

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BRIEFING BOOK  
2022 RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**



**1 October 2022**

Join Zoom Meeting 0800 Central 1 Oct 2022

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**Saturday, October 1**

0800-0810	Welcome/Introductions
0810-0820	Approval of Minutes/Financial Statement <sup>1</sup> (Pages 3-8)
0820-0830	2022 Coordinator Work Plan Accomplishments (Pages 9-10)
0830-0845	2023 Work Plan and Budget <sup>1</sup> (Pages 11-12)-Doug Nygren
0845-0900	NFHP Conservation Priorities (Pages 13-16)
0900-0915	FHP Congressional Approval Process (Page 17)
0915-1000	Project Updates (Pages 18-23)

**FOR MEETING**

1000-1010

FOR Membership Update (Page 24)

1010-1030

Outreach Committee Report (Page 25-31)

1030-1200

Coordinator recommendations moving forward

**Proxies:** Doug Nygren for Gary Martel

<sup>1</sup>Action Items

**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership  
Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes (October 1, 2021),**

**(Minutes are intended to complement reports in the 2021 Briefing Book**

- Meeting called to order by RFHP Coordinator, Jeff Boxrucker at 1000 CST.
- Call for Proxies: Doug Nygren for Gary Martel
- Executive Committee (EC) members present: Doug Nygren, Dave Terre, Brad Tribby, Reed Green, Gary Martel (by proxy), Jason Olive, Jeremy Crossland, Kevin Pope; 8 Board members present; quorum established.
- Welcome and Introductions of attendees:
  - Dave Terre, Texas Parks and Wildlife (retired), SEAFWA (EC)
  - Jason Olive, Arkansas Game & Fish, SEAFWA (EC)
  - Doug Nygren, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, MFWFA and NFHP Board (EC)
  - Brad Tribby, BLM (EC)
  - Reed Green, NALMS (EC)
  - Kevin Pope, USGS (EC)
  - Jeremy Crossland, USACE (EC)
  - Don Wiley, Utah Division of Wildlife, W Working Group
  - Ben Page, NE Working Group
  - Jeff Boxrucker, RFHP Coordinator
  - Mark Fowlkes, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, SE Working Group
  - Sandra Clark-Kolaks, Indiana DNR, MW Working Group
  - Joe Conroy, OH DNR, MW Working Group
  - Tommy Johnson for Rebecca Krogman, IA DNR, MW Working Group
  - Jeremy Shiflet, KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, SE Working Group
  - Michael Homer, TX Parks and Wildlife, SE Working Group
  - Karin Eldridge, FWS
  - Lynde Dodd, USACE, SE Working Group
  - Heather Burke, USACE
  - Tara Whitsel, USACE-PA
  - Dave Weedman, Arizona Game and Fish

**Old Business:**

- Meeting minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting minutes (virtual) were provided to Executive Committee and Working Group members prior to the meeting and approved by voice vote on a previous conference call.
- Financial Report given by Boxrucker, details in Briefing Book.
  - The financial report was presented with an ending date of August 31 (September bank statement was unavailable at the time the Briefing Book was provided to the EC and WG). Coordinator updated the Treasurers Report to include the September income/expenses and the updated version is presented in the updated Briefing Book (attached).
  - Motion to accept by Nygren; Second by Pope. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dave Terre is stepping down from his long-standing positions on the RFHP and FOR Executive Committees. Coordinator recognized Dave's contributions and wished him well in future fishing adventures. Dave Terre will be replaced by Jason Olive (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission) as the SEAFWA representative on the Executive Committee.

### **Accomplishments under FY2021 Work Plan**

- See report in Briefing Book

### **FY2022 Work Plan**

- See report in Briefing Book
- J. Conroy suggested adding making an electronic copy of the Workshop presentations for use in virtual settings.
  - Coordinator indicated that several of the presenters are no longer available
    - Mark Porath-sedimentation
      - Coordinator will check with Porath to see if he is willing to do a "voice-over" of his existing presentation
    - Nuisance aquatic vegetation-Lynde Dodd volunteered to modify the existing presentation
  - Coordinator mentioned that PowerPoint presentations are available on the website
  - Coordinator will discuss the option of "voice-over" of the existing presentations with the presenters

### **NFHP Conservation Priorities (see Briefing Book)**

- Coordinator presented the NFHP Science and Data Committee's current draft of Conservation Priorities
- Coordinator expressed concern that several of the draft priorities were unrealistic, and targets were unattainable at current levels of funding
  - Concern was expressed that if FHPs were evaluated as per Conservation Priorities as presented, and if funding was tied to that evaluation, then RFHP project funding could be negatively affected
- Coordinator met with G. Gilliland (RFHP EC and NFHP Board Member and member of S&D team working on Conservation Priorities) to discuss edits
  - Edits were made and forwarded to S&D for consideration

### **Project Updates (see Briefing Book)**

Mark Fowlkes provided additional updates to the Harris (FY2019) stating Harris is an ongoing restoration effort with plans over the next 5 years but that all NFHP funds have been spent and objectives met. Coordinator suggested that he complete the final report and we close out the project. Ben Page provided additional updates to the Raystown (FY2020; non-NFHP) project indicating the benefits of using Friends of Reservoirs as the project lead/banking entity for ease in contracting and invoicing. Ben circulated specifications and pictures of the heavy-duty habitat barge purchased with project funds. Jason Olive provided additional comments on the Beaver Project (FY2021) and

recognized RFHP/FOR with facilitating additional funding (\$35,000 from BPS) for additional streamline stabilization work and American Sportfishing Association (\$80,000) for partial funding for a habitat barge with a dump bed to be used on Beaver and other Arkansas reservoirs.

**FY2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (see Briefing Book)**

A copy of the FY2023 RFP was provided in the Briefing Book for informational purposes. Coordinator revised the FY2022 RFP to better address requirements outlined in the America’s Conservation Enhancement Act. The draft was circulated to Working Group members and all suggested edits were addressed.

