



Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
A Fish Habitat Partnership

Steering Committee Conference Call

March 28, 2017

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Call-In Number: 866-793-8933

Participant Code: 86086865#

Nat Gillespie, Steve Faulkner, Doug Stang, Diane Timmins, Steve Perry, Lisa Barno, Kurt Fesenmyer, Shawn Rummel, Jake Rash, Callie McMunigal, Adam Kautza, John Magee, Merry Gallagher

AGENDA

- **Steering Committee Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum** (Nat Gillespie) quorum
- **Nomination and Election of Steering Committee Vice-Chair** (Nat Gillespie)
 - Vice Chair: Steve Reeser, VADGIF, motion by Nat and seconded by Diane. Approved by SC.
- **Approval of [December 7, 2016 Steering Committee Summary](#)** (Nat Gillespie) approved.
- **Update on FY16 EBTJV Operations and Coordination Project** (Steve Perry)
 - Funding for covering EBTJV operations and coordination in fy16, sent through NFWF. There were some issues executing the contract, with new requirements about sole source contracting. This delayed availability of this money for several months unfortunately, meaning Steve Perry was in limbo through February. The process has been fixed and Steve is again back serving as the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Coordinator as of March 2017. The Steering Committee certainly wants to ensure we avoid repeating this process in the future.
- **Review of [December 2016 Joint Meeting Outcomes and Action Items](#)** (Nat Gillespie /Steve Perry)
 - Any comments on the joint meeting outcomes and action items.
 - How to document progress and objectives? In the past we did not provide metrics to account for progress for these general conservation actions? In the past, Steve tracked which conservation actions were taken for projects receiving EBTJV funding.
 - Rangewide Habitat Goals and Objectives rangewide now broken **out into state levels**.

1. Action Item 1: Develop metrics for Goals 3 (maintain brook trout patches) and 4. Increase connectivity within and among catchments). Nat, Steve, Jake. Group will send out draft to group.
 2. Complete 2015 Status Report – send Jason Coombs data summarized, have him complete the state maps. New data will show patches and catchments. Is there a way to preserve the 2005 subwatershed map. Patches and catchments are preferred by the group. Steve Perry will take the lead on that. After 10 years of work it has been difficult to change colors on the subwatershed map. The finer scale we go, the better picture we have of the true status of EBT. There are some issues with patch size, particularly in Maine, because of the lack of road-stream crossing data at this time and the inaccuracy of the data.
 - The Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative is making strides and is willing to work with EBTJV to incorporate road-stream crossing data into the EBTJV dataset.
 - Jason Coombs – funding availability: should be funding there, Steve will verify.
- **Update on TU Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio** (Kurt Fesenmyer)
 - TU was funded by NFWF 2 years ago to add resolution to EBTJV patch data. This 3 R approach (resiliency, redundancy, representation of unique life history traits or genetics) has been applied to various cutthroat subspecies.
 - Each EBT patch has been analyzed for the 3 R's, in conjunction with a variety of GIS-based habitat attributes, as well as stream temperature, energy development, public land ownership to reflect future vulnerability of each patch.
 - TU is in Outreach Phase now. TU thinks this is a coarse-scale filter to help develop priority areas and in project evaluation. The Conservation Portfolio complements other available tools such as Ecosheds and other finer scale DSS. TU has been working with Mark Hudy, suggested key changes to ensure that the Conservation Portfolio aligns with the prior habitat approaches taken by the EBTJV.
 1. Pick some test geographies to apply the model and see what we learn and what priorities emerge. Starting with a webinar as well as assistance in applying the tool. Also include the data needs necessary to apply the tool at a state level.
 2. Share the results as part of a webinar. Support from SC.
 3. Set up a webinar through Doodle Poll.

Nat will check with Steve Reeser about available tools demonstrated at the Appalachian LCC and what was learned.

Than Hitt had mentioned putting together a matrix describing all available DSTs and pros and cons of each.
 - **Discuss the Science Coordinator/Advisor Position** (Nat Gillespie/Jason Detar/Jake Rash/Steve Faulkner)
 - General consensus is that this position remains valuable and there's need.
 - Person – need job description. Steve Perry can send around job description from several years ago when Mark Hudy took that position.
 1. Are we looking for data manager?
 2. Define the needs, then put together the position.

- Needs would be next assessment coordination, representation of science needs.
 - Action item: Steve Perry will send around Science Coordinator position.
 - Funding – This is a need that SC needs to solve. Northern data needs to be rerun with the Northeast Connectivity Collaborative data to improve accuracy of existing patches.
 - Timeline -
- **Other Business**
 - Funding - USFWS representative on NFHP Board did not give any input on availability of funding for the NFHP Partnerships because they are operating under a Continuing Resolution, so wait and see. EBTJV is in a position to receive level 3 funding, but it's not certain.
 - EBTJV was a listed cause for the NFHP 501 c3 account (Beyond the Pond), giving us capacity to receive donations. EBTJV recently received its first donation of \$1,000.
 - Freshwaters Illustrated film and trailer
 1. Freshwaters Illustrated has secured \$50,000 in funding so far and is seeking an additional \$40,000 to complete the ½ hour film on the culture of the Eastern Brook Trout highlighting the work of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. This film will be a means to raise awareness for the EBTJV and its members and for fundraising for future projects supported the Joint Venture. Freshwaters Illustrated will have a 2 minute trailer available for members to use and share via social media in the coming months.
 - Clearinghouse for all relevant Eastern Brook Trout Research, methods and techniques, and guidance.
 1. Job description for Science Coordinator for developing guidance and perhaps putting this information together, and for updating this information on a periodic basis.
 2. Maintaining a clearinghouse is a lot of work:
 - Research: USGS will provide links. Can we ask other members to provide relevant brook trout research links?
 - Guidance: provided by coordinator position. SC members are too busy to stay on top of what's current, or to compile pertinent information. EBTJV could help disseminate general messages and use the power of the network to inform projects and decisions.
 - Can the EBT coordinator compile list of links? This may be possible.
- Meeting adjourned