

**Western Regional Panel  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
Minutes  
Friday, October 10, 2008**

**Present: Eileen Ryce, Karen McDowell, Amy Ferriter, Diane Cooper, Bob McMahon, Kevin Anderson, Tina Proctor, Erin Williams**

**Absent: Lynn Schlueter, Andy Burgess, John Wullschleger**

**1. Election for Chair and Vice Chair**

Eileen Ryce will serve as chair and Karen McDowell for vice chair of the Western Regional Panel for FY 2009. Both were elected unanimously.

**2. Election for Coastal/Academic Position**

Three people were nominated for this member position: Jodi Cassell, U. of California Sea Grant was nominated by Paul Olin who resigned from the position, Susan Frisch Zaleski, U. of Southern California Sea Grant, was nominated by Susan Ellis, and Jeffrey Adams, Washington Sea Grant was nominated by Kevin Anderson.

The EC reviewed the CV's of all three people, noting that they are all extremely qualified. The final choice to serve in the open position is Susan Frisch Zaleski with Jeffrey Adams as an alternate. Erin will call these two people to let them know.

**3. WRP Meeting 2009**

Although the members voted to have the 2009 annual meeting in Montana, and the 2010 meeting in Seattle, Eileen mentioned that there is a conflict with Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for 2009. The EC decided to switch the places and years. Therefore, the 2009 WRP annual meeting will be in Seattle. The EC agreed that September is still a good month to have our meeting. Because of all the invitational travel (the WRP pays for several members and speakers to come to the meeting), FWS administrative staff have asked that we not have the meeting the last two weeks in September. The EC agreed to schedule the meeting starting on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 1:00 with an afternoon field trip, an all day meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9 and a meeting until 3:00 on Thursday, Sept. 10.

**4. Comments and Suggestions Regarding 2008 Annual Meeting**

Bob suggested that the number of speakers was too ambitious, that many people went over on time and that things often felt rushed with coffee breaks having to be shortened. Others agreed that we need to build in more time for discussion next year.

## **5. New Committees for 2009**

### **Work Plan Committee**

Although the RFP process is still working, the members agreed that there is some tweaking that needs to be done, that the RFP could go out earlier and perhaps specific priorities could be determined every year. The new Work Plan committee is Blake Feist (chair), Karen McDowell, Bob McMahon, and Cynthia Tait.

### **Regional Boat Inspection Protocols**

Elizabeth Brown (chair)

### **Climate Change and AIS**

Louanne McMartin (chair)

The committee chairs will be invited to participate in regular monthly EC conference calls.

## **6. WRP Report at ANSTF meeting**

Erin will be representing the WRP at the October 28-29, 2008, ANSTF meeting and the Panel Principals meeting in Arlington on October 27, 2008. Neither Eileen nor Karen are able to attend.

Kevin brought up the issue of ballast water management with the need for consistent regulations. Eileen mentioned that there is 30 minutes on the agenda on this issue as well as legislation before Congress.

Erin will give a report on:

- The Denver January 21-23, 2009, 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian national meeting plus meeting issues regarding laboratory verification of *Dreissinid* veligers.
- Update on our biological curriculum recommendation for the Task Force and the Sea Grant support that has been received by Sam Chan, Oregon Sea Grant.
- Written report on three newly approved projects for 2009 plus those projects that were completed in 2008

## **7. Goodbye from Tina**

Tina expressed appreciation to the EC for their work through the years and how enjoyable it has been to be with a team that is willing to work but have fun along the way. She said that Erin will be an extremely capable WRP coordinator and they are fortunate she has had so much experience with the WRP and the ANSTF.