

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday April 24, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Joanne Grady, Stephen Phillips, Tom McMahon, Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Earl Chilton, Bob McMahon and Allison Begley.

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah – Stephen Phillips made motion to approve, Joanne Grady second. All in favor, none opposed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination – Elizabeth – Western Governors Association (WGA) update went to the advisory board meeting in April. All of the states were represented and distributed the WRP fact sheet. There is a clear desire from the WGA to specifically work on AIS, and also interested in weeds. Elizabeth has had two separate meetings with the WGA policy liaison. WGA works on a resolution basis with surveys and assessments; they do not work by committee. The staff works on a variety of things but don't really have action items. They had a closed door discussion on the possibility of action items. Elizabeth scheduled a meeting with WGA in June. Door to WGA is open now and they want to bolster our efforts. They are pleased to work with a 19 western state entity. No word from PNWER since the letter has been sent. Next steps with other entities - We have the very long list of groups and should prioritize the groups for the next phase of contact. Stephen – will give a presentation at PNWER in July; the ICAIS meetings are on hold right now which could have been a great place to do this; he suggests a summit meeting of all of these groups that could be focused around QZ to divide up tasks and coordinate, with facilitated outcomes and agreement. The goal would be to avoid redundancy in our tasks. Leah- suggested could send out a generic letter to those groups on the list via email to the primary contact and fact sheet as email. Elizabeth – agreed that cold call letter might be good. A letter that states who we are, what we are doing and if you would like to work with us. Joanne – one of the initial concerns was that duplication of effort; Elizabeth – is there anyone on the list beyond WGA to make close contact with. Allison – do we have a strong enough relationship with AFWA? Elizabeth – yes and with WAFWA. Elizabeth – AIS is polarized between terrestrial and aquatic. This could be opportunity to join up with terrestrial efforts. We are seeing a lot of the weed groups change their names to chase aquatic funding. Also did reach back out to the Healthy Habitats folks to connect with the WRP Ex Comm, but they are not interested in talking with us. Leah – will gather appropriate contacts, draft generic letter, and coordinate sending out with Elizabeth.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen – No new news on Healthy Habitats. Elizabeth –but have heard that they will be going to “the hill” the last week of May to lobby. Stephen – we have been talking to Rep Thompson (CA) in bringing forth some type of reauthorization of NISA. The Lake Powell issue has gotten people motivated, including some congressional members. We are always looking for money for the states, such as increasing the ANSTF grant program from \$1 million to \$4 million. A question generated from managers in WA during their recent passage of AIS specific legislation- What can we do to improve authorities and federal -state working

relationship? At Mead/Powell –decontamination cannot be required because they do not have the authority. Some of this may be addressed in the DOI on-off federal lands document that will be presented at the May ANSTF meeting. Powell is taking the 1st step in quagga management planning process. Nothing on PLAQ Act, and there is no new news on Tahoe Restoration Act that includes quagga lacy listing language. The WRDA should be out in May. Based on FY2014 DOI, what is the Park Service going to do with their 2 Million? John Wullschleger– We were unsure if this \$2M was new or reallocated, in the end it is new money, but in future years it will not be available. For example, from the \$4M this year, Glen Canyon will receive \$700K, \$500K to Lake Mead, \$200K to Black Canyon of the Gunnison, \$250K to Curecanti, and Grand Teton and others with smaller amounts. Not sure how will be utilized exactly. To date the bulk of the money has been cobbled together to implement programs. Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA, aka “fee money”) – where parks raise fees and are able to keep the funds at the specific park. Glenn Canyon has been tapping the “fee money” for a lot of the prevention; Mead was using southern Nevada public lands management money (no money left), some parks have borrowed from other park programs. Curecanti got \$250K, and with the “new” money there will be pressure to put money back into the programs that it has been used from in the past. The amounts that we are talking about are less than what we are currently spending. It is not entirely in the control of the individual park superintendent or even John. The fee program has a lot of restrictions. The need has increased and the absolute amount of money is decreasing. State of UT has given \$70K and USFWS \$750K to be utilized at Glen Canyon. Elizabeth – Will Curacanti money be \$250K next year? John - not necessarily. It has spent a lot of money out of other programs, and will have put in requests for increase in base funding. The budget for Glen was \$1.2M and Mead \$1M. John will be involved in discussion with parks moving forward. Elizabeth - When will we learn about the response for what Glenn will be planning? John –last week sat down to discuss an extended response given the budgetary quantities. He will see a draft of what will be done, and the next plan is for the superintendent to work with AZ and UT and make sure that their potential actions are consistent with the states. Earl – when Zebra mussels invaded did the operating costs of the generating station at Powell go up? John – They are not seeing those numbers yet, but he assumes they did at Mead. In conversation with Bob McMahon and David Wong they agree, and may see that exponential jump happen this year. Stephen – we are going to need to add in something (in reauthorization of NISA) for dedicated funding for Park Service. John – and the numbers will have to be more realistic. Really not enough funding at this point in time. Joanne – in USFWS that money was re-appropriated as well. What was the word used for fee money? John - FLREA – money collected at the gate of the park. Elizabeth – In Colorado national parks will use natural resource funding, enforcement funding etc and the state helps too at Curecanti, and other parks and states across the west support similarly. States will have to continue to support. John – there will be forces at work to reallocate to the original sources. Elizabeth – when you left the Powell planning meeting were you pleased? John – mostly, there are some concerns that may or may not be realized. Some from the region were invited to the meeting. It will not be perfect there are some things that may not work as well as they like. They will try to use concessionaries for cleaning boats at Powell, basically dedicating ramp staff to contact boaters. So, everyone that