A prioritized list of projects is due to the NFHP Board by March 31, 2022. Coordinator stated that to meet that deadline, considering the effects of the Holidays on proposal development, the RFP needs to be circulated by October 15, 2021 with a February 15, 2022 deadline for submission. Specific guidance from the NHFP Board regarding scoring of the proposals and fund distribution methodology is lacking, necessitating moving forward with the draft as written.

**Bass Pro Shops Amateur Fishing Tournaments to Provide Habitat Project Funding to NFHP (see Briefing Book)**

Approximately \$1-1.5 million is expected to be raised through the tournament circuit in 2021 that will be provided to NFHP largely for “on-the-ground” project funding with a priority on funding habitat work in reservoirs to benefit sport fishing. Details of how these funds will be distributed and projects selected are not formalized to date but RFHP should receive a substantial amount non-federal funds in FY2022 for projects.

**Small Projects/Mossback Grants (see Briefing Book)**

Five small project and five Mossback grant proposals were received. Two FOR members, Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs and Tri-County Bass Anglers, submitted applications for both grant programs. Mossback provides for 3-\$1000 product grants annually. The Coordinator suggested that LLFOR and TCBA receive the Small Grants award only which would allow FOR to award grants to all applicants in 2021. A motion was made (Dave Terre) and seconded (Mike Homer) to provide Small Projects Grants to award Small Projects Grants to Canyon Bass Club, LLFOR, Tri-County Bass Anglers, Pymatuning Lake Association and Tioga County Bass Anglers and to award Mossback grants to Hendricks County Parks and Recreation, Red Rock Lake Association, and Sun Country Outdoors. Motion passed unanimously.

The RFHP Business Meeting was adjourned at 1200 and the Friends of Reservoirs meeting was initiated at 1200. Three new FOR members were added in 2021 bringing the total membership to 112 in 31 states.

### **2021-2022 Budget (see Briefing Book)**

The budget was presented and individual line items were noted and discussed. The Coordinator salary was presented for 15 months (through March, 2023). Jason Olive moved to accept the budget as presented, Doug Nygren seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### **Outreach Committee Report (see Briefing Book)**

Brad Tribby reported the latest Google Analytics re: the FOR Facebook page. Facebook fundraising has netted small amounts of funds for projects but has reached as many as 17,900 people which is great for brand awareness.

Coordinator reported on some video purchases to meet FY2019 Outreach line items in the Operations grant.

Rebecca Krogman provided a written report on website upgrades.

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) has agreed to devote their Spring, 2022 *LakeLine* issue to fish habitat articles. Reed Green suggested that RFHP provide a series of articles highlighting the issues and what RFHP's role is in addressing said issues. Ideas were discussed as to topics and potential authors:

- Introductory article "What is Habitat"-Dr. Jonathon Spurgeon (tentative)
- Overview of NFHP, RFHP and FOR- Jeff Boxrucker
  - Grant Programs
  - Website
  - BMP Manual
- Assessment-Rebecca Krogman (tentative)
- Project Highlights-Jeff Boxrucker
- Emerging Issues (need author(s))
  - Microplastics
  - Impacts of Wakeboats
  - Others

Reed Green circulated author guidelines and previous topic-based *LakeLine* issues to provide needed guidance. Coordinator will work with authors to develop articles with a March 1 deadline.

Jeremy Crossland requested assistance from RFHP in developing lake-specific or regional/watershed specific habitat management plans for USACE impoundments. Jeremy noted that many USACE project offices do not have the fisheries expertise to develop such plans inhouse. Jeremy stated that if such plans were available (suggested 5-year timeline) project offices could then budget annually for needed funds to address elements of said plans. Discussion followed on how best to address this need considering that much of RFHP's labor force is volunteer and may be outside the immediate vicinity of the target project offices. Suggested approaches:

- Coordinator mentioned that previous discussions have identified the need for habitat plan templates. Dr. Steve Miranda, MS State Univ., is currently working on software that provides a pull-down menus for development of lake-specific fisheries management plans. There is a potential for modification of this software

for use in developing habitat management plans. Contract with MS Wildlife and Parks for fisheries management software will be completed by June 2022; modification suited to habitat management plans should be easily accomplished shortly thereafter.

- Coordinator had previously sent Jeremy to the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Lake Habitat Management website to review lake-specific habitat management plans. Jeremy mentioned that is what he was looking for. Ben Page, Supervisor of that program, gave an overview of what effort is involved in developing those plans.
  - The inlake survey (shoreline erosion sites, sites for structure addition, potential for native vegetation restoration, etc.) could potentially be mapped by Friends of Reservoirs members associated with individual reservoirs.
  - Bottom firmness could be mapped by Biobase software; Coordinator will look into donation of unit by Navico
  - Potential for shoreline restoration sites to be identified and measured using Google Earth and verified by FOR groups
    - Costs could be obtained based on estimates provided by PA Fish and Boat Commission staff
      - \$\$/ft<sup>2</sup> of shoreline reshaping and armoring
  - RFHP may be able to provide plan development upon completion of survey work

Meeting adjourned at 1300.



