**FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Jim Fredericks (ID)**

**Vice-Chair: Craig Bonds (TX)**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM CT**

**Fort Worth Ballroom 6 / Hybrid**

**Hybrid (Virtual/In Person) Meeting**

**Fort Worth, TX**

**Agenda**

9:00 AM Call to order/Hybrid Logistics – *Jim Fredericks, Chair, ID*

* Introductions
* Agenda Review – No changes
* Approval of 2022 North American FWRPC Meeting Minutes – Motion GEW and CB - Approved unanimously.

9:15 AM Subcommittee and Working Group Reports

* Subcommittee on Water – *Jason Olive, AR/ Bob Caccese, PA* 
  + Met on Monday
  + Kevin Mayes now liaison with Western water entities
  + Christopher Estes – Instream Flow and Water Level Center – Nov 2022 product expected
  + NHD+ and 3D system update given by USGS
    - Once implemented, no changes will be made to Only not make changes to NHD+ but it will remain as a static product.
  + Workplan
    - Finalizing, focus on working with other relevant committees
* Drug Approval Working Group – *Alan Johnson, IA* 
  + Met yesterday
  + Updates from USFWS and USGS
  + Working on MOA with partner agencies
    - Stuck at USGS
  + ADAC
    - DAWG and partners
    - Share ideas on needs and drug approval options
    - FDA medicine – 3X/year
  + Coolwater fish grouping is needed in the approval process
    - Maybe split them differently to allow lumping with other groups to reduce overall testing
  + Marine Aquaculture Medicine Cooperative discussed by Janet Whaley
  + Reviewed list of drugs
    - 17 drugs
    - Some progress noted
    - AADAP Aqui-S 20 field use – Likely approved and labeled in 2023
    - Process to eliminate unwanted fish species is looking for a drug partner
      * Estradiol is in progress
  + Guidance document on drug indexing – Method to shorten process where fish will not be used in the wild
    - Captive broodstock example – Spawning aids is in process
    - Early life stages is another area
  + World Aquaculture Society Meeting in March NO, LA is next meeting
  + USFWS INAD – Provided at no charge in 2022
* Bird & Fish Related Conflict Working Group – *Justine Hasz, WI* 
  + Leslie C. presentation on status of DCCOs
    - Timeline on monitoring plan
  + Issues with bird harvest – Take is low at this time
    - Avian Influenza concerns
    - Delayed permits
  + Fish Chief Survey
    - Need to go to more staff
    - More questions to add
    - Draft will be ready by 2023
  + White Paper
    - Narrative of control process
    - BMPs
    - NY has a bulleted information paper
    - Getting to directors discussed
  + 2023 workplan
    - Complete Survey by Summer 2023
    - In person summer 2023
    - Replacement members who will be there for multiple years
    - Additional species – Neotropical cormorants, White Pelican, Caspian Tern (Columbia River)
  + DEI plan by next annual meeting
  + AR is having issues with DCCO on small state owned impoundments
* Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act Working Group – *Jen Sheehan, AR*
  + Workplan being developed
  + Large issue to improve across the nation
  + Education needed to how the authority and how to use
    - Case histories will be developed
  + Better engagement of federal partners

9:30 AM BIL Fish Passage Workshop Review – *Eric McMillan USFWS*

* NA meeting recommendations called for expert group to focus on implementation
* Meeting hosted by USFWS, AFWA, and NFHP
* Follow-ups/status
  + The opportunity – Huge and across many federal agencies
    - $2B for fish passage
    - Need to focus efforts as issue is much larger – likely 1000X more
  + Working on coordination with federal partners and all others
  + No simple solution and will be an iterative process
  + June – Had upper level administrators meeting
  + July – NCTC Workshop
    - 100 practitioners
    - 3 days – Plenaries, small group work
    - Messages
      * Not starting from scratch
      * Collaboration
      * Tribes and disadvantaged communities
      * Strategic, impactful, transformational
      * Need to tell the story
      * Energy, momentum and hope
    - Next
      * Small workgroups
      * Regroup workshop participants (Oct)
      * Federal staff develop recs (Nov)
      * Federal leadership roundtable Part 2 (Dec)
    - Small-group updates and suggested action roundtables –
      * Group 1 Capacity
      * Group 2 Telling the Story
      * Group 3 Prioritization
      * Group 4 Reducing Burden
      * Group 5 Inclusive Approach
      * Group 6 Models for Collaboration
  + USFWS is talking with FEMA on current issues at this time
  + Good example of the ICP in progress
  + NFHP Comment
    - Implementing conservation over decade
    - FHPs have technical workgroups
    - Excellent mechanisms
      * Long term project tracking database
      * Easy system to report from
    - Robust monitoring – Policy makers will not be looking at the findings
      * Reporting out needs to be timely enough
      * Detailed monitoring will not be sufficient
    - Not let perfect get in the way to good

