



EBTJV Steering Committee Meeting Summary Sept 20, 2022

Participants:

Present=X									
Beauchene, Mike		Eltz, Brian	X	Habera, Jim		Maloney, Lori	X	Rash, Jake	X
Baker, Sarah	X	Erikson, Glenn		Kautza, Adam		McMunigal, Callie	X		
Curley, Keith		Faulkner, Steve		Kozlowski, Greg	X	Palmer, Eric		Rummel, Shawn	
Geoff Day		Fink, Brad	X	Kulp, Matt		Pelletier, Corey		Shramko, Ross	X
Detar, Jason	X	Gallagher, Merry	X	Rankin, Dan		Perry, Stephen	X	Simard, Lee	
Reeser, Steve		Gillespie, Nat	X	Kratzer, Jud		Timmins, Dianne	X	Thorne, David	
		Goclowski, Matt				Goetz, Dan			
		Lawrence, Matt	X	Guests:		Cessna, Jason	X		

This video conference meeting was called to order by Chair Nat Gillespie at ~1:00 p.m. on Sept 20th. The first order of business was for the Chair to establish a quorum (≥ 10 SC members), which was achieved as 14 Steering Committee (SC) members participated in the meeting.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the meeting held on **Sept 20, 2022**

- The Steering Committee voted to approve the summary of the **June 21, 2022 meeting**.
- The group did a round of introductions to meet Jason Cessna jason.cessna@maryland.gov The new brook trout biologist with the state of Maryland. During introductions, everyone shared something they were excited about. In addition to comments about the weather and seasonal items, there were a few bkt related updates: Callie McMunigal shared that TU removed a passage barrier today through BIL funding. Greg Kozlowski shared good news about a stream in NY that was converted to wild trout status and the large wild brook trout now there; and Brad Fink reported an annual regulations update to the [VA fishery digest](#).
- Lori Maloney gave an update on the **NFHAP funding** cycle (see attached PDF for more details)
 - For FY22, awards were made earlier this year and EBTJV has four on-the ground projects; Lori shared an update from the Narraguagus project (see below).

- EBTJV did not receive the highest tier of funding for FY23 in part because the line item for coordinator support using Grant Solutions did not score well (2 other FHPs put in for this as well, but it may be swapped out for more project funding).
 - The review team met and gave suggestions for future EBTJV priorities to help recruit more good quality projects for the next RFP. Suggestions include:
 - promoting restoration projects;
 - promoting design/planning;
 - working with land trusts to put land into easements; and
 - reducing the scoring weight that is given to projects being on public or protected land.
 - The FY24 RFP should go out in late October.
 - The SC had a brief discussion on conservation easements.
- Steve Perry gave a **NFHAP board update**.
 - The NFHAP board will meet later this week (9/22 – 9/23) and establish FY 24 National Conservation Strategies. (Note: these were voted on and the final [FY24 strategies are listed here](#)).
 - The Board is revising the Fish Habitat Action Plan.
 - All FHPs will need to be formally designated by Congress by Oct 20 2025. A small group is working on the process and draft application materials for board review in November 2022. Steve is participating in this group.
 - Jake Rash gave a brief update from the **Science and Data Committee**. Notes from a summer SDC meeting were shared with the agenda via email, and Jake reviewed that there was progress made on the catchment updater but progress is slower in the summer field season. Also, the SDC is planning a seminar/brown bag series starting in late fall. **If you have a particular topic you'd like covered, email Lori, Jason, or Jake, or attend the next SDC meeting (October 26).**
 - Lori Maloney announced that according to our by-laws, EBTJV will need to replace **the SC Chair**. Steve Perry offered praise for Nat Gillespie's leadership in the past 6 years. Several SC members have already nominated Jake Rash (current Vice Chair), and Jake is open to the position if voted in. The vote will happen at the December 20, 2022 steering committee meeting so long as quorum is attained. **If there are other nominations please forward to Lori by Dec 1(A; all).**
 - **Potential EBTJV climate outreach/position statement** – Nat Gillespie proposed that EBTJV make a public statement on climate change and guidance so members and partners can use the right approaches to be successful. He make the distinction between mitigation and adaptation: we are not suggesting ways to reduce emissions but rather how to best help promote adaptation of brook trout to a changing future and conserve them in light of increased temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. He is soliciting feedback from the SC about
 - 1)recaching out to the public via website/blog/social media, to ask some questions to get the public thinking and interacting on this (possibly also a call to action) and,

- 2) look at that feedback and come out with EBTJV recommendations on land use/conservation, temperatures, non-natives, etc.