## Financial Report

(1 Oct 2021- 31 August 2022)

**Friends of Reservoirs (Bank of America)**

Beginning Balance (1 October 2021)     **\$289,760.02**

<b>Deposits</b>	
Grants (RFHP Operations)	<b>\$ 82,458.00</b>
FOR membership	<b>218.56</b>
Meeting Registration (2019 Annual Meeting)	<b>1,072.74</b>
Grant Application Fee (\$25/Small Grant & Mossback)	<b>386.12</b>
Donation	<b>\$ 14,545.05</b>
Costa	7,000.00
AFTCO	3,000.00
Bass Fishing Hall of Fame	4,000.00
Others	545.05
Grant reimbursement	<b>5,663.25</b>
Amazon Smile	<b>36.37</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 104,380.09</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Coordinator Salary	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
Outreach Coordinator Salary (June-August)	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
Bank Fees	<b>\$ 14.00</b>
Facebook Fundraising	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
Travel	<b>\$ 2,799.11</b>
Postage	<b>\$ 37.18</b>
Website	<b>\$ 1,918.00</b>
Meeting Expense (banquet/awards)	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>
Membership	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
Grant Distribution	<b>\$ 109057.62</b>
2022 Small Projects Grants	5,000.00
Raystown	102,902.62
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	880.00
New Mexico BASS Nation (donation reimbursement)	275.00
Office Expense	<b>\$ 1546.14</b>
Legal (CMP; 501(c)(3) renewal)	<b>\$ 283.38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 181,705.43</b>
<b>Ending Balance (31 August 2022)</b>	<b>\$ 212,434.68</b>



## RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR FY2022 Work Plan

- Develop FY2020 and FY2021 Annual Report; provide draft for review
  - No annual reports completed
- Work with Communication Committee to promote/market FOR/RFHP
  - Add content to website and expand available features;
  - Expand social media presence
  - Rebecca did a great job (see outreach committee report)
- Solicit projects for funding
  - Refine project selection criteria (as needed)
    - Modify online submission and review on website (as needed)
  - Completed as needed
  - Distribute FY2023 RFP (late October)
    - Proposal deadline (15 February 2022)
    - Distribute project proposals to Regional Working Groups for scoring
    - Summarize projects and scores/rankings for Executive Committee review and approval
    - Provide prioritized project list to NFHP Board by March 31, 2022
  - All completed by respective deadlines
    - 9 projects submitted:
      - NFHP funds requested: \$571,980
      - Non-federal match: \$4,579,917
      - Total Project Costs: \$6,246,858
  - Ensure timely reporting and accounting of funded projects
  - Work with project partners and FWS to submit project compliance documents (FY2022)
    - NFHP allocated \$325,000 to RFHP (including \$85,000 in Operations)
    - Funding for 4 on-the-ground projects (see project update on page 18)
  - Update RFHP and NFHP Project Databases
    - Completed through FY2021 projects
  - Work with NFHP Board to optimize Bass Pro Shops funding for reservoir projects
    - 30 proposals submitted
    - 9 projects funded (all reservoir projects)-See page 18)
- Liaise with other NFHP Partnerships
  - Advance goals of NFHP

- Attend NFHP Board Meetings (either in person or via webinar)
  - **Attended all Board meetings virtually**
- Serve on Partnership Committee
  - Provide Comments to Science and Data Committee re: Conservation Priorities that include reservoir habitat restoration priorities (see draft in Briefing Book)
  - **See draft Conservation Priorities (page 12)**
- Serve as Business Manager for RFHP
  - Work with Executive Committee to:
    - Establish budget for operations of RFHP (excluding project funding)
    - Produce financial report for annual meeting
    - Compile income/expense statement and provide to accountant for completion of FOR tax return
  - Continue bi-monthly Executive Committee conference calls
  - Work with local arrangements to schedule/arrange accommodations for RFHP meetings
    - Produce and distribute minutes of Annual Meeting
- 2022 meeting in Midwest (Shelbyville, IL)

## **RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR FY2023 Work Plan**

- Celebrate the accomplishments and outstanding leadership provided by our founding RFHP Coordinator Jeff Boxrucker
- Develop FY2021 and FY2022 Annual Report; provide draft for review
- Work with Communication Committee to promote/market FOR/RFHP
  - Add content to website and expand available features;
  - Expand social media presence
  - Seek to secure additional corporate sponsors
- Solicit projects for funding
  - Refine project selection criteria (as needed)
    - Modify online submission and review on website (as needed)
  - Distribute RFP (late October)
    - Proposal deadline (15 February 2023)
    - Distribute project proposals to Regional Working Groups for scoring
    - Summarize projects and scores/rankings for Executive Committee review and approval
    - Provide prioritized project list to NFHP Board by March 31, 2023
  - Ensure timely reporting and accounting of funded projects
  - Work with project partners and FWS to submit project compliance documents
  - Update RFHP and NFHP Project Databases
  - Assist partners funded by Bass Pro Shops funding for reservoir projects
- Liaise with other NFHP Partnerships
  - Advance goals of NFHP
    - Attend NFHP Board Meetings (either in person or via webinar)
- Serve as Business Manager for RFHP
  - Work with Executive Committee to:
    - Establish budget for operations of RFHP (excluding project funding)
    - Produce financial report for annual meeting
    - Compile income/expense statement and provide to accountant for completion of FOR tax return
  - Continue bi-monthly Executive Committee conference calls
  - Work with local arrangements to schedule/arrange accommodations for RFHP meetings
    - Produce and distribute minutes of Annual Meeting
    - 2023 meeting (Location TBD)

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership-Budget (2022-2023)	
<b>Beginning Balance of FOR Account (October 1, 2022)</b>	<b>\$212,434.68</b>
<b>2022-2023 Income (projected)</b>	
FY2022 FWS Project Award Operations (expected 1/22)	\$85,000.00
Annual Meeting Registration	\$2,000.00
Small Grant/Mossback Application Fee	\$200.00
FOR memberships	\$150.00
Sponsorships	\$1,000.00
Donations	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$88,850.00</b>
<b>2022-2023 Expenses (projected)</b>	
Coordinator Salary	\$60,000.00
Outreach Salary	\$12,000.00
Travel	\$5,000.00
Mileage (\$1,000)	\$1,000.00
Tax Return	\$275.00
CT Corp (501 c 3 registration)	\$275.00
Annual Meeting (FOR rooms/Meals)	\$5,000.00
Office Expense	\$1,000.00
Small Projects Grants	\$10,000.00
Website	\$2,000.00
Outreach O&M (unspecified)	\$5,000.00
Raystown Grant expenses (estimate)	\$130,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$231,550.00</b>
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$142,700.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$69,734.68</b>

