Meeting attendees

Meeting called to order by Executive committee chair, Terry Foreman at 8:05am CDT.

Old Business

* Change to 2011 meeting minutes: On page 2 the name of the individual should be Ryck Lydecker
* Motion to accept the minutes with changes by Doug Nygren and seconded by Tim Toplisek. Motion passed.
* Motion to accept the current financial report made by ??? and seconded by Toplisek. Motion passed.

FOR Update –Jeff Boxrucker

* There are currently 3 FOR Chapters and the fourth is pending renewal:5 Group Affiliates; 7 Individual Affiliates; 0 PFFW; ~10 additional applications in development
* Action item: Board approval for to move forward with the development of materials that the outreach committee deems necessary for outreach to potential partners. Motion by Hannibal Bolton and seconded by Terry Foreman.

Outreach Update –Dave Terre

* Met in fresh water center in TX
* Future direction of FOR 🡪 creating a FOR network in state agencies
* Marketing strategies –industry , lake associations, and
* Currently we have 2 websites, and brochures, and a canned presentation for individuals to use to promote FOR
* Following the meeting the outreach group met with Martin MacDonald and he agreed to allow FOR to leverage some of Bass Pro’s marketing strategies to help develop FOR.
* The FOR recently launched a FOR FB page. Please send the stories
* FOR was promoted at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic again this year
* The Classic will be televised on ???
* A FOR Booth was also present at the classic and run by the Seven Coves Bass Club
* An article about FOR was in the TTBC spectator guide
* The committee asks that if you have anyone in you staff that is adept at using FB please have them contribute your regional stories to the FOR FB page
* Future plans for MSCG funds, TX would use the funds to:
  + Pull together FOR groups into one place and invite an unaffiliated group and talk about FOR successes as a way to leverage FOR in TX
  + Magazine articles
  + Add a link to the FOR site on the TXPWD website
  + FOR Planning promotional meetings with other states to encourage their involvement in the FOR
  + Work with Noreen Clough to promote FOR at the BASS Mater Classic in Tulsa, OK. Also, plan to attend the iCast to get the work about FOR to industry attendees.
  + 24 state agencies are represented on the FOR website. Users can click on the map and find out who their FOR representative is for their state.
  + Dave discussed that bass clubs and homeowners groups are great groups to connect with to work on water quality and fish habitat issues.
  + Comment: (Jeff Lucero) prepare a presentation for watershed associations to provide information about access to NRCS funds available for groups that are interested in restoring the watershed but not necessarily fish
    - Action Item: Tim Toplisek and Jeff Lucero will work with Dave Terre on re-working the prepared presentation to address watershed associations.
  + Comment: (Don Gablehouse) to draw in groups like other than bass groups the FOR would need to address pelagic species (walleye and crappie for example) and water level management
  + **Action Item**: Jeff will add a page with the for chapters for each region or state
  + Comments: (Doug Nygren): There is an opportunity to involve prison groups in reservoir habitat restoration. Lorna State Prison to plant live vegetation and/or deploy the structures. This is also an opportunity to get additional FOR Groups that are willing to perform restoration and conservation activities.
  + Also, 3-D printing can be used for designing and testing in-reservoir structure. Google 3-D printing.
  + NFHP proposed to a list of communications/outreach goals and one of the goals is to assist the partnerships with obtaining funds from other sources.
  + InFisherman Magazine is interested in an article from the RFHP
  + Talked about getting a pro-angler to promote the FOR but haven’t found one yet.
  + Terry Foreman will talk with Dean Rojas
  + Craig Bonds has talked with Alton Jones about becoming a FOR professional representative and promote FOR. Brian Snowden -he helped Seven Coves help constructed fish attractors.
  + Comment (Nygren): Broaden the scope of the search for a spokesperson. Reach out to any individual that is easily recognizable (i.e. football coaches, NASCAR drivers, etc.)
  + Comment: (Vitello): Muskie Magazine is willing to write an article about FOR
  + **Action item**: Chris will draft an article and share it with Jeff Boxrucker before sending to <http://www.muskiesinc.org/indy_files/mimag.html>
* USACOE and Bass Pro Shops MOU -Tim Toplisek
  + At this point, the scope of the MOU is very broad and general but individual managers have some leeway to manage flows on the dams they manage. Details about individual regional projects or
  + Working on how to bring in other state and federal agencies.
  + In June an agreement was signed between several federal agencies to help support fishing events across the country for disadvantage children. Called Catch a Special Thrill. Tim would like to promote fish habitat at these events
  + Watchable wildlife –getting people out to view wildlife. This organization is also one number on the web. Tim is trying to get the organization to include more fisheries information into the website.
  + **Action item**: Tim will send a copy of the MOU to Jeff for distribution to the RFHP.
  + Chris Vitello mentioned some project slowdowns due to the strict interpretation of regulations by Corp project managers/lawyers.
  + **Action item**: Tim Toplisek will talk to Megan Smith, regulatory division in HQ about strictly interpreting the regulations, which can slowdowns projects.
  + Jeff spoke with Martin MacDonald about having FOR become a part of the ACOE/Bass Pro MOU. This would be an opportunity to have RFHP projects on several Corp dams.

