

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

**(Minutes are intended to complement reports in the 2021 Briefing Book  
(appended to this report))**

- 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.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BRIEFING BOOK  
2021 RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**



**EC Virtual Meeting  
Due to COVID-19 concerns  
1 October 2021**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86336338224>

Meeting ID: 863 3633 8224

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,86336338224# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,86336338224# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 863 3633 8224

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keoUo3OKyo>

**Friday, October 1**

1000-1010	Welcome/Introductions
1010-1020	Approval of Minutes/Financial Statement <sup>1</sup> (Pages 2-6)
1020-1030	2020 Coordinator Work Plan Accomplishments (Pages 7-8)
1030-1045	2021 Work Plan <sup>1</sup> (Pages 9)
1045-1100	NFHP Conservation Priorities (Pages 10-12)
1100-1145	Project Updates (Pages 12-27)
1145-1200	Beyond the Pond/Bass Pro Shops Grant (Pages 28-29)
1200-1215	FY2021 Small Grant/Mossback Project Selection <sup>1</sup> (Pages 30-31)

**FOR MEETING**

1215-1220	FOR Membership Update (Page 32)
1220-1235	FY2022 Budget <sup>1</sup> (Page 33)
1215-1300	Outreach Report Lake Line article series Habitat Management Plans for USACE Reservoirs

**Proxies:** Doug Nygren for Gary Martel

<sup>1</sup>Action Items

**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership  
Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes (October 7, 2020),**

**(Minutes are intended to complement reports in the 2019 Briefing Book  
(appended to this report))**

- Meeting called to order by RFHP Coordinator, Jeff Boxrucker at 1200 CST.
- Call for Proxies: none
- Executive Committee (EC) members present: Doug Nygren, Joe Larscheid, Dave Terre, Brad Tribby, Reed Green, Gary Martel, Kevin Pope and Gene Gilliland ; 8 Board members present; quorum established.
- Welcome and Introductions of attendees:
  - Dave Terre, Texas Parks and Wildlife, SEAFWA (EC)
  - Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S. (EC)
  - Doug Nygren, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, MFWFA and NFHP Board (EC)
  - Joe Larscheid, AFS (EC)
  - Gary Martel, NEAFWA (EC)
  - Brad Tribby, BLM (EC)
  - Reed Green, NALMS (EC)
  - Kevin Pope , USGS (EC)
  - Don Wiley, Utah Division of Wildlife, W Working Group
  - Mark Porath, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, MW 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
  - Rebecca Krogman, IA DNR, MW Working Group
  - Jeremy Shiflet, KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, SE Working Group
  - Pat Sollberger, NV Dept. of Wildlife, W Working Group
  - Michael Homer, TX Parks and Wildlife, SE Working Group
  - Karin Eldridge, FWS
  - Lynde Dodd (USACE), SE Working Group
  - Heather Burke (USACE)
  - Bryant Dickens (Arizona Game and Fish), W Working Group
  - Dave Weedman (Arizona Game and Fish)

**Old Business:**

- Meeting minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting minutes (Kansas City, KS) were provided to Executive Committee and Working Group members prior to the meeting.
  - Motion to accept minutes by Nygren; Second by Pope. Motion passed unanimously.



- Financial Report given by Boxrucker, details in Briefing Book.
  - Motion to accept by Tribby; Second by Martel. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Accomplishments under FY2020 Work Plan**

- See report in Briefing Book
- J. Conroy suggested a virtual Habitat Restoration Workshop for 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
  - Offered Coordinator assistance with setting up the workshop based on experience from 2020 Annual AFS meeting
  - Workshop presenters in attendance at virtual meeting (5) agreed to the concept
  - Coordinator and Conroy will work to determine feasibility and steps to make workshop happen
- Gilliland suggested a letter to Johnnie Morris (Bass Pro Shops) thanking him for funding BPS/NFHP Small Grants Program
  - Friends of Reservoirs received one of three \$15,000 grants for continued work on Elephant Butte
  - Coordinator agreed to write letter

### **FY2021 Work Plan**

- See report in Briefing Book

### **Project Updates**

- See Briefing Book
- FWS Allocation for RFHP was a level 3 for FY2020
  - Increased project funding level to include 3 additional projects (ranks 5-7) to the 4 previously approved by EC

### **Project Selection (Proposals in Briefing Book)**

- 13 proposals submitted for FY2021 funding
  - Total funding request: \$326,800; Total project costs: \$1,401,277
  - Climate Vulnerability proposal (Mississippi State) was considered a mandated assessment project and was given top priority
- With passage of the American Conservation Enhancement Act funding level for FY2021 and the procedures for ranking projects and procuring funding is unsettled
- Boxrucker recommended funding Proposals ranked order and funding projects until project funding is exhausted. Gilliland/Pope; passed unanimously
- As per discussions with the Working Groups prior to scoring the FY2021 projects the scoring criteria were refined
  - Results were more consistent scores, particularly for the “objectives evaluation” criteria

### **Small Projects Grant**

- 6 grant proposals received

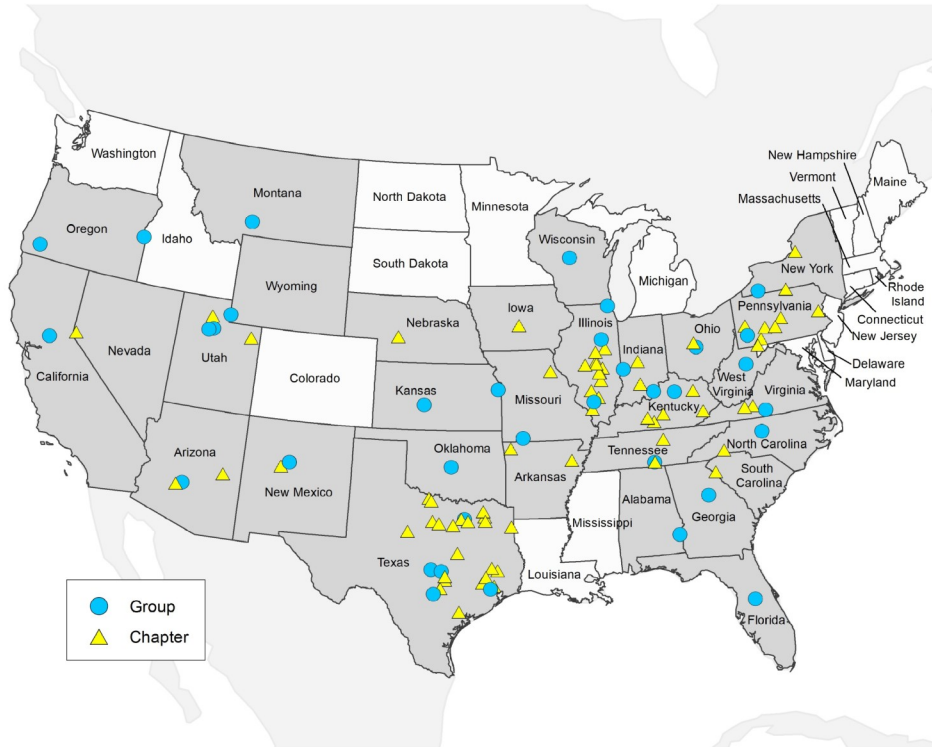
- Coordinator recommended that all 6 Small Grant Proposals be accepted. Terre/Tribby; passed unanimously
  - Cambria County Conservation District-Glendale, PA
  - Cambria County Conservation District-Wilmore, PA
  - Tri-County Bass Anglers-Patoka Lake, IN
  - Friends of Lake Livingston, TX
  - Midweek Bass Anglers-Saguaro Lake, AZ
  - Ft. Worth Flyfishers-Ray Roberts, TX

