

**Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2006**

Members Present: Kevin Anderson, Eileen Ryce, John Chapman, Susan Ellis, Karen McDowell, Robyn Draheim, Tina Proctor, Bob Piorkowski, John Wullschleger

Member Absent: Blaine Parker

1. Web site Update

The web site committee will meet by conference call before the next EC conference call. Robyn and Eileen have talked about ways to re-organize the information and to make formatting changes. Tina will set up the call.

2. WRP Report to the ANSTF

The regional panels have been asked to provide an accomplishment report to the ANSTF. Tina will write a draft and pass it by the EC. Scott Newsham asked the panels to include anything we might request from the ANSTF. The EC discussed the US/Canada border crossing project that Kevin presented to the ANSTF in the 2005 meeting in Monterey. Tina agreed to check the Action Items from that meeting to remind us all if any action was taken. We should be able to get interest from the Great Lakes Panel and NE Panel. Kevin will write up a request to the ANSTF to support this project. He suggested that we get the Canadian Embassy, an ex-officio member, to be engaged.

The EC also discussed the issue of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands as part of the WRP and what we can do for them. Tina will call Paul Heimowitz, FWS Portland, because Hawaii is one of the states in his region and he is knowledgeable about their ANS program. It was suggested that we invite Paul to be on the next EC call.

3. WGA Update

Tina and Linda Drees (NPS) met with John Brenner (NRCS on a two-year assignment with the WGA) and Gayle Gordon, senior natural resource policy advisor, at the WGA office in Denver. Linda discussed where to get funding for the Yellowstone ANS Management Plan and Amelia Jenkins, WGA Director of Coalition Development, gave her some suggestions.

John Brenner agreed to work on the WGA resolution by convening a group of Governor's representatives. He seemed interested in the project but clearly doesn't have time to actually run an ANS working group. Governor Rounds from

SD is the incoming chair and he is interested in creating a recreation/tourism initiative which could have some connection to ANS. We talked about funding, where to find it, what can WRP contribute, etc.

The EC talked about where to get funding. Is there money available in any of the three organizations, WAFWA, WGA, WRP? How do we find federal funds? Susan will talk to the CA staffer who was at the IAFWA meeting and see how much of a priority invasive species is currently. Tina will continue to work with Amelia Jenkins at WGA to come up with ideas.

4. Work Planning for 2006-2007

Kevin presented the list of responses from the 22 WRP members on priority projects and issues. Susan, Karen, and John C. asked that their responses be added to the list. The top five priorities are:

- 1) Identify risks and threats to the region and management measures to minimize them.
- 2) Work with WGA and WAFWA to do outreach to state decision makers and promote program development.
- 3) Work with US Customs and Canadian Border Protection Service to inspect boats on trailers and train border personnel to identify invasive species.
- 4) Develop a communications strategy for region to raise the profile of aquatic invasive species as a significant environmental threat.
- 5) Identify WRP research needs and long term funding to support them.

The EC discussed the issues and what is doable. There is a need to get \$30,000 for FY2006 obligated by July. The EC decided to have an additional phone call before the next scheduled call to further discuss this issue. The call will be scheduled for Monday, May 1. Tina will get information out to the EC.

5. WRP Annual Meeting

Tina will ask the members for ideas for speakers for the annual meeting in Portland, Sept. 13-15. Susan suggested that John Chapman give a talk on the isopod invasion in the Pacific NW and its effect on oysters. The annual meeting planning committee will also have a conference call on May 1st.