

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2012

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

1) Annual Meeting Update - Larry

Planning committee met March 7th. In process of selecting hotels; visiting three front runners on Friday. All are downtown SLC, 15 min from airport, some with shuttles. Plaza was a great experience for another meeting last week and is offering the best deal. TRAX line might be done by then. There is lots of dining, shopping and night life in the local area.

On the first afternoon we'll have state and federal informal meetings per last two years led by Larry and Cynthia Tait, respectively.

Meeting room – looking for space for 75 people. Had 64 registered in Oakland, expect about 15 people from UT. U-shaped table for meeting with voting members and folks around edge. He'll contract two college students to take the minutes.

State of UT will fund the breaks and much of the field trip. Potential for continental breakfast one day and maybe working lunch another day to be paid by individuals.

Agenda – Pushed team for agenda ideas and have some good ones. Joanne to send second request for agenda ideas; no ideas from membership to first request.

Potential ideas – Partner coordination theme: biocontrol (Earl Chilton); partner cooperation to be lunch speaker; Dave Britton to talk about TX meeting & outcome; Habitat Restoration due to elimination of aquatic species; ballast water issues; Kevin to provide a marine issue – maybe coordinated response planning; agency reports; committee updates; Lake Tahoe effort – lessons learned, etc; veliger transfer by boats; eDNA of NZMS; eradication of AIS in Alaska; Lake Mead has to be addressed at this meeting

Field trip – Take a bus to a single location with two activities starting at Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area. 1) Airboat tour on GSL to look at Tamarisk and Phragmites control; 2) bus tour of waterfowl management area to see how water is managed to grow crop for migratory birds and difficulties of management if invaded by QZM. Utah Airboat Association will drive boats. Utah will provide refreshments, light snack, sunscreen, insect repellent and porta potties. Return to hotel by 1 pm for folks to travel home.

2) GAO Audit Interview - Karen/Elizabeth

Michelle Wong with GAO interviewed Karen, Elizabeth with Joanne

3) FWS Budget Update – Joanne

Laid out information from the FY12 budget decisions. State Plans will be funded per the usual strategy. There will NOT be a focus on QZAP as result of AFWA summary of state input to FWS

Directorate. Panel funding is whole and Region 6 should have additional committed funds for coordinator unless numbers from DC change.

The President's FY13 Budget Greenbook is available

http://www.doi.gov/budget/2013/data/greenbook/FY2013_FWS_Greenbook.pdf.

State Plan funds are eliminated and cuts were made in Control/Management and Prevention (100th Meridian) in this budget. States are aware of this. Unknown if this includes Panel funds next year. Some discussion ensued about potential WRP letter to address topic.

4) Threats to the West Brochure – Karen

Brochure is completed. Orders are coming in; due to Joanne by March 9th. Current requests for 39K copies and about a dozen for the printing file for self-printing. Joanne will send a reminder email out to membership list today.

5) NISAW Update – Stephen/Tom

Several folks from the West were in DC for NISAW (Tom McMahon(AZ); Amy Ferriter/Rep. Eric Anderson(ID); Ted Thayer/Julie Regan(TRPA); Stephen Phillips(PSMFC); Wendy Brown(WA). Coordinated Capitol Hill briefing on QZAP and Asian carp; moderately attended (40). Met with 17 Sen/Reps in Hill visits (met Harry Reid personally). Biggest message was about Lake Mead. Have momentum from both Dems & Reps to get additional funds. Talked a little bit about state plan funding and reauthorization of National Invasive Species Act. There were a lot of Great Lakes folks there. Congressmen were concerned that funding to be spent on quagga mussel stuff may not be spent on the ground. They just learned about FY13 "Green Book" info and were concerned.

Stephen Phillip and Tom McMahon participated in FWS Strategic Planning Session. Went okay. Was a full room. Strategic planning is always painful.

Awards ceremony with huge reception. Don Young from Alaska and about 500 people attended.

6) Ballast Tanks Letter and Update – Elizabeth

Not a lot to update. Karen signed letter and working with Tom. Some letters are starting to go out.

7) WRP Coordinator RFP– Joanne

RFP is drafted and on Susan Mangin's desk. Awaiting quick check from ANSTF perspective before we post and distribute the RFP.

Committee still needs to draft some ranking criteria and interview questions.

8) NFHAP Letter – Karen/Kevin

Karen received letter from the Pacific coastal NFHAP partnership. WRP wasn't awarded a seat on their panel.

9) WRP Logo Approval – Drafted by Elizabeth – discuss/edit/vote

The Western Regional Panel (WRP) encourages partner entities to collaborate with us on educational/informational materials and events focused on aquatic nuisance species. The use of the WRP logo must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to use. If you are

planning to use the WRP logo, please provide the draft materials to the WRP Chair at least one month before you need them finalized so that approval by the Executive Committee can be obtained at their monthly meeting.

Approved

10) Brochure Logo Request – Joanne

No update. Still playing phone tag

11) Coastal issues – Kevin

Have a small planning group coordinated by Robyn Draheim (FWS/Portland State) and Jeff Adams (WA Sea Grant) to address consistent decisions for invasive species on the West coast. The group includes Kevin Anderson, Karen McDowell, Linda Shaw (AK NOAA NMFS), Gary Freitag (AK Sea Grant) and Carrie Culver (CA Sea Grant).

First planning meeting for workshop is March 19th. Cost of one day workshop in Portland to include food, lodging, travel etc for 25-30 people is \$6-10K. Looking for funding from Sea Grant and others. British Columbia not currently participating.

12) Assistant Attorney General Workshop – Joanne

Joanne meeting with Sam via phone tomorrow to discuss. He'll be pursuing NSG funding to add to Stephanie Showalter Ott's NSG Law Center funding to host a workshop. Stephen reports they also discussed at Columbia River Basin team meeting yesterday with focus on Pacific Northwest.

13) Committee reporting update – Karen

Karen sent out the list for folks to submit their updates. Need updates for PCR workgroup. Completed list was also requested by the GAO auditors.

14) Announcements/New Business

None.

15) Next Call: Scheduled Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central