



**EBTJV Steering Committee Teleconference
December 16, 2014**

Link to the agenda and associated documents: <http://bit.ly/1HRUa9Q>

Attendees: Doug Besler, Nat Gillespie, Glenn Erikson, Callie McMunigal, Doug Stang, Dianne Timmins, Merry Gallagher, Alan Heft, Dana Ohman, Dan Rankin, Elizabeth Maclin, Michael Hopper, Jake Rash, Dana DeGraaf, Mark Hudy, and Steve Perry.

The meeting was called to order by EBTJV Chair Doug Besler at 10:05 a.m. on December 16th. The first order of business was for the Chairman to establish a quorum, which was achieved as twelve Steering Committee members participated in the conference call.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the teleconference on **December 16, 2014**:

- Motions were made and seconded to nominate Doug Besler to serve a second 2-year term as Steering Committee Chair (Motion made by Doug Stang; Seconded by Callie McMunigal) and Nat Gillespie to serve a 2-year term as Vice-Chair (Motion made by Callie McMunigal; Seconded by Michael Hopper). **These motions were unanimously approved by voice vote.**
- A motion was made by Dana Ohman, seconded by Callie McMunigal, to approve the September 10, 2014 EBTJV SC meeting summary (<http://bit.ly/1pGPJst>). **This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.**
- A ranked listing of nineteen projects submitted to the EBTJV for FY15 FWS-NFHAP funding considerations was reviewed and discussed by the Steering Committee. Upon completion of the discussions, a motion was made by Doug Besler, seconded by Dianne Timmins, to keep the Patten Stream Project on the list in the 3rd ranking slot until such time it received the funds it was seeking from other sources, in which case it would be eliminated from the ranked list once funding from these other sources were secured; and, to make revisions to the project rankings determined by the EBTJV Project Review Team so that the Upper Shavers Forks Project would be elevated to the 4th ranking slot, resulting in the Tower Road Project dropping into the 5th ranking slot (<http://bit.ly/11J09wJ>). **This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.**

- Steve Perry provided an overview of the EBTJV's Accomplishment Report and Work Plan (<http://bit.ly/1CydK4t>) that will be submitted to the FWS for FY15 NFHAP funding considerations. As was the case last year, the EBTJV should receive a Level 3 designation for all but one of criteria used by the FWS to allocate these funds. The Project Completion criterion will again end up with a Level 2 designation because the completion rate for projects funded during the FY11-FY13 time-frame is 79% (19 out of 23 projects have been completed), which falls short of the 90% project completion rate needed for a Level 3 designation.
- Steve Perry provided an update on the status of NFH Board's 2015 Multi-State Conservation Grant Program grant application (<http://bit.ly/1vboHu8>), which has been approved for funding by the AFWA Grant's Committee. The scope of work related to the three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships entails the formation of connectivity teams in participating FHP states and bringing these teams together to initiate and develop working relationships; collectively defining and communicating the scientific basis of river restoration through connectivity improvement throughout the FHP regions; and, sharing, updating and developing connectivity assessment tools and resources specific to meeting the needs of State needs. The EBTJV will be receiving \$50,000 in funding support from this grant.
- Doug Besler welcomed Mark Hudy, who is now under a 2-year contract to serve as the EBTJV's Science Coordinator. Mark indicated he's already in the process of linking up with a variety of Brook Trout-related science initiatives within the partnership's geographic range.
- A brief discussion of the EBTJV Catchment Assessment's QA/QC process among the partner states occurred. An upcoming conference call with Jason Coombs will be focused on establishing a timeline for receiving feedback from the respective States and to determine the next steps.
- Steve Perry provided a briefing on the development of a Brook Trout Management Strategy (<http://bit.ly/1yv39Zn>) that is intended to achieve the Brook Trout Outcome contained within the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Steve Perry provided an update on the NALCC/Downstream Strategies Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout modeling pilot. The base model is considered done; Downstream Strategies is now looking at how to incorporate a climate change component to the model and then will move on to the development of associated decision support tools (visualization, ranking and futuring).
- Steve Perry provided an overview of where things stand with the National Fish Habitat Fund (<http://bit.ly/15MyXiN>) and the status of getting the Fund designated as a 501(c)(3) organization. The National Fish Habitat Fund has been incorporated and the paperwork for receiving Tax-Exempt status for the Fund has been filed with the IRS. It's expected to take the IRS 2- 6 months to issue its declaration on this filing. The NFH Board also approved a Board of Directors for the Fund. At this point, the National Fish Habitat Fund can receive donations; however, these donations are not eligible as tax exemptions for the donors until the IRS determination is completed. Any FHP that has been officially recognized by the

NFH Board can request to become a Chapter under the Fund (see Article IX). The Fund can administer donated funds on behalf of an FHP but it cannot be used to administer grant-related funds.

- Steve Perry also presented an update on the NFH Board's FHP Performance Evaluation Process (<http://bit.ly/1tvGTYl>). The NFH Board will be initiating an evaluation of FHP performance for the past 3 years (2012-2014) using the process it adopted after it was tested back in 2012. An evaluation form is expected to be distributed in mid-January, which needs to be completed and submitted back to the Board by March 31st. In an effort to minimize the FHP's workload for completing both the application for FWS-NFHAP funding and the FHP performance evaluation form, the Board tasked its Partnership Committee with making recommendations towards modifying the FHP Evaluation Form. It appears the recommendations will be primarily centered on aligning the reporting period for the project-related criteria (1-4) in the FHP Evaluation Form with the one established in the FWS-NFHAP funding application (October 1, 2010-September 30, 2013). Steve feels that he will be able to complete most of the Board's FHP Evaluation Form by transferring much of the requested information from what has already been developed for the FWS-NFHAP Funding application, so this task should not be overly burdensome.

The EBTJV Steering Committee teleconference adjourned at 12:05 p.m.