Habitat Goal Implementation Team
Fish Passage Workgroup
Fall 2013 Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 18, 2013
10:00AM-3:00PM

Participants: Mary Andrews (NOAA, Chair), Hannah Martin (CRC, Staffer), Angie Sowers (USACE), Ben Lorson (PADEP), Serena McClain (American Rivers), Nancy Butowski (MDNR), Howard Weinberg (UMCES), Sandy Davis (FWS), David O'Brien (NOAA), Matt Augburn (SERC), Lisa Moss (FWS), Alan Weaver (VDGIF), Julie Devers (FWS), Al Spells (FWS), Matt Collins (NOAA), Marian Norris (NPS)

Action Items:

- Hannah will check on MD 2012 data to include FP project near Frederick, MD
- Angie will talk to Heather Cisar about Fort Meade Dam removal
- Mary and group will begin discussions with Chesapeake Bay Program on using the tool to calculate functional stream miles opened.
- Run summary stats on the tool to start looking at what the tool is producing as top priority blockages; generate areas where the group focuses time and effort.
- Serena will put together broad outline of NFWF Sandy grant project and send to group via email.
- States will begin to think of focused area/community to implement potential NFWF funded project
- Plan workshop for Jan 2014 to focus on biological and physical monitoring

Minutes:

Calculating Stream Miles

- Mainstem miles vs. functional mileage (calculated with the Prioritization tool)
- Using the functional mileage would be justified by American eel (priority species) using more of the functional network than herring and shad.
- Look to recalculate past stream miles opened using functional mileage calculations via the prioritization tool.
    - Fish Passage workgroup agrees that this would be a more accurate and consistent method of calculating stream miles. Consistent tool to use for record keeping.
    - Action: This will be brought to the Habitat GIT and then to the Management Board for approval.

Updates from the State Fish Passage Coordinators

- Maryland (Nancy Butowski) - Using the Fish Passage Prioritization tool to conduct 107 site visits, update the data base (42 sites were no longer blockages), and look at high ranking tier 1-3 blockages. No stream miles opened in 2013.
    a. Potential Projects

i. Dam on Spring Creek in Choptank River to open 15 miles. Will need to do more landowner outreach.

b. Ongoing Projects

i. Removing Centreville Dam (partners- American Rivers, FWS, City of Centreville) to open 13 miles on Corsica River. Design work has been completed, permit requests to MDE in Jan 2014, and construction should begin by end of 2014.

ii. Fort Meade Dam (ladder installed in 1991 and maintained by Army) to open 8 miles on Patuxent watershed. Good candidate for removal because fishway isn't efficient. Meeting cancelled due to federal government shutdown.

iii. Daniels Dam (upstream of Bloede). Eel ladder will be installed 2013-2014.

iv. Bloede Dam, first blockage on Patapsco River near Baltimore. Currently working with Baltimore County on sewer line issue (runs through bank). Planning workshop for Jan 2014 to discuss sediment management. 60% of design complete Feb/March 2014.

- Pennsylvania (Ben Lorson)- Received small watershed grant yearly funds $50K (2014-2030) for fish passage projects in York and Lancaster counties.
  a. 2013 Projects—mostly brook trout streams
     i. Trough Creek Dam (partners-DCNR and State Park) to open 192 functional miles (calculated with tool).
     ii. Wet Moore Run, tributary to Pine Creek, open 7 miles to benefit brook trout. The dam was used for water supply, installed infiltration galleries. Electrofishing to monitor brook trout.
     iii. Small project on Big Run to benefit brook trout (1 mile)
  b. 2014 Projects—received small watershed grant money for saw removal dam on Susquehanna River, Safe Harbor and York Haven.
     i. Driftwood Branch Creek, project delayed from 2013 to benefit residential fish with a large upstream functional length.
     ii. Taylor Run-benefit Brook trout
- Virginia (Alan Weaver) - Traveled to Corvallis, OR to learn about ongoing fish passage research. Weekly sampling on upper Rappahannock River with an increase in American shad CPUE in 2013. Data show fish are taking advantage of the habitat that is being opened by dam removal.
  a. 2013 Projects
     i. Mossy Creek near Bridgewater to open 5.5 miles to benefit brook trout and American eel.
  b. Ongoing Projects
     i. Harvell Dam Update: Denil Fishway (very little passage success). The project will remove the dam as well as the old fishway. Next steps/Current schedule: bid over winter 2013 and begin work July 1, 2014.
     ii. Monumental Mills Dam on the Hazel River (trib to Rappahannock). Current effort is focused on a title search to determine who owns the land and deciding whether or not to remove the entire dam. The landowner opposes the removal because they do not support public access to the river (canoe/kayaks).

- FWS Updates (Julie Devers and Al Spells)
    a. Lynchburg Dam- $200K project, 2015
    b. Clifford Branch, dam removal last year. Giant culvert in the middle of the stream with no passage in low flow conditions.
    c. Davis Creek, Pocomoke. MDNR is buying the property and put in grant for wetland restoration. Designed and constructed by Mark Secrist (FWS).

