



Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
 A Fish Habitat Partnership

EBTJV Steering Committee Meeting Summary
March 21, 2023

Participants:

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

This video conference meeting was called to order by Chair Jacob Rash at ~1:00 p.m. on March 21st. The first order of business was for the Chair to establish a quorum (≥ 10 SC members), which was achieved as 12 Steering Committee (SC) members participated in the meeting.

The following notes summarize the business conducted during the meeting held on **March 21, 2023**.

- Colby Denison introduced himself; is replacement for Dianne Timmins on SC. He is new to NHFG and had been an MS student at Clemson.
- The Steering Committee Vote to approve the summary of the [Dec 20, 2022 meeting](#)
- The Steering Committee heard a nomination from Steve Perry, seconded by Merry Gallagher, for Lee Simard as Vice Chair of EBTJV for a 2 year term. The Steering Committee then voted to approve the position.
- Science and Data Committee Lori gave an update on the SDC
 - Webinar series – first installment was well attended (at least 111 people, likely more). Next is Yoichiro Kanno March 31.
 - Requesting feedback on lunch n learn topics/speakers: shorturl.at/sFNR2

- Catchment Updater Project update (sign up at ebtjv.ecosheds.org if you have not yet – contact Lori if you want to view a training webinar recording).
- [Notes from March 8 SDC meeting](#)
- Steve Faulkner mentioned we've made a lot of progress with the project to track the brook trout outcome for the Chesapeake Bay Program and it would be good to give an update at a future SDC meeting.
- Lori Maloney gave an update on current and recent EBTJV-NFHAP projects.
 - Since 2004 EBTJV has had over 100 projects and opened over 400 stream miles with NFHAP funding to partners.
 - Lori reviewed the NFHAP timeline.
 - Timeline overlaps years: we will recruit the next RFP prior to when awards are given for last year's RFP. This is due to ACE Act.
 - Visual map of the RFP process (our deadlines) and other major deadlines for NFHAP and FWS before funding lands in hands of partners. Can take up to 18 months.
- Recent project status
 - FY 20: 4 awarded, 3 completed (1 tbc 2023) FY 21: 3 awarded, 2 completed FY 22: 4 awarded, 2 completed FY 23: 4 awarded this week
 - FY23 awards: \$235,037 for 4 projects and EBTJV operations.
- FY24 projects
 - 8 projects proposed plus \$85,000 for EBTJV operations.
 - Review Team:
 - Merry Gallagher
 - Jake Rash
 - Jim Habera
 - Adam Kautza
 - Callie McMunigal
 - Mark Staley
 - Brad Fink
 - Lori Maloney
 - Julie Butler
- The S.C. voted and approved the FY24 project list and EBTJV Operational Funding for NFHAP consideration, contingent on the 9th project applicant addressing some final questions from our review team in time for us to meet our NFHAP deadline.
- Steve Perry gave an update on NFHAP operations.
 - NFHAP recently had a 2 day board meeting in DC. Robert Boyles (exec Dir of SC DNR) recently appointed new Chairman of NFHAP board by AFWA after Ed Schriever retired.

- Board reviewed draft application from partnerships to Congress for designation. Addressing all criteria in ACE Act for what Fish Habitat Partnerships MUST do. No date set yet for the applications to go out, but should be just prior to summer.
 - NFHAP has a new online project tracking system and this is also where new project applications will be posted by FHPs.
 - Funding timeline and delay issues were raised by FHPs. This is causing a number of applicants to forego applying for NFHAP funding, but this was established by ACE Act. Therefore, the Policy Committee of NFHAP will look into ways to recommend amendments to the ACE Act to alleviate the delay.
 - Will Duncan asked what some of the timeline recommendations might be. Steve said it used to work better when we submitted by 1st week of January and had them approved in the same fiscal year. So the suggestion would be to have a list to DOI in January and DOI approve list early in the year rather than waiting for the next FY.
- **Lori Maloney introduced an interest in revitalizing the education and outreach committee.**
 - Lori asked for interest in participating in an outreach committee, please contact Lori.
 - Need input on messaging on website and social media channels.
 - Last fall discussions: climate might be part of an overall communication plan.
 - We could use a comms plan to ID audiences, messaging by topics.
 - Website. Lori showed some website statistics from our contractor Ferguson-Lynch. (see link). More page views in summer and RFP season. Total page views Jan-Dec 2022 ~70,000. Most views were in science section, and most of those were driven by state by state maps of 2016 occupancy maps, which reiterates the importance of our upcoming update. New York was by far the state contributing the most visitors to the site.
 - Social media: love that brook trout get, and also EBTJV, especially on Instagram. Lots of user comments saying that folks are doing good work. Specific example, someone wrote in that Steve Reeser had really helped them.
 - Steve Perry gave some of the past history of outreach committee; it was a leg on stool in strategic plan.
 - Nat Gillespie suggested we partner with artists, even within individual states. James Prosek, Joseph Tomilleri, Karen Talbot, use these to bring in beauty in addition to science.
 - Steve Perry mentioned a resource tool (and followed up after the meeting).
 - Jake Rash said he's received good feedback also, and is encouraged by our ability to share our work with various user groups.
- **The Steering Committee voted to approve the 2023-2024 [Website Maintenance Contract](#)**
- Merry Gallagher shared a quick update related to the Narraguagus project – large multi-year project restoring coastal river in ME. Project SHARE does a lot of high end habitat restoration work and is bringing in instructors for an intensive training workshop in the fall (October). Planning is underway; Merry will update.

- The SC had a discussion about regional collaboration and how we can be more proactive in partnering with neighboring FHPs. Steve Perry mentioned that he used to sit in on ACFP meetings and give 10 minute update from EBTJV. Also there is an all-FHP workshop coming up in December. There are also opportunities for co-supporting larger projects or grant applications.

The EBTJV Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next SC meeting: June 20, 2023 1-3pm