

**Western Regional Panel  
Executive Committee Minutes (Draft)  
Thursday, February 09, 2006**

**Members Present: Kevin Anderson, Susan Ellis, Karen McDowell, Robyn Draheim, Tina Proctor**

**Members Absent: Blaine Parker, Eileen Ryce, John Chapman, John Wullschleger, Bob Piorkowski**

**1. Risk Assessment Workshop**

Tina and Jerry Rasmussen (MRBP Coordinator) sent out ballots to WRP and MRBP members to determine the level of interest about a risk assessment workshop. Tina has received 13 ballots so far – due date is Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Twelve people would like to attend the workshop and one does not – everyone preferred the risk assessment 102 option and most people wanted it in the fall. She will send a final report to the EC on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The planning committee will then decide where and when the workshop will be held.

**2. WRP Priorities**

Kevin and Eileen sent out a request for information from the WRP members about goals for the next two years. Kevin received comments from 5 people and was disappointed in the small response. Kevin and Eileen will compile the information with a list of goals which will be sent to the EC for review first and then to the members for prioritization. The EC agreed that the members should be called after this second e-mail goes out to get a personal response regarding their priorities and about their interest in participating in actions pertaining to the highest ranked items.

**3. Website Committee**

Tina will get 2-3 more members for the committee which now includes Tina, Robyn and Karen. David Britton is the webmaster now and she will ask him to serve. She will arrange a conference call to get started on updating the content and deciding what is needed to make the website more useful.

**4. Update on Work Plan 2006**

The University of Texas at Arlington agreed to the 15% overhead for Bob McMahon's zebra mussel project. Tina has contacted Stephen Phillips regarding the totals to be awarded to the three 2006 projects. She will make sure that official letters go to McMahon and Jeffrey Crooks at the Tijuana Slough regarding

their grants. Letters were sent on January 31<sup>st</sup> to people who did not receive funding.

Robyn reported that Mark Sytsma and Lars Anderson discussed the pilot response project regarding aquatic invasive plants. Stephen will create a new contract that can go directly to Lars as the funding has not been available through UC Davis. The due date for the project completion will be by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Susan suggested that Robyn ask for copies of what has been completed so far on the project, e.g. literature review. Robyn will make that request.

## **5. Update on WRP-MRBP Joint Efforts**

Kevin spoke to Jerry Rasmussen about the joint action items from the Wichita meeting. Jerry suggested that we discuss which projects apply to the WRP and identify which actions we can take the lead on.

Susan provided the EC with a list of the joint actions items and updates on what had been completed or was currently being worked on or what still needed to be done. The EC discussed each item and the revised list is attached to this document. See attached WRP/MRBP Action Item Summary.

## **6. NAISA and Ballast Water Legislation**

Kevin reported briefly on the status of two congressional bills. He was asked at the last meeting to notify members about the WRP's role in commenting on congressional legislation.

S 770, The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005, appears unlikely to move this session of congress. The bill would reauthorize NISA and update the provisions related to prevention (including ballast water management), early detection and rapid response, research and development, and education/outreach. The bill is in Senate Environment and Public works committee.

S 363, The Ballast Water Management Act of 2005, is in Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. This bill appears to have the interest of several legislators and others. We don't know whether it will move out of committee this session. Washington State, in general, supports the intent of the act especially because:

- 1) it will provide consistency and certainty for regulators and the shipping community
- 2) it addresses non-ballast water ship vectors such as hull fouling and
- 3) transitions from exchange to treatment as the preferred ballast water management method.

But they are concerned about some of the provisions in the act. They are concerned that S 363 will void Washington's program to protect against invasive species and leave the states waters unprotected during the interim period before the standards in S 363 apply. The bill preempts the State's authority to establish performance standards, approve technologies and establish implementation timelines. S 363 would leave the State waters unprotected during the interim period that could extend out to 2018 for the largest and most risky vessels.

Kevin will share comments that Washington has submitted to Amy Fraenkel, staff to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, with coastal state WRP members.

## **7. 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative Meeting, Jan. 17-18, Las Vegas**

Tina and Robyn attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative annual meeting. Tina reported on the Action Items from the meeting. One of the main things to come from the meeting is a work group to develop an assessment format to measure the effectiveness of 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian activities and projects. Robyn Draheim is the chair of the work group which will create an on-line form that members can fill in. The first task is to create appropriate and usable questions. This assessment will be the basis of an accomplishment report to be completed in 2006. For more information, the Minutes of the meeting are available at <http://www.100thmeridian.org>. (after February 20<sup>th</sup>).

## **8. Rapid Response in Washington State**

In January, the Puget Sound Action Team coordinated an 11<sup>th</sup> hour funding request for \$250,000 to immediately stop the spread of an invasive tunicate or sea squirt recently discovered at three marinas in Puget Sound. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive the funds.

The tunicate, *Styela clava* or club tunicate is native to Asia. It breeds prolifically and is found in large concentrations fouling boat hulls, docks, pilings, and hard surfaces at the three marinas.

The breeding cycle of the club tunicate coincides with the start of the recreational boating season. Without quick and decisive action by the state, these animals will continue to spread and ultimately impair the biological health and diversity of Puget Sound habitats and native species.

