



Eastern Brook Trout

**JOINT VENTURE**

A Fish Habitat Partnership

**Steering Committee Meeting  
Conference Call Summary  
19 March 2013**

**Attendees:** Doug Besler (NC), Douglas Stang (NY), Jake Rash (NC), Jason Detar (PA), Dianne Timmins (NH), Steve Moore (NPS), Bob Carline (AFS), Tai-ming Chang (EPA), Nat Gillespie (USFS), Glenn Erikson (FFF), Steve Reeser (VA), Callie McMunigal (USFWS), Mike Shingleton (WV), Elizabeth Macklin (TU), Michael Hopper (SRBT), and Steve Perry (EBTJV Coordinator),

**Steering Committee General Notes:**

*Establishment of Quorum*

Fifteen EBTJV Steering Committee (SC) members were present which exceeded the quorum requirement of 10 members.

*USFWS Fish Habitat Partnership Response Letter*

The USFWS issued a response letter regarding EBTJV concerns about potential changes in the allocation process of NFHAP project funds. The letter explained that the Service intends to allocate funds to the FHPs in 2013 using the same approach as in 2012. The letter also explained that the Service plans to work with the NFHAP Board and partners toward development of a performance-based allocation method with an implementation date of 2014.

*NFHP Administrative Funding Allocations*

The EBTJV has access to up to \$90,000 of NFHAP funds for administrative purposes. It was decided that a subset of EBTJV SC members identify particular administrative projects, estimate costs, and submit recommendations to the SC for their consideration. All administrative projects need to be in the Fisheries Operational Needs System database (FONS).

*Range-Wide Assessment Update*

Jason Combs will be completing the EBTJV range-wide assessment. States that have already been completed (PA & south) have been asked to review their revised assessments for accuracy. Data from the remaining northern states has been requested. Meetings with these remaining states will be set up in summer and fall 2013 by Jason Combs and other EBTJV members. It was noted that one outcome of the projects needs to be a substantial protocol manual that will allow future replication of the current assessment.

*EBTJV Coordinator Work Plan*

Steve Perry provided the SC with a proposed 2013 work plan and discussed the major components. The work plan was formally approved by the SC via voice vote.

### *EBTJV Yahoo Groups*

The SC decided by consensus to discontinue the use of Yahoo Groups citing difficulty of administration and new functionality of EBTJV web portal for communication between EBTJV partners and SC members. Thirty days' notice will be given to Yahoo Groups users so they can register on the EBTJV web site.

### *Conservation Strategy Update*

Steve Perry provided a briefing on the EBTJV Conservation Strategy, which was originally adopted by the SC in 2007. In particular, Steve identified areas within the document that need to be revised or updated. These updates will be presented to the Conservation Strategy Committee at the June 2013 meeting. The SC approved this process by consensus.

### *EBTJV 2013 Partners Meeting*

The SC discussed whether to postpone or cancel the proposed 2013 partners meeting given Federal and State budget uncertainties and travel restrictions. It was decided by consensus that the benefits of an all-partners meeting outweigh concerns and that we should proceed with planning for the meeting. The EBTJV all-partners meeting will be held on 11-12 June 2013 in Frostburg, MD at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

### *NFHP Training Opportunity*

Steve Perry informed the SC about the potential for a 3-day workshop on grant writing for conservation and strategic planning that is being planned for September 2013 at the National Conservation Training Center. The training would be led by BLM staff and FHPs would have access to some of those training slots. Steve Perry was tasked with investigating the costs associated with the training and interest from other FHPs (SARP & ACFHP) in attending.

### *2014 Multistate Conservation Grants*

Steve Perry informed the SC about applying for a 2014 MSCG when it becomes formally announced. The EBTJV needs to be thinking about our FHP needs as well as the application process. Steve will continue to update the SC on the application process and provide recommendations.

### **EBTJV Steering Committee Official Action:**

A SC quorum was established with the following members: Doug Besler, Douglas Stang, Jake Rash, Jason Detar, Dianne Timmins, Steve Moore, Bob Carline, Tai-ming Chang, Nat Gillespie, Glenn Erikson, Steve Reeser, Callie McMunigal, Mike Shingleton, Elizabeth Macklin, and Michael Hopper

The Steering Committee took official action on one item.

- EBTJV Coordinator 2013 Work Plan

Motion: *Approve 2013 Work Plan for EBTJV Coordinator.*

Motion by Douglas Stang, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne Timmins; motion approved by voice vote.