with FHP reports and a voluntary opportunity to provide feedback. Individual Board members are welcome to provide voluntary individual feedback on individual FHP reports, however the Board as a whole will not be providing feedback prior to the February deadline because they do not meet until March. A request was made that before submitting comments on an individual FHP report that the FHP be contacted. Not all Board members received FHP reports likely due to file size; USFWS will determine the best avenue to make reports available to all Board members and proxies.

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- FHP Performance Evaluation – The Board was briefed on Partnership Committee recommended revisions to the FHP Performance Evaluation form including additional changes to Measure 2 criteria not shown in briefing materials. There was discussion with regard to whether changes to Measure 2 would provide adequate information to measure progress. Until more definitive effectiveness measures are established, the plans will be adequate. The group was briefed on the FHP Evaluation Review Team and Timeline.
- 2015 National Assessment Report – The group was provided an overview of report development plan, noting the new proposed online format and resource needs.
- Marketing and Rebranding – The Board heard an update on recent Marketing team activities including interviews with FHPs and consideration of options for rebranding.
- 501(c)(3) Update – The group heard an overview of the 501(c)(3) BOD including that they've met on one occasion and have an upcoming meeting to determine officers. They are working on submitting IRS materials for 501(c)(3) status.

Action items:

- Resolution of unfunded budget items will be provided at March meeting.
- Staff will provide recommendations for an approach to future MSCGP grant processes for Board consideration in March
- Marketing Team will provide an update at the March meeting

Future Board meetings:

- March 3-4 at TNC in Arlington, June 24 teleconference, August teleconference (for new Board members), October 20 -21 in Sacramento.

Board approved documents:

- January Teleconference Agenda
- November Board meeting Summary Notes
- 2015 Board Priorities
- 2015 Board Budget
- 2015 FHP Evaluation Form and criteria
- 2015 FHP Evaluation Review Team and Timeline
- NFHP 2015 Assessment Report Plan

Additional participants:

Kayla Barrett (Desert FHP)
Kristan Blackhart (NOAA contract)
Brian Bonsack (USFWS - SFBP)
Jeff Boxrucker (Reservoir FHP)
Christopher Estes (Chalk Board Enterprises, LLC)
Lindsay Gardner (SARP)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract
Lisa Havel (ACFHP)
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)
Callie McMunigal (USFWS)
David Miko (USFWS)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Pete Ruhl (Board Science and Data Co-chair- USGS)
Buck Sutter (NOAA)
Joe Starinchak (USFWS)
Susan Wells (USFWS)
Gary Whelan (Science and Data Co-Chair Board – MI DNR)

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