## **NFHP CONSERVATION PRIORITIES (draft-to be approved at Sept NFHP Board Meeting)**

### **Draft Proposed 2024 National Conservation Priorities, with explanations and a subset of sample strategies**

#### **Introduction:**

The National Fish Habitat Partnership has identified seven National Conservation Priorities to guide the work of the Fish Habitat Partnerships, the Board, and fish habitat conservation work at large for FY 2024. These Priorities are provided below along with example strategies intended to evoke the intention of each Priority, but not define or limit the kinds of efforts needed to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities. *The NFHP includes many FHP's, each with different goals and objectives, and as the systems and species we seek to conserve are diverse, so are the strategies that can meaningfully address our fish habitat conservation goals.* Example strategies are offered as just that—examples meant to encourage thought, not curb creativity. The National Conservation Priorities are intended to create space and offer support to the many types of projects and activities that are bringing about positive change for fish and fish habitat.

#### **1. Conserve waters and habitats where all processes and functions are operating within their expected range or natural variation.**

This priority focuses action on acquiring or protecting in other ways fish habitats that are currently functioning for the purpose of preventing future degradation. In essence: protect what is currently working.

Example strategies may include:

Acquire land, water rights/reservations, or easements for intact systems.

- a. Protect habitat forming process (e.g., sediment transport, tidal regimes, riparian vegetation, nutrient regimes) in intact systems.
- b. Prevent the degradation of water quality parameters in intact systems.
- c. Create and implement management plans (including but not limited to fisheries management plans, invasive species plans, species recovery plans).

#### **2. Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish.**

This priority focuses on ensuring that appropriate hydrologic (annual and daily flows) and hydrodynamic (current or velocity) conditions are always available to allow fish to maximize their production. This is accomplished by rehabilitating degraded and improving engineered hydrographs and hydrodynamic conditions to ensure all needed fish habitats are available at the appropriate times.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Restore natural-like conditions and variability for hydrology including currents and velocities in degraded and engineered systems.
- b. Secure fishery-favorable water level (rule curves) conditions in degraded and engineered lakes with water control structures, impoundments, and reservoirs
- c. Acquire water rights for streams, lakes, impoundments, and reservoirs for degraded and engineered systems.
- d. Work with water users to incorporate fish habitat values, including flows and water levels needed to sustain fish communities, into water management plans in degraded and engineered systems.
- e. Restore ground and surface water hydrologic connections in degraded and engineered systems.
- f. Manage or plant vegetation to conserve hydrologic conditions
- g. Restore tidal flow and alongshore/nearshore flow regimes in degraded and engineered marine systems.

**3. Conserve physical and living habitats and features that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems.**

This priority focuses on protection, rehabilitation, and/or enhancement of those critical habitat features within a waterbody that are necessary to support ecological function and processes such as structure, vegetation, habitat complexity, etc. that may be lacking, may have been altered, or simply may not be functioning effectively.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Restore instream meanders and reconnect floodplains in artificially straightened streams
- b. Rehabilitate, restore, or protect submerged aquatic vegetation
- c. Install artificial or natural habitat components (reefs, living shorelines, natural or artificial substrate, lake and reservoir structures, and woody material and boulders in stream)

**4. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats**

When aquatic habitats lack full connectivity, fish cannot freely move among the places they need to complete their life cycle and maximize their production. This priority is focused on identifying, removing, rehabilitating, or otherwise addressing anthropogenic barriers so they no longer restrict fish movement and instead allow fish to access habitats, migrate, locate refugia, and seek food and mates.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Identify access impairments to spawning, nursery, rearing, and refugia areas.
- b. Facilitate removal of physical anthropogenic barriers
- c. Incorporate fish friendly designs for both upstream and downstream movement in construction and rehabilitation of water diversion systems and other dams.
- d. Restore habitat conditions (physical, temperature, chemical, lack of water, buried stream segments, concrete channels, etc.) in anthropogenically altered reaches that fragment systems.
- e. Restore or rehabilitate tidal connectivity in estuaries

## **5. Conserve water quality for fish**

This priority focuses on efforts to conserve the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of water quality, mitigate causes of impairment, and restore degraded conditions in support of fish habitat and fish populations.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Implement practices to conserve watersheds and processes that maintain water quality for fish.
- b. Projects to reduce or control thermal impairments, pollutants, surface runoff, tidal flow restrictions, and/or sedimentation in degraded systems
- c. Reestablish functioning wetlands, vegetation buffers, and similar habitat in degraded systems

## **6. Maintain structure and function of FHPs**

The fish habitat partnerships (FHPs) conduct the foundational work necessary to ensure that the National Fish Habitat Partnership achieves its mission to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. This priority focuses on maintaining strong and effective FHPs and supporting their unique approaches to collaborative, science-driven fish habitat conservation.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Secure funding for FHP operations (including administrative, outreach, and science needs).

- b. Create, implement, and revise aquatic habitat management plans (e.g., FHP strategic plans, fisheries management plans, invasive species plans, species recovery plans) in concert with FHP partner organizations and entities.
- c. Develop and maintain monitoring frameworks and data systems for habitat conditions and FHP projects.
- d. Facilitate outreach events/efforts that elevate public interest in conserving aquatic habitat.
- e. Facilitate implementation of fish habitat conservation and assessment projects supported by multiple funding sources.

**7. Enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, and traditional fishing opportunities when conducting projects that conserve fish habitat.**

This priority includes actions that are intended to broaden support for fish habitat conservation, increase fishing opportunities, support traditional practices, and increase participation in fish habitat conservation activities by local community, particularly young people, by improving access, education, and participation.

Example strategies may include:

- a. Educate youth and adults in fishing and habitat conservation best practices in concert with habitat conservation outreach.
- b. Consider and engage tribal communities where applicable to ensure that habitat conservation projects support treaty fishing rights where possible.
- c. Improve access to fishing opportunities by Install/improve fishing docks, access ramps, shoreline structures, and trails when part of the habitat conservation project.