#### **Mossback Grant**

- Mossback agreed to fund 3-\$1000 product grants for FY2020
  - 3 applications received (all funded)
    - Friends of Youghioghney River Lake, PA
    - Friends of Lake Livingston, TX
    - Tri County Bass Anglers-Patoka Lake, IN

#### **FOR Updates: These updates constituted the FOR Executive Committee Meeting (called to order at 1500; members present were Dave Terre, Gene Gilliland, Rebecca Krogman, Doug Nygren)**

- EC voted at 2019 Annual Meeting to change FOR membership program to a one-time membership fee
- Boxrucker provided update on FOR progress. Seven new FOR Chapters and two Group Member joined in 2020
  - As of September 30, 2020, FOR has 71 Chapter and 38 Group Members (109 total in 30 states)
    - Texas-27 members
    - Illinois-14 members
    - Pennsylvania-9 members
    - B.A.S.S. Nation-18 State Conservation Affiliates
- Grant programs are the single most effective recruiting tool
  - Numerous organizations have joined in the past few years to either get bonus points for the large grant program (FWS-funded) or to become eligible for the FOR Small Grants Program and the Mossback Grant



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- Coordinator will distribute existing outreach documents/materials to Outreach Committee members (Terre, Gilliland, Krogman, Tribby, Clark-Kolaks, Homer)
- Schedule a Zoom meeting to strategize updated outreach efforts
  - ~\$7,000 remaining in FY2020 budget
  - Motion to approve FY2021 budget by Gilliland; Second by Pope; Motion passed unanimously
  - Coordinator will work with Outreach Committee to bring ideas to EC via conference calls
- FOR meeting was adjourned at 1600

### **American Conservation Enhancement Act**

- Copy of the ACE Act was provided to EC and WG prior to the meeting along with Coordinator comments/concerns regarding operation aspects of the ACE
- ACE was passed by Congress (remains unsigned by President) shortly before the Annual Meeting so little in the way of answers to the many questions being raised by the Fish Habitat Partnerships
  - Coordinator will participate in conference calls and FHP Workshop and NFHP Board Meeting where ACE will be discussed
  - Coordinator will report back to EC and WG (email) on those discussions





## Financial Report

(1 Oct 2020- 30 September 2021)

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

Beginning Balance (1 October 2020)    \$ **1,136,583.65<sup>1</sup>**

<u>Deposits</u>	
Grants	<b>\$ 95,000.00</b>
RFHP Operations	75,000.00
Bass Pro Shops/NFHP (Elephant Butte Lake)	15,000.00
AFWA (DFHP-pass through)	5,000.00
FOR membership	<b>\$ 72.45</b>
Meeting Registration (2019 Annual Meeting)	<b>\$ 97.50</b>
Grant Application Fee (\$25/Small Grant & Mossback)	<b>\$ 338.54</b>
Donations	<b>\$ 1,024.04</b>
Amazon Smile	40.82
Joe Conroy (FOR shirt)	85.00
Mighty Cause	210.00
Bright Funds	150.00
Network for Good	50.00
PayPal (various)	488.22
Mike Homer (Rising Star Award Stipend)	250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 96,782.53</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Coordinator Salary	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
Bank Fees	<b>\$ 12.00</b>
Facebook Fundraising	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
Travel	<b>\$ 1,203.47</b>
Postage	<b>\$ 242.60</b>
2018 Tax Return	<b>\$ 275.00</b>
Website	<b>\$ 2,356.10</b>
Meeting Expense (Registration Refund-MDC)	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
ASA Membership (2020 and 2021)	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
Outreach	<b>\$ 3,610.95</b>
Universal Screenprinting (shirts)	210.00
Shirts	2,073.90
Video Equipment	1,077.05
NALMS (Lake Day Sponsorship)	250.00
Grant Distribution	<b>\$ 873,751.03</b>
2018 Small Projects Grants	6,000.00
Raystown	847,141.03

Wichita Falls Foundation (reimbursement)	60.00
New Mexico BASS Nation (BPS grant)	14,550.00
Freshwaters Illustrated (AFWA grant to DFHP)	5,000.00
Karli Rogers (AFWA grant to DFHP)	1,000.00
Office Expense	<b>\$ 682.34</b>
Legal (CMP; 501(c)(3) renewal)	<b>\$ 272.67</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 943,606.16</b>
<b>Ending Balance (30 September 2021)</b>	<b>\$ 289,760.02</b>

### RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR FY2021 Work Plan

- Develop FY2020 Annual Report; provide draft for review
  - Upon establishment of template work on reports from previous years
  - **No progress on Annual Reports**
- Work with Communication Committee to promote/market FOR/RFHP
  - Attend scientific meetings
    - Southern Division of AFS
    - Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
      - Conduct habitat restoration workshop
    - AFS (Baltimore, MD)
  - **Travel was limited due to COVID**
  - Add content to website and expand available features;
  - Expand social media presence
  - **No Activity**
- Solicit projects for funding
  - Refine project selection criteria (as needed)
    - Modify online submission and review on website (as needed)
      - **See attached RFP**
      - **Online submission/scoring forms will be updated to reflect ACE requirements by January 1**
    - Distribute RFP (late April)
    - Proposal deadline (15 August)
      - **Project timeline was modified due to ACE requirements (Proposals due May 1; due to NFHP Board by May 17)**
      - **14 proposals received**
    - Distribute project proposals to Regional Working Groups for scoring
      - **Projects scored using previous criteria (with the exception of requiring a 1:1 NFHP:nonfederal match)**
    - Summarize projects and scores for 2021 RFHP Annual Meeting

- Zoom call of Executive Committee and Working Groups to approve the project list
  - Prioritized list was submitted to NFHP Board by deadline
  - NFHP determined funding for FHPs based on a 5-year average of the FWS Allocation scores
    - RFHP received a 2 (\$360,900 including \$85,000 for Operations)-funding amount is tentative pending Congressional appropriation (fully fund 4 projects)
  - Provide information to FWS
- Ensure timely reporting and accounting of funded projects
  - Travel to Carlsbad, NM to meet with project leader and partners to discuss specifics of FY2020 grant
- Work with project partners and FWS to submit project compliance documents
- Update RFHP and NFHP Project Databases
  - Updated through FY2020 projects
- Liaise with other NFHP Partnerships
  - Advance goals of NFHP
    - Attend NFHP Board Meetings (either in person or via webinar)
      - All NFHP Board meeting via Zoom; participated in all
    - Serve on Partnership Committee
      - Participated in all PC meetings
- 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
  - Complete FWS Allocation packet
  - Work with local arrangements to schedule/arrange accommodations for RFHP meetings
    - Several planning calls with Local Arrangements
    - Applied for a Bass Pro Shops product grant for raffle
    - Meeting canceled due to increase in COVID concerns and restricted travel
    - Produce and distribute minutes of Annual Meeting
- 2021 meeting in Midwest (Shelbyville, IL)
  - Canceled; will try again in 2022

