Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call
Thursday, May 11, 2006

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

Members Absent: John Wullschleger, Blaine Parker

1.   Use of $30,000 of FY 2006 funds

The $30,000 from FY2006 needs to be obligated by June 26, so the EC talked about projects that can be started immediately that fit into the top five issues approved by the members. The EC had a lengthy discussion of several projects and finally decided to fund a pilot study on the "Characterization of the risk of species transfer on recreational boats in marine systems via hull fouling." The PI is Ian Davidson at Portland State University. This is an invasion pathway which has been little studied because most funding for marine invasions concentrates on ballast water and not recreational boats.

The EC was asked to submit comments to Mark Sytsma and he will respond to everyone who sends in comments about whether they can or cannot be incorporated into the proposal. The proposal will then be re-sent to the EC and incorporated into these minutes.

2.   Pacific Islands Regional Panel

Lu Eldredge from the Bishop Museum in Honolulu contacted Don MacLean about a Pacific Islands Regional Panel which started a long string of e-mails involving various people in Hawaii. Lu and others will be applying for a small grant from EPA to hold an initial meeting to talk about a new regional panel. Since many of the people involved in this discussion will be at the International Aquatic Invasives conference this week in Florida, Kevin said he would join with them in a meeting to talk about next steps and what the WRP can do to facilitate their actions. Kevin will report back to the EC when he returns about what was decided.

3.   Education and Outreach Materials Database

Ron Lukins spoke with Tina about which regional panels are creating an education and outreach materials database because he feels it is important that we build on each others work rather than duplicate it. Robyn said the WRP database prototype will be ready by the end of June. This topic will be discussed at the ANSTF meeting in Cape Cod on May 24-25.

4.   WRP meeting update

Robyn will send out the call for papers for the NALMS meeting which is being held at the same time and place as the WRP meeting in September. The EC also discussed the possibility of have a training the day before our meeting on "government to government" working with tribes. Kevin has contacted EPA which provides this training for their staff. Susan will give information to Tina about the contractors that put on this kind of training that she attended in Sacramento.

5. **Zebra Mussels in Nebraska**

At the Missouri River Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative meeting on May 15, Steve Schainost from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission reported on his visit to Offut Air Force Base south of Omaha. There is a fishing lake that is not on the Base but is on Base property which personnel and invited visitors can use. A healthy population of zebra mussels has just been discovered. During a high water event, the lake is drained into a canal and into the Missouri River although the last time this happened was in 1999. Steve will be creating an ANS team to work with the Air Force to determine the best way to eradicate the mussels in the shortest amount of time. Just recently, zebra mussels were eradicated in a quarry in Virginia using potash (potassium chloride). Other ideas included using Bayluscide, powdered rotenone and filtering the water and draining the lake in the fall and letting it freeze. Eileen recently worked with the Air Force in Montana and said they were very willing to poison a base lake that was full of gold fish.

6. **NIPITS (Non Native Invasive Pest Intervention Team) Status**

Susan asked if there was a date set for the NIPITS project "mock drill" which is supposed to be scheduled at the same time as the Aquatic Plant Management Society national meeting in Portland. Robyn will follow up with Lars Anderson on when the "mock drill" will occur and get back to the EC with that information.

Minutes by Tina Proctor, bettina_proctor@fws.gov, 303-236-4515