

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee Monthly Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2010, 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Participants: Karen McDowell, Stephen Phillips, Diane Cooper, John Wullschleger, Louanne McMartin, Bob McMahan

Items Discussed:

1) Annual Meeting Summary Review (all)

Minor changes were submitted and members agreed to accept the revised minutes and send final report to WRP members.

2) Existing Working Groups (Stephen Phillips)

The Dreissenid Early Detection Standards and Protocols Working Group: The lab survey results (presented as Power Point at WRP meeting) were sent out to participating labs (and there were no comments). The PPT can be found at <http://www.aquaticnuisance.org/articles>, under “Zebra/Quagga Mussel”

Dreissenid Early Detection Standards and Protocols Coordination, Kevin Kelly, BOR, lead.
The 2 workshops discussed at the annual WRP scheduled for February to provide technical information on plankton sampling and lab accreditation are on hold until funding (QZAP) is secured from FWS.

ISAC PCR EDRR committee will outline a white paper for PCR validation/cert/technology. Waiting for John Darling’s (EPA) report to help prepare white paper. Bob McMahan set out process to bring labs up to a standard, validation and how to certify. Bob indicated that it is important to first educate field personnel, as collection and preserving are not being done the same way. Fresh samples are needed for microscopy and should be put on ice right after collecting them. Likely not all technicians are doing this. Potential ISAC interim meeting webinar is being planned to bring expertise to a wide audience about PCR validation.

Threats To the West Brochure – (via e-mail from Paul Heimowitz) A poll to WRP membership will go out early next week to help select featured species. Cynthia Tait and Paul revised the text and are getting feedback from the rest of the team. Expect reprinting this spring if not before.

3) New Work Group Leads and Updates:

Water Craft Inspection and Decontamination. Lead – (Stephen)
Columbia Basin group (with QZAP funding) working on standardization and protocols of boat inspections and decontamination across the West that would allow inspection stations to recognize and accept inspections from across jurisdictional boundaries, thus allowing boaters with proof of inspection coming from another water body to launch boats without going through another inspection. This should help to streamline inspections reduce confusion within the boating community. Additionally, it would be useful to create and share standard forms electronically.

Conflict Management Committee – Lead not designated

Marine Issues – Lead: Kevin Anderson

Field Cleaning – Leads: Tammy Davis and Bob Wiltshire

Annual Meeting Committee: Tammy Davis, Karen McDowell, Susan Ellis, (Diane Cooper will assist on side). Committee has already started and will start working in earnest come January.

Web site group – Bob to check with Dave

WRP members at annual meeting volunteering to be on committees and perhaps lead (several names listed) - Steve will contact these people. Discussion of what process to use to get leads for new committee and update of committee activities will continue on the January conference call.

4) Panel coordinator

Louanne McMartin is Acting WRP Coordinator until Thursday, December 23rd, 2010

Aaron Webber from the Salt Lake City FWS will follow starting Monday, January 3 - 28, 2011

Louanne informed the ExComm members of the R6 Fisheries senior staff review of the WRP annual meeting minutes section, "Options for Panel Coordinator" and information of how other Panels use the 50K funding. Considering the current and future duties and responsibilities of the AIS Coordinator position, Option #4 and #5 were viewed as more feasible by R6 Fisheries staff. Currently, R6 is the only FWS Region providing a panel coordinator at no cost and has done so at R6 expense for a number of years. R6 would like to see a change and will bring this issue to the table with Service regions involved with the WRP.

Ex-comm members were unanimous in voting for Option #1 (Status Quo). The concern is that with the large WRP geographic area, there will be no funding for travel and meeting attendance will go down considerably, WRP will be less effective, and important projects may not get funded.

Next Call: Next call is Thursday, **January 13th** at 9 am Pacific, 10 am Mountain, 11 am Central.