## **RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR FY2021 Work Plan**

- Develop FY2020 and FY2021 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
- 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 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
  - 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
  - Work with NFHP Board to optimize 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 on Partnership Committee
      - Provide Comments to Science and Data Committee re: Conservation Priorities that include reservoir habitat restoration priorities (see draft in Briefing Book)
- 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)





## NFHP CONSERVATION PRIORITIES (draft)

### Lakes and Reservoirs

1. Number of lakes/reservoirs that adequate seasonal long-term water levels have been legally conserved (protected, restored, and enhanced) by either securing water rights, purchasing or leasing water for one or more of these purposes to sustain habitat conditions (quantity and quality) needed to sustain fish and other aquatic habitats (freshwater and estuarine) - this is consistent with the legislation and NFHAP. This is one of the best tools to conserve intact freshwater and estuarine systems.
2. Number of anadromous fish lakes/reservoirs legally documented as anadromous fish bearing waters by formally locating and mapping anadromous species distribution by species and life phase(s) in accordance with state or other prevailing laws and regulations as a voluntary legal mechanism to establish an additional layer of legal habitat protection under state,(eg in Alaska AS 16.05.871) federal tribal or other legal mechanisms. This is one of the best tools to conserve intact freshwater and estuarine systems.
3. Protect 10,000 acres of intact lake habitat including natural lake levels - document whether the key target fish or invertebrate populations remained constant or increased in distribution, relative abundance or measured abundance.
4. Restore and preserve natural watershed conditions
5. Restore and preserve undeveloped shorelines
6. Restore and preserve littoral habitats
7. Restore and enhance structural fish habitats
8. Manage water levels to maintain and enhance fish habitats
9. Monitor conservation outcomes and assess benefits to fish and people
10. Support applied research to refine strategies and techniques for fish habitat restoration
11. Protect Intact Lakes and Reservoirs/impoundments – Protect 100 sq. miles of intact lake and impoundment/reservoir habitat per year.
12. Rehabilitate any of the NFHP processes and factors (hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, material transport, connectivity, and living habitat) on 50 sq. miles of degraded lake and impoundment/reservoir habitat per year.



## **Lakes and Reservoirs (Boxrucker and Gilliland edits & resubmit to S&D)**

1. Conserve (protect, enhance, restore) 10,000 acres of lake and reservoir habitat over five years - document whether the key target fish or invertebrate populations remained constant or increased in distribution, relative abundance, or measured abundance.

1a. Conserve 5 miles of shoreline habitats

1a1. Restore (reshape/armor) 5 miles of eroded shorelines.

1a2. Restore 100 acres of riparian habitat along reservoir/lake shorelines.

1b. Conserve 100 acres of littoral habitats.

1b1. Restore native aquatic vegetation

1b2. Control nuisance aquatic vegetation

1b3. Restore habitat on exposed/seasonally inundated mudflats utilizing regionally appropriate vegetation

1c. Conserve X acres of natural or artificial structural fish habitats

2. Increase recreational angling opportunities.

2a. Prioritize habitat restoration efforts to benefit recreational angling fish communities.

2b. Increase angling access and other amenities which may benefit the outdoor experience around lotic systems.

3. Monitor conservation outcomes, partnering with resource agencies, to assess benefits to fish populations and people including angler access and use, realizing that outcome measurement may have a longer time horizon than the typical project funding term.

4. Work with partners to facilitate use of watershed Best Management Practices to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs into lakes and reservoirs.

4a. Partner with willing private and public landowners to stabilize stream banks to reduce bank erosion.

4b. Facilitate wetland construction to reduce sediment and nutrient inflows.

5. Support applied research to refine strategies and techniques for fish habitat restoration

6. Rehabilitate any of the NFHP processes and factors (hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, material transport, connectivity, and structural or living habitat) on X sq. miles of degraded lake and impoundment/reservoir habitat per year.

7. While likely unattainable through partnership activities, the NFHP Board and the Legislative Committee should work with policy makers to ensure that water levels are managed to maintain and enhance fish habitats.

8. While likely unattainable through partnership activities, the NFHP Board and the Legislative Committee should work with policy makers to ensure that the number of lakes/reservoirs have adequate seasonal long-term water levels have been legally

conserved by either securing water rights, purchasing, or leasing water for one or more of these purposes to sustain habitat conditions (quantity and quality) needed to sustain fish and other aquatic habitats (freshwater and estuarine).

9. MOVE TO MULTI-SYSTEM SECTION Number of anadromous fish lakes/reservoirs legally documented as anadromous fish bearing waters by formally locating and mapping anadromous species distribution by species and life phase(s) in accordance with state or other prevailing laws and regulations as a voluntary legal mechanism to establish an additional layer of legal habitat protection under state (e.g. in Alaska AS 16.05.871), federal, tribal or other legal mechanisms. This is one of the best tools to conserve intact freshwater and estuarine systems.

### **PROJECT UPDATES:**

#### **2019**

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

Work is ongoing; project extended through September 30, 2022

*Nolin River Lake Habitat Improvement Project*

Project completed and final report submitted to FWS

*Lewisville Lake Fisheries Restoration*

Project completed and final report submitted to FWS.

*Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support*

Project approved: start date-11/1/2019; end date-10/31/2020

Modified FY2019 Operations Grant (reduce funding to \$75,000) and extend grant period to Dec 31, 2020 to reflect reduced expenditures due to COVID-19 (reduced travel schedule and canceled Annual Meeting). Project completed and final report submitted to FWS.

#### **2020**

*Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support*

Project ongoing; end date 12/31/2021

*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*

Project Compliance Documents are in the process of completion; project has yet to start

*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;

*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: \$229,852.

*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 should start this fall. Funding for years 2-4 still unsecured.

### *Williamsburg Off-Channel Wetland*

Awaiting processing of Compliance Documents from FWS.

### *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*

Awaiting processing of Compliance Documents from FWS.

### *Fish Habitat Enhancement Project on Beaver Lake and Tributary Clifty Creek, Arkansas*

Awaiting processing of Compliance Documents from FWS. Work scheduled to start this fall on both the Clifty Creek shoreline stabilization and inlake structure portion. 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.

