

August 19 Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes & Key Updates

Agenda & Discussion Items

1. Status of Federal Grants — Currently Awaiting DOI Approval

NFHP currently has **10 grants from 2025 that have yet to be released by the Department of the Interior (DOI)**. Two of these are RFHP projects:

- **Cochiti, New Mexico** — \$25,000
- **Blue Marsh, Pennsylvania** — \$25,000

If these funds are not released by **September 15**, the funding will expire and be lost.

Three of the outstanding grants are **Operations Grants for Partnerships**. The loss of these operational funds would be particularly significant for the affected organizations, which may be forced to make difficult decisions if the funding does not come through.

2. NFHP Coordinator Meetings Update

National Conservation Priorities — Jason Olive

Jason Olive provided an update on the development of the **National Conservation Priorities**.

- The NFHP Board recently held a facilitated session to develop a specific set of National Conservation Priorities.
 - The priorities are still being refined and polished and are expected to be shared in the next few weeks.
 - Coordinators have raised questions about how the new priorities will affect current **Requests for Proposals (RFPs)**, which were developed around the existing nine priorities.
 - Jason provided a reminder regarding the **new partnership scoring system and KPIs**, which will be coming soon.
 - Going forward, **each project must meet the “14 things” criteria outlined in Section 8205 of the ACE Act**.
-

3. Awards Process — \$250,000 Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund Donation

The awards process for the recent **\$250,000 donation from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund** was reviewed.

Therese's new email address is:

manager@fishhabitatfund.org

A total of **15 applications** were received, and funding will be awarded to three projects:

Project	Award	Recipient	Contact
Stockton Lake Habitat Project	\$75,000	Missouri Department of Conservation	Ben Parnell
Lake Overcup Habitat Improvement & Shoreline Stabilization Project	\$100,000	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	Nick Feltz
Glendale Lake Habitat Project 2027	\$37,500	Cambria County Conservation District, Pennsylvania	—

Total Awards: \$212,500

4. Annual Meeting Update

Planning for the annual meeting continues.

Two items require immediate attention:

- **Additional presentations are still needed for the technical session.**
- **The room block deadline is August 30.**

Please make arrangements as soon as possible to ensure adequate participation and meeting space.

5. Updates Needed on All Active Grants & Final Reports

Rebecca has developed a **web-based form** to collect updates on all active grants and final reports for completed projects.

Doug will follow up directly with those who do not submit their project updates through the webpage.

The NFHP database must be updated for all projects funded during the past five years by November 15. Timely submission of project information will be critical to meet this deadline.

Project Update Form:
[Call for ALL Project Updates — Friends of Reservoirs](#)

Thank you in advance for helping make sure all project information is current and complete.

6. Continued Effort Toward a New Reservoir Assessment

The group continues to pursue development of a **new reservoir assessment**.

The plan is to incorporate the estimated **\$50,000 Phase One cost** of the assessment into the **2027 Operations Grant**.

However, the new DOI grant approval processes may make securing approval for the FY2027 Operations Grant more challenging than in previous years. The total request is expected to be approximately **\$190,000**, which was approved by the Steering Committee earlier this year.

7. Sponsorship & Fundraising Update — Tom

Tom provided an update on sponsorship efforts and additional funding secured to support the organization's work.

Current commitments include:

- **Two years of funding** to support Tom's position
- **More than \$4,500 for small grants**
- **\$9,500 for annual meeting support**
- Additional funding opportunities are expected

These sponsorship funds are especially valuable because they allow the organization to **extend its impact well beyond what can be supported through federal funding**. They provide flexibility for activities and initiatives that are not eligible for funding through the Operations Grant.

Key Upcoming Deadlines

Date	Item
August 30	Annual meeting room block deadline, small grant deadline
September 15	Deadline for release of 2025 federal grant funds before expiration
October 1	Federal RFP application submission deadline
November 15	NFHP database updates due for all projects funded during the past five years