**SCB Freshwater Working Board Member Welcome and Introduction Materials**

Welcome to the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Freshwater Working Group (FWWG)! This document is meant to facilitate your transition into the SCB FWWG Board, offering insights and guidance about board processes and activities.

Background about the FWWG: The FWWG was formed in 2003 at SCB's annual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. The group was formed to help promote freshwater conservation concerns within the Society and the discipline of conservation biology more broadly. The FWWG board consists of up to 10 members at any given time, and details of the current board members are on our [**webpage**](https://conbio.org/groups/working-groups/freshwater/board/).

FWWG Board Members must, at the time of induction, be an active SCB member and maintain active SCB membership throughout their two years on the board. All board members are encouraged to attend quarterly skype meetings, and are also encouraged to support and contribute to meetings related to their particular pursuits as a board member.

There are several important documents that all new and active board members should familiarize themselves with, and all documents are also hosted on our [**webpage**](https://conbio.org/groups/working-groups/freshwater/members/).

First, **SCB Board Member Orientation Handbook**: this document provides a brief history of SCB, its structure, membership, strategic plans, expectations of board members, and other related matters.

Second, **FWWG Strategic Plan**: this document sets out the vision, key values, goals and objectives of our working group.

Third, **FWWG Bylaws**: this document describes the structure, governance, member duties, etc. that guide and inform the operation of the FWWG.

Fourth, **FWWG Themes**: this document highlights the key themes under which the board is pursuing activities and operating for the next two to five years, and are broadly classified as Student Opportunities, Fundraising, Membership, Topical Paper, and Community Engagement. Each board member is expected to either sign up for existing projects or identify additional projects that they are interested in contributing to as a board member. New members should meet and discuss opportunities with the President and Vice President at the start of their term, and are expected to attend quarterly FWWG board meetings to report on progress.

Fifth, **FWWG Board Member Contract**: this document sets out the Society’s expectations of each board member and what the board member can expect from the FWWG and SCB. The FWWG Board Member Contract needs to be signed by each board member within a month of joining the board. As a FWWG board member you can join two related list serves: FWWG email list and the FWWG Board list. Details about these lists are set out below:

1. The **FWWG Email List** which is open to any SCB member to join. This is a moderated list and you can see an archive of topics / threads at <https://conbio.org/groups/working-groups/freshwater/freshwater-email-list/>
2. The **FWWG Board List** is a list dedicated to board members only ([FWWGBoard@conbio.org](mailto:FWWGBoard@conbio.org)). This is a list set up via Google Groups. To join the board member list the FWWG President will send you an email which allows you to join the FWWG Board list. Joining this list allows you to receive and respond to discussions relevant to the FWWG Board.

Finally, please note that this is a working document and any improvements, suggestions or corrections are welcomed.

Thank you again for your interest in SCB leadership and for joining the FWWG board!