**FY2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership**

**Deadline for Proposal Submission: February 15, 2022**

**Introduction:** The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) is pleased to request proposals for partial funding of reservoir fisheries habitat enhancement projects. The RFHP is a national partnership established to promote and facilitate the conservation of habitat for fish and other aquatic species in reservoir systems through collaborative actions that contribute to:

- *Protect, restore and enhance fish habitat in reservoir systems to support productive fisheries and healthy aquatic ecosystems including techniques to account for climate change effects on reservoir fisheries habitat;*
- *Continue to develop/refine the science behind reservoir habitat conservation/restoration, including development and communication of Best Management Practices;*
- *Manage reservoir systems to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for the American people;*
- *Develop and foster partnerships that implement landscape-scale approaches to the conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems;*
- *Develop and sustain institutional arrangements and sources of funding to support the long-term conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems;*
- *Support education and outreach initiatives that advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems.*

Proposed projects can be focused on habitat issues in the reservoir proper and/or in watersheds above the reservoir and/or tailwaters below. We suggest that you review the Reservoir Partnership's Best Management Practices manual "Reservoir Habitat Management" that can be found at <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/science/best-management-practices-manual/> for assistance in project planning.



**America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE)** was passed by Congress and signed by the President in fall 2021. The legislation made significant changes to project priorities and requirements. ACE places an emphasis on restoration efforts that will enhance sport fish populations that will improve recreational fishing opportunities and public use of the resource. Improvements in public access as a component of the project are encouraged. Some specific requirements include:

- **Grant funds must be matched 1:1 with nonfederal funds.** Nonfederal match can include cash and/or in-kind labor, materials, equipment if there are no federal ties to those funds. State agency funds can be used for the nonfederal match if labor and/or materials are not being charged to another federal grant. State agency funds that are used to match other federal grants would not be eligible as match. Once the grant funds (up to \$75,000) are matched with nonfederal funds/in-kind, an unlimited amount of federal contributions to the project are allowed.
- **Monitoring and evaluation measures must be included as part of the project.** We suggest that these measures focus on the habitat restoration work accomplished rather than fish response to the restoration because that is of a longer duration and more difficult to measure.
  - Suggested monitoring and evaluation measures include:
    - Number/acres of brush piles or other types of physical structural habitat added
      - Fish use of the restored site prior to structure addition and for a period thereafter, i.e., increased species diversity and/or catch per unit effort
      - Increased angler use of restored site
    - Number of native aquatic vegetation units (pots) planted and/or ft<sup>2</sup> planted
      - Monitoring of plant expansion outside of herbivore exclosures
    - Length of shoreline (ft<sup>2</sup>) stabilized
      - Monitoring of reduced bank sluffing, local improvements in water clarity, etc.
    - Acres of wetlands restored/constructed
      - Measures of changes in sediment and nutrient input
- **Must include an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community**

**Eligible applicants include:** state and federal governmental agencies; non-governmental organizations (e.g., sportsman's groups, community associations, watershed user groups, cooperatives, civic groups), municipalities, universities, schools,

state and tribal governments. Projects must be on public reservoirs. Projects on reservoirs with no or limited public access are not eligible. **Proposals must include “on-the-ground” habitat restoration objectives. Projects that develop and/or evaluate reservoir fisheries habitat restoration techniques are encouraged.**

**Project Duration:** Project objectives must be met within the project timeline. Projects with a timeline of two years or less are encouraged but large-scale projects may require a longer timeline. Funding for FY2023 projects will not be appropriated until after January 2023 and will likely not be available to project leaders until March 2023 or later. Actual project start date will be the date funding documents are signed. We suggest April 1, 2023 as a reasonable start date and June 30, 2025 as a project end date.

**Funding:** RFHP anticipates approximately \$250,000 in funding for “on-the-ground” projects in FY2023. Grants will be capped at \$75,000 but grants for lesser amounts will be considered. Bear in mind that the grant request must be matched by a minimum of 1:1 nonfederal funds. RFHP anticipates funding 4-6 projects @ \$10,000-\$75,000 each. Given the limited amount of funding available at this time, RFHP grants should be considered as a partial funding source for projects with multiple funding sources and partners. All contributions (cash and/or in-kind) must be expended during the project period. Special consideration will be given to projects with more than the minimum match. Eligible costs will be paid for work done no earlier than contract approval. Grant funds may **NOT** be used to support overhead, political advocacy, deficit reduction activities, projects that have already been completed, or for activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or Federal law. Salaries of full-time employees may be part of the grant request as long as they are for only time spent directly on planning, administration and/or “on the ground” work on the project. Applicants are urged to not make “salaries” a major part of the funding request. Applicants are strongly urged to discuss project ideas with the Coordinator prior to submitting proposals if questions about eligibility exist.

**For questions relative to project development and submission contact: Jeff Boxrucker, Coordinator, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership; 405-659-1797; [jboxrucker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jboxrucker@sbcglobal.net).**

**Proposal Requirements:** Proposals must be submitted using the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership on-line submission form. Go to <http://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/grants/submit-a-project/large-grant/>

Timelines may use an April 1, 2023 starting date, but the actual start date will be determined by completion of the contract document (funding is not likely to be available prior to March 2023 and may be several months later). Congress must appropriate

funds for the program annually and is not expected to begin that process until after January of the respective fiscal year.

**Proposal Selection Process:** Final projects will be selected for funding following review by the Regional Working Groups. Members of each Regional Working Group (geographically aligned with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Association regions) will review and score project proposals based on the criteria listed below. Each of the Regional Working Groups will submit their prioritized list of projects to the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Executive Committee for final approval. Applicants will be made aware of their proposal's ranking shortly thereafter, but final approval of projects is based on funding availability. Given that funding is from federal sources, environmental compliance documents (Federal Assistance Biological Assistance/ ESA Evaluation Form, NEPA Exclusion and National Historic Preservation Act Form) are required. Successful applicants will be advised on how to fill out these documents. The RFHP Coordinator is available to assist in this process.

**Previously Funded Projects:** The RFHP Executive Committee is concerned that high ranking proposals from previously funded projects will limit our ability to fund new high-quality proposals. However, we are also cognizant of the need for our partners to continue the high-quality habitat restoration work that is ongoing on previously funded projects. To address these concerns, we will continue to accept proposals from previously funded proposals but will only accept proposals at 50% of the original funding request. A 3<sup>rd</sup> proposal with similar objectives will only be accepted at 25% of the original proposal funding request. Hopefully the pool of local project partners has grown to offset a reduced level of funding from RFHP. However, if objectives of the new proposal are significantly different than those of previously funded projects (different project on the same reservoir), the proposal will be treated as a "first-time" proposal.

**Evaluation criteria:** Projects will be scored according to criteria in three categories:

- **Category I: Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Protection (155 possible points)**
  - Priority Regional Reservoir Habitat Impairments
    - RFHP completed a nationwide reservoir habitat impairment assessment in 2013
    - Impairments were prioritized by region of the country (see map and table in Appendix B)
      - Proposals will score more points if addressing the higher regional habitat impairments (table in Appendix B);
      - Clearly state the impairment(s) that the project is focusing on and state how project will address the impairment(s);
      - Cite a management plan that identifies the impairment (if

available and include a link if published on the web) Note: contact the management agency to see if a written plan addressing habitat impairments exists and state clearly in the proposal whether or not you are addressing habitat issues identified in a management plan.