## FHP Congressional Designation Process

### Background:

The Partnerships Committee, plus several Board members who expressed interest in developing this process, have been meeting to discuss and develop recommendations for how the FHPs will approach applying for Congressional designation. During the initial formation of NFHP, there was an application process for all new FHPs seeking recognition by the Board. The Committee has started a crosswalk between the ACE Act requirements and criteria and the former FHP application documents and guidance. The Committee is in the process of revising the application process and guidance documents to incorporate all the FHP criteria specified by the ACE Act. The Committee has also focused discussions on the timing and strategy by which FHPs will seek Congressional designation. The ACE Act, language below, requires that FHPs seek Congressional designation no later than October 30, 2025 in order to continue to receive Federal funds.

### ACE Act Language re: Congressional Designation:

(1) DESIGNATION REVIEW.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any partnership receiving Federal funds as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be subject to a designation review by Congress in which Congress shall have the opportunity to designate the partnership under subsection (f).

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A partnership referred to in paragraph (1) that Congress does not designate as described in that paragraph shall be ineligible to receive Federal funds under this title.

### Proposed Process & Timeline for FHP Application for Designation

Timing	Task
Feb/Mar 2023	Revised NFHP Action Plan approved by Board.
By August 1, 2023	All FHPs complete application & 1-pager and submit to the Board for review (prior to entering the RFP process).
Fall 2023 Board Meeting	Board reviews the FHP applications and discusses at the Board meeting.
Early 2024 Board Meeting	Board votes on whether or not to advance FHP application packages to Congress.
By Summer 2024	Staff assists Partnerships Committee with package assembly for submission to Congress

## PROJECT UPDATES:

### **2019**

*Control Hydrilla and enhance aquatic habitat in Harris Lake, North Carolina*

Work is ongoing; project extended through September 30,2022

### **2020**

*Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support*

Project completed

*Lake Barkley Habitat Improvement Project*

Expected completion date is March, 2022

*Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Development and Restoration Project*

Expected completion date is March, 2022

*Coles Creek (Lake Carlyle) Habitat Improvement Project*

On-the-ground work is completed

*Carlsbad Fisheries Revival -submitted by Sun Country Outdoors*

On-the-ground work is completed; Final report is in draft form

*Mark Twain Lake Shoreline Fishing Development Project, Missouri*

Work is ongoing; expected completion date is October, 2021

*Lake Coleman Habitat Renovation*

Work is ongoing; project end date is 12/31/21; Project extended due to drought.

*J. Strom Thurmond Lake Shoreline and Deepwater Habitat Enhancement*

On-the-ground work is completed

*Raystown Habitat Restoration Project (non NFHP project-mitigation funding from Sunoco)*

Grant for \$1.155 million; RFHP received \$34,649.45 for banking fee.

Approximately half (\$657,420) went to purchase heavy-duty habitat barge.

Habitat work focused on shoreline stabilization. Funds remaining: \$132,523.

\$81,000 for skid steer purchase is in the works.

*Note: the FY2020 USACE projects (Barkley, Shelbyville, Coles Creek, Mark Twain, J. Strom Thurmond) end date has been extended through 9/30/2022. All of the projects were submitted under one Interagency Agreement and two of the projects were unable to be completed by the original end date due to delays in funding reaching the project offices.*

### **2021**

*Vulnerability of Reservoir Fish Habitats to Climate Change*

Interagency Agreement has been approved. Ph.D. student started fall 2021.

Funding for years 2-4 still unsecured.

*Williamsburg Off-Channel Wetland*

Work expected to begin this fall

*Farms and Fish: utilizing water-saving technology to improve sport fish habitat, water quality, climate adaptation, and economic opportunity for Island Park Reservoir and the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Idaho*

Work proceeding as scheduled

*Fish Habitat Enhancement Project on Beaver Lake and Tributary Clifty Creek, Arkansas*  
Clifty Creek portion received \$35,000 from Bass Pro Shops to expand work at the original project site. Grant from Fish America Foundation (\$80,000 via the R. J. Reynolds Co.) was given to AGFC. Funds, along with \$60,000 from AGFC will be used to purchase a habitat barge. On-the-ground work is completed.

## **2022**

*Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support-Project* approved (\$85,000); funds available upon submission of current Operation Grant (end date March 2023)

*Raystown Lake Habitat Barge Project*-\$70,000) Project documents completed; waiting for Oct 1 for processing

*Somerset Lake Habitat Improvement Project*-\$40,000) Project documents completed; waiting for Oct 1 for processing

*Cochiti Lake Habitat Restoration*-\$50,000) Project approved by FWS

*Water Quality Structures at Dam Site WP-1*(\$75,000) Project documents being compiled

## **Bass Pro Shops Grant Awards**

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is funding nine projects through a nearly \$1.6 million grant program established through proceeds from the [Bass Pro Shops U.S. Open Amateur Bass Fishing Championships](#) held in 2021. The projects funded through this opportunity are high-priority focus areas of the [Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership](#). These projects were selected out of 30 proposals from across the U.S. Selected projects will bring over \$3 million in total match funding in support of the Bass Pro Shops grant that will go directly to on-the-ground projects benefitting fish habitat and improving angling opportunities.

Projects funded through this opportunity include:

### **Beaver Lake, Norfolk Lake, Bull Shoals Lake, Arkansas-Arkansas Game and Fish (BPS funding: \$275,000; Leveraged funds: \$1,026,400 Total Project Cost: \$1,301,400)**

The proposed project will directly benefit anglers by concentrating fish around fish habitat structures and improving angler success rates. Many of these natural structures in these lakes are degraded. New structures will provide habitat and refuge for fish and improve fishing. Cedar trees will be removed from shoreline glade habitats to enhance terrestrial habitat and placed in the lakes to provide woody structure. The project will increase and improve bank angler access by adding parking areas and walking trails to the lake. Likewise, these access areas will be enhanced by adding fish habitat within casting distance to the bank fishing access.

