

Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Present: Karen McDowell, Andy Burgess, Erin Williams, Eileen Ryce, Amy Ferriter, Blake Feist, Lynn Schlueter

Absent: Diane Cooper, John Wullschleger, Bob McMahon, Kevin Anderson

1. WRP Presentations for May ANSTF meeting

Panel funding support letter to ANSTF: Panel Chairs and Coordinator received copies of all Panel letters sent to ANSTF. As it is a very large size electronic file, if you would like a copy of all six letters, please contact Erin.

The May 19-21, 2009, ANS Task Force meeting will be hosted by the WRP. Presentations for the half-day of WRP presentations on Tuesday, May 19, were decided. These will be 15-20 minute presentations with 10-15 minutes for discussion and questions. The Center for Invasive Plant Management will host a reception on Wednesday evening after field trip.

WRP presentations for the ANSTF will be:

- 1) Montana: Recreational fishing, Illegal fish introductions, Impacts/Politics of Intentional Introductions, Bait, *Eileen Ryce and Montana speaker*, (45 mins)
- 2) Summary of marine issues (spartina, green crab, BW coordination, etc.), *Karen McDowell*, 45 mins
- 3) Success stories of Panel funded projects, *Erin Williams*, 45 mins
- 4) Trailered boat analysis (100th Meridian database), *Dave Britton*, 30 mins

2) Q-ZAP and April 8th meeting update

There was a conference call on Feb. 11th with Steering Committee members to discuss process and Dave Britton was going to send out timeline for development of the plan. FWS Regional Coordinators are helping put together portions of the Action Plan. The plan is targeted to be no longer than 20 pages + appendices. The draft plan (priorities primarily) will be sent to Panel members prior to April 8th meeting for review. There will be a meeting on April 8th to review the draft plan. Due to travel restrictions, many state coordinators are not able to attend. A conference call line will be available for those that can participate via phone. A few additional people were invited to participate in that "special" Panel meeting – including Ric DeLeon, CA Dept of Boating and Waterways, and CA Dept of Water Resources. Steering Committee members will meet on April 9th to edit the plan.

3. WRP Annual Meeting Update (Sept. 8-10, 2009 in Seattle, WA)

The annual meeting will be located at the Edgewater Hotel. A purchase order is being finalized and once that is in place, Erin will send out hotel reservation information. Field trip ideas are being discussed as well as potential agenda items, including a focus on early detection/rapid response as a theme. The next annual meeting conference call will occur on March 25th.

4. 2008 Grant proposals update

The Carla Hoopes, Montana, grant agreement is in place, and that project has started. FWS Contracting is processing Bob Wiltshire's grant agreement for both projects; Bob received the paperwork to sign. Once Contracting receives the signed agreement back from Bob, the contract will be finalized within a few weeks. Bob's river permit user project start has been delayed to next year. Permits were sent out from Montana without coordinating the mailing to include the

information from Bob/Eileen. So rather than send out an additional mailing to 17,000 people, the decision was made to delay the start of that project.

5. Workgroups updates

Blake Feist will be holding another workgroup conference call soon.

Louanne McMartin is reviewing climate change and invasive species research and information, as well as the FWS draft plan. One topic that has come up in several documents is the discussion concerning the definition of invasive species and assisted relocation for some species. Climate change may allow some species - both native and non-natives - to move into areas that once they were limited because of climate.

Another topic is assisted migration. For species that are not able to establish themselves in a new area, assisted migration is one idea that has been discussed. However, some people have commented that the species that we assist in their migration may outcompete the native ones. Once the draft FWS strategic plan has incorporated the comments from within the agency, the plan is to be reviewed by other agencies and interested parties outside the agency. Perhaps at that time, the Panel's climate change workgroup could review the plan to address these and other NIS topics.

6. Other news or business from the group:

Due to the April 8th meeting, the next ExComm call will be at a different time and day: Wednesday, April 15th at 12 pm Pacific; 1 pm Mountain; 2 pm Central.