



Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
A Fish Habitat Partnership

EBTJV Steering Committee Meeting
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
Philadelphia, PA
December 9-10, 2013

Attendees: Doug Besler, Dianne Timmins, Mike Shingleton, Merry Gallagher, Jason Detar, Fred Henson, Dan Rankin, Glenn Erikson, Callie McMunigal, Elizabeth Maclin, Nat Gillespie, Rachel Muir, Tai-Ming Chang, Jake Rash, Dana DeGraaf, Dana Ohman, Tim Barry, Steve Perry, Jason Coombs, and Keith Nislow.

The meeting was called to order by EBTJV Chair Doug Besler at 9:00 am on December 9th. The first order of business was for the Chairman to establish a quorum. A quorum of thirteen EBTJV SC members was present: Doug Besler, Dianne Timmins, Mike Shingleton, Merry Gallagher, Jason Detar, Fred Henson, Dan Rankin, Glenn Erikson, Callie McMunigal, Elizabeth Maclin, Nat Gillespie, Rachel Muir, and Tai-Ming Chang.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the meeting on **December 9, 2013:**

- A motion to approve the summary for the EBTJV Steering Committee conference call held on 9-17-13 was approved by a voice vote.
- A motion to approve the EBTJV Accomplishment Report, 2004-2013(<http://bit.ly/1lbsvnz>) was approved by a voice vote.
- A motion to approve the priority ranking of seventeen Brook Trout conservation project proposals was approved by a voice vote. This included authorizing the development of an EBTJV operations project, which had been given top priority among the 17 projects.
- An overview of the EBTJV organizational and communications assessment results (<http://bit.ly/1fPiZ4q>) was provided by Wendy Wilson (River Network).
- The draft EBTJV Business Plan was reviewed and several revisions to the draft were recommended. EBTJV Coordinator Steve Perry was tasked with incorporating the revisions into the draft plan and to present a final draft for approval by the EBTJV Steering Committee during their March 18, 2014 conference call.

- An update on the Whitewater to Bluewater Project was provided. The current focus of the three Fish Habitat Partnerships (ACFHP, EBTJV, and SARP) involved in this project entails identifying common research and data management needs, as well as determining how the collective FHP resources can be leveraged to meet these needs and fill any gaps.
- The need to include the work that the EBTJV formal partners are doing to address our partnership's Brook Trout conservation priorities (exclusive of the FWS-NFHAP funded projects) was discussed, as this additional information is important for illustrating the strength of our collaborative conservation efforts. The outcome of the discussions was to include this initiative as part of the EBTJV SC's 2014 work plan.
- The EBTJV SC adjourned at 4:00 pm.

The following notes summarize the other business conducted during the meeting on **December 10, 2013**:

- Jason Detar and Jason Coombs provided an update on the status of the catchment assessment. Additionally, the opportunity to work with the North Atlantic LCC and Downstream Strategies on a Brook Trout pilot project was also discussed. A Brook Trout Symposium that is being held as part of the 2014 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Portland, ME was also talked about as well.
- Development of annual work plans by each of the EBTJV committees was discussed and the EBTJV SC agreed there is a need to incorporate this process into the partnership's operations. EBTJV Coordinator Steve Perry was tasked with initiating the drafting of these work plans, which would then be forwarded to the Chairs of each Committee for further development actions.
- The EBTJV SC adjourned at 12:00 pm.