

2009 Annual Plan of Work

Approved April 21, 2009 by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Board of Commissioners
Douglas J. Austen, Executive Director

Note: items listed below are not in priority order

Activity	Description and Objectives	Fiscal and Personnel Implications
<p>A. During the spring 2009 legislative session, develop and introduce a new license and fee package</p>	<p>Develop and work to obtain passage of a legislative package that will include a fishing license fee pricing system that incorporates annual fee modifications to address cost increases, habitat and/or access, youth programs, flexibility to create marketing programs and family license packages, and a review interval that will allow for appropriate legislative oversight, or some combination of one or more of the above-listed features.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At January 2009 commission meeting obtain commissioner approval for license package. 2. By May 1, 2009, draft legislation and provide to House Game and Fisheries Committee member or chair for possible introduction. 3. Throughout year, meet with legislators and interest groups to obtain support for legislative bill. 	<p>Significant staff time among upper management and commissioners to create political support and energy. Statewide tour of commissioner districts will be used as part of public information effort.</p>
<p>B. During the 2009 congressional session work to obtain passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act and Wallup-Breaux reauthorization.</p>	<p>Contribute to the congressional passage of National Fish Habitat Conservation Act and Reauthorization of the Sport fish and Boating Restoration Act (Wallup-Breaux) in order to protect and expand funds available to the PFBC for conservation and recreation in support of our mission. Provide information and convey PFBC support for congressional climate change legislation to address climate change impacts upon PFBC jurisdictional resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By July 1, 2009, direct NFHAP board to finalize Fish Conservation Act and make requests to Pennsylvania congressional delegation for co-sponsorship. 2. Support AFWA efforts to reauthorize W-13 and obtain PA congressional support. 3. Obtain support of PA interest groups to advocate for passage of both bills (timing dependent upon submission of bill). 	<p>Travel and various activities of Executive Director and Bureau Director of Policy, Planning and Communication.</p>
<p>C. During 2009 and working into the 2010 gubernatorial elections work with partners to develop state funding initiatives for PFBC conservation, land acquisition/easement programs, and infrastructure efforts</p>	<p>Work with appropriate partners to incorporate PFBC needs into the emerging development of a Growing Greener 3-type legislative effort, other state funding initiatives, and the potential development of a conservation congress-type initiative to develop grassroots support for such efforts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Throughout 2009, meet with potential partners to develop funding concepts or to ensure that PFBC needs are incorporated. 2. Throughout 2009 inform the public, legislators, and conservation partners of the need for funding of PFBC conservation, acquisition, or capital projects. 	<p>Executive Director, Bureau Director of PPC, Leg. liaison</p>



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<p>D. By the October 2009 commission meeting develop and present a new agency strategic plan, and, by December 31, 2009, finalize a corresponding one-year plan of work for 2010.</p>	<p>Completely update the agency strategic plan through a comprehensive planning process involving commissioners, staff, agency partners, and citizens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By February 2009, establish PFBC staff planning team and schedule appropriate meetings. 2. Engage commissioners at all 2009 commission meeting on planning efforts through acquiring new input or reviewing staff team work. 3. At October 2009 commission meeting submit final plan for commission approval. 4. By December 31, 2009, finalize a 2010 plan of work to implement the first-year priorities of the new strategic plan. 	<p>Strategic planner, agency work team and commissioner involvement. Funds for consultant to provide guidance and support of planning effort.</p>
<p>E. By the October 2009 commission meeting develop a new trout management plan.</p>	<p>Review and revise the PFBC trout management plan through the development and input of a trout working group, commissioners, and staff in order to identify additional needs for research, monitoring, management changes, and public information.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue work of the trout management group and internal staff teams in plan review and input. 2. At October 2009 commission meeting submit final plan for commission approval. 	<p>Various support for public meetings (facility rental, travel). Significant staff time by Bureau of Fisheries.</p>
<p>F. Implement community-based fish sampling throughout 2009.</p>	<p>Initiate development of sampling protocols for wadable streams and initiate the development of large river sampling protocols:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end of year have revised draft sampling protocols for wadable streams. 2. By end of year, develop a river management plan for each of the three major river systems that outlines fisheries information needs. 3. Initiate development of sampling design and protocols for large rivers with intent for initial implementation in 2010. 	<p>Equipment acquisition for river biologists. Possible contractual work with</p>
<p>G. Develop a fisheries and ecological framework for improved management of the flow releases for the Upper Delaware River system.</p>	<p>Develop a near and long-term approaches and solutions that will improve the flow regime of the upper Delaware River to better sustain a cold water trout fishery. This will include a collaborative approach with various state and NGO's with an interest in the ecological protection and fishery improvements of the river system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By July 1, 2009, present to the Decree Parties a fisheries framework that will improve coldwater resources to the Upper Delaware River system. 2. By July 1, 2009, complete meetings with all Decree Party members to understand Delaware management issues and describe PFBC efforts. 3. By December 31, 2009, develop a three-year plan to address issues of Montague release averaging, flow needs for dwarf wedge mussel, and other critical but longer-term information needs. 	<p>Dedicated staff time by Delaware River biologist will be needed to develop partnerships, monitoring and data analysis. Significant time by M. Hartle will result in other areas receiving reduced support.</p>

