

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

May 13 - 14, 2008

The Nature Conservancy

4245 North Fairfax Drive – Suite 100

Arlington, VA 22203-1606

May 13, 2008

1:00 - 2:00 Welcome John Cooper, Board Chair

Welcome from Mike Andrews, TNC
Introductions - Board (and proxies), staff, and attendees – Tab 2
Agenda and proposed amendments – Tab 3
Approve draft minutes from February 2008 meeting – Tab 4
Update on NFHAP Executive Order – Tab 5
Update on legislation – Tab 6
Update on state funding for NFHAP

2:00 – 2:15 Teaming With Wildlife Ron Regan

Reference material: Tab 7
INFORMATIONAL

2:15 – 2:45 Applications for Board Recognition of Fish Habitat Partnerships
Tom Busiahn

Desired Outcome: Approval or Deferral of a revised application for Board recognition as Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Background: The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Coalition submitted supplemental material to the Board and staff to address the deficiencies in their application submitted to the Board at their February 2008 meeting. Board staff have reviewed the material and prepared a recommendation to the Board.

Reference Material: Tab 8

ACTION – Approval or deferral of applications for Board recognition

2:45 – 3:00 Break

Draft agenda

3:00 – 5:30 Structure and Function of Fish Habitat Partnerships

John Cooper

Desired Outcome: Understanding by the Board of the issues and recommendations described in the white paper prepared by the ad-hoc committee on Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Background: At the February 2008 Board meeting Chair John Cooper convened an ad-hoc working group on Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) to address the issues identified during a discussion about FHPs at the February Board meeting. The workgroup met in Pennsylvania in March and a draft white paper was developed to capture the conclusions and recommendations developed during that meeting. The draft white paper was reviewed by the workgroup members, Board staff, FHPs and Candidate FHPs, and the Assistant Regional Directors of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The revised white paper and comments received were provided to the Board for review. Board Member Chris Horton will offer formal comments regarding organization of the Reservoir Partnership in the context of this discussion.

Reference Material: Tab 9

DISCUSSION

6:00 – 8:00 Fish Habitat Happy Hour at TNC

May 14, 2008

8:00 – 10:00 Recommendations on Structure and Function of FHPs

Desired Outcome: Adoption by the Board of a set of recommendations to clarify the Board's position on the structure and function of FHPs.

Background: The white paper on Structure and Function of Fish Habitat Partnerships contains 15 recommendations to clarify the Board's position on how FHPs should operate, be organized, and interact with the Board. Adoption of these recommendations will help address many of the issues that were raised at the February 2008 Board meeting.

Reference Material: Tab 9

ACTION – Adopt or revise recommendations

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 Recommendations on Structure and Function of FHPs cont.

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

Draft agenda

12:30 – 1:00 Science and Data Committee report Doug Beard

Background: The Science and Data Committee is continuing its work on the draft Framework on Assessing the Nation’s Fish Habitat report and expects to have a final version of the report ready for the Board’s review this summer.

INFORMATIONAL

1:00 - 1:30 USGS Research Plan Susan Haseltine

Background: The NFHAP Science and Monitoring Needs Workshop, sponsored by USGS as proposed by Susan Haseltine at the June 2007 Board meeting, was held on March 4-6, 2008. The USGS seeks endorsement of its research plan in its efforts to support the NFHAP.

Reference Material: Tab 10

ACTION: Board endorsement of USGS Research Plan for the NFHAP.

1:30 – 2:30 Communications Committee report Ryan Roberts

Background: The Board, through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has hired Ryan Roberts as the new Communications Coordinator. He will provide an update on a number of Communication-related activities. In addition, Board members may want to provide input on a communications strategy for the NFHAP legislation.

INFORMATIONAL

2:30 - 3:00 Board review of FWS 2008 NFHAP demo projects Tom Busiahn

Desired Outcome: Board concurrence on projects

Background: For the first time, FWS is making some of their NFHAP funds available to Candidate FHPs for on-the-ground cost-share “demo projects”. A joint Board/FWS team reviewed projects that were ranked by Fish Habitat Partnerships and submitted through the FWS Regions. The FWS Director seeks Board concurrence with the list of approved projects.

Reference Material: Tab 11

ACTION: Board concurrence or suggested revisions to project lists

3:00 – 3:15 Election of new Board chair

3:15 – 3:30 Next meetings

3:30 Adjourn