

**Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call
Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2006**

Members Present: Kevin Anderson, Karen McDowell, Susan Ellis, John Wullschleger, Tina Proctor

Members Absent: Blaine Parker, Bob Piorkowski, Eileen Ryce, John Chapman, Robyn Draheim

1. Revised RFP

The EC discussed the RFP. Karen asked if there could be a 15% overhead limit. Tina said she would check with FWS contracting department. Kevin will send the latest draft out to the EC for comments. The final needs to be sent to the listserve as soon as possible. (note: it was sent July 20th). Timeline: announcement – mid-July, proposals due – mid-August; initial screening by EC; short list to membership by Sept. 7th. We will ask the top 6 to make presentations or their state representative can make a presentation at the annual meeting.

2. Gov to Gov training at Annual Meeting

Kevin found out that the EPA trainers will do the training for a minimum of 15 people. The WRP will pay for one-night hotel for the two trainers but otherwise they don't charge for their time. They have also asked for money for gifts for participating Tribal members. Tina will contact Robyn and Paul to see if they can find some other state or federal staff who would like to participate. Eight WRP members responded to Kevin's e-mail expressing interest in attending. The date will be September 12th.

3. Tribal Conference, November 7-9

Tina will contact Robin Powell to discuss providing a WRP speaker for the National Tribal Invasive Species Conference in Sparks, Nevada on November 7-9. Hopefully there can be discussion about how interaction between the tribes interested in invasives and the WRP can work in the West.

4. WRP meeting update

The EC asked Tina to send the current agenda to them for their review. Everything is going smoothly. Robyn, Blaine, Kevin, Paul Heimowitz and Tina are working on the committee. Tina will get an updated e-mail out to the listserve about the agenda, schedule for tribal training, field trip, and registration. She will

also send an e-mail to give instructions to those people who asked for travel funds.

There will be an election of four members of the EC. Kevin asked Eileen to recruit someone else from one of the inland states. Tina has asked Blaine, John C., John W. and Susan whether they want to run again for their seats – it will be a two-year term this time.

5. Update from PSU project for FY 2006

The agreement for the research project on recreational boat hull fouling in a marine environment has been sent to PSU from the FWS for signature. The funds will be obligated within the required time frame.

6. WRP and State Accomplishment Reports for the ANSTF

Scott Newsham has requested an Accomplishment Report from the regional panels by the end of August. He has developed a simplified template for us to follow. He is especially interested in what we might want from the ANSTF. Karen asked about involvement in ANSTF committees and how Panel members can participate. Is there funding for travel to committee meetings? Are there conference call meetings?

The ANSTF would also like a short report from each of the States which they can combine into a report to Congress. They have asked the Panels to request the reports, making it clear that these are voluntary.

7. Caluerpa Eradication in S. California

Susan announced an event in La Jolla to celebrate the eradication of the Caluerpa taxifolia infestation – it has been three years since they found any live tissue. There was lots of press coverage and high level people attending.