- Clearly state the objective(s) of the project. Objectives need to be **specific, measurable, achievable within the grant period, and realistic**. Objectives should include how the project will address the impairment and what deliverables will be used to determine if the objectives are met. **See Appendix C for assistance in developing high-quality objectives.**
  - Examples of objectives include:
    - To triple the area covered by artificial structure in three coves of Lake ABC by June 30, 2024
    - To install at least five nutrient retention wetlands in the watershed of Lake DEF by June 30, 2025
    - To increase angler catch rates of crappie above 1.5 fish/angler-hour during ice fishing season, in treated areas, by June 30, 2025
- Deliverables are the tangible things that the project will produce to enable the objectives to be achieved.
  - Be sure that project deliverables align with the objectives stated above.
  - Examples of deliverables include:
    - Siltation/turbidity and excessive nutrients
      - Amount (area or length) of riparian area stabilized;
      - Amount of sedimentation reduced (rate, tons/ac etc.);
      - Number of sediment retention structures installed or % base load treated;
      - Number of watershed BMP's implemented (sewer pump-outs, farming practice improvements, pet waste policies, removal of impervious surfaces etc.);
      - Amount (area) of wetlands created, protected or restored for nutrient removal;
      - Amount of nutrients removed (could include deactivation with alum or physical removal by excavation).
    - Degraded shorelines and/or loss of sensitive habitats

- Amount (length or linear ft<sup>2</sup>) of shoreline wetlands or submergent/emergent vegetation protected, created or restored;
- Amount (length or linear ft<sup>2</sup>) of shoreline habitat protected, created or restored;
- Amount (area) of cove habitat protected, created or restored.
- Structural habitat
  - Amount of structure added;
    - Number and size of brush piles, rock piles, etc.
  - Number of native plants planted along with number and size of structures built to protect plants from herbivory;
  - Acres of nuisance/invasive plants treated/removed
  - Changes in water quality parameters;
  - Changes in fish sampling catch rates in affected area,
  - Changes in rates of recruitment, or population size structure;
  - Changes in angler catch rates, harvest rates, and measures of directed fishing effort;
  - Measures of recreational use or economic benefit.
- Water Regime
  - Negotiations held with water management agencies;
    - Fisheries-favorable water level management plan/water release schedule secured;
    - Water rights secured;
    - Fish loss barriers installed.
- Connectivity
  - Acres of cove/backwater habitat reconnected to main body of reservoir;
  - Miles of stream/river reconnected to body of reservoir;
    - Barriers to upstream migration removed.
- Describe the type and duration of monitoring/evaluation following completion of the restoration efforts. Given the preferred project duration (2-3 years), some aspects of project monitoring may be beyond the scope of project funding but will be the responsibility of project partners. (**Project monitoring and evaluation is a major component of the proposal scoring process and should be an integral part of proposal development.**)

- Include duration of monitoring program;
  - Include a brief description of what, if any, baseline information is available.
  - Scoring will be based on:
    - assessing the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities
    - reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;
    - identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project.
- Will project deliverables impact potential climate impacts on reservoir habitat conditions?
  - Examples of deliverables include water level management adaptations to offset increasing drought conditions, littoral habitat restoration methods aimed at “chasing the shoreline” as water recedes, native aquatic plant restoration.
- **Category II: Quality of Life (50 pts)**
  - Would the habitat project in question help the RFHP achieve its objectives to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for all Americans?
    - Maintain or restore water quality in reservoir systems;
    - Promote enhanced access, environmental amenities and nature experiences and opportunities on and adjacent to reservoir to enhance public awareness of the value of reservoirs;
    - Promote conservation of fish and aquatic resources to boaters and other water-based recreationists;
    - Support recreational industries and related economic activities that advance watershed health and contribute to conservation of fisheries and aquatic habitats in reservoir systems.
  - See Appendix C for examples of criteria for quality objectives.
  - Would the project restore/enhance habitat that would directly support an economically important or high-use fishery (as documented in past studies or the published literature) or other types of fisheries within the project area? Provide any socioeconomic data [dollar value of the fishery and/or the recreational value (in dollars) of the reservoir to the local/regional/state area] that are available. Creel data (angler use) or visitor data (traffic

counters), if available, should be included. **List the targeted sport fishes that the project is intended to affect in order of priority**

- Would project outcomes lead to improvements in water quality for human health, recreational use, or ecological health of the reservoir system? Be specific in how this project directly or indirectly will positively affect water quality.
- Would the project outcomes help to mitigate the effects of climate change, i.e, increased water temperature, decreased water storage due to more frequent and more intense drought.

Check out <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/science/best-management-practices-manual/chapter-13-climate-change/> for additional information on climate impacts on reservoir habitat.

### **Category III: Partnerships, Fund Leveraging, and Promotion (90 pts)**

- Would the habitat project in question help the RFHP achieve its objectives to establish partnerships between management agencies and reservoir stakeholders; leverage outside sources of funding; and advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems?
  - Expand the partnership base of Friends of Reservoirs to include additional States, relevant federal and tribal agencies, non-profit and NGO's, recreational industries and industry associations, reservoir and power generation authorities, reservoir homeowner associations, municipalities and local businesses, local watershed associations and conservation groups, irrigators, and others affected by reservoirs.
  - Promote or add to the information on the "Science" page on [www.friendsofreservoirs.com](http://www.friendsofreservoirs.com) as a tool for reservoir management agencies to prioritize habitat management efforts.
  - Support and participate in watershed planning initiatives to promote implementation of best management practices for conservation of fisheries and fish habitat in reservoir systems.
- List all partners involved in the project
  - Include type of partner, i.e., state, federal, non-governmental agency (NGO), municipality, user-groups (bass clubs, conservation organization, lake associations), private company.
  - To be considered a partner they must appear in the budget table and provide either cash or in-kind contributions to the project.
  - Identify the degree of involvement that the state fish and wildlife management agency has with the project (**letter of support from state fish and wildlife agency must accompany the proposal**).

- Develop a budget and include funds leveraged from all partners (list all partners and the amount of cash and/or in-kind contribution from each partner separately in the budget table included in Appendix A). Cash and in-kind contributions must be identified as “federal” or “federal funds”.

## Appendix A

### Proposal Format

#### A. Applicant Information:

Name and address of applicant organization

Name, title, and contact information (address, phone number and e-mail) of principal investigator or project leader

Name of Friends of Reservoirs member organization involved in the project (if applicable)

#### B. Friends of Reservoirs (FOR) Group that is active in the project:

FOR membership provides bonus points that have been critical for project selection over the past several grant cycles. FOR members typically are local fishing/conservation clubs, municipalities, regional conservation organizations, etc. Contact the RFHP Coordinator or go to the Members Page on the RFHP website <http://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/members/> to see if any local group is a current member of Friends of Reservoirs. If not, joining is easy! Visit <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/members/join-today/> for more information.