Steve Perry suggested one product could be a best practices manual. There was a good conversation about this, including the question of if and how a SC member, as a state employee, could make an “EBTJV” statement that might not correspond directly with the state’s own messaging or regulations.

Action items: reach out to Lori and Nat if you’re interested in working with us on

1) questions to the public, series of questions on social media

2) reach out to us to work on outline for publication

(A: all S.C. members)

- **Planning next EBTJV meetings; preliminary timeframe and expectations:** Lori Maloney brought up the 2023 annual EBTJV meeting and proposed that we have two (possibly separate) components:

- 1) strategic planning, including a kickoff to the next iteration of our official strategic plan following the catchment database updates
- 2) brook trout symposium, possibly attached to a regional or national fisheries or agency association meeting

Suggestions heard related to these:

- Summer will be a better time to meet because it will be easier to get authorization
- Some liked the idea of attaching onto the AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, others did not.
- Meet at NEAFWA; [April in Hershey](#) or the [SDAFS mtg Feb in Norfolk VA](#) ?
- The ACE act requires our strategic plan details “required investments needed”: is this different from our “conservation priorities” and if so, how do we add those? Revisit our business plan for \$ value and number of projects proposed.
- We should consider hiring a facilitator to bring us through the strategic planning process. Look at funding for this (A; Lori)
- Lori to send a poll to members about the best season to meet, and include the greater partner list. (A) **SURVEY HERE:**
<https://form.jotform.com/222726208174151>
- Contact Lori if you are willing to be on a strategic planning/meeting team (A, all)

- **Other items/updates**

- Callie noted that the Fish Passage Program is still awaiting FWS to release a NOFO. Applications may be due the end of October and the process should be similar to last year.
- A publications list was added to the last agenda and should be added to the website. There may be another genetics pub to come out of Maine in the coming months (that is not included on that list).
- Look into what the Driftless partnership does for working with easements (A, Lori).

The EBTJV Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Next SC meeting: Dec 20, 2022



Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
A Fish Habitat Partnership



Large photo: Dr. Gubernick (USFS) did a great job showing us how to build the Engineered Log Jams (ELJ) and they are massive! While digging the upper ELJ (3 total) we intercepted a groundwater spring. 48F (9C) water is now flowing into the 6 foot pool associated with this ELJ. No Pools were previously in project area- we now have 3! - Scott Craig, USFWS - Maine FWCO.

Narraguagus River, Maine stream restoration

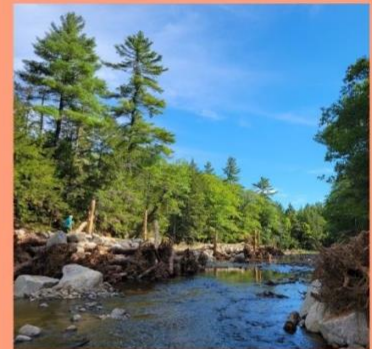
This project improved habitat for brook trout and Atlantic salmon by adding large wood and complexity. This helps by:

- Increasing the number and depth of pools.
- Increasing groundwater/surface water interactions (cool water).
- Decreasing substrate embeddedness by mobilizing the riverbed and increasing the sorting of mobilized sediments.
- The large wood and boulder structures will intercept, and retain, organic material, bolstering the food web.

In September 2022, over 50 people attended a native plant workshop including students from University of Maine Orono and Machias campuses, restoration practitioners, and foresters.



Inset, above: crew adding over 1,000 sq yds of gravel-cobble-boulders and trees to the bank to narrow the channel. Below: Two weeks later, partners and students plant native vegetation during a public workshop.