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<p>H. Throughout 2009, work with partners to advance understanding of Susquehanna River bass disease and water quality issues.</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of river ecological changes sufficient to guide effort to improve river health and the fishery. This will include appropriate studies, the 2009 Susquehanna River Symposium, and a clear restoration action plan that will help to guide efforts to reduce stresses on the river that are causing disease related mortalities and other negative ecological changes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In January 2009, convene 2nd Susquehanna River symposium. 2. Analyze and fund, if appropriate continuation of river water quality monitoring. 3. By December 31, 2009, provide review of fishing regulations for walleye and smallmouth bass. 4. By December 31, 2009, provide review of stocking as means of enhancing smallmouth bass year cohorts. 	<p>Additional PFBC funds (up to \$200,000) will be required for monitoring. Staff time will expand as program evolves.</p>
<p>I. Throughout 2009 continue with Growing Greener 2 hatchery upgrades.</p>	<p>Utilize all GG2 funds most efficiently to repair and upgrade as many facilities as possible in order to meet NPDES permit requirements, necessary facility upgrades, and other hatchery infrastructure improvements where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By December 1, 2009, complete contracting on all hatcheries for GG2 work with exception of Reynoldsdale. 2. By December 1, 2009, fully evaluate construction options for Reynoldsdale and proceed with appropriate final approval for construction. 	<p>All funding approved by commissioner but quarterly reporting of progress will be made. Annual report to General Assembly mandatory. Cost escalation may require additional commissioner action.</p>
<p>J. By July 1, 2009, apply for state funding for all PFBC high hazard unsafe dam renovations through appropriate programs.</p>	<p>By May 1, 2009, apply for funding through the H2O PA Act to repair appropriate PFBC dams.</p>	<p>Staff time of ED, BEPS and Deputy Director of ABE.</p>
<p>K. By July 1, 2009, complete Harrisburg office renovation and throughout 2009 continue to work on Pleasant Gap office rebuild options.</p>	<p>Develop and present to the commissioners a plan for replacement of the dilapidated Pleasant Gap office complex with a singular structure that will centralize staff and improve operational efficiencies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By July 1, 2009, complete Harrisburg renovations and movement of all staff into new office facilities. 2. By May 1, 2009, develop a proposed activity and time line for Pleasant Gap office rebuild. 3. At July and October 2009 commission meetings, provide updates to commissioners on status of PG office rebuild. 	<p>Substantial staff time required for management of planning, design, financing, contracting, and oversight. Annual bond repayment expenditures for new building estimated to be \$500,000 to \$750,000.</p>

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L. By December 31, 2009, complete a full hatchery program review	<p>Fully evaluate and review all fish production needs, current and potential hatchery production and potential future modifications in hatchery alignment and staffing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By December 31, 2009, develop a framework and study plan for fully documenting fish production needs in relation to desired fisheries. This shall include a description of all pertinent studies that will be necessary in order to fully evaluate the relationship between stocking and recreational fishing development and satisfaction. 2. By December 31, 2009, develop a report/study framework and timeline that will evaluate a full range of scenarios for production options that optimize facilities, staff, and expenses to create more efficient and productive program 3. By July 1, 2009, develop annual inspection guidelines for all hatchery facilities to ensure adherence to operational guidelines and facility maintenance. By December 31, 2009, initiate trial inspections to evaluate guidelines and adjust as necessary. 	Staff time will be primary cost.
M. By July 1, 2009, complete a full economic evaluation of costs and benefits of stocked trout program	<p>Develop and economic assessment of the stocked trout program to fully understand production, stocking and other costs and to fully document value of program to anglers, local economy and other beneficiaries. Work to improve program efficiency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By April 1, 2009, complete staff drafts of cost and benefit analysis. 2. Present material to commissioners at April commission meeting. 3. Revise material as directed by commissioners. 	Staff time and potential outside contractual support.
N. By July 1, 2009, finalize strategic plan for Three Rivers Ecological Research Center and begin plan implementation.	<p>The Three Rivers Center has been working on a multiple year plan for establishment of the main efforts of the center. This will be finalized, approved by the executive director, and implementation initiated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By June 1, three year plan will be submitted to Bureau Chief and Executive Director 2. By July 1, 2009, transfer of appropriate SWG project oversight, settlement funds, and other directed funds will be completed and spending plans implemented to utilize funds on river projects. 	