Using the new funds, the Department of Fish and Wildlife will designate these areas as infested waters and quarantine the marinas, and host free hull-cleaning events at marinas. The Department will also help marina operators remove the

tunicates from marina floats, and survey adjacent areas to determine if the invasive tunicates spread.

In addition, the state will use the funds to evaluate environmental effects of the transparent tunicate, *Ciona savignyi* – another non-native tunicate – found growing in abundance over productive shellfish beds (geoducks) beds in an isolated fjord of Puget Sound.

## **9. Planning for 2006 Annual Meeting**

Robyn reported that the WRP annual meeting planned for September 13-15 will be held in Portland at the same time and same building as the Western Division of the National Aquatic Lake Management Society. There is potential for an overlap in invasive species issues and Robyn suggested that we combine our meetings for ½ day during their invasive species session. The EC agreed that the WRP should work with them to determine speakers of interest to BOTH organizations.

## **10. California ANS Management Plan**

Karen reported that the San Francisco Estuary Project will be working with Susan at CA Department of Fish and Game to complete the California ANS Management Plan. There will be three public comment meetings and a new draft completed for the governor's signature. The money for completion of the plan is from the Ocean Protection Council.

**Western Regional Panel/Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP)  
on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)  
Joint Meeting**

**Wichita, KS**

**September 7-9, 2005**

**Assignments/Action Items Summary**

1. **Risk Assessment Workshop** - Plan and convene a Risk Assessment Workshop.  
*There is a planning team for this workshop. Tina will continue to participate on conference calls. A questionnaire is being developed to determine the best time and location.*
2. **Saltcedar** - Determine if an adequate website exists on saltcedar, and develop a website if needed.  
*There appear to be adequate websites addressing this issue. They can be accessed through:  
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profiles/saltcedar.shtml>*
3. **100th Meridian Boater Survey** - Extend 100th Meridian boater survey to states east of the meridian.  
*This was forwarded to the separate 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative Committee. Tina is a member and will keep the WRP informed as to progress.*
4. **Classroom Programs** - Develop a policy on classroom programs including live release of organisms, how *Habitattitude*<sup>TM</sup> might be integrated, and submit policy to the ANSTF.  
*Robyn Draheim volunteered to be the lead for this with the WRP. She will convene a subcommittee.*
5. **Coast Guard Auxiliary** - Brief them, as invited, and provide packages of outreach materials.  
*Karen McDowell agreed to be the WRP contact for this.*
6. **Stock Recruitment Models** - Develop list of species of common concern, and provide expertise to develop models.  
*Mike Hoff was the driving force behind this at the WRP-MRBP meeting. He thinks that stock recruitment models can be used to reduce populations of unwanted fish species and would like to pursue this as a management tool. We need to query the entire panel to find someone interested in pursuing this with him. A fisheries biologist might be the best fit.*
7. **Injurious Species Listing** - Develop and maintain lists of state-regulated species, add to Panel websites, and provide data and recommendations to the USFWS that will assist in injurious wildlife listings.  
*According to Erin Williams, the Task Force/USFWS will be requesting panel involvement in assembling this information. There have been several requests for this in the past few years. A couple of years ago the states got a request from a think tank on the East Coast, I think associated with Allegra Cangelosi. Most recently, for use by the USFWS, PSMFC,*

*and National Association of Boating Law Administrators at a class held Jan 26, 2006, in Laughlin Nevada. It is my understanding that Paul Heimowitz and Jeff Herod were involved in the development of this class. Perhaps they could take the lead on compiling any remaining regulations for posting on our web site.*

8. **Interpanel Communications** - Panel EXCOMs should communicate on activities, issues, and species of common concern.  
*Tina, Kevin and Eileen will take the lead for this. Activities will include e-mail updates, keeping the website updated, and conferences calls as needed.*
9. **Aquatic Animal Species Control** - Develop a more organized effort on how to control aquatic animal species, including development of a control symposium/workshop.  
***Kevin/Tina - Need to find WRP lead for this. Would help with rapid response capability.***
10. **AIS Control Database** - Review what is being done, where, how and by whom.  
***Kevin/Tina - Need to find WRP lead for this.-  
Animal portion could be addressed at workshop for item  
Plant portion may evolve from Freshwater plant Research symposium (Sytsma 20050),  
but if not, it will be an identified research need.***
11. **Experts Database** - Integrate with USGS data base on species.  
*Robyn has already worked on this. Tina will assist with future actions*
12. **Global warming** - A risk assessment may be needed.  
*I did a quick google search and found that lots of organizations, including international ones, are addressing this issue and there is a lot of research ongoing. I would suggest that a practical course of action is to include pertinent links on our website. This could be tackled by the WRP website committee.*
13. **Survey Needs on Shared Waters** - Coordinate baseline (ecological) survey needs on shared waters.
14. **Tribal Involvement** - Improve tribal involvement by developing a model for panel use.  
*Susan will be attending a workshop entitled “ Building Effective Government and Business Relations with American Indian Tribes” on February 24. She will see if there are any models currently being used for this type of coordination activity.*

**Shared Resource Priorities** - Coordinate on research priorities for shared waters.