

Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call
October 11, 2007
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Amy Ferriter, Eileen Ryce, Karen McDowell, Kevin Anderson, Jason Goeckler, John Wullschleger, Tina Proctor

Members Absent: Billie Kerans, Lynn Schlueter, Andy Burgess

1. Hawaii Annual Meeting

The EC discussed the annual meeting and made a few suggestions. Kevin thought the field trip before the meeting worked well. Others concurred. The awards for best photo, slide, slogan, etc. need to be announced earlier next year with more clarity about who can participate. The EC felt there was a lot of potential for this part of the meeting. Karen was very pleased with the pre-voting on the projects – it made everything run much smoother. Everyone agreed that the voting should be done earlier as well. Another positive were the sessions with presentations and discussions. People stayed and didn't leave even though the rapid response session was at the end of the meeting. Appreciation for Dr. Abbott's talk was expressed. It was also mentioned that the social function could have been planned better.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Kevin nominated Eileen Ryce to be Chair. Amy seconded. Unanimous approval. Eileen nominated Jason to be Vice Chair, Amy seconded. Unanimous approval.

The election is for one year according to the Guidelines for Procedures (2006).

3. Proposal funding

There was considerable discussion about how to fund the top 2-3 projects. They are: 1) Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (\$8,998), 2) Train the Trainer: Master Gardeners Prevent Aquatic Invasive Plant Introductions through Community Education and Outreach (\$14,950), and 3) Professional Awareness of Flowering Rush in the Headwaters of the Columbia River System (\$10,750). It was finally decided to find out from Susan Ellis if the CA Department of Fish and Game will be able to give \$6,000 to the Master Gardener project and if so, the WRP will fund #1 entirely, #2 partially and #3 entirely.

Colorado ANS Management Plan	\$9,000.00
Master Gardeners	\$8,950.00
Flowering Rush	\$10,750.00
Total	\$28,700.00

4. VHS Virus

There is concern about this virus across the entire Panel, that this may be the most serious ANS that we have to deal with. If it is defined as an ANS by the ANSTF, it will encourage states to put into their management plans. Eileen will reiterate the WRP position at the ANSTF meeting in November, 2007 in Arlington, VA.

5. Special Permit Provisions

The EC decided to change the original request to the ANSTF and ask specifically they create a document which summarizes what all members have policies regarding movement of equipment between waterbodies. There is a need for communication from top level down.

Jason will re-write the issue for submission to the Task Force and ask for EC input (final copy attached). Eileen will present to the TF in November.

6. State Management Plan Survey 2007

The EC discussed the three questions regarding the State Management Plan Survey that were presented to the states before the WRP meeting in Hawaii. The main change that was made at the meeting was on question 3. The members thought that the WRP response to funding, that "all responders agreed that funds should be divided equally." The EC agreed that the rest of the responses would be presented after the sentence: "The discussion also included the following." Eileen will send the summary to Scott Newsham for discussion at the ANSTF meeting in November.

7. Perry Reservoir in Kansas

Zebra mussels have now been found in Perry Reservoir in Kansas which is in the Kansas River drainage and (gasp!) leads to the Missouri River. Perry is 10 miles from the capitol of Topeka. The invasion was caught super early, an example of a public awareness success story. They took planktonic samples from all over the reservoir and found 5 veligers total. Perry Reservoir is 11,500 acres, an ACE lake. There are lots of sailboats and angling for crappies is important. This is a new drainage for zebra mussels and could have huge repercussions.

Request to ANSTF regarding decontamination of equipment by federal agencies or contractors when moving between waterbodies. October, 2007

It is well documented that the movement of contaminated equipment between waterbodies is a significant vector for spreading zebra mussels and other ANS. Federal, state, and regional entities and their contractors frequently move equipment between waterbodies as part of their associated activities. Without proper decontamination prior to equipment movement, ANS can be unknowingly and illegally transferred from infested waters to uninfested waters. The Western Regional Panel recommends that the ANSTF recognize this as a significant vector for the spread of ANS and encourages member agencies to require decontamination of all equipment prior to movement. Further, the Western Regional Panel requests that the ANSTF develop a document of all the member agencies decontamination policies and provide copies of the policies for local ANS managers to reference. The WRP requests that agencies with decontamination policies emphasize the policies and provide language in all permits or contracts to require decontamination. Agencies that currently do not have decontamination policies in place, should explain why policies have not been established and what is needed to institute.