## **Equipment purchased: Habitat barge, skid steer**

### **Blue Marsh Lake, Pennsylvania-Berks County Conservation District (BPS funding: \$134,916; Leveraged funds: \$155,814 Total Project Cost: \$290,730)**

The shoreline projects through this grant will take areas that are unavailable or not favorable to shoreline anglers and turn them into fishing hot spots with easy angler access. The increased shoreline habitat will draw more fish to the project areas and allow anglers access to catch those fish. The stone-framed deflectors used in shoreline stabilization provide a stable platform for anglers to fish from, increasing the ease of use and enjoyment for many anglers.

### **Lake Shelbyville, Illinois-Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance (BPS funding: \$132,750; Leveraged funds: \$105,133 Total Project Cost: \$237,783)**

Rock will be purchased for rock reef installation and shoreline stabilization. USACE will fund angler access improvements. The success of this project will be gauged primarily by improved quality of the fishery, fish use of habitat structures, water quality improvements, bank stabilization, and reduced sedimentation.

### **Mark Twain Lake, Missouri-USACE (BPS funding: \$30,000; Leveraged funds: \$51,500 Total Project Cost: \$81,500)**

Through this grant, the installation of artificial structures at two locations will restore approximately 60 acres of underwater fisheries habitat. The artificial structures are constructed of PVC materials and concrete that provide long-term durability, are capable of withstanding the stresses of submerged and dry environments and are designed to reduce snagging of traditional fishing tackle and equipment. The structures will be placed at differing elevations in the reservoir basin to provide stability and integrity. Furthermore, this project incorporates the development of direct shoreline access to the restoration site, which appeals to a broad demographic, including families, youth, senior citizens, and novice anglers.

### **Old Hickory Lake, Tennessee (BPS funding: \$121,100; Leveraged funds: \$9,500 Total Project Cost: \$130,600)**

This project will benefit anglers by providing a substantial increase in access to quality fish habitat structures for anglers of all skill levels. Specifically, the project will add 400 artificial structures spread out among ten sites with a design that has a proven track record of attracting sportfish species. These sites will receive a special marker buoy as part of the new Bill Dance Fishing Trail in Tennessee and be specially chosen to increase angler success at various times throughout the year. Ten additional sites will receive two new 10-ft tall artificial attractors named Tennessee Towers. Ten large rock humps and two rock reefs approximately 75 ft in length will add offshore habitat for more experienced anglers. This diversity of habitat types will greatly increase the enjoyment and recreational opportunities for our anglers by providing new access to high-quality fishing locations.

### **Pymatuning Reservoir, Pennsylvania/Ohio-Pymatuning Lake Association (BPS funding: \$109,833; Leveraged funds: \$217,270 Total Project Cost: \$327,103)**

Pymatuning Reservoir is the largest impoundment in Pennsylvania at 17,088 acres. With 70 miles of shoreline along the reservoir, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is responsible for maintaining over 42 miles. The lake also includes 28 miles of shoreline in the state of Ohio. The reservoir was built on what used to be the largest swamp in Pennsylvania, and the former wetland soils are prone to erosion. Pymatuning Dam was completed in 1934, and as the lake continues to age, many miles are in need of stabilization to improve safe fishing access, better fish habitat, and water. The offshore fish habitat has also deteriorated over time. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has developed a fish habitat improvement plan in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This plan includes shoreline stabilization structures that will enhance shoreline rock habitat for fish, increase safe angler access, and improve water quality.

**Ralph Hall Reservoir, Texas-Texas Parks and Wildlife (BPS funding: \$250,000; Leveraged funds: \$289,300 Total Project Cost: \$539,300)**

Ralph Hall is a new reservoir under construction and project funding will add structure to the lake basin. The large number of fish habitat structures (rock and hardwood) constructed through this grant will provide popular areas for anglers to target for decades and potentially the life of the reservoir. The habitat created will serve to increase the ultimate carrying capacity of sportfish in the reservoir, as well as angler success rate and overall yield of fish. Maps and the precise coordinates and descriptions of all fish habitat structures will be published online on Texas Parks and Wildlife fish habitat website and shared with the angling public.

**Table Rock Lake, Missouri-Missouri Department of Conservation (BPS funding: \$200,000; Leveraged funds: \$1,005,392 Total Project Cost: \$1,205,392)**

Table Rock Lake will be replenished with 645 brush piles to ensure they remain viable as fish habitat to enhance angling as well as serve as nursery habitats for sportfish recruitment. This project will augment a pilot project through the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Bass Pro Shops, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2007. From 2007 to 2013, more than 2,100 megastructures were deployed on Table Rock Lake and Bull Shoals Lake using specialty-built habitat barges made by Tracker Boats.

**Three-Mile Lake, Iowa-Iowa DNR (BPS funding: \$300,000; Leveraged funds: \$201,400 Total Project Cost: \$501,400)**

Through this grant, new natural fish habitat structures, including gravel spawning areas, rock piles, rock fields, and rock reefs, will be constructed to improve the fish habitat in Three-Mile Lake. In addition, over 1,300 feet of shoreline in critical need of repair will be deepened and fortified with rip rap gravel. This shoreline enhancement will prevent future erosion into the lake. In addition, the shoreline improvements will prevent future water quality issues and provide some additional underwater rock habitat for sportfish. The funding for this grant program is managed through [Beyond the Pond](#), the non-profit organization established in 2015 to benefit the National Fish Habitat Partnership and associated Fish Habitat Partnerships under NFHP.



