

Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2008

Present: Eileen Ryce, Karen McDowell, Andy Burgess, Diane Cooper, Amy Ferriter, Bob McMahan, Lynn Schlueter, Erin Williams

Absent: John Wullschleger

Committee Chairs will be invited to participate on future calls.

1. BLM request for membership position

BLM has requested a membership position on the WRP. Karl Stein, Washington office, has been nominated to by Tom Mendenhall, who represents the BLM on the ANSTF. As long as it is consistent with the by-laws (Erin will double-check), Eileen will contact BLM and welcome Karl to the Panel.

- Erin has made some corrections and additions to the membership list. Erin will send the membership list to the listserv/members to see if any additional corrections are needed before posting it on the website.

2. Status of 2009 grant proposals and awards

Erin has sent the appropriate forms to the 3 projects awarded at the annual meeting in September 2008. Erin is also in the process of sending letters to those people whose projects were not selected.

3. Watercraft Inspection/Decontamination/certification standardization effort

This was initially proposed at the annual meeting by Elizabeth Brown from CO. Since then it has morphed into a larger effort including the 100th Meridian and possibly other Western groups. Currently the WRP has the lead as the Coordinating group. Bill Zook will be contractor for PSMFC getting the work started. Bill will come up with list of people in West currently doing boat inspections and then develop a questionnaire to gather additional information. The end product will be recommendations for states for standardized protocols for watercraft inspections.

ExComm Conclusion: At this time, the WRP will not further develop the 2009 Work Group Boat Inspection Regional Protocols Committee discussed at the September 2008 meeting, but the WRP will be kept informed of what is going on as there is participation by WRP on larger group.

4. 100th Meridian Early Detection Workshop in Denver on January 21-22, 2009

Eileen represents the WRP on the planning team. The goal of the workshop and meeting is to develop standards for *Dreissenid* early detection and to discuss ways to increase information sharing about results. Presentations will include veliger detection through PCR and microscopy and adult detection methods. Discussions will include interpretation of results and when does a State call something a positive *Dreissenid* find?

*Note that the larger 100th Meridian meeting will occur January 22-23, 2009 at the same location.

5. ANSTF request to WRP to develop Action Plan for responding to quagga/zebra mussel western spread

Erin relayed the request from the ANSTF to the WRP to discuss the feasibility of developing an Action Plan for responding to the western spread of the quagga/zebra mussels. The ANSTF asked that the Panel provide feedback about this request within 45 days or so (target date of Dec. 19th). There were mixed reactions about the feasibility of the Panel leading this effort without resources for a central person to do so for the Panel. The ExComm asked Erin to gather ideas and input regarding dimension and scope (via email) from the ExComm, FWS Regional Coordinators Paul Heimowitz, Bob Pitman, David Britton, Ron Smith, and PSMFC ANS Coordinator Stephen Philips.

6. ANSTF fall 2008 meeting report

Erin provided a brief update of the ANSTF meeting and Panel Principals meeting. The ANSTF did ask the WRP to host the Spring 2009 meeting at a location and dates to be determined. The International Conference is April 19-23, 2009, so we'll look at some possible dates the last week of April or first two weeks of May, dependent upon the Co-Chairs schedules.

7. Other news or business from the group

- A planning committee for the Fall 2009 annual meeting was formed. Diane Cooper, Scott Smith, Kevin Anderson, Karen McDowell, Eileen Ryce and Erin Williams will be the initial core group. Kevin will send Erin some potential hotels to contact about availability. Agenda formulation will begin after the New Year.

- Lynn was (or will likely) be asked to give an ANS presentation at the Western Association of Natural Resources Chiefs meeting in North Dakota (Spring 2009).