AFS Workshop Review – *TBD / Various* – Gary Whelan

* Built off of NCTC

BIL Implementation Federal Updates

* NOAA – Chris Doley, Office of Habitat Conservation
  + $3B for BIL – Climate Science and Services ($904M), Climate Ready Coasts ($1.5B), Fisheries and Protected Resources ($600M)
  + Habitat Conservation
    - $491M for coastal habitat
      * $85M Habitat Restoration
        + $1M-15M
        + Closed Sept 6
      * $10M Underserved Communities
        + $75K-$1 million
        + Closes October 5
    - $400M for passage
      * Up to 15% for tribes
      * $65M – Larger projects
        + $1-15M
        + Closed August 15
      * $12M – Tribes
        + $300K-5M
        + Closed August 29
    - Other Provisions – Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, NFWF, Coastal Zone, National Estuarine Research Reserves
    - Applications
      * 170 proposals with $1.2B for habitat and expect more next round
      * $400M for fish passage
    - Likely will be about May 2023 for next round
* USFWS
  + $200 million/5 years
  + Local/regional coordination at this time
    - Check with staff on USFWS contacts
    - Regional office staff or field office staff – Fish Passage
  + Fall 2022 NOFO – Priorities, selection criteria
  + Spring 2023 finalizing project funding
  + Lessons learned will be incorporated
  + USFWS priorities were Year 1 and now moving to priorities in Year 2
* USGS
  + No specific funding on passage
  + Excited about efforts and will assist
* USFS
  + No report yet
* NOAA
  + Working on joint selection criteria with USFWS
* Other
  + BLM – Scott Miller
    - No specific passage funds
    - $6 million in FY2022 and were awarded
    - Welcome other partners and other BIL funding – Making connections
    - Ecosystem Restoration will go up 10X

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Proposed Marine Aquaculture Medicine Cooperative – *Janet Whaley, NOAA*

* No drugs for treating marine fish culture
* $17B deficit and US 18th in production
* Push for Seafood Competitiveness and Food Security
* Executive Order 13291 – Opportunity areas, removing barriers, promoting aquatic animal health
* Drugs will need an environmental assessment (NEPA) in marine environment and NOAA can assist FDA
* Concept Paper with USFWS – DAWG is looking at it
  + Available from Janet
  + Comments by end of year via DAWG
    - Joint by ORPC and FWRPC
* Public/Private Partnership – Grants, MOU/MOAs, MAMC like projects
* Broad range of capacity at NOAA facilities
* Starting Point
  + Anesthetics without 21 day requirement
  + Euthansia drugs

