

Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: January 15, 2020

Board Members Present:

Chair Ed Schriever (At-Large State Seat)	Doug Boyd (At-Large Sportfishing Seat)
Vice Chair Chris Moore (MAFMC)	Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Mike Leonard (ASA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Doug Beard (USGS)
Alison Bowden (TNC)	Ron Regan (AFWA)
Chris Cantrell (WAFWA)	Susan Pultz <i>for</i> Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Aurelia Skipwith (USFWS)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Kim Dibble (AFS)	Bobby Wilson (SEAFWA)
Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited)	John Goodin (EPA)
Doug Nygren (MAFWA)	

Board Members Absent: None

Other Meeting Attendees:

Daniel Wieferich (USGS, NFHP Staff, SDC)	Jennifer Graves (Desert FHP)
Ryan Roberts (AFWA, NFHP Staff)	Alicia Marrs (CA Fish Passage Forum & Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative)
Gary Whelan (Michigan DNR, NFHP Staff, SDC)	Steve Perry (Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture)
Alex Atkinson (NOAA Fisheries, NFHP Staff)	Richard Mitchell (EPA)
Eric MacMillan (USFWS NFHP Staff)	Callie McMunigal (USFWS – Region 5)
Therese Thompson (WNTI Coordinator)	Jeff Newton (USFWS)
Jessica Coakley <i>for</i> Lisa Havel (Atlantic Coastal FHP)	Bill Wright (USFWS)
Jeff Boxrucker (Reservoir FHP)	Wesley Daniel (USGS)
Joe Nohner (Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership)	
Debbie Hart (Southeast Alaska FHP)	

Future Board Meetings:

- April 1-2, 2020 Board Meeting – hosted by Trout Unlimited in Arlington, VA
- June 24, 2020 Board Webinar from 2-4 PM ET
- Week of October 19, 2020 Board Meeting and FHP Workshop – hosted by Idaho Fish & Game in Nampa, ID (exact dates for workshop and meeting TBD)

Approved by Motion:

- October Meeting Summary; motion by Chris Cantrell, seconded by Allison Bowden.
- Vote on electing Bobby Wilson as the next Board Vice Chair; motion by Pete Aarrestad, seconded by: Ron Regan.

Approved by Vote:

- Elect Bobby Wilson (SEAFWA) as the next Board Vice Chair (term to begin at conclusion of January 15, 2020 Board meeting); vote passes.

Notes and Discussion

Attendance, Welcome, & Tribal Board Member (*Ed Schriever, Board Chair*)

The Board voted to approve the October 2019 meeting summary and Board Chair, Ed Schriever, reminded members of the upcoming meeting schedule; April 1-2 in Arlington, VA at TU headquarters, June 24 via webinar, and week of October 19 for an FHP workshop and in-person Board meeting in Nampa, ID. The Board Chair informed the Board that the decision regarding a Tribal representative is currently with the ELT and will be announced soon.

NFHP Board Vice Chair (*Ed Schriever, Board Chair*)

Stan Allen spoke on behalf of the ad hoc committee (Mike Leonard, Alison Bowden, Bryan Moore, Stan Allen) that was charged with nominating a candidate from the state representatives of the Board for Board Vice Chair. Stan informed the Board that the committee spoke with each of the willing state representatives who are eligible for the Vice Chair Board seat and asked them all a series of questions. Ed Schriever announced that the committee recommends Bobby Wilson as the nominee for Board Vice Chair. After a motion by Pete Aarrestad and a second by Ron Regan, the Board voted in favor of electing Bobby Wilson as the next Vice Chair. His term will begin January 16, 2020 and be for 2 years (expiring January 15, 2022).

