

**WRP Executive Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, February 08, 2007**

Members Present: Lynn Schlueter, Karen McDowell, Jason Goeckler, Kevin Anderson, Eileen Ryce, Robyn Draheim, Tina Proctor, Pat Akers (for Susan Ellis), John Wullschleger, Billie Kerans

**1. Update on quagga mussels**

Pat reported that there are very scattered populations in California. They are searching in Lake Havasu and south along the CO River. Quaggas were found along the ??? structure for the CO River aquaduct. They have also found in the next impoundment south in Cheen Wash. There are no quaggas in Copper Basin further downstream. In March, they will dry out the Colorado River Aquaduct and take a good look for mussels. California is working on emergency legislation to get better inspection authorities – get border stations at full strength. They have \$1 million for 45 days. If they get legislation, it will be permanent. CA is doing a delimitation survey to determine how far the mussels have spread in Lake Mead. They tend to be patchy with their distribution. This survey could lead to some kind of control action.

WA DFW will be meeting with Wildlife Commission this month. They want to move legislation which will require inspection of all boats coming into the state, an education campaign and baseline surveys.

MT is currently going through risk assessment process to get quagga mussels prohibited.

Messages: Montana avoids using species names – trying to focus on cleaning of equipment. They will have to use quagga during the risk assessment process. PSU will be using quagga mussel but will use zebra mussel at the same time. (quaggas are an extinct zebra species). People need materials in March and April for beginning of boating season.

Partnership structure – It was decided at the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian meeting in Las Vegas, NV on January 31 that a group of people meet by conference call to suggest a structure for federal/state to act as incident command system (ICS). It will include Linda Drees, Tina Proctor, Bob Pitman, Susan Ellis, John Sjoberg, Larry Riley. California has ICS; AZ and NV do not have the same structure in place yet. AZ and NV did not have the preliminary infrastructure. Now they are breaking out into sub-basins: lower CO River, Lake Mead area, Lake Powell area. Andy Cohen is science advisor for CA. He and Pat Akers plus another state staffer are going to work with divers at Lake Mead to come up with a plan on a way to do the

assessment. With a reasonably clear objective plan, could have a place to use some money.

## **2. Ideas for funding**

The WRP will be receiving an extra \$50,000 to be used by the end of the fiscal year. The EC decided to direct the money to the quagga mussel invasion and the following discussion helped narrow down the focus of the funds.

Lynn – Use this as learning for application elsewhere

Susan – CA doing rapid assessment activities to determine extent of invasion, using contract divers, etc.

Eileen – There is a Nevada state infected hatchery that has been stocking other waters. We need more expensive monitoring system, starting with waters that have been stocked. We know very little about angler/boater movement out of that region. We need boater surveys to identify waters that are at high risk. Monitor in waters where the most boaters move to. Use the money where we can benefit most of the west.

Robyn – How do we contain spread out of the southwest? Develop a spread reduction program for the Lake Mead area. Where are the boaters going and where have they gone? The gate has been open for awhile.

Karen – This is a critical period where the population in Lake Mead can be contained and perhaps controlled.

John – NOS Science Panel meeting on Feb. 2 in Las Vegas– will be doing assessment protocol. More money will be needed. He thinks the money will appear for this process. NPS has money internally that can be used. NDOW is looking at places where fish from the state hatchery were placed.

Karen – Do surveys and then monitoring?

Eileen – Start monitoring places where the hatchery has been stocked and also using current boater surveys (200). WRP Executive Committee can come up with a plan for how to spend the money. We can ask the Colorado River team for a proposal or we can give the money to the NPS to hire people to do the surveys.

NV state hatchery stocking – much of it was isolated ponds.

Inspection stations in California are getting basic information about where boaters are coming from and where they are going. David Britton uses zip codes in the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian database.

Kevin – frame the work. What will the work cost? This will take coordination of Colorado River Team. Give them priorities, then see how they can make it work.

Kevin – we also need to tell the rest of the members what we intend to do with the money.

John – Many things are proceeding – education, etc. Some are larger ticket items which \$50k wouldn't help that much. We are recognizing the importance of containment strategy.

### **What are the main priorities?**

- 1. More boater surveys at Lake Mead, Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave.**
- 2. Monitoring of other lakes that receive high boat traffic from Lake Mead for detection of quagga mussels and veligers, based on information already available through the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian initiative.**
3. Outreach is a high priority and the WRP is encouraging the NPS to get information out quickly. Memo from WRP.

Encourage coordination of Colorado River Team. Get information out to members.

### **3. COE**

Jason Goeckler brought up an issues regarding the Corps of Engineers which issues regional condition permits. The COE in the Kansas district doesn't put in any requirements that equipment be ANS free. Lynn also mentioned in North Dakota barges were brought in with dead zebra mussels. The rcp ??? is a good place to put these requirements. FWS has had trouble getting any response as well. Lynn – will see more construction of water intakes, etc. Equipment brought in from Mississippi River. Tina will speak with WO staff about how to handle this issue through WRP or ANSTF? Lynn – in ND they are getting administrative rules in place – if you willingly violate, the equipment can be impounded. North Dakota law prohibits spread of ANS, class B felony. Cannot move equipment with aquatic vegetation or with water in it.

**4. Get committees started and active.**

2007 meeting committee: Karen, Sara P., Tina, Kevin

Work Plan Committee: Susan Ellis

Biological curriculum Committee, chair: Paul Heimowitz

**5. Experts database update**

Eileen will work with Billie to discuss a possible student from MSU to populate the database and get back to the EC.