11:00 AM Other Federal Updates

* USFWS
  + Habitat gap analysis and species
    - Conservation Gap Analysis Framework using hatchery analysis process
    - Goals
      * Assessment, evaluation and refinement
      * Communication and assessment messaging
      * Partnership and collaboration
    - Fourteen ecosystems – Expect them to be coming out soon
      * West Coast - Starting
      * AK – Draft
      * Upper GL – Starting
      * Lower GL – Initial draft – Expect soon
      * NE – Starting
      * Lower MS – Draft
      * Gulf Coast
      * Rio Grande – Initial draft
      * Salt and Upper Gila – stating
      * CO River
      * Rockies – Initial draft
      * Lahontan Complex – Initial draft
    - Timelines – 1-2 months generally with some extra time
  + Twenty Hatchery Program Review - $4 million annually
    - Most comments done on reports
    - Will go to the public after formatting
    - Gaps in knowledge, right strains, right species questions
    - Looking to fill gaps from others
  + National Fish Health Survey – GIS Mapper – Will come out September 30
    - After next Fish Chiefs call will have webinar
  + Aquatic Animal Health Policy
    - Draft completed and being finalized
  + Two fish health centers moving to Tier 2 of AFS systems
  + SFBPC – Both DOI and DOC reporting
    - New Charter by Jan 1
    - Advertise membership – AFWA has a seat with 1 coastal and 1 inland
    - Only 5 members on the Council at this time
    - Steve Guerin typically
* USGS
  + Completed strategic science vision for mussels – Final publication
  + Two-day workshop by Prairie Streams Collaborative – Oct 3-4
    - Synthesis of data
    - Research
    - Database development
    - Will send invite and figure out who else will be involved from FHPs
  + February 24-27 – Federal Fisheries Summit – FEMA, BIL, REC, NOAA, NPS, USGS, AFS
    - State agency participation – None, but AFWA will be there for informational purposes
    - Focusing on collaboration and relationships
    - Tribal relationship workshop – DOI
    - Visioning sessions
    - Relationship building session
  + Ecohydraulics and Ecohydrology Committee
    - Drought and more
    - Detail on board and will have input opportunities
    - Darren Carlisle collaboration
      * Shared funding for detail over 2 years
      * Steering Committee that includes Darren Carlisle
  + New Vision on Fisheries Program Management Business Plan – Looking to have input
* BLM – Scott Miller
  + Integrated water and fisheries into one program
  + New Stat Plan
  + Goals
    - Conserving and connecting aquatic resources
    - Water supplies
    - AIS
    - Watershed Approach
  + Implementation
    - Updating policies
    - Address climate issues
    - Ecosystem approach
  + BIL
    - $25 Billion in bill
    - $500M for system resilience
      * Low tech process rehab – Beavers example
      * Cooperative agreement – TU – Conservation success index will be adapted to help with priorities
        + Big Data work
        + Watershed framework like
  + Drought issues
    - New policies and work on drought assessment
    - ID resilience and protecting those areas

11:30 AM Legislative/Regulatory Updates – *David Lind, AFWA*

* Summary provided
* RAWA
  + 9th Republican on board for pay-for
  + CR is a good path forward at this time
    - Likely end of week
  + Keep contacting delegations
  + 70%+ public support for RAWA
* Appropriations
  + CR is a certainty
  + House has passed 6 of 12 bills
  + Senate has released committee bills that are similar to House side
* Coastal Fishing Bill
  + $2 Million youth fishing in GL and coasts
  + Fishing license purchases are part of the bill
* Lacey Act
  + House bill good for fish and wildlife – Passed in June
  + Senate bill does not have them and final bill will be close to Senate
    - Addition of “Knowingly” for prosecution is an issue
* WRDA
  + In conference
  + AFWA requested full funding to Brandon Road, changes to PPAs/indemnity requirements, recreational use of USACE structures
  + Bill has 90% for Brandon Road, limited studies on recreational use of structures, and PPA changes for Brandon Road
* Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act
  + Watercraft inspection for federal agencies on BOR waters
  + $25 million for state grant
  + Senate package has WID authority provisions without specified funding for state grants
* Hydropower Reform Proposal
  + Issues with lack of state fish and wildlife agencies in formation
  + Webinar on act
  + Would provide reimbursement for state agency FERC reviews
  + Package stalled
* Regulatory Items
  + Section 401a rule back to old systems
    - State authority for information needs restored
    - Certifying authority can determine time period and when it starts
    - Resubmission available except where Court of Appeals ruled again
    - Project as a whole for water quality
    - Conditions with grant certifications for states
    - Federal certifications review only on procedural
  + ESA 10j Proposal
    - Non-experimental populations beyond range
    - Want flexibility and precautions
    - Broadly support, contingent on concurrence with state agencies

11:45 AM 2023 Committee Work Plan/Review Charge/DEIJ Integration

* BIL focus
* Subcommittee support
* DEI support for this Committee
  + DEI Committee developed a think sheet, coming from Jim
  + Create time for information distribution and watch webinar
  + Virtual meeting will be done

12:00 Adjourn – Jason and Gary