

## **Western Regional Panel Conference Call**

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

**Participants: Executive Committee Members: Karen McDowell, chair, Bob McMahon, Tom McMahon, Stephen Phillips, Diane Cooper, Larry Dalton, Elizabeth Brown, John Wullschleger; Coordinator: Joanne Grady**

### **1) Assistant Attorney General Workshop – Stephanie Showalter Otts, Director, National Sea Grant Law Center**

Background - Started working with asst' AGs last year to raise awareness of economic and environmental costs of AIS. Did pilot workshop in Chesapeake Bay with about 30 people; about 1/2 AG folks and 1/2 natural resource folks. Half the morning on environmental/economic costs and things AGs wanted to learn about – like Didymo & felt waders which had passed in some states. Half the workshop was on networking to cover differences in state laws. After this workshop they opened conversation with FWS about the potential for developing workshops with other panels. WRP may want to include a third goal regarding the interstate boat movements.

Current Western Workshop - NSGLC has budgeted \$10K to do a workshop this year. Some of the funding would go to Nat'l Attorneys Generals organization for logistics, and \$5K for travel. Try to do workshop on a low budget. Sam Chan may be able to pitch in some funding from Sea Grant. We may not need any WRP funding for a workshop. Costs would be dependent on the workshop goals and number of attendees. Stephanie plans to reach out to Sam Chan and to Jas Adams, of OR next week. Have a working time frame of late August for the workshop, but could work with WRP folks to adjust time frame.

What do we want as the WRP? Should it be the whole scope of WRP or a subset of states? Should it just be educational? Or include time for states to talk amongst themselves, reciprocity, changes in state laws?

Stephen Phillips – reciprocity in the West is extremely complex because each state law has unique features, especially NV, ID and MT. And then some issues with commercial hauling vs recreational haulers. Can you stop a boat that's not launching within your state? Have a pretty good idea with Columbia River basins, because have state agreement on watercraft. For several of the states, this would go into governor's offices for review. One subset could be WA, OR, MT, ID and then NV. Or could be far W, start with CO, MT and move west from there and not just the PNW. Larry Dalton argued it shouldn't be exclusive, we need to have all the folks involved.

WRP ExCom voted to endorse workshop and provide committee of folks to help Stephanie and Sam Chan narrow down a focus for goal, scope and audience.

Joanne to send note to membership asking for volunteers. Karen recording Sam Chan as WRP Committee chair; participants to include Elizabeth, Larry, Tom, John and Stephen; Amy Ferriter and David Britton were volunteered in absentia as other WRP members to serve on the committee. Tom will be the ExCom liaison.

### **2) NFHAP Letter – Karen/Kevin**

Letter sent by Karen to the Pacific Partnership nominating Kevin Anderson to represent WRP. Panel acknowledged receipt of letter; should send response back to WRP in 30 days.

### **3) Threats to the West Brochure – Karen**

Top cover photo needed to be replaced. Karen looking for a better image.

Budgeted \$13,750. Graphic designer ~\$3K and some artist images. So nearly \$10K available for printing and distribution.

Joanne to draft letter to membership regarding request for members to receive copies. Some states (UT, CO) may just want the high resolution pdf to add their logo and print on their own. Can send to entire mailing list with priority to panel members. This is our one printing.

Printing and distribution center logistics to be worked out. Mailed from printer or mailed from Karen or Joanne's offices.

#### **4) Budget – Karen/Joanne**

Haven't done full analysis, but did look at remaining money. Have ~\$16K in hand, but still processing some charges and the May ANSTF meeting (\$3K). May still be covering travel requests for Tom and Amy to NISAW (\$2K). Will have ~\$11K left.

As of last FWS draft allocations, WRP should still have regular panel funding from the ANSTF and the R6 funding.

Travel support funding – Do we need to put in limits/restrictions for travel funding? Not yet, too many folks can't travel. Let's focus on keeping costs down and adding remote access to meetings.

#### **5) Ballast Tanks Letter and Update – Elizabeth**

Have list of manufacturers together. Elizabeth has meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> to meet with CO manufacturers to get their feedback on how to address folks.

End of this month get letters out, list together. Plan to have meeting end of March. Put off press release for another month as details come together.

#### **6) Coordinator Position Update – Joanne**

WRP Coordinator Search Committee met January 26<sup>th</sup> and worked through draft Position Description and RFP documents. Draft documents provided to ExCom. Will leave at \$50K and move date up on calendar to end of April. Any other ExCom comments should be sent back to Joanne by February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **7) 2012 WRP Meeting Update – Larry**

No significant progress on hotel since our last ExCom. Larry was waiting to sign hotel contract until we had budget numbers; should see significant progress by next ExCom now that we have numbers. Cynthia Tait has offered to give him a hand on hotels. He'll schedule another conference committee meeting soon. Larry will encourage folks to start working on meeting for following year, so membership has more to vote on when selecting location for the following year. No agenda items came in from call to the general membership.

Field Trip arrangements are all pulled together. Looking at AIS issues on wildlife management area along East shore of Great Salt Lake and nesting waterfowl. Airboat expedition will see 100sK birds. Utah Airboat Association will lend a hand on field trip. State of Utah will cover gas for airboats.

#### **8) NISAW Update – Tom/Stephen**

NISAW coming up soon, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> –March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The QZAP group is working on Hill visits with Congressional folks. A QZAP briefing memo was pulled together for this; Tom will share with us. A specific briefing is scheduled for Thursday at U.S. Capital visitor center. A kids day is Sunday.

FWS AIS program working on Draft Strategic Plan. NISAW attendees have been asked to participate in a facilitated session to bring in their comments on the draft plan.

**9) QZAP/Mussels Workshop – Bob/Stephen**

About 40 folks were there from suite of agencies, a few PCR folks, and more microscopy folks. Workshop recommendations will be drafted and available soon.

Certification of eDNA is fraught with issues. However, certification of microscopy could happen sooner – Benthics Society has a certification for lab folks. They will put course on line to certify lab folks for \$50 each.

Sandra N...B – willing labs can take spiked samples to test if identify veligers (both PCR and microscopy).

Image library will roll out soon for Dreissenid larvae on-line.

Several other follow-up type meetings occurred. Paul Heimowitz of FWS also starting eDNA working group to develop workshops.

**10) WRP Logo Approval – Need volunteer to draft**

Elizabeth volunteered to draft a paragraph and will send out to ExCom after drafting

**11) Brochure Logo Request – Joanne/Bob**

Bob finished brochure review and submitted to ExCom. Joanne has been playing phone tag with the Pyramid Lake folks and will get review to them.

**12) Coastal issues – Kevin**

Nothing new to report.

**13) Committee reporting update – Karen**

Karen sent out a draft spreadsheet identifying the committees, types, chairs, members and ExCom liaison. She will remove triploid carp group because it doesn't actually meet. She will also add chair contacts and affiliations. Updated spreadsheet to be sent back to ExCom with changes.

Tom wants to be added to the snakehead group. (Joanne submitted his name to Laura Norcutt after the call).

**14) Scheduling Monthly Meetings – Karen**

Has standard schedule, but we've recently moved the meeting around quite a bit. Preference of ExCom Members is to keep it that second Thursday morning, we really just need to reschedule if we can't get a quorum.

**15) Next Call: Scheduled Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central – Larry and Tom can't attend, but should be able to meet quorum.**