

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee Monthly Conference Call Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Participants: Kevin Anderson, Elizabeth Brown, Larry Dalton, Karen McDowell, Tom McMahon, Bob McMahon, Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger, Joanne Grady (Coordinator) Christine Boschen, Regional Water Quality Control Board, facilitator (1/2 meeting)

Items discussed:

1) Chair/Vice-Chair Elections

Per unanimous vote (prior to John joining call): Karen McDowell as chair and Elizabeth Brown as vice-chair

2) Facilitated Session Results with Christine Boschen

Elizabeth to pull together a thank you plaque for Christine's volunteer work as facilitator.

Christine Boschen sent the synthesis and the original raw notes from Oakland for transparency. She walked ExCom through synthesis document. WRP decided to hire coordinator in Oakland. While WRP made some work on identifying group's goals/objectives, there is still much work to be done. Christine provided some examples of our potential goals: First concrete goal (have annual meeting). Midterm goal might be to bring on coordinator who could write grant proposals (i.e. specific goal not within our current skills). While third tier is more visionary goals discussed in Oakland (we need to buy time to move toward those ideas).

Hiring coordinator – defining roles/responsibilities between coordinator/chair/ExCom. What are skill sets, resources ExCom has available? What can ExCom contribute before bringing in a coordinator? Christine's synthesis document provides some tables we can use to begin the process. See Table 3 for leadership or support roles for services, accomplishments and functions to identify roles. Suggest modify Table 2 to include the restraints we have.

A number of members provided examples of other good models with effective leadership or effective group. We should summarize what is functional about those examples to use as a model.

A committee will convene to draft plan for new coordinator; Joanne to chair group to include Karen, Kevin, John, Elizabeth, Larry, Stephen and other WRP members. Joanne will deliver the synthesis document to membership with request for additional committee members.

3) Other Review of WRP Meeting

Hotel and field trip bills have been paid. About half of the travel requests have been paid by SFEP. Should have draft notes from Dominique Norton by December 1st for ExCom review. ExCom will supply any comments at December ExCom meeting. Draft minutes will be posted on website following the December ExCom meeting for membership review.

4) ANSTF Meeting

WRP Recommendation presented to ANSTF. ANSTF decided to write letter to agencies of NISC addressing issues of boats moving between states and particularly from infested federally managed water bodies. ANSTF will be relying on WRP to provide substantial commentary for the letter. WRP should recommend ANSTF also copy ISAC on the letter. (The states are receiving some more notifications on boat movements post the October meeting.)

ANSTF voted to move forward with lionfish plan. Texas and Arizona state plans approved.

USGS NAIS database discussion occurred due to loss of NBII cut. Members concerned about impacts on rapid response ability due to delay in getting data input and products out.

Laura Norcutt has ANSTF draft recreational guidelines document with request for comments by December 2nd. (Stephen provided some recommendations on boat decontamination). Karen will send request to panel members. Members should comment as individuals; WRP will not submit consolidated comments.

ANSTF Strategic Plan Update – comments due by December 15th.

Panels met and worked through draft coordinator position description.

5) Outside Newsletter request to reference WRP

Bob will send copy with his edits back to ExCom. Answer to Nancy will come from Karen. Tabled for future meeting: craft procedure for granting permission to groups to use WRP logo.

6) Ballast Tank Letter from States (Elizabeth Brown)

Ted Thayer is coordinating an ad hoc group discussing ballast tanks and difficulty draining/decontaminating for mussels. Group drafted letter for recreational boat manufacturers. Elizabeth asked ExCom to create committee with Ted as the chair to put letter out there and start dialogue with manufacturers.

Executive Committee approved WRP contributing to letter and creation of “Ballast Tank” committee with Ted Thayer as chair. Elizabeth to provide committee name and to Letter to be reviewed by ExCom by Wed, Nov 23rd. Ted will revise letter for Karen’s signature as chair. Karen will send blanket letter to membership with request for volunteers to join committee.

7) Increased Communications with WAFWA (Elizabeth Brown)

Larry Riley in Arizona is chair of WAFWA AIS Committee. They’d like increased coordination with WRP. They’d like state coordinators to join WAFWA committee and provide link to WRP to synthesize efforts to get more bang for their buck.

Think about how this could help the western AIS effort. Most of the state coordinators participate in WRP and most of their bosses participate in WAFWA. Idaho lacks this immediate connection as their AIS coordinator work for states’ Ag Dept. WAFWA is organization of state fish and wildlife agencies, so federal agencies, universities, NGOs, etc. are not members.

While all agreed this was a good idea there was no conclusion reached on specific mechanisms for increased communications.

8) Pacific Marine and Estuary NFH Partnership (Kevin Anderson)

This NFHP is a product of the NFHAP through AFWA and USFWS. This specific partnership is the only one that deals with marine invasives. Part of their strategic plan is to identify regional priorities to protect & restore marine and estuarine habitat. We could help with crafting their regional priorities and ensure invasives remain a priority. FWS & NOAA have developed \$100K in seed money, and there are limited national dollars through the NFHAP. PMEHP recently submitted request to NFHAP Board for official partnership recognition which allow access to FWS NFHAP funding.

PSMFC helped created PMEHP. States of WA, CA and OR fish & game agencies will have a seat as will Stan Allen from PSMFC. Kick-off meeting had 50 people in the room.

Karen will check with Susan Mangin to determine ability of WRP to sit on PMEHP steering committee. If allowed, Kevin is willing to draft request letter and sit in the seat if we get one. ExCom will review at next month’s meeting.

New Business

9) NISAW – Tom McMahon going. Kevin Anderson is a maybe. WRP will cover hotel costs for Tom’s trip per ExCom vote. He will be addressing QZAP issues in DC that week.

10) Next Call: Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central –