



**EBTJV Steering Committee Teleconference
December 15, 2015**

Link to agenda documents: <http://bit.ly/1jABFON>

Attendees: Doug Besler, Merry Gallagher, Callie McMunigal, Dianne Timmins, Glenn Erickson, Keith Curley, Rich Kirn, Steve Faulkner, Matt Kulp, Doug Stang, John Magee, Shawn Rummel, Jake Rash, Mark Hudy, and Steve Perry.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Besler at 10:00 a.m. on December 15th. The first order of business was for the Chair to establish a quorum, which was achieved as 11 Steering Committee members participated in the conference call.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the teleconference on **December 15, 2015:**

- A motion was made to approve adding Tim Barry (CT DEEP) as a member of the EBTJV Steering Committee. This motion carried by voice vote.
- A motion was made to approve the September 29, 2015 EBTJV Steering Committee meeting summary (<http://bit.ly/1IZuYre>). This motion carried by voice vote.
- An overview of FY16 EBTJV Operations Project (<http://bit.ly/1IFX7IG>) was provided by the EBTJV Coordinator.
- A motion was made to approve the Project Review Team's ranking of projects (<http://bit.ly/1lyqjfd>) submitted to the EBTJV for FWS-NFHAP Funding considerations. This motion carried by voice vote.
- A briefing on the EBTJV's Work Plan and Accomplishments Report (<http://bit.ly/1YKKpSs>) for the FY16 FWS-NFHAP funding allocation was provided by the EBTJV Coordinator. It's expected the EBTJV will earn a level 3 score for seven of the eight criteria and a level 2 score for one criterion, #6 Leveraging of FWS Project Funds, since the project leveraging ratio (non-FWS partner contributions to FWS-NFHAP funds) is only 2.7:1 and it needs to be at least 3:1 to receive a Level 3 score. As a result, even though the EBTJV will receive seven level 3 scores, because our partnership has one Level 2 score, our funding allocation will be at Level 2.

- The scheduling of the Conservation Strategy and Science & Data Committees next meeting was discussed. Matt Kulp suggested trying to hold it in conjunction with the Southern Division AFS Meeting that will be held February 17-21, 2016 at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Matt volunteered to look into this option's possibilities.
- An update of the EBTJV's FY14 and FY15 Operations Projects was provided by the EBTJV Coordinator. The FY14 operation project has been extended until 9-30-16 so that the remaining funds (\$4,333) can be expended. The portion of FY15 operations grant (\$75,000) that is going through NFWF was just executed at the end of November, with an ending date of 3-31-17. This grant also provides \$15,000 in travel support funds for attendees to EBTJV meetings and ~\$7,000 of these travel support funds is still available, though they need to be expended by the end of March 2016.
- The current status of Freshwaters Illustrated's production of a Brook Trout Film was discussed. The Scope of Work that was submitted in an effort to direct \$10k of the EBTJV's FY14 Operations Project funding was approved by the FWS in late November and Freshwaters Illustrated has subsequently submitted an invoice for this amount, which is being processed by NFWF for payment. Freshwaters Illustrated was successful in getting underwater film footage of spawning Brook Trout in northern NH and ME this fall.
- The EBTJV Coordinator provided an update on the National Fish Habitat Fund and the establishment of FHP Chapters associated with this 501(c)(3) fund. A draft MOU that FHPs will need to sign to gain Chapter status was just recently circulated to FHP coordinators for review and feedback.
- Patch-based genetic monitoring of Brook Trout in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed was discussed. Keith Nislow and Jason Coombs were successful in being awarded an NFWF grant for \$110k+ to support the continuation of patch-based Brook Trout genetic monitoring in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is an effort that began this past field season using \$40k in funding provided by EPA.
- The 2016 schedule of EBTJV Steering Committee meetings was discussed. These will occur on March 15, June 21, September 20, and December 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The EBTJV Steering Committee teleconference adjourned at 12:00 p.m.