leaves there will be required to get their boat cleaned, because they will not be able to impose decontamination. On a broader scale, Todd Brindle (Powell superintendent) seems to be more willing to engage in electronic tracking system. Gene Seagle (recently of Colorado Parks and Wildlife and now Curecanti) gave convincing plug. Stephen – next week in Phoenix we can talk about the e-tracking and pilot at Powell, which could help it take a significant step forward. John – bulk of the money at Powell will be shifting to containment. He feels hopeful and hears a lot of willingness to do the right thing.

- D) Letter to USFWS for funding allocation for coordination (2013 letter reviewed) - Joanne – Panel funding is a process that is fuzzy. The panels don't get a letter like the states do for funding. The Ex Comm will need to provide a revised letter to Joanne that states that WRP wants to continue with allocating panel funding to coordination services with Invasive Species Action Network. Letter will include allocations as previous one in 2013. Leah – will draft letter and send to Elizabeth for finalization. Must be submitted to Joanne in early May.
- E) Re-election for Ex Comm members – Leah – Beth Bear, Earl Chilton, Bob McMahon and John Wullshleger are all up for Ex Comm re-election in 2014. These individuals will have to consider if they want to submit statement of interest for election.
- F) WIT Training discussion – Elizabeth – She is working with Dee Davis (WIT contracted trainer for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission) on the regional WIT training in implementing parts of Building Consensus workshop results. Elizabeth went to Havasu training and worked with the team down there (Ashley Watters of Mead, Kami Silverwood of AZ Game and Fish, etc). Trying to work back from the September WRP meeting, and there are plans to have some solid documents to have ready for Houston. They have been working on this unofficially, but because of Building Consensus the training has the WRP stamp. The goal is to get something out that folks can review by July and make revisions for another draft for August and discuss in Sept. Will need to put in writing requests for states to provide information. Do we need to make this effort a formal committee? Elizabeth sees this as a short term workgroup, where they would work through this winter implement and make changes. She has asked Kami to keep the ball rolling, and someone at Powell may be wrapped in to the group as well. Earl – is it this fall will the new level of trainer courses be coming out? Elizabeth – yes, that is one of the big topics of conversation, and we will need state feedback. Earl – discussion on limitations with certification for those without on- the- ground training. Elizabeth- we realize there are limitations and will try to make exceptions on how it is appropriate. If others want to participate let Elizabeth know. Elizabeth - Should we formalize this work effort? Tom – yes. Joanne made motion to create a WIT training workgroup as part of WRP, Earl seconds, all in favor. *Note* in minutes review Beth Bear volunteered to serve on workgroup.
- G) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Earl Chilton – Checking on field trip details and looks like we have 3-4 airboats on the reservoir but it may depend on the number of people. Could possibly split the group, but this will depend on the growth of the weeds at the time of the field trip. If the weed growth is not bad, then we could use regular boats. Would also like to set nets in Brays Bayou. He has made inquiries about an exotic

species evening mixer, where we could have a chef prepare AIS for dinner. Leah received email requesting that Ex Comm consider re-instating the verbal member report into the annual meeting agenda. How would the group like to proceed? Stephen – let's get an idea of who want to do it and carve out the time. Tell people 3 minutes. He agrees that it is a good idea as well. Allison – agrees, or this may be something we don't do every year. Another idea is it could be given during All Member Call. Leah – one suggestion may be to do member reports during a lunch, however there is then the cost of the lunch. Earl – suggested that we perhaps bring in outside food, more like a sack lunch to reduce costs. Leah will clarify on outside food approval with the hotel. Leah will contact Beth (vice-chair is responsible for member reports) to ask her to solicit members and find out who wants to talk. Leah - The planning committee has been meeting monthly to address the agenda and speakers. Once the group meets next week, she will provide the current draft agenda for the Ex Comm to review.

- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady –model legislative document is ready and has been forwarded to WRP. AFWA and others will be looking at existing state law and comparing to the model, and working with other law compilations that are ongoing. They will begin to work on model regulations which will be tightly tied to the state AIS coordinators input etc. Moving forward we will see some tighter communications with the coordinators and legal folks. Federal Lands group, chaired by Angelone, have a document produced that will be presented at ANSTF and ISAC which is currently at solicitors review. The document is strong on what they have in place now but, there is a way to go on the next step of consistent regulation. These next steps require agency commitment and the process is lengthy for rulemaking for each agency. May 21 is the next conference call for the Building Consensus group. Stephen – moving forward with the new PSMFC AIS website (working with Lisa DeBuckeyre). He will meet in next couple weeks and will go over components for the website. On the WIT content there is a lot of back fill on proper documents.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula -At the last call of the coastal committee when preparing our ANSTF report, members indicated that they wanted greater discussion on future priorities and that these may inform out ANSTF reports. The next coastal committee call is scheduled for May 8 (8am HI time). Over a series of calls the group will be fleshing out its future work priorities. The May 8 meeting will be the first discussion of three. The coastal committee will present their priorities to the WRP Meeting in September 2014. The chair is talking with Gulf States regarding work in the west and how this may marry up, or be useful, for their region. At the Pacific Ballast Water Meeting in Portland Oregon (April 15-16) the state coordinators for vessel mediated AIS transfers (ballast water and biofouling) had an opportunity to discuss overlapping policy initiatives for ship's biofouling. The coordinators expressed a desire to pursue regional consistency for biofouling policies (preventative management and in-water cleaning risks) and will be looking at ways to support these efforts. The group discussed whether a WRP letter would be useful to 'formalize' the commitment for consistency in the west, as well as one from the Pacific Ballast Water Group. Tunicate

workshop progress - The workshop is planned for early August 2014. The date will be finalized at the next call on April 28. Some of the Sea Grants in the west have committed funds to the workshop. The location will be Seattle and two options are being pursued for hosts (Jeff Cordell's group and Sea Grant Washington). Once dates and the location is set, the group will finalize the agenda and begin inviting participants to help achieve the goals of the workshop.

- d. Membership Committee– Leah Elwell – No significant news or activity. Awaiting reply from panel recommendation at the upcoming ANSTF meeting regarding assistance on vacant federal agency partners.
 - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips - Elizabeth – Wake werx – Nautic has committed to putting the filtration unit in new boats, Mastercraft has been quiet, Malibu has a big challenge with different pumping mechanisms in the boats that affect how the filter could be used in their system. Skiers Choice no response. They are going through the manufacturers, and expect to see the unit on boats this season. The biggest concern is that inspectors know what to do when they encounter them. Elizabeth is helping to edit and working with states to distribute, Dee is working on the flow chart for inspection process. They have been working with NMMA, and will be bringing sample to ANSTF.
 - f. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Leah; Stephen - Doing a 501c3 is complicated. Not knowing a lot, he suggests MOA with Joanne as long as ISAN is the coordinating body for the panel. He is just not sure if people will want to give money to a federally enabled body? There might need to be some paperwork as ISAN is the fiscal manager and WRP is the recognized recipient. The WRP Ex Comm could create the letter, and then clarify with Joanne. Earl – essentially talking about simply using ISAN as the 501c3. He suggested that filing for a 501c3 may not require a filing fee. This would have to be clarified. Leah –It will be made clear that in the current fiscal management scenario people would be made aware that when they donate that they send to ISAN and it will be used entirely on WRP (e.g. donations for the annual meeting expenses). Stephen - Figure out the right documentation and clarify the arrangements and overhead etc. Currently ISAN is serving as the fiscal manager. ***NOTE ***Elizabeth missed the discussion. In follow up, she would like to document this decision by the Ex Comm formally in some way. She suggested the development of a Fiscal management policy.
- H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – There has been a recent flurry of activity and will likely be taken up at the ANSTF meeting next month.
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – They had last call several months ago and will be discussing some of this next week in Phoenix for the \$1M for QZAP, and then with Laura Norcutt in the next few months.
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – is dealing with comments from ANSTF right now. This is close to done.

- e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
- f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear -
- l) Leah – will doodle to re-schedule the May Ex Comm.