MSCG –Jeff Boxrucker

* Communication snag initially with the NFHP board and other FHPs
* Endorsement of the proposal from the Conowingo/Susquehanna River nutrient abatement issue. PFBC in regard to technology called Floating Islands International, which produces floating islands as a method to restore reservoir habitat.
* Jeff Boxrucker would like to ask the Executive Committee whether it would like to approve a draft letter endorsing the project. Or not approve the endorsement at all.
* The RFHP doesn’t have an official endorsement procedure in place so this letter would be ad-hoc. However, the board could decide not to endorse the project at all and wait until the RFHP has an official procedure.
* Jeff will develop a process shortly and he would like to develop a method for endorsing products.
* Discussion
  + Jeff Lucero –Do we [the RFHP] really want to endorse actual products and/or for-profit companies?
  + James Adams –it a common model for a non-profit organization to endorse a particular product.
  + Don Gabelhouse –I would feel more comfortable endorsing independent evaluation of a product.
  + Jeff Boxrucker –he clarified that the RFHP will only be endorsing the project not necessarily the product or the company. Jeff Lucero added that an endorsement of any portion could lead to the company claim that the RHFP therefore supports the products. He further asserted that the endorsement criteria explicitly explain what is being endorsed.
  + Joe Margraf –the Conowingo (the Susquehanna River) is a major run –of-the river system (flashy system with a large amount of water moving through the system) and it would not be the best place to test this technology.
  + Pat Sollberger –can we send a more generic letter that endorses the project “we support doing work/research on reservoir habitat”
  + Terry Foremen – we should look at whether the project moves our efforts forward. If it does then endorse, if not then no.
  + Chris Horton –The RFHP is not ready to endorse any project until it has put in place the criteria
* Motion needed –move forward with endorsement as a BMP at the reservoir scale
  + Joe Margraf made a motion not to endorse the floating island project. Motion seconded by Chris Horton. Motion passed. The RFHP will not endorse the floating island project.

Assessment Update –Jeff Boxrucker

* Presentation that was given by Jeff at AFS and will be given at other meetings throughout the remainder of the year.
* **Action item**: The PowerPoint presentation is available online
* Draft manuscript has been submitted by Rebecca Krogman to *TAFS* for review.
* A submission should be sent to *Fisheries* b/c fisheries professionals are more likely to read about the project in Fisheries magazine.
* **Action item**: The development of an impairment map would be helpful for funding purposes. Rebecca is currently working on a map that displays impairments with the conditions that determine their impairment.
* Comment: (Gene Gilliland): these maps can be used on the FOR website to communicate reservoir needs.

Coordinator work plan –Jeff Boxrucker

* All accomplishments are outlined in the RFHP briefing book for the 2012 Annual Meeting
* Motion to accept the2012 -2013 work plan mad e by Mark Oliver and seconded by Hannibal Bolton. The motioned passed and the work plan was accepted as written.

Budget

* Jeff Boxrucker reviewed the 2013 budget based on funds provided by the MSCG.
* Details about the budget are in the Annual Meeting briefing book.
* Jeff will add his travel expenses for the AFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas to the 2013 budget
* Discussion on what to do with $15,000 that was not claimed by the IA project.
* Action Item: Hannibal Bolton will talk with his staff to leave funds in project pool
* Motion to approve the budget made by Hannibal Bolton and seconded by Tim Toplisek.
* Mark Oliver requested a discussion to make sure that the reverted dollars be put into the projects fund pot instead of the operational funds.

RFHP Project Update –Craig Bonds TPWD

* His presentation was given via PowerPoint and will be made available on the web

Bylaws Discussion

* Remedy the problem of no vice-chair representatives and the
* Suggested that we remove the non-governmental and industry representatives
* **Corrections**: in the board book Change Doug Fielder to Dwight Fielder and Action item in the board book on page 32.
* The coordinator to investigate the issues with any contradictions in the charter document
* **Correction**: We should indicate that Don Gabelhouse represents the Fisheries Administrators Section (FAS)
* Action item: Joe Margraf will reconcile the current RFHP and FOR document to eliminate discrepencies

Project Funding Report –Cecilia Lewis

* **Action item:** Report attached
* Type in overview of changes to the plan for the $15,000

Project Proposal Selection

* Summary of project break out is in the presentation. Get a copy from Jeff and add a summary here.
* The executive committee discussed the projects rankings and determined which projects would be submitted to the USFWS for approval by the Director.
* Projects that will be forwarded include
  + Ranks 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9. Project ranked 6 (NV), 8, and 10 will be the additional projects submitted. Project ranked 1 will be funded using carry overfunds from FY12.
* Motion to fund the following projects IA, NM, UT, MO, TX, MD,
* Motion made by Mark Oliver and seconded by Joe Margraf. Motioned passed.
* Next meeting Oct 2 and 3, 2013 at the Sheraton, in Erie, PA
* 2014 meeting will be in the Southeast