Link to full project documents:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UOFcBVYveu6SXLZJMG2ekPVVtdvVtOrn?usp=sharing>

## End of RFHP Business Meeting and Start of Friends of Reservoirs

### Friends of Reservoirs Membership Update

- Chapter (84) and Group (38) membership totals 140 in 31 states
  - Texas-32
  - Illinois-14
  - Pennsylvania-10
  - B.A.S.S. State Conservation Affiliates-20
- 10 Chapters members added in FY2022
- 23 Kansas Community Fishing Program members
- Project grant applications single most reason for added membership



<b>Small Grant</b>		
<b>FOR Partner</b>	<b>New Member</b>	<b>Previous Years Awarded</b>
Friends of Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority	x	
Friends of Sadler Creek	x	
Cen-Tex Bass Hunters	x	
Texas Anglers Bass Club	x	
Friends of Goddard State Park	x	
Friends of Lake Ouachita	x	
Rural Leavenworth, Inc.	x	
City of Bloomington	x	
Friends of Schuykill Parks & Rec	x	
TN BASS Nation		
Tioga County Bass Anglers		2021
Friends of Lake Livingston		2016, 2018, 2019,2020,2021
Tri County Bass Anglers		2019, 2020,2021
Canyon Bass Club		2018, 2021
VA BASS Nation		2014
<b>Mossback</b>		
Rural Leavenworth, Inc.	x	
Lake Shelbyville		
Lake Livingston		2020
Tri-County Bass Anglers		2020

**Recommendation: Approved 9 new member applications (\$18,000)**

## **Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership/ Friends of Reservoirs**

### **Outreach Report**

Fiscal Year 2022

Submitted by Rebecca M. Krogman, Outreach Coordinator

Covering the Period 9/16/21 – 9/15/22

### **Strategy: Establish a dynamic online presence**

1. Maintain an updated, interactive, useful website.
  - ✓ Checked for whether friendsofreservoirs.org was available on 9/2/22 and followed up with contractor regarding potential domain purchase.
  - ✓ Identified website upgrade needs and prepared work request for Wood Street on 8/14/22. Got approval to proceed on 8/20/22. Reviewed progress at <https://friendsresdev.wpengine.com/> and provided feedback to contractor.
  - ✓ Checked functionality of membership and grant application payments on 8/22/22.
  - ✓ Summary of ongoing contract:
    - i. Rebuild newsletter signup form
    - ii. Enhance the sponsor ad in the lefthand menu
    - iii. Numerous revisions to Projects pages
    - iv. Addition of improved forms plugin, full-featured membership plugin, RSS aggregator plugin, and online sales plugin to make website more useful and interactive
2. Share information through a variety of social media to reach different audiences.
  - ✓ Grew Facebook account (see infographic below).
  - ✓ Established Instagram account (see infographic below).
  - ✓ Top performing posts on Facebook: Giving Tuesday (3,461 people), Bass Pro grant press release (2,152 people), Shelbyville cube share (646 people), announcement of Bass Pro grant opportunity (485 people)
  - ✓ Top performing posts on Instagram: Job opportunity, donation call to action, shout out to FOR groups

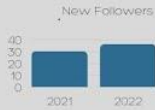


# Facebook Status



Goal: To grow audience to include current and potential FOR Members and sponsors

732  
Followers



7,414  
People reached

## Giving Tuesday Report



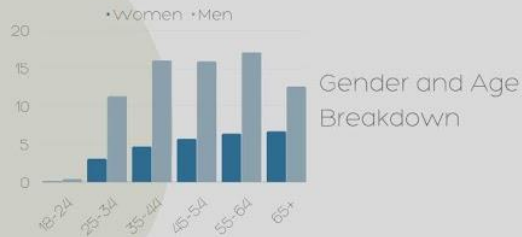
3,197

Followers reached through paid advertising

\$750

Spent on Giving Tuesday 2021

About three-quarters of our followers are men.



@friendsofreservoirs



Strategy: Increase public awareness of projects, partnerships, and successes

1. Share information on past and current projects.

- ✓ Updated Project information for Island Park Reservoir, ID; William H. Harsha Lake, OH; Mississippi State University research; Lake Barkley, KY; and Lake Coleman, TX; Beaver Lake, AR; Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, AZ; Carlsbad Municipal Lake, NM; Carlyle Lake, IL; and Cochiti Lake, NM
- ✓ Added 2021 Small Grants for Tioga Lake, Lake Ray Hubbard, Pymatuning Lake, Lake Livingston, and Patoka Lake
- ✓ Checked for news on each published Large Grant at least once per month, by the last day of the month. Published important project-related updates to the website, and shared via social media.
- ✓ Organized past grant information from J. Boxrucker
- ✓ Added map of Bass Pro projects to website on 9/9/22.

### Strategy: Enhance information and community for partnership representatives and Friends of Reservoirs members

1. Update online information
  - ✓ Updated list of Friends of Reservoirs members on 9/9/22.

### Strategy: Improve donation and sponsorship pathways

1. Increase flexibility in ways people can financially contribute to Friends of Reservoirs.
  - ✓ Completed most paperwork for Facebook donations, but waiting on IRS documentation update. We were unable to participate in many fundraising dates this past year due to a change in Facebook's nonprofit documentation policy. It was not fixable until we had numerous documents with matching information, which required waiting for the transition in Coordinator.
  - ✓ Improved the donation button on the website on 9/2/22.
2. Expand sponsor marketing.
  - ✓ Connected with some sponsors via social media, and shared and interacted with their content at least once per month on Instagram.

## Strategy: Administer outreach plan

1. Maintain constant communication regarding progress and achievement of plan goals.
  - ✓ Drafted, revised, and implemented a short-term Outreach Plan based on comments from D. Nygren and J. Boxrucker to cover June-September 2022
  - ✓ Provided an annual Outreach Report to the Coordinator, incoming Coordinator, and Secretary-Treasurer on 9/9/22, with plans to present at the annual business meeting.
  - ✓ Drafted 12-month Outreach Plan for 2022-2023 and got reviewed by Executive Committee, and submitted to Outreach Committee on 9/9/22.
  - ✓ Provided a mini-report and invoice monthly to the Secretary-Treasurer and Coordinator beginning in June 2022.
2. Maintain regular communication with Outreach Committee volunteers.
  - ✓ Requested feedback on 12-month Outreach Plan for 2022-2023 on 9/9/22.

