

Summary of Mid-year SIFN State Team Workshop
By Web Ex, February 10, 2009

Participants:

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| Mary Davis, SIFN | Pat O'Neill, AL | Tom Littlepage & others |
| Jerry Ziewitz, USFWS | Sandy Pursifull | AL |
| Kim Elkin, TN | Patti Lanford, GA | Stan Cook & others AL |
| Mallory Dimmit, NC | Paul Freeman, AL | Jeff Quinn, AR |
| Eric Nagid, FL | Scott Robinson, SARP | Jeff Sole, KY |
| Chris Conrad, TNC | Suzanne Krieger, USFS | Sally Palmer, TN |
| Josh Duzan, AR | Kevin Mayes, TX | Marilyn Barrett- |
| Michael Cain | Mark Smith, TNC | O'Leary, SIFN |
| Fred Tarver, NC | | |

Scott Robinson, the SARP Coordinator, gave introductory remarks and introduced the two new steering committee members: Eric Nagid with the Instream Flow Council and Mark Smith with TNC and National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary gave an update of SIFN activities for Year 1 and Year 2. Year 1 was dedicated to identifying the status of instream flow protection in each state's water management process, to sharing existing policies and to developing a network of teams to improve instream flow protection in each state. In Year 2, emphasis will be on education and instream flow science resources. SIFN now has a resource center at the NBII portal, and will have additional resources on the new SARP web site, which will be ready in the spring. Both will help SIFN members share information, documents, ideas, and tools.

In Year 2, the emphasis for SIFN will be to enable the state teams to take more ownership of the network by offering more opportunities to become involved and interact with other teams. Resource development will continue. Mary Davis will work with each state on science matters while Scott and Marilyn will serve as liaisons between those individuals and the network. In addition, Scott will explore the relationship of reservoirs with instream flow policy and science. Marilyn will work with experts and SIFN members to develop some messages that all can use to educate stakeholders, public officials, and all in states who might affect instream flow protection.

Individuals from each state provided an update on their instream flow protection activities, ranging from research to legislation. Activities vary from state to state; however, in general states are making progress towards establishing and improving instream flow policies.

The major portion of the WebEx session focused the new resource centers. Mary Davis reviewed the content and demonstrated the use of the NBII portal, and showed the ELOHA web site. All were urged to use the instructions provided prior to the WebEx session to secure access to the NBII site, and to use the resources and add to them. Resources range from a folder for each state to general research and policy documents. A request was made of everyone to review the policy documents and supporting resources

to ensure their accuracy and completeness. Those who were unable to attend the WebEx workshop are urged to follow the attached instructions and explore the site, seeking assistance from Mary, Scott or Marilyn if needed.

The messaging project has begun. All of the surveys that people who attended Flow 2008 completed in December were used to provide ideas for educational and outreach messages. A draft document will be posted on the NBII site in the near future for comment and input from SIFN members. A notification will be sent out when it is posted.

The SIFN project calls for one workshop per year. Participants were asked to take a poll to indicate preferences for topics at the 2009 workshop and at future WebEx workshops. To get a broader idea of topic preferences, a new poll will be taken so that all SIFN members can give preferences. Please go to www.constantcontact.com to take the poll (two questions, easy and fast).

We look forward to progress in the southeastern states on instream flow protection in Year 2.