



*A Fish Habitat Partnership*

**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday December 10th, 2012  
Hyatt Regency/Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting  
Wichita, Kansas  
Also call-in Conference Call  
4:00-5:00 PM**

**Stated purpose of this meeting: Approve Work Plan, Strategic Habitat Conservation Model, NFHAP FHP evaluation criteria, NFHAP initiatives, NFHAP Funded Projects submitted, Funding for MGLP**

**Action items in red**

Meeting convened at 4:00 pm central time. Steering Committee (SC) Members Present: Chairman Dirk Peterson, Mike McGhee (for Joe Larscheid), Maureen Gallagher (for Todd Turner), Katie Haws (coordinator), plus guests George Scholten (IA) and Lyn Bergquist (MN). On conference call; John Lott (SD), Mike Staggs (WI), Ken Lubinski (USGS), Doug Shaw (TNC), Tom Busiahn (USFWS) plus guests Louise Mauldin (DARE), and Mike Duval (MN).

Chairman Dirk Peterson convened the meeting and gave welcoming remarks.

Coordinator's Work Plan

The Coordinator's work plan was presented, and SC member's comments were solicited. We will make sure that interaction and coordination with other FHP's within the Midwest as a work responsibility is included in the document. The work plan was approved by the SC committee through voice vote.

Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

Maureen gave brief overview of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's "Strategic Habitat Conservation" model. This model will be an entirely new way to deliver conservation. Goals will be set for populations, and surrogate species selected to represent landscapes, with perhaps a dozen surrogate species nationwide, or possibly more. This is an evolving issue for the USFWS Fisheries Habitat Unit. This change will ensure that conservation actions that benefit surrogate

species, will result in benefits for affiliated species as well. USFWS is committed to ensuring that partners are at the table as these are being developed through tools such as meetings and webinars.

MGLP to comment on FHP evaluation Criteria

**Action Item:** As solicited by Steve Perry, MGLP has prepared comments on the “NFHAP FHP Evaluation Criteria” which will be sent to the NFHAP Board via a memo to be written to Perry. The concerns and comments from the viewpoint of our FHP were discussed by the group. Tom Busiahn answered the question about whether the FHP Evaluation will be used for funding allocations with a no, that the evaluations are meant to benefit the FHP’s, and will not really be used as an allocation tool. Katie will consider input from the Steering Committee on the draft comments through December 27<sup>th</sup>. Since the NFHAP Board will be finalizing the Evaluation Criteria at their February board meeting, we will need to submit our comment letter by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Information Items

- Katie handed out copies of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, to SC members attending. Others will be mailed a copy.
- Nation Fish Habitat Conservation Act died in committee on a failure of a procedural motion. Look for this to be considered again next year.
- **Action Item** Upcoming Organizational Development Training for FHP’s to be held in Portland January 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Each FHP is allotted two slots. Katie will be attending for MGLP. We are looking for one additional participant from MGLP, Katie needs to hear of any interest by 12/21, if none, Dirk will designate another person to attend for the partnership.
- Although funding from USFWS is still tentative, we will commit to three projects in 2013.

<b>Proposals approved for 2013</b>	
MGLP Healthy Shorelines Initiative in the Upper Tippecanoe River Watershed, IN	Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation/Lyn Crighton
Protecting the Unique Sinkhole Lakes in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, MI through the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	Huron Pines/Sam Prentice
A Phase II Assessment for MGLP; Using Science to Evaluate Lake Health and Fish Potential in a Subset of Lakes in Eight Midwest States.	MN DNR

- Katie went over the revised allocation formula for allocating NFHAP funds to partnerships. MGLP gained funding, as the criteria were based on geographic extent and population. We will receive \$15,339 more funding in 2013 under this funding methodology, with our total increasing to \$105,339.00 this upcoming year. Each year, our funding then will increase again, up to \$144,151 in 2015.
- Katie will be finalizing the 2011/2012 annual review summary, and putting that on the website. Additional comments will be accepted through 12/31.

Dirk adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM Central time.

Participants in Wichita viewed a Power Point presentation on MGLP Partnership Overview and projects of the partnership.