



**EBTJV Steering Committee Teleconference
June 16, 2015**

Link to the agenda and associated documents: <http://bit.ly/1Qtgs3g>

Attendees: Doug Besler, Glenn Erikson, Doug Stang, Alan Heft, Matt Kulp, Merry Gallagher, Callie McMunigal, Dianne Timmins, Steve Reeser, Dan Rankin, Nat Gillespie, Joe Norton (TU Proxy), Jake Rash, Mark Hudy, and Steve Perry.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Besler at 10:05 a.m. on June 16th. The first order of business was for the Chair to establish a quorum, which was achieved as 12 Steering Committee members participated in the conference call.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the teleconference on **June 16, 2015:**

- A motion was made by Merry Gallagher, seconded by Dianne Timmins, to approve the March 17, 2015 EBTJV SC meeting summary (<http://bit.ly/1eRhyu5>). This motion was approved by voice vote.
- A brief overview of the upcoming EBTJV Meeting (<http://bit.ly/1JtgCag>) scheduled for September 27-30, 2015 in Hadley, MA was provided. The issue of allocating funding assistance for travel to the meeting was discussed and taking a tiered priority approach was recommended if the amount of the requests exceed the amount available. EBTJV Steering Committee members and Committee Chairs will be given first priority for travel assistance; state agency personnel will be given second priority; individuals from EBTJV signatory organizations (federal, ngo, etc) will be given third priority; and, EBTJV Committee members from non-signatory organizations will be given the lowest priority.
- WV's Mill Creek Restoration Project, which received FY14 FWS-NFHAP funding support, was selected as a 2015 NFHP 10 Waters to Watch (<http://bit.ly/1H4yXdx>). Mill Creek represents the 12th EBTJV project that has been selected for the 10 Waters to Watch campaign since the National Fish Habitat Partnership initiated this effort in 2007.
- The EBTJV was one of nine FHPs that received a performance level 2 FWS-NFHAP funding allocation, which totals \$236,131 (<http://bit.ly/1EYf6a3>). This allocation amount allows the EBTJV's Coordination and Operations Project (\$128,571) and the Nash Stream Project (\$71,429) to be fully funded and the Upper Shavers Fork Project to be partially funded (\$36,131 of the \$71,429 requested).

- Members of the EBTJV are working towards ensuring its project tracking database is compatible with a similar database being developed by the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- The EBTJV submitted a completed performance evaluation form to the NFH Board by the March 31, 2015 deadline. While the original timeline for this evaluation process indicates the Review Team would send FHPs their initial results during May, for review and feedback, this has not occurred as of yet. It's anticipated the EBTJV will be hearing from the Review Team sometime in early July and that the final results will be presented to the NFH Board during their October 2015 Meeting.
- The concept of developing a Brook Trout outreach video (<http://bit.ly/1KeLOLe>) was discussed and support for pursuing this project was widely voiced. A next step entails establishing a team that will craft the core messages the video should be focused on conveying to its audiences.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program received \$40k in funding from EPA to assist in supporting monitoring Brook Trout populations in the five Chesapeake Bay states. The Chesapeake Bay Program entered into an agreement with the USDA Forest Service's research station at UMass to oversee this effort. Jason Coombs has coordinated a sampling scheme with each of the five states, where they will take responsibility for sampling 5 brook trout patches within their respective states following the protocol first piloted in VA. Jason and Andrew Whitely will be processing the genetic samples collected by the states.
- In 2014, the NFH Board established a Marketing Team charged with creating a new brand that from a corporate engagement and fundraising perspective clarifies the purpose of the National Fish Habitat Partnership and better identifies the role that FHPs play in NFHP. One recommendation made by the Marketing Team is to transition the National Fish Habitat Partnership to "Network of" Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Marketing Team sent out a survey recently to FHP Coordinators to get their feedback on making the transition to Network of Fish Habitat Partnerships. The survey results will be presented to the NFH Board during their next meeting.
- The NFH Board has a meeting by conference call schedule for June 24th, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. eastern time. Agenda items that will be discussed during the call include a briefing on the FWS-NFHAP FY15 Funding Allocation; Board action to approve use of the new Fish Habitat Partnership terminology and associated logos; a demonstration of the functionality of the NFHP Project Tracking database; updates on the progress of the FHP evaluation process and 501(c)(3) designation of the National Fish Habitat Fund; and, a report on the status of the Board's 2016 MSCGP Grant application, which was submitted on behalf of FHPs.
- Glenn Erikson raised awareness about funding (\$1,500-\$3,000) available through the Federation of Fly Fishers that can be used to support intern positions. EBTJV member organizations interested in pursuing this opportunity should contact Glenn.

The EBTJV Steering Committee teleconference adjourned at 11:35 a.m.