

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

Teleconference Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2011

SFBPC members participating: James Adams, James Anderson, Lynne Borden, Thomas Dammrich, Ned Dikmen, Roy Elicker, Betty Huskins, Scott Kovarivics, Ryck Lydecker, Geoffrey Ratté, John Sprague, Gary Kania

Other participants: Lisa Van Alstyne (FWS), Andrew Gude (FWS), Rebekah Martin (FWS), Roger Furhman (Oregon Natural Resources), Pam Dillon (Ohio Division of Watercraft), Dave Whaley (U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee), Brian Bohnsack (FWS), Doug Hobbs (FWS)

1) Follow-up on SFBPC Fisheries Program assessment

- Fisheries Issue Committee to lead Council efforts to work with Fisheries Program.
- It was suggested that Whit Tilt and perhaps Bill Taylor be considered for addition to team.
- It was also suggested that the Fisheries Issues Committee and the Council's assessment team convene a joint meeting to strategize on plan for moving forward.
- Thom Dammrich will formally invite Bryan Arroyo, Fisheries Program Assistant Director, to the March SFBPC meeting with an eye toward dialog on Council assessment implementation.

2) Oceans Issues

- Agreed to move forward with a joint session with members of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee during the March SFBPC meeting.
- Assembled a planning team to pull together the session: Huskins, Sprague, Dikmen, Adams, Kania, Nussman)
- Hobbs will poll members to determine a time to have a team conference call

- Andrew Gude briefed SFBPC on latest happenings pertaining to National Ocean Policy
- He indicated that CEQ is currently seeking public input on the development of action plans for Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning.
 - See info below.
 - The Council will consider comments on this matter.

Beginning Monday, January 24th through Friday, April 29th, 2011, you have the opportunity to help shape the development of strategic action plans for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, as well the other eight priority objectives that are part of the National Ocean Policy. To submit your comments, please visit the National Ocean Council website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap>.

For additional information on this public comment period, please see the Federal Register Notice (attached) or visit the website: Federal Register Notice. The nine priority objectives described in the Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force seek to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, and include:

1. Ecosystem-Based Management
2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
3. Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding
4. Coordinate and Support
5. Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification
6. Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
7. Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land
8. Changing Conditions in the Arctic
9. Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

The strategic action plans to be developed will identify specific and measurable near-term, mid-term, and long-term actions, with appropriate milestones, performance measures, and outcomes to meet each priority objective, as well as other details. Release of draft strategic action plans for public review and comment is anticipated during the summer of 2011.

To learn more about the National Ocean Council, please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>.

3) National Wildlife Refuge System Vision

- Council members were briefed on the rewrite of the Refuge system Vision. Concern was expressed about the process and concepts to be included related to recreational uses.
- A draft document will be available next week and a process for public involvement will begin.
- Rebekah Martin is the Vision Process coordinator for the FWS.

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<http://www.americaswildlife.org>

- Council to consider establishing an ad hoc team to monitor the process and prepare feedback from the Council to the FWS.
- This issue will be added to the March meeting agenda. Also, an invitation will be made to high level Refuge system staff to participate in the meeting.

4) Boating Issues Committee

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Tier 2 project recommendations

- John Sprague led the discussion of possible recommendations by the SFBPC to the FWS Director regarding Council recommendations on funding priorities for the fiscal year 2011 Boating Infrastructure Grant Tier 2 program
- Sprague discussed the process for ranking projects proposals and highlights related to changes in the process.
- Betty Huskins asked about the role economic impact analyses play in ranking project proposals.

Motion to approve recommendations: John Sprague

Second: Ryck Lydecker

Motion approved unanimously.

Update on Boating Program regulation re-write

- Lisa Van Alstyne, FWS, updated Council members on the status of the re-write of regulations for the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program 7 the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.
- BIG appears to be on track for a next draft to be available near the end of February 2011
- CVA draft will be available toward the end of Summer 2011

5) RBFF board nominations

- The Council needs to fill to expiring board slots.
- Lynne Borden filled a partial term and should be considered for nomination for a full term.
- The slot currently filled by Wendy Larimer needs to be filled. The NMMA will nominate Wendy to serve another term.
- Thom Dammrich asked Boyd, Sprague, Huskins and Elicker to serve as the Council's Nominating Committee. Boyd was asked to Chair the committee.

6) New business

SFBPC by-laws

- Doug Hobbs shared edits to Council by-laws for approval by members

Motion to approve: John Sprague

Second: Geoff Ratté

Motion approved unanimously

- Hobbs will submit for final approval through the FWS

March meeting agenda

- Ned Dikmen requested time on the March agenda to make a presentation on his findings from a trip to the Louisiana coast related to the BP oil spill.

Motion to adjourn: John Sprague

Second: James Adams

Motion approved unanimously