Chesapeake Fish Passage Tool and Selection of Dam Removal Focus Areas (Serena McClain and Mary Andrews)

- The tool database still needs to be updated. Action: states keep track of field verification. Do blockages in the database still exist? Are existing blockages reported in the database? Mary is trying to pay TNC to update the tool in the future.
- How have the states used the prioritization tool to date?
    - MD has used to the tool to validate the database with field verification and identifying top priority sites.
    - VA wants to make own weights and different scenarios using the tool to make lists to a practical working level (similar to NE Conductivity tool committee). Tool helped with monumental dam, but some dams are not even in database.
        - Note: you can export data from ranking process into an excel spreadsheet and re-sort by watershed using excel.
    - PA found issues with location and mapping with some of the dams in the database (coordinates were taken from dam safety database and were calculated using old maps). Would like to find the time to look at top tiered blockages and field verify. Chesapeake Bay drainage is also only a part of PA—cannot choose to look just at CB. Would like to utilize knowledge in CB tool for eerie drainage.
    - Database for tool was compiled using different state databases (dam safety database). MD included natural barriers as well.
        - ACTION: States compile list to update database. TNC is still on contract with NOAA for other projects and might be able to allocate funds to work on updating the tool.
    - Geographic priority is based on opportunity and species of interest.
    - Stream restoration biologists could benefit from this tool as well. VA may form “Habitat Science Group” to collaborate.
    - Helpful to run summary stats and start looking at what the tool is producing and that could generate where the group focuses time and effort. ACTION: run summary stats
- NFWF Sandy Funds—opportunity for funds for coordinators to work with community and get them interested in barrier removal, RFP for restoration and planning and working with communities/community planning.
    - Dam removal or culvert—if there is another hurricane, look for projects that could reduce flooding (look at coastal communities)

- RFP will be competitive. The proposal needs to have community involvement and ecological benefit clearly spelled out.
- PA-has dedicated source of funding but that can be used to match and leverage. Worth looking at Lancaster and York counties. 1. Look at potential projects in those counties 2. Prioritize projects and bring in past hurricane information
- Outreach-set up meeting with public works and discuss ecological and resiliency standpoint.
- Deadline: Jan 31, 2014. Need to choose an applicant. Timeline: Choose projects April 2014.
- ACTION: Serena will put together an outline of the grant/project and send out to the group. States think of focused area/community.
- Julie thinks DOI will be interested in this project.

"Geomorphic Monitoring of the Patapsco River Following the Removal of the Simkins Dam, Patapsco River, MD" – Graham C Boardman McCormick Taylor

- Tasked with 3 yr physical monitoring effort in 2010. Tracking how sediment flowed out, where it deposited, where it eroded from
- Simkins unique because Bloede was right downstream.
- Goals: Track sediment Transport and determine areas of erosion and deposition.
- USGS established two sites: 2 downstream of site and one was already upstream. Good storm events over the years.
- Certain you are not measuring new material? Yes. But DEM is not continuous
- Conclusions: sand dominated impoundments react rapidly to dam removal. Response is both process and event driven.
- Discussion: argument to dredge or let sediment go? Because the sediment is so coarse, there's nothing new that wasn't predicted.

Chesapeake Bay River Herring Project: Matthew B. Ogburn. PhD.

- SERC is researching land water interface. NFWF funded to develop methods to count river herring in Chesapeake. SERC funds other 50%. Hoping to expand to prioritize removing barriers for herring and other anadromous fish and presence and number of fish in particular areas pre and post removal.
- Develop methods for spawning run counts and citizen science run monitoring. Help establish and coordinate baywide monitoring program. Identify specific habitats used for spawning and map to guide passage and habitat restoration projects.
- March-May. Didson dual frequency identification sonar
- Use biological sampling and size distribution data
- Building network of collaborators also held a river herring workshop.
- Fish Passage Tool—provide data to update the tool with recent observation of fish species.
- Spring 2014: Groundtruthing

Improving Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring at Dam Removal Sites: Integration with project and program planning. Matt Collins, NOAA

- Describe how we are improving monitoring at dam removal sites. Better job using what we learned from monitoring how we implement new projects and planning.
- 3 organizing principles.
    - 1. Tier monitoring effort
        - tier 1-short term, all projects
        - tier 2-looking at effectiveness monitoring, long term. Selected projects. Addresses explicit questions of regional important to provide the science to advance the programs and restoration practice. Chosen to represent regional fluvial habitat variability
    - 2. Monitoring integrated with program planning
        - Project Implementation→systematic project monitoring→data capture, storage, and management
    - 3. Partnerships to accomplish

Monitoring Discussion

- Monitoring and assessment in other CBP groups.
    - Is there fish there? Not only thing you need to look at. Use functional framework to determine if we can achieve functional lift with the project.
    - Rich Starr (FWS) is coming to next meeting to address the stream health functional framework specifically to fish passage.
    - NOAA seeing a push from OMB to show we are increasing mandated species.
    - good to get biological monitoring started early for comparison
    - Important for duration before and duration after.
    - USGS/FWS/NPS study for eels. Proved that dam removal increased eel population and had a very large database to support the study.
    - Continue conversation on monitoring. ACTION: put together day long monitoring workshop with biological and physical goals. Use barrier removal guide and other materials.