**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