

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee Monthly Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Participants: Elizabeth Brown, Tom McMahon, Joanne Grady, Karen McDowell, Bob McMahon, Kevin Anderson, Stephen Phillips, Christine Boschen, Regional Water Quality Control Board, facilitator (1/2 meeting)

Items discussed:

1) WRP Coordinator/Facilitator

Joanne informed Board that FWS would not continue long-term with WRP coordination. She offered to continue coordinating for eight months (at no more than 25% time) following the October meeting to assist with the transition. She also offered to contribute Region 6 AIS funds in addition to the \$50,000 ANSTF over the next three years (fed FY2012 - \$20K, FY2013 - \$15K, FY2014 - \$10K) to assist the organization with this transition.

Christine Boschen – we're at a crossroads of identifying who we are and where we're going? Consensus Oriented Decision Model – lay the groundwork, open conversation without structure, limit to a certain amount of time. Identify stakeholders, identify their underlying needs and concerns. – Allows us to look at collaborative ideas. We don't get best out of our group if we've already laid out the only options. We need to identify - actual on-the-ground effectiveness of our group. She can provide us with some information about decision making processes. We need to provide a list of potentially key voices to Christine.

Elizabeth - We could really benefit from a broad discussion. Bob – we do need to have a conversation about what the members want/expect from WRP.

We need to put together a white paper – identifying mission, who we are and our minimum duties, we're at a crossroads, FWS leaving coordination, include the funding, who are our stakeholders and what are their needs and goals (Stephen, Elizabeth, Kevin, Bob, Joanne). Lump our stakeholders into broad categories (i.e. federal, state, academic, estuary, tribal, interest groups, etc.) Kevin to pull together background information from guidelines to start process.

We should provide this white paper and an opportunity to comment to membership before the meeting so everyone has an opportunity to provide their ideas.

WRP ExCom and Christine will meet via conference call on Thursday, September 29th at 9 a.m. PST, 10 a.m. MST.

1) Annual meeting:

Kevin and Diane talked about potential new speaker for 11:20 a.m. slot. NOAA has produced new guidelines for aquaculture in marine environments, includes initiative to increase shellfish production to create jobs and minimize imports. Diane was looking into potential for west coast representative for shellfish initiative. Another option may be to move the Undaria presentation to the marine issues section to expand time for facilitated discussion if speaker can change days.

Adelheid may try to get someone from Pyramid Lake tribe in Nevada to give the opening. ExCom agreed to approve travel for tribal representative.

Stephen will send out a reminder for the member reports. Joanne will send out registration reminder.

2) ANSTF Preparations/Recommendations

Stephen will draft something for the workgroup of Elizabeth, Tom, Bob and John to edit/contribute.

3) ExCom Elections at WRP Meeting:

The seats occupied by Kevin, Eileen, Stephen, Elizabeth and Karen are all up for re-election. Joanne needs to send out request for nominations. Add that we strongly recommend that you provide reason why you want to be on the ExCom. ExCom meets via conference call once per month. Looking for energetic,

active participants. Put Joanne and Tom down for contacts, Bob available after Sept. 26th. Deadline will be September 28th.

4) ANSTF Awards Committee – Elizabeth Brown

Joanne to forward Susan Mangin's emails to Elizabeth and notify Susan that she's our volunteer.

5) Committee Reports:

a) ANSTF Strategic Plan (ANSTF)

Edits are coming along, more conference calls planned to finalize prior to the fall meeting.

b) QZAP (ANSTF) – Tom will be working with Susan as he's going to be facilitating the discussion at the end of that session. Group is working on something for National Invasive Species Week. What about the healthy habitats group (terrestrial weeds folks)?

c) Dreissenid Detection Standards and Protocol Coordination Group (WRP) – still working on it - we'll discuss this at the state meeting – (Bob - there are folks in TX working on Dreissenid eDNA)

d) Recreational Guidelines/Field Gear:

ANS Recreational Guidelines Committee (Stephanie Carman): subcommittees are turning in recommendations next week. Will be collated and circulated for review prior to the fall meeting. No report from WRP committee

e) Triploid Carp (Panels committee) – This committee requested participation by a WRP panel member several years ago. Tom McMahon was selected as the WRP representative. Tom has inquired about this group several times, but they have not met yet.

f) Coastal Committee (WRP) – Had a meeting. Next meeting November 3rd, will meet every other month. Kevin will update at October meeting. How do we make decisions on west coast for responding to invaders? Looking at regional monitoring and data sharing.

g) Brochure (WRP) – No Update

h) Web Site (WRP) – Karen to work on locating January-May 2011 meeting minutes for updating the webpage. We will need to move website to another location when FWS ends coordination. This should be added to the list of duties for the new coordination organization.

7) AIS Workshops for Assistant Attorneys General – This has been added to the agenda for the October meeting, Paul Heimowitz has lead.

8) Next Call: Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central – talk about facilitated session, other Business Meeting items, and ExCom elections

Post Meeting: White Paper