#### C. Project Information:

Title

Location – Reservoir name; GPS coordinates if possible; map of project location is required

U.S. Congressional District (available on the web)

Target species (listed in priority order)

Region reservoir is located in (see map in Appendix B);

Project objective(s) **(See Appendix C)**

Estimated on-the-ground start and end dates (not award date)

Amount of grant and estimated total cost of project - Add details under section D. below.

List of partners **(to be considered a partner they must appear in the budget table and provide either cash or in-kind contributions to the project)**

#### D. Project Description (largest portion of proposal):

1. **Project overview** to include the existing relevant habitat conditions and the desired or targeted conditions (project outcomes expected i.e., size of area to be



restored, number of habitat structures to be installed, species that will benefit from the restoration activity and the specific restoration methods and techniques that will be used). **The project overview is a critical part of the application** that should provide reviewers with sufficient detail to fully understand the proposed project. Please review the Evaluation Criteria above to ensure that all relevant information has been included.

2. **Monitoring plan overview**, including project goals, monitoring parameters, monitoring methods and schedule, and target and reference values.
3. **Outreach plan overview** summarizing critical activities for stakeholder/community involvement.
4. **Project deliverables** should state the amount of habitat created/restored. Examples include amount (number, acres) of natural or artificial habitat added/restored, acres of native vegetation planted/established; linear feet of shoreline restored/stabilized, acres of wetlands established.
5. **List of required permits** and any other environmental compliance issues to be considered (Federal, state, local), indicating any that have already been secured or addressed. Projects will not have final approval for funding until all permits/compliance documents have been submitted and approved by the proper authorities (typically the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
6. **Project timeline.** Projects should be designed to begin in April 2023 and have a 24-36 month duration (extensions are available due to extenuating circumstances such as weather delays or unusual water levels).

**Note: Monitoring, outreach and protection and maintenance of the project site may be outside the scope of the funding request. If so, clearly state that these activities will be funded and conducted by project partners in most cases after the end date of the proposal.**

**E. Budget:**

1. **Amount requested** through Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership.
2. **Amount of in-kind** contributions (specify amounts and sources, both in kind and cash for each partner). **Partner Contributions must be listed separately in table. Add more lines to table if needed.**
3. The timeline should be an approximation of when the funds under each funding category will be spent, i.e., June 2023 through December 2025.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Partner Contribution Amount</b>	<b>Cash or In-Kind</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Non-federal</b>	<b>Timeline (anticipated date of expenditures)</b>
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership		Cash	x		
Administrative /Technical Services					
Construction Costs/Materials					
Labor (paid)					
Labor (volunteer)					
Miscellaneous (outreach materials)					
Partner B (name)					
Administrative/ Technical Services					
Construction Costs/Materials					
Labor (paid)					
Labor (volunteer)					
Miscellaneous (outreach materials)					
Partner C (name)					
Administrative/ Technical Services					
Construction Costs/Materials					
Labor (paid)					
Labor (volunteer)					
Miscellaneous (outreach materials)					
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>					

**\* Volunteer labor should be calculated at \$28.54/hr. The latest value is calculated by the Do Good Institute, based on hourly earnings released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.**

4. **Budget narrative:** A budget justification should be included to further explain how the funds will be used. Please explain expenditures in detail. Major equipment purchases, types of supplies, and specific contracts should be identified. An explanation of each line item in the Reservoir Partnership portion of the project must be included.

5. Map(s) of the proposed project location and site in addition to the described location under B above.

#### **Optional supporting materials**

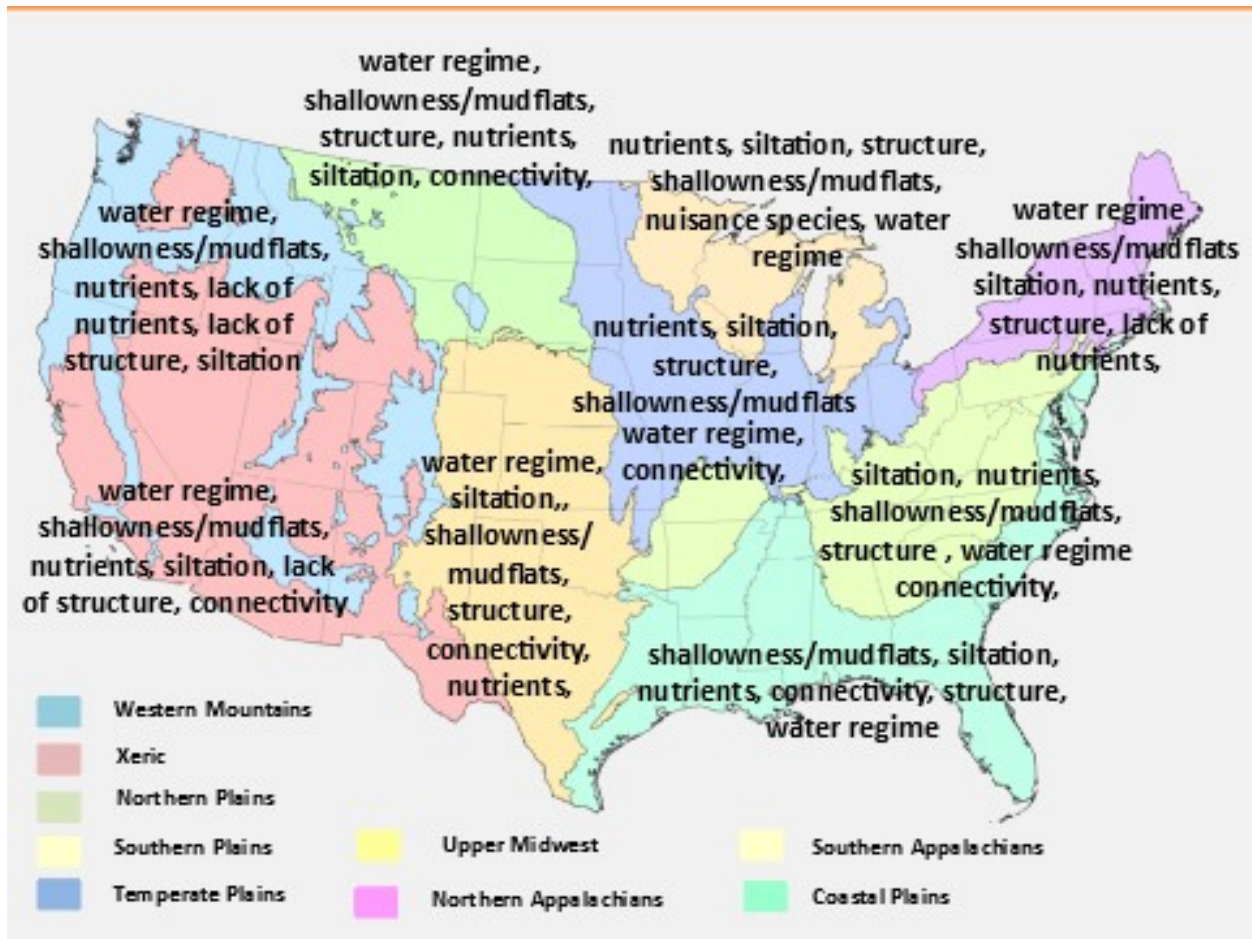
1. Aerial or on-the-ground photos of the proposed project site. Though not required, these visual aids will help to support the proposal. Photos taken from the ground should show the current condition of the site. All photos should be identified with date of photo and location.

