

Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Present: Karen McDowell, Andy Burgess, Diane Cooper, Amy Ferriter, Bob McMahon, Lynn Schlueter, Erin Williams, Blake Feist, Louanne McMartin, John Wullschleger

Absent: Kevin Anderson

1. Quagga/Zebra Action Plan

Erin provided an overview of the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council meeting that occurred the previous week. The Council recommended to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to develop a strategic plan to address zebra/quagga mussels. The WAFWA agreed to create a group to develop their plan and we will work with the WAFWA group as both endeavors move forward.

Next steps for the WRP will be for Erin to contact the nominated Steering Committee members and to arrange the first conference call of that group in order to develop the draft plan for review by the Panel members by the end of March. Erin will also confirm the FWS assistance offered by the 5 Western Regions (Erin, Paul Heimowitz, Bob Pitman/Dave Britton, Ron Smith and Alaska). Erin will also send an email to the WRP listserv with an update.

2. Spring ANSTF meeting, hosted by WRP

Erin provided draft date and location for the May 19-21, 2009 ANS Task Force meeting, which will be "hosted" by the WRP. Eileen Ryce is working with Susan Mangin, the new Executive Secretary for the ANSTF on meeting logistics as Montana FWP graciously offered to make arrangements for the meeting and field trip.

3. WRP annual meeting (Sept. 8-10, 2009 in Seattle, WA)

Scott Smith, Kevin Anderson, Diane Cooper, Erin, Karen McDowell and Blake Feist have all offered to be on the annual meeting workgroup to help select the location and draft the agenda. The first conference call will be on Jan. 29th. Jeff Adams also offered to help.

4. Membership

BLM request for membership position

Erin determined that we need to have a vote (with 2/3 of the membership responding) as to whether or not to add BLM to the Panel membership. Erin will send out an email to the WRP asking that question.

Additional corrections to the membership contact list are still coming in. Erin will post it on the website in February.

5. 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. One project has returned the forms and is in FWS Contracting for processing. Erin will contact the other projects to check on their status.

6. Workgroups

Blake and Erin will chat offline about the annual workplan development and Request for Proposals (RFP).

7. Requests from other Panels

- 1) The WRP was asked by the Mississippi River Basin Panel and the Great Lakes Panel to provide a letter asking the ANSTF for a discussion of how to increase funding for Panels and State Management Plans at the spring meeting.
 - Erin will draft a response and send to the ExComm before the next conference call.
- 2) The WRP received two requests from the Mississippi River Basin Panel for financial and verbal support for a) review of the FWS triploid grass carp program; and b) an international symposium on the potential for genetic biocontrol of established invasive fish (June 2010).
 - Erin will email the MRBP that the WRP supports their efforts, but does not have funding for these efforts.

8. Other news or business from the group

None.