## Budget Report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Website Maintenance</i>	9/22	\$4,349
<i>GravityView License</i>	9/9/22	\$349.00
<i>Contract to Update</i>	9/22	\$4,000 (estimated)
<i>Mailed and Social media ads</i>		\$150
<i>Facebook Giving Tuesday</i>	11/21	\$150
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>		<b><i>\$4,499</i></b>

## Website Updates Submitted by Rebecca Krogman.

The following items were completed since last year's meeting:

- Updated membership maps, which are fed from Google My Maps and automatically updated throughout the site (9/21/21)
- Added a "Join" page at <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/members/join-today/> and focused the Members page on current members and benefits of joining
- Installed s2Member Pro for improved member management
  - Now can accept membership and application fees via PayPal, Stripe, Authorize.Net, and ClickBank
- Updated the Sponsors page with fixed logos
- Added "Sponsor" self-registration/donation
- Updated the Chapters page with fixed logos
- Updated the Groups page with fixed logos

## December 2020 (Wood Street contract)

- Added capability to have video snippets as header backgrounds, on the homepage and on project pages
- Added a full-width page template, for when you do not want a sidebar menu

- Mobile-friendliness
  - Fixed main dropdown navigation/sidebar navigation on tablets and mobile to be more user-friendly
  - Made the project page submenu (tan stripes) sticky at the top of the page on mobile
- Converted homepage to a flexible section-based design. Add as many “Quotes,” “Banners with action links,” and custom news update sections as you desire!
- Project management
  - Added “Project Type” as a defining characteristic of projects, so that we can add both large and small projects, and filter by that characteristics
  - Allowed sections of the Project pages to be toggled on and off, so if you don’t have information for a particular section (e.g., Current Threats), you can hide it.
  - Formatted the Project page text to be more readable
  - Added “Partners” as a new field to the list of basic project info that appears on the left side under Overview
  - Added default values to all project fields to make project publication easier/faster/more standardized
  - Partially fixed photo gallery lightbox on each project page
- Sponsorship/Donor Recognition
  - Addition of an “Ad” image that appears in the sidebar, which can be changed out to highlight different sponsors or donors
  - Addition of sponsor registration on the site, allowing donations to be submitted online and automatic engagement of the donor
- Purchased GravityView, a directory add-on for Gravity Forms to handle better displays of form entries (e.g., submitted grants), and added to development server – In testing now
- Updated the 2021 meeting event information

### **To Do for Rebecca**

- Add all historic projects, including Large, Small, and Mossback grants
  - Jeff, can you send all completion reports from past projects, as well as the list of approved/funded projects from each year?
  - Jeff, can you share photos and videos via the Google Drive associated with the [forcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:forcoordinator@gmail.com) account?
- Add recent news for various projects

### **To do for Wood Street**

#### **Resolving Last Contract Minutia**

- Project Section Default Values
  - Section 1: Make the Page Link default “Donate” not a custom link (the page URL is actual <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/donate/>)
  - Section 5: Capitalize the verb in the default section title “What FOR Is Doing”
  - Section 7: Make the Page Link default “Donate” not a custom link

- On the Photo Gallery, the popup looks good initially, but when you click out of it, a secondary popup remains. The first popup is the style we want, with a caption showing. The second popup is just the photo with no caption.

### **New Contract Work/Continuation**

- Enable images in the first Sidebar Callout to be rotated automatically, showing one at a time instead of all of them at a time
- Activate GravityView on live website and if possible import old data from Gravity Forms Directory
- When clicking on a Project submenu item (e.g., What FOR Is Doing), the page auto-scrolls down about 50 pixels too far. The grey submenu ends up hiding the desired header.
- Install LearnPress Pro Bundle, allowing us to “sell” the habitat workshop online
- Install WooCommerce, allowing us to sell FOR paraphernalia/shirts/etc.
- Install WP RSS Aggregator and add-on Feed to Post, for better news RSS feeds to help us keep up with project-related news
- Install Events Calendar Pro and Events Calendar Virtual Meeting add-ons, to help us manage meeting registration and information better

### **Filling Vacant Board Positions**

Current Board Members

MAWFA-Scott Hale

WAFWA-Craig Walker (inactive)

SEAFWA-Jason Olive

NEAFWA-Gary Martel (retired)

BLM-Brad Tribby

BOR-vacant

USFWS-Bob Curry (inactive)

USACE-Jeremy Crossland

USGS-Kevin Pope

NALMS-Reed Green

BASS-Gene Gilliland

Sport Fishing Industry-vacant

AFS-Joe Larscheid (inactive-FAS rep)

FWS Coordinator-Trevor Luna

**FROM RFHP BYLAWS**

The membership of the RFHP Executive Committee includes by category of organization:

- Four State agency members
- Up to six Federal agency members
- Up to four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Up to three Industry representatives
- One at large member; candidates include, but are not limited to Tribal Nations

Individual members of the Executive Committee will be selected, respectively, by the organizations that are assigned seats to the committee.

1. State and Federal agencies constitute eight (8) to 10 positions on the Executive Committee.
2. Executive Committee members will designate the specific organizations within stated categories for all other Executive Committee seats by a majority vote of a quorum of the Executive Committee.
3. Remaining Committee seats are designated by category for:
  - a. Outdoor recreation and fishing industry
  - b. Non-Governmental Organizations
  - c. At-Large, including but not limited to Tribal Nations
4. Organizations and individuals from each of the categories mentioned in (3) above must be invited to join the Executive Committee.

**Strategic Plan expires in 2022**

**Discussion of increase in FOR banking charges-** should help meet the 1:1 match requirements for the Operations Grant (current rate is 3%)