2. Letters of Support-Besides letters in support of the project from community leaders, stakeholders, or others, documentation may include support letter(s) from those owning land upon which project will be undertaken, such as private landowners or appropriate public land owners agency resource personnel. Lake management plans and/or habitat plans that recommend the type of habitat work proposed by this project, though not required, are helpful and receive added points in the review process. **Letter of support from state fisheries management agency staff member is required.**

**Proposals must be submitted via the electronic submission form at: <http://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/grants/submit-a-project/large-grant/> by 15 February 2022.**

## APPENDIX B

### Priority Impairments by Region



- Regions above were used to differentiate priority impairments in the assessment.
- Lists of impairments are based on the percent of reservoirs in each region that were moderately to high or highly impaired for individual impairments.
- Lists of impairments for each region are in priority order (see table on next page).

**PRIORITIZED REGIONAL IMPAIRMENTS**

(Top 2 Impairments in each Region-50 pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-25 pts; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-10 pts)

<b>REGION</b>	<b>IMPAIRMENT</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>Western Mountain</b>	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>50</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	<b>25</b>
	Limited nutrients	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>10</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
<b>Xeric</b>	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>50</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	<b>25</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>10</b>
	Connectivity (lack of connection with embayments/backwaters, tributaries)	
<b>Northern Plains</b>	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>50</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>25</b>
	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	
	Siltation/Turbidity	<b>10</b>
	Connectivity	
<b>Upper Midwest</b>	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	<b>50</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>25</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Excessive Vegetation (typically invasive/non-native plants)	<b>10</b>
	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	
<b>Southern Plains</b>	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>50</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	<b>25</b>
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	
	Connectivity	<b>10</b>
Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)		
<b>Temperate Plains</b>	Excessive Nutrients	<b>50</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>25</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>10</b>
Connectivity		

<b>Coastal Plains</b>	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	<b>50</b>
	Siltation/Turbidity	
	Excessive Nutrients	<b>25</b>
	Connectivity	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>10</b>
	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	
<b>Northern Appalachians</b>	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>50</b>
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	
	Siltation/Turbidity	<b>25</b>
	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	<b>10</b>
	Limited Nutrients	
<b>Southern Appalachians</b>	Siltation/Turbidity	<b>50</b>
	Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms)	
	Excessive mudflats/shallowness (little deep water refuge)	<b>25</b>
	Limited littoral structure (lack of woody structure and vegetation, shoreline erosion)	
	Water Regime (extreme and/or mistimed fluctuations, low retention)	<b>10</b>
	Connectivity	



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: FROM: CC: DATE: RE:**

Mr. Bob Ziehmer, Senior Director for Conservation, Bass Pro Shops

Ed Schriever, Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board & Kelly Hepler, Chair, Beyond the Pond

Ryan Roberts, Program Manager, National Fish Habitat Partnership

June 22, 2021

### **Principle Agreement Regarding financial Proceeds from Bass Pro Shops U.S. Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships Events**

#### **Background**

In 2006, the National Fish Habitat Partnership was formed and has supported over 1,115 on-the-ground projects benefiting fish habitat in all 50 states. The National Fish Habitat Partnership works to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, tribal, and private funding resources to achieve the greatest impact on fish populations through priority conservation projects of 20 regionally-based Fish Habitat Partnerships. This state-led effort has made a significant impact on conservation nationally and traces its roots back to Table Rock Lake. In 2007, Bass Pro Shops and other organizations established a science-based approach to improving reservoir fish habitat. This effort resulted in the formation of the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership being developed to enhance reservoir fishery habitat. In February 2021, Bass Pro Shops announced it would be hosting an eight-event U.S Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championship across the country beginning in February and ending with a Championship event hosted in November 2021 at Table Rock Lake in Missouri. Proceeds from entry fees and generous matching donations from Bass Pro Shops and Toyota will result in an **estimated \$1-\$1.5 million donation** to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) to support priority fish and aquatic habitat conservation.

#### **Terms**

**Funding received through Bass Pro Shops will be distributed to qualifying fish habitat partnership projects through a competitive grants process. The National Fish Habitat Board (Board) will oversee the project selection process. Those projects that improve aquatic habitat within reservoirs and enhance angling will be given the highest priority. Funding may also be used to improve natural lake habitats and conserve tributary flows into lakes and reservoirs.** The Board will use its established 501(c)(3) nonprofit



organization, the National Fish Habitat Fund (DBA: Beyond the Pond), to accept the funds in 2021 and will use standard auditable accounting practices to manage and disperse the funds in 2022 and 2023.

Beyond the Pond will not have discretion on which projects to fund. That authority will rest solely with



the Board. Up to 5% of the total funds will be used to cover administrative costs, including but not limited to grant management, Board support, outreach, and communication. Beyond the Pond will use this donation to leverage other funding to maximize the investment. **This funding will come at a critical time for the National Fish Habitat Partnership, as the recently passed America's Conservation Enhancement Act requires a 1:1 non-federal match for project funding.** The Fish Habitat Partnerships will significantly leverage this funding for future project funding opportunities.

### **Communication & Marketing**

This donation by Bass Pro Shops and Toyota Motor Corporation is the single largest private donation to NFHP in its history. This generous and consequential donation will restore aquatic habitats and improve fishing opportunities for anglers. Beyond the Pond and the Board will promote the projects and accomplishments from this donation through social media, press releases, the NFHP website, annual reports, Board communications, and through other means utilizing a small portion of this grant donation. The Board and Beyond the Pond greatly appreciate this generous donation and will do its best to promote the value of this donation to the conservation community and public. Promotion of conservation success will be important, as Congress recognized the National Fish Habitat Partnership as part of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, which was signed into law in 2020.

## **Small Grant Projects**

### **Canyon Bass Club-Lake Dunlap, TX**

This project plans to address a suite of habitat needs from a holistic, integrated approach (i.e., riparian, littoral, structural) and from a long-term, multi-year perspective. Specific habitat enhancement strategies include native vegetation reestablishment (either through seeding or transplanting efforts) and the addition of a combination of artificial (e.g., MossBack, Georgia structures, concrete, culvert, etc.) and natural (e.g. rock, woody debris, etc.) materials. Minimally, we plan to enhance essential fish habitat (to address spawning, structural, and littoral habitat needs) for various sport fish and forage species and restore the native vegetation community to historic levels.

