

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday August 11th 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Bob McMahon, Leah Elwell, Elizabeth Brown, Beth Bear, Dennis Zabaglo, Mark Sytsma, and John Wullschleger.

Minutes

- A) Approval of July minutes - Leah Elwell – John motioned to approve, and Bob seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update - Elizabeth
 - a. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Summer meeting results – Elizabeth;
 - i. Joanne and Leah presented to the WAFWA AIS committee July 22 in Cody, WY. The committee and the subsequent Directors approved a final resolution related to inspection/decontamination regulations. The resolution statement includes consistent regulations related to Clean Drain Dry, drain plug removal when leaving waters of the state, no overland transport with plug in and removing plants when leaving water of state. It was a huge victory in the process of Building Consensus implementation. Does this mean that every state will pursue a regulation? Yes, essentially. It will vary in how it happens – they will explore what it means to implement. Working through the language as a collective would be good. The listing and delisting of waterbodies are a good example of using consistently as they are not in regulation (an agreement in principle). Moving into other aspects of BC. What are the next implementation steps? The next items should be prioritized and brought back to WAFWA again at their July Summer meeting.
 - ii. There will be a state/BC/WAFWA discussion prior to WRP meeting. Joanne, Beth, Leah and Elizabeth will work through the agenda with Mark Fowden (Chair of WAFWA AIS committee). A goal must be identified for that meeting. Is it the strategy (long-term vision) of how best to implement portions of BC? Funding/Fee discussion (a more consistent way to raise funding across the region) is also a discussion possibility.
 - b. Missouri River Basin Team meeting –Leah; Joanne currently leads this 100th Meridian Team. They met in Bozeman in July; attended by MT, ND, IA, MS, KS, WY. Elwell shared WRP update. A discussion on refining the process and determining protocols for submitting to the MT Veliger Lab occurred among Team members. Currently the MT Veliger Lab is supported by 100th Meridian funding.
 - c. Lab processing discussion - BOR is now charging to process sampling. Availability of reliable and economic labs for processing monitoring samples is very important. It was suggested that the BC lab protocol committee would look at what lab options/costs are currently out there. In general, there are capacity problems with monitoring/sample

processing. If that funding (100th Meridian) is not there in the future – how will we create stable funding?

C) Legislation update – Stephen

- a. 2016 Water Resources Development Act has a decent chance of passing; FY 2017 Senate Energy and Water appropriations has \$1M set aside for AIS monitoring.
- b. Lacy Act Bill (Gillibrand-Slaughter) was just re-introduced (to keep it “fresh” for 2017).
- c. FY 2017 House Interior/EPA bill’s report language includes \$3.7M for state AIS plans. Full funding for the state plan program could impact other programs in the west, as other AIS line items might need to be re-allocated.
- d. Vessel Incident Discharge Act – This bill will try to resolved in September.

D) Membership election update – Leah – Currently there are 5 open seats on the Ex Comm. There have been 4 people express interest in those seats. Others have expressed interest other vacant membership slots; Inland –Aquaculture, Inland Academic. Also, the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society membership slot will now be held by Amy Ferriter with Toni Pennington moving on to other activities. Deadline for membership election materials/applications is August 19th.

E) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee – Leah – AAS Fellow with State Department has requested a letter for participation in Jackson. Elizabeth will work with John to get a letter. John made a motion to provide a letter of support for the State Department to attend the Annual Meeting. Bob second. All approved.
 - i. WAFWA + Building Consensus– Elizabeth/Beth- covered above.
 - ii. WRP just received sponsorships from Mussel Dogs and Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
 - iii. Numbers are good for workshops with roughly 15 in each; registration in general is around 35 people total with 28 for the field trip. Leah will push registration and set a deadline to help control total lunch costs.
 - iv. Agenda review – no significant changes during the call. The Invasive Fish session has a few minor adjustments to finalize.
- b. Annual Meeting 2017 Committee – Leah – California Fish and Wildlife will send a representative to do a walk through on the 2 properties that are being considered in San Diego.
- c. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady –
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – Dee and Elizabeth will do a September Train the Trainer at Lake Mead. This fall the plan is to crosswalk the training with the regulations.
 - ii. Legal – Joanne – There was a BC webinar on Monday with the state/provincial coordinators. Stephanie Showalter Otts walked through the draft regulations. Comments are due to her by this Friday. The goal is to finalize the regulation document to share at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) respective Fall meetings in September.

- iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – They launched the regional web data sharing on July 31. She did a survey to decide on the URL: watercraftinspectors.org. At this time NV, NM, UT, and Tahoe will be using. She will do a webinar to demo to the participants in the next few weeks. QZAP has funded one year of maintenance of the system. The request of funding for further development was not approved. CO Parks and Wildlife has paid for development in the past. Dennis/Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has just received a grant from CA for mussel prevention of \$50K may be able to apply some funding to address further development aspects. With additional funding sources TRPA has purchased handheld devices (ipod touch and a case with a barcode scanner, leash and credit card swiper). Elizabeth will keep re-applying for QZAP funds every year, and will look for letters of support.
- iv. Outreach – Beth –The workgroup met on Monday where they recapped from previous efforts and discussed where the group needs to go next. A guide will be assembled that will outline the process used to address different audiences.
- v. Field Sampling Protocol – report from Chair Karen Vargas; there may be some joint meetings with the Lab Standards Workgroup. They met last week with wide variation of participants. They will be re-distributing the spreadsheet that was previously compiled on what agencies using for sampling methods. The goal will be to develop some sort of BMPs.
- vi. Inreach –report from Chair Tammy Davis – She has just initiated a survey to determine the outcomes for the group, and then they will hold their first conference call.
- vii. Lab Standards – Elizabeth – There are about a dozen people on the committee. The committee will be chaired by Steve Wells with PSU. The goal is to focus on microscopy first.
- d. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – Stephen – They are still waiting to finalize the biofouling document. Once that is done they will consider next steps. Aaron Poe, USFWS has initiated an effort to explore and prioritize species in Bearing Sea; however, the purpose of the effort is not yet clear. The CC will have some type of role in the effort.
- e. Membership Committee – Leah - The committee met in June and determined that they would draft and distribute a letter encouraging participation among inactive entities. The letter has been drafted, but not yet sent. Susan Pasko contact the WRP in the meantime to begin assisting in filling vacant federal member slots on the WRP.

F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Education and Outreach Committee- Elizabeth – no new information. Susan is working to get the SAH website populated. The website design was demoed at the last ANSTF meeting. The goal is to be live in spring 2017. Stephen – He/Lisa DeBruckyere are facilitating some specific outreach to commercial haulers with other western partners.

- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis –Joanne has obtained a booth for International Boatbuilders Exposition in Tampa. Dennis will present a seminar with Brian Goodwin. Technical information report work team will be examining the 2nd draft.
- c. Economic Committee – John – There is a debate within the group about the approach; case-studies or some type of standardized methodology with numbers. They are working on how it would be assembled. They will meet in August. Spreadsheet that Tom McMahon pulled together on QZ and boats will be looped into it.
- d. QZAP – Stephen - do we need this on the agenda? He will circle back with Susan Pasko to clarify for the future need of the committee.
- e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen – There is a program committee for the webinars and Capitol Hill briefing. The major topics of the webinars are outreach education, rapid response and biocontrol. The dates are the last week of February. He will be doing hill visits from western partners. Leigh Greenwood is working on the webinars and can be contacted about including western topics on the webinars.

G) Announcements – ALL -