

**Minutes**  
**WRP Executive Committee Conference Call**  
**Thursday, April 12, 2007**

**Members Present: Eileen Ryce, Jason Goeckler, John Wullschleger, Karen McDowell, Kevin Anderson, Robyn Draheim, Susan Ellis, Tina Proctor**  
**Committee Chair present: Paul Heimowitz**

**Members Absent: Billie Kerans, Lynn Schlueter**

**Next conference call will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) due to conflict with ANS Task Force meeting in Erie, PA. Tina, Eileen, Susan and Karen will all be attending.**

**1. Reports from Committees**

- a. Annual meeting committee  
Tina reviewed the agenda; she is still working on finding a hotel. The EC discussed how the WRP can be more help to Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. Paul mentioned that in his discussion with Hawaii folks, there has not been a defined need for a Pacific Islands Regional Panel. Sara or Tony can talk about existing coordination in Hawaii at the meeting. It was suggested that we invite someone from Guam and talk about coordination.
- b. Bio-Supply Houses  
Paul reported the committee had a conference call in March. They will work on developing recommendations to the Task Force from the WRP. They are looking at broadening the committee membership to include at least one teacher or curriculum developer and a rep from a biological supply house. Paul will follow up with Jamie Reese at Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC). He will schedule the next call for May and will have recommendations for the WRP annual meeting.
- c. Work plan committee  
Susan agreed to be the chair. Kevin did most of the committee work last year. The EC did a review of the RFP and the proposals. The work plan committee can do most of their work by phone and e-mail. The committee is Susan, Eileen, Kevin and Karen.

**2. Emerging Issues for ANSTF meeting**

Scott Newsham asked the regional panels to submit a paragraph or two on emerging issues. The EC discussed several and decided to submit paragraphs on the following:

- a. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). Jason and Eileen will write – recommend that the states have a standard for movement of fish.
- b. Lack of enough funds for states. Eileen will write.
- c. Bio-supply houses (may wait until after annual meeting to submit to ANSTF)
- d. Coordination with Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation – getting them engaged in ANS issues. Jason will write.

Due date: April 25<sup>th</sup> to Tina. Tina will sent the paragraphs to the EC and then to Scott.

### **3. The Nature Conservancy Meeting – Las Vegas, NV**

Tina represented the WRP at The Nature Conservancy meeting on Management and Policy Strategies for Invasive Aquatic Animal Species in Las Vegas on March 27-28. The purpose of the workshop was to develop strategies for TNC to address the threat of invasive aquatic animal species through its projects and programs. Outcomes were a series of topic-specific work plans, including participant commitments for implementation actions, peer networking, and support from TNC's Global Invasive Species Initiative. Chris Pague from Colorado has agreed to be the TNC representative to the WRP.

### **4. Update on quagga mussels in the southwest**

Presence of quaggas in Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu is spotty. California did surface surveys at 200 spots focusing on Colorado River and lakes. They stepped up enforcement at the border crossings. Lake Mead is stepping up cleaning by concessionaires at main marinas. There are lots of access points at Lake Mead with no stops. Because the lake level is so much lower due to drought, many people took their boats out and moved them. NPS also moved one of the marinas.

Susan reported on the CA Science Support Committee. This group feels it is technically feasible to kill mussels in Lake Mead and that it should be done whatever the cost. Andy Cohen is writing a report. NPS also convened a science panel and decided that eradication is not feasible. (Note: Since this call, it has been reported that there are quagga mussel veligers throughout the lake). Several million dollars have been appropriated by CA legislature to survey for quaggas and to detect them on boats moving into the state.

Robyn reported that Oregon has pending legislation which would prevent anyone from launching boats with visible ANS. It is unlikely to pass.

### **5. WRP funding – boater surveys at Lake Mead**

Tina has written a cooperative agreement with Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger at U. of Nevada LV to do boater surveys at Lake Mead this summer to increase the information we have regarding where boats go to from there.

### **6. Report on other WRP Projects**

Lars Anderson project, "Development of Preemptive Rapid Response Teams for Aquatic Weeds" is completed and the final report has been submitted. Tina will get a digital copy and have it put on the web site.

## **7. Memo from Joe Starinchak**

The EC discussed the e-mail memo from Joe Starinchak, asking if we could conduct an inventory of our panel members about whether they have joined either of the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers or Habitattitude campaigns. Joe would like to know why member organizations have not joined and if they have used the resources of the campaigns. After a discussion of the campaigns, it was decided that Kevin would survey members through an e-mail. He will write it and the EC will review it first. The next action will be to have a dialogue with Joe about what is or isn't working for the panel members who are engaged in either campaign.