### **Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs-Lake Livingston, TX**

The grant will enable ongoing aquatic plant restoration efforts and structural habitat restoration. LLFOR has established nurseries at 8 public high schools and at the Ellis Correctional Institute. LLFOR initiated a pilot study to test the efficacy of using floating islands (Biohavens) as native vegetation founder colonies. LLFOR is partnering with TPWD on the floating island project and the Trinity River Authority on a Christmas tree collection and habitat enhancement effort.

### **Tri County Bass Anglers-Patoka Lake, IN**

A habitat enhancement plan was created by Indiana DNR and partners that outlined timeline, budget, types of structures to be used, and placement locations. An agency meeting and partner meetings were held to discuss specific location placements and logistics. The proposed plan calls for around 20 Pennsylvania porcupine junior cribs, 60 Pennsylvania porcupine cribs, 220 pallet structures, 60 Pennsylvania Black Bass nesting structures and 40 Hoosier cubes (modified Georgia cubes) to be placed in the reservoir at depths 5-16 ft (summer pool). This project will enhance approximately 33 acres of aquatic habitat. IDNR and partners began work in 2019 to construct and deploy structures. So far 218 Indiana pallet structures, 18 Hoosier cubes (PVC cubes), and 250 trees have been felled. A volunteer build day was held in 2019 and to date over 150 volunteer hours have been donated to the project. Past flooding at the reservoir has killed many trees around the shoreline which are now being felled for fish structure. The Tri-County Bass Anglers will use the \$1000 grant to purchase materials to for between 15 to 20 Hoosier Cubes.

### **Pymatuning Lake Association-Pymatuning Lake, PA**

The Pymatuning Lake Association (PLA; new FOR member in 2021) sponsors an annual habitat project in collaboration with PFBC and OH DNR. The funding will be used to expand this effort to create 30 additional Short Vertical Plank Structures which will be part of the annual 100 Porcupine Crib project. PLA is responsible for organizing volunteers. Providing lunch and organizing media coverage.

### **Tioga County Bass Anglers-Tioga Lake, PA**

This project will add additional structures to a previously planned improvement project. Artificial habitat improvement structures will be constructed on land placed using 2

specialized habitat boats. These structures will mimic the natural habitat at the lake that has been degraded over the past decade. They will be constructed out of rough-cut hemlock, nails, and concrete block. Technical assistance and placement will be completed PFBC. The Tioga County Bass Anglers is responsible for gathering volunteers and for picking up project materials. USACE provide staff, an operator, and a machine for the project. The structures will be constructed by local volunteers, USACE and PFBC staff. Similar projects have been completed across the state of Pennsylvania through the PFBC Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP).

### **Mossback**

#### **Hendricks Co. Parks and Recreation (new FOR member)-W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Lake, IN**

During development and construction of the lakes at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park, the awarded contractor, John Hall Construction, installed 20 rip rap habitat piles using recycled concrete slab pieces and natural boulders. Additionally, a local eagle scout troop built 20 porcupine cribs made of PVC and strategically placed them around the 20' x 35' ADA accessible fishing pier and the 40-foot connecting bridge. If awarded the grant, additional fish habitat products will be utilized to further enhance the existing habitat to encourage an optimal fishing environment.

#### **Red Rock Lake Association (new FOR member)-Lake Red Rock, IA**

Lake Red Rock has had habitat restoration efforts in the past. These include rock/rock reef structures in the lake, other structures placed in Whitebreast Bay. We can occasionally manipulate reservoir stage and releases to maximize benefits to the lake fishery. These options and alternatives were the product of a planning workshop with resource professionals and other scientists through an effort of The Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP). SRP is a cooperative effort by the Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy. Reservoir management and environmental strategies were incorporated into the revised Lake Red Rock regulation manual. The revised manual enables the use of a "conservation band." The Lake Red Rock and Red Rock Dam efforts have become a model for the nation. The Mossback grant will add to the diversity of habitat structures.

#### **Sun Country Outdoors-Carlsbad Municipal Lake, NM**

This proposal is to augment a 2020 Large Project Grant to restore native vegetation and enhance structural habitat in an urban fishery. The Mossback structures will be placed along a fishing pier that serves the metropolitan community. Aquatic recreational resources are extremely limited in the desert southwest and the fishery potential of Carlsbad lake has largely been ignored and is in desperate need of enhancement.

*Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs and Tri-County Bass Anglers submitted both Small Projects and Mossback Grants. Awarding LLFOR and Tri-County the Small Projects grant (and not the Mossback Grant) allows FOR to provide grants to all applicants in 2021.*

**Lake Ray Hubbard Friends of Reservoirs also submitted applications for both grants but the applications were incomplete. I contacted the applicant and gave them a week to update the applications which they failed to do.**

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

### **Friends of Reservoirs Membership Update**

- Chapter (74) and Group (38) membership totals 112 in 31 states
  - Texas-28
  - Illinois-14
  - Pennsylvania-10
  - B.A.S.S. State Conservation Affiliates-18
- Three Chapters members added in FY2021
- 21 Kansas Community Fishing Program members added (not included in above counts (KWPT paid membership for first year)
- Project grant applications single most reason for added membership



## FY2022 Budget

### Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership-Budget (2021-2022)

<b>Beginning Balance of FOR Account (October 1, 2021)</b>	<b>\$ 289,760.02</b>
<b>2021-2022 Income (projected)</b>	
o FY2022 FWS Project Award Operations (expected 1/22)	\$ 85,000
o Annual Meeting Registration	\$ 2,000
o Small Grant/Mossback Application Fee	\$ 200
o FOR memberships	\$ 100
o Sponsorships	\$ 1,000
o Donations	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 113,549</b>
<b>2021-2022 Expenses (projected)</b>	
o Coordinator Salary	\$ 60,000
o Travel	\$ 1,000
o Mileage (\$1,000)	
o Tax Return	\$ 275
o CT Corp (501 c 3 registration)	\$ 275
o Annual Meeting (FOR rooms/Meals)	\$ 5,000
o Office Expense	\$ 750
o Small Projects Grants	\$ 5,000
o Website	\$ 2,000
o Outreach (unspecified)	\$ 1,000
o Raystown Grant expenses (estimate)	\$ 200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 275,300</b>
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 161,751</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 128,009.02</b>

## Outreach Committee Report

Brad Tribby ran the analytics report from 10/1/2021 to 9/28/2021.

Through all our posts we reached 20,960 people. Our "Boosts" drove 17,432 of those people to our page. Which makes me believe that paying to "boost" some of our content is worth it.

- Our Prime Day Ad (Thanks Rebecca) reached 17,900 people, which is by far the most people we connect with. Our normal habitat type stories reached anywhere from 1,100 people to 38 people.

We have a total of 706 "Likes".

The webcam and headset were intended for better reception during Zoom meetings and/or webinars. The microphone is intended to be used for recording presentations such as the workshop presentations to be used in a virtual setting. I asked one of Tom Lang's staff (Kyle Brookshear) for a recommendation on a camera. Tom and Kyle recorded the Stan Moberly award presentation. I thought the quality of that video was excellent. I was able to get a bunch of accessories for the camera as a kit. I purchased all on cyber Monday so was able to get reduced prices (\$1,077.45).

### 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