Legislative Team & Working Group Updates (*Christy Plumer – Legislative Team, Bryan Moore - Legislative Working Group*)

Christy Plumer updated the Board on the status of the NFHP legislation since October 2019. The National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (NFHCTPA) has been approved by both the House and Senate by voice votes in slightly different forms as part of larger packages. The latest package is the Senate amended version of [H.R. 925 – America’s Conservation Enhancement Act](#) which was approved by the full Senate on January 9th, 2020, and currently awaits a House vote. The Senate version of the package contains potentially complicated or controversial elements that could slow the progress of NFHCTPA if House action is not taken soon (e.g. predation on livestock; predation by black vultures and ravens; and a waiver under the Toxic Substances Control Act for lead fishing tackle). The timing on a House vote is unclear. Christy reminded the Board that some technical changes can be made after the bill’s full passage. The legislative team will send around language and messaging for non-Federal Board members and FHPs to send to partners asking for their support to pass H.R. 925.

Bryan Moore presented a table of the required, time sensitive actions outlined in the NFHP legislation along with proposed leads of those actions. Updating the NFHP Charter and Bylaws would also be required if the legislation were to pass and was discussed. The legislative working group will continue to advance planning for the potential changes to NFHP as outlined in the legislation.

USFWS Update & FHP Reports (*Eric MacMillan, Board staff*)

Eric MacMillan announced that he recently accepted a new position as the Chief of the Branch of Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation, and will remain involved with NFHP, but at a different level. The USFWS is looking to backfill Eric’s previous position. Eric informed the Board that four Board members volunteered to review the FY20 FHP reports (Kim Dibble, Chris Cantrell, Pete Aarrestad, and Richard Mitchell) and that review process is in progress.

Multistate Conservation Grant Update (*Ryan Roberts, Board staff*)

- Ryan Roberts provided a brief update to the Board about the Multistate Conservation Grants. There will not be a call for National Conservation Needs (initial step in former application process) this year from AFWA

committees. AFWA's President's Task Force is developing strategic priorities that applicants will use when submitting proposals for FY21 funds. The Executive Committee will approve the new set of priorities at the upcoming North American meeting in March and application timing is likely to be similar to years prior. Board staff will update FHPs on the changes to this process at the bi-monthly call following that North American meeting in March.

NFHP Action Plan Revision (*Gary Whelan, Science & Data Committee Co-Chair*)

Gary Whelan reported to the Board that a small team is in progress making revisions to the Action Plan. In addition to incorporating Board input from surveys and the October meeting, the team is focused on making the plan timeless, simpler, and more concise. The mission remains unchanged, minor changes are recommended to the goals to reduce redundancy, and a few changes are proposed to the objectives as they're written in the 2012 Action Plan. The revised Action Plan will still include the FHP vignettes and map and will reintroduce the concept of a Board-developed annual workplan. The Board members on the small team (Pete Arrestad and Doug Beard) will be looped into revisions soon and FHPs will be asked to provide vignettes and photos for inclusion in the revised plan. The Board will receive a full draft of the revised Action Plan in mid-March for discussion at the April 1-2, 2020 Board meeting.

AFS Western Division Film Festival (*Debbie Hart, SEAKFHP Coordinator*)

Debbie Hart outlined a request from the Southeast Alaska FHP for \$3,000 to support the coordination and development of a film and photo festival to highlight fish and their habitats at the upcoming meeting of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society in April in Vancouver. Beyond the Pond has been asked to contribute to this effort (at the \$500 or \$1000 level) and NOAA Fisheries will contribute \$1000. FishPond has committed to provide promotional items to this event and AFS will cover the venue costs. Similarly to the film festival at AFS/TWS meeting in 2019 in Reno, a trailer and materials will be developed to promote the festival and there will also be an evening, public showing of some of the films. Kim Dibble will ask the AFS Habitat Section for ways they can assist with promotion of this event in funding or social media support. Ed Schriever asked that the Board members representing regional associations return to leadership and committees to ask for support on this effort as this is an excellent opportunity to spread the mission and successes of NFHP work.

Announcement (*Ryan Roberts, Board staff*)

Ryan Roberts announced that Beyond the Pond received a \$25,000 donation from Bass Pro Shops at the end of 2019 in support of on-the-ground projects in the FHPs. Beyond the Pond will set up a mechanism, likely similar to a small grants program, for FHPs to request those funds.