By the numbers

0.5 miles of stream enhanced

3 pools created

3 engineered log jams (ELJ)

Cost: \$163,566

NFHAP funding: \$20,000

GPS: 44.955090, -68.1063157

Funding from

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Division of Marine Resources
Project SHARE dues
American Forestry Management
Jordan Environmental Engineering
Jasper Wyam and Sons
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Davis Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Contact Project SHARE

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Photos by Scott Craig and Bill Bennett, USFWS

Recent brook trout publications

General/life history

Schwinghamer, Christopher W., "Factors Influencing Brook Trout Population Dynamics and Resilience in Central Appalachian Headwater Streams" (2022). Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Problem Reports. 11228. <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/etd/11228>

Smith, D.A., Giacomini, H.C., de Kerckhove, D.T., Ball, H., Gutowsky, L.F. and Chu, C., 2022. Brook trout occupancy in rivers and streams of the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone, Ontario. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*.<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/eff.12671>

Roloson, S.D.; Knysh, K.M.; Landsman, S.J.; James, T.L.; Hicks, B.J.; van den Heuvel, M.R. 2022. The Lifetime Migratory History of Anadromous Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): Insights and Risks from Pesticide-Induced Fish Kills. *Fishes* 7 (109). <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes7030109>

(Interest for barrier retention or removal: An undergraduate researcher determined that wild brook trout 50-99mm TL had maximum jumping height of 30mm.)
Comer, Clara and Gamett, Bart, "The Jumping Ability of Wild Age-0 Brook Trout" (2022). 2022 Undergraduate Research Showcase. 72. https://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/under_showcase_2022/72

Odenkirk, J.S. and Isel, M.W. 2022. Trends in Biomass and Relative Weight of Brook Trout in Response to Introduction of Non-native Brown Trout in an Appalachian Mountain Stream. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*, 9, pp.67-72. [Link](#) to researchgate

Climate/thermal

Sweka, J.A. and Wagner, T., 2022. Influence of Seasonal Extreme Flows on Brook Trout Recruitment. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 151(2), pp.231-244. <https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/tafs.10347>

Andrew, R. G., Schwinghamer, C. W., Hartman, K. J., & Briggs, E. E. (2022). Climate change influence on brook trout populations in the Central Appalachians. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*.<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/eff.12664>

Colby, B.R., Niles, J.M., Persons, M.H. and Wilson, M.J., 2022. Shifting thermal regimes influence competitive feeding and aggression dynamics of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) and creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*). *Ecology and Evolution*, 12(7), p.e9056. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ece3.9056>

Daiek CM. 2022. Effects of annual thermal regime on growth trajectories of native age-0 brook trout (*Salvelinus Fontinalis*). Master's thesis. <https://commons.nmu.edu/theses/709/>

Genetics

Kazyak, D.C., Lubinski, B.A., Kulp, M.A., Pregler, K.C., Whiteley, A.R., Hallerman, E., Coombs, J.A., Kanno, Y., Rash, J.M., Morgan, R.P. and Habera, J., 2022. Population Genetics of Brook Trout in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 151(2), pp.127-149.

<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/108153/Kazyak%20et%20al.%202021.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

White, S.L., Johnson, T.C., Rash, J.M., Lubinski, B.A. and Kazyak, D.C., 2022. Using genetic data to advance stream fish reintroduction science: a case study in brook trout. *Restoration Ecology*, p.e13662.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rec.13662>

Erdman, B., Mitro, M.G., Griffin, J.D., Rowe, D., Kazyak, D.C., Turnquist, K., Siepker, M., Miller, L., Stott, W., Hughes, M. and Sloss, B., 2022. Broad-scale Population Structure and Hatchery Introgression of Midwestern Brook Trout. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 151(1), pp.81-99.

file:///Users/lorimaloney/Downloads/noaa_45061_DS1.pdf

Hargrove, J.S., Kazyak, D.C., Lubinski, B.A., Rogers, K.M., Bowers, O.K., Fesenmyer, K.A., Habera, J.W. and Henegar, J., 2022. Landscape and stocking effects on population genetics of Tennessee Brook Trout. *Conservation Genetics*, 23(2), pp.341-357.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10592-021-01404-8>