

Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2009

Present: Karen McDowell, Andy Burgess, Bob McMahon, Lynn Schlueter, Erin Williams, Louanne McMartin, Jonathan Thompson (new employee with Louanne) Eileen Ryce, Kevin Anderson

Absent: Diane Cooper, John Wullschleger, Amy Ferriter, Blake Feist

1. Spring ANSTF meeting, hosted by WRP

The May 19-21, 2009, ANS Task Force meeting will be hosted by the WRP. Eileen provided an overview of the field trip ideas. Montana FWP will be hosting the field trip, including providing lunch and transportation. Eileen Ryce is working with Susan Mangin, the new Executive Secretary for the ANSTF, on meeting logistics. Ideas for the half-day of WRP presentations on Tuesday, May 19, were discussed. Erin will send out a reminder to the ExComm to send in additional ideas prior to Feb. 27th. These will be about **six**, 15-20 minute presentations with 10-15 minutes for discussion and questions.

2. WRP Annual Meeting Update (Sept. 8-10, 2009 in Seattle, WA)

The annual meeting planning group talked at the end of January. There are several location options; Erin will make a table of the options and the workgroup will pick a location. Field trip ideas are being discussed as well as potential agenda items, including a focus on early detection/rapid response as a theme.

3. BLM request for membership position

The vote put to the members regarding whether or not to add the Bureau of Land Management as a WRP member was valid with 38 out of 53 responses. The membership voted to add BLM as a member. Erin will contact BLM and send out an email to the WRP with the results.

4. Quagga/Zebra Action Plan update

The steering committee had their first conference call on Wednesday, Feb. 11th. Dave Britton (FWS) is the lead contact for the plan. FWS regional coordinators Paul Heimowitz, Erin, Bob Pitman and Ron Smith will all be helping develop sections of the plan.

5. Grant proposals update

Erin recently received the forms for the other two projects and has sent the forms to FWS Contracting for processing, which can take several months.

6. Workgroups - updates

Due to phone line trouble, Louanne was not able to provide an update. Blake Feist was on vacation so unable to provide an update.

7. Panel funding support letter to ANSTF

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 sent draft a response to the ExComm to discuss. There were no suggested changes, but folks were given until Feb. 17th to provide any comments. Erin would contact Greg Conover to tell him to expect the letter next week.

8. Other news or business from the group:

Next call will be Wednesday, March 11, instead of March 12, at the regular time.