

**Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 9, 2006**

Members Present: Kevin Anderson, Eileen Ryce, John Chapman, Susan Ellis, Blaine Parker, Karen McDowell, Robyn Draheim, Tina Proctor

Member Absent: John Wullschleger

1. Committee for 2006 Annual Meeting – Portland, OR

We have rooms reserved at the University Plaza Hotel in Portland. The Western branch of the North American Lake Management Society, the Oregon Lake Association and the Washington Association of Lake Managers are having a joint conference at the same time in the same Hotel. Robyn will work on having an overlap for a few pertinent sessions. The following people volunteered to be on the meeting planning committee: Robyn, Blaine, Kevin, Paul Heimowitz, and Tina. Tina will plan a conference call in April to begin planning the agenda. Blaine suggested a salmon bake at the nearby tribal college on the night of Sept. 14th. Tina will send a notice to the membership about the dates so people can get it on their calendars.

2. Update on Non-Native Invasive Pest Intervention Team (NIPITS)

Robyn sent a status report on this project to the EC from Lars Anderson. The report is attached to the minutes. The mock drill for responding to an alert for *Trapa natans* and *Lagarosiphon* will be completed in the summer, 2006. The final product will be a report on recommendations for "Rapid Response Action Teams" for the two species, including contacts, a proposed sequence of notifications and suggested means to obtain "authorities" to act.

3. Change of Timing for WRP Funding

Because the \$50,000 of funding from the WRP has come late in the fiscal year, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has helped by being the contractor for the funds. Thus, the FY2005 funds are being spent on the three projects in the work plan for this year. Stephen Phillips at PSMFC has been a tremendous help in making sure these projects are completed. Stephen no longer has the time to devote to these contracting duties for the WRP. Tina suggested that we obligate the FY2006 funds this year as soon as possible so they won't be rescinded in early 2007. Kevin suggested that we base it on the results of the survey of priorities for 2006-2007 that he and Eileen will send out next week. Everyone agreed that would be appropriate.

4. Nominations to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (Advisory to the National Invasive Species Council)

The ISAC is looking for nominations for new members. WRP members Marilyn Leland and Dianne Cooper have completed their terms and will no longer be serving. The EC talked about several people who have shown interest or who are being nominated. There are about 30 members from all over the country representing aquatic and terrestrial interests.

5. Priorities for Work Plan 2006-2007

Kevin and Eileen will send the members a list of work priorities compiled from the questionnaire they sent last month. There will be 12 suggestions and the members will be asked to rank them from 1-12. The EC will use the top ranked projects (which need funding) to fund in 2006. The list to be ranked is attached to the Minutes.

6. Pacific Coast Ballast Water Work Group

Kevin reported Stephen Phillips will convene the Pacific Coast Ballast Water Work Group meeting on April 20th in Vancouver, WA. They will be discussing the Canadian shipping Act, the West Coast Outreach Project, new Coast Guard regulations, and the compliance with regulations in the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

7. Working with Tribes Workshop

Susan attended a workshop given by a private consultant, Barry Kune, on building effective government relationships with Tribes. She felt it was very well done and suggested that the WRP sponsor a similar workshop. The EC discussed the idea and decided to add the suggestion to the list of priority projects that the members will vote on. Tina suggested that we could provide a day-long workshop on Tuesday, September 12th in Portland before the WRP meeting. Kevin mentioned that the Washington State Office of Indian Affairs also offers this kind of training.

8. WGA-WRP-WAFWA Working Group

Tina spoke to Linda Drees (former WRP coordinator) about the WGA-WRP-WAFWA working group. Linda will be meeting with the WRP soon to discuss how to move forward with this working group and how it might be funded. She will include Tina in the meeting. Kevin asked that Tina inform him when the meeting gets scheduled because he may want to involve someone from the WA governor's office.

9. ANSTF Experts Database

Robyn agreed to be the WRP representative to a group representing all the regional panels and USGS to establish criteria and create a template for a database of ANS taxonomic experts which will be managed by USGS. After the database is created, the WRP will determine how we will provide our list of experts. We may need to hire a contractor to complete the list.

10. Updates from Kevin

a. The Washington legislature has passed a law creating an Invasive Species Council which will provide policy, direction and coordination about invasive species, both terrestrial and aquatic. There are 4 state agencies involved.

b. As a follow up to the cross-border *Spartina* control project that the WRP helped fund, a workshop is being planned with all the partners to improve coordination on continuing *Spartina* control. One project will be to release drift cards into Boundary Bay to determine where the currents will take them up and down the coast.

c. Scott Newsham has asked the regional panels to provide an accomplishment report covering October 04 to September 05. He provided a template and the due date is April 4th. Tina and Kevin will work on the report in the last week of March and will send it to the EC for review before sending it to Scott. The EC was asked to provide any ideas for programmatic recommendations to Tina or Kevin before that week.

11. Risk Assessment Workshop

Eileen asked about whether plans for the Risk Assessment Workshop are going ahead. Tina reported to Jerry Rasmussen, MRBP coordinator, the results of the WRP questionnaire regarding the workshop. 14 people responded and 13 wanted to attend a workshop. 13 preferred a 102 workshop (information plus exercises). Answers for time frame were: fall 6; summer 3; no preference 4. There has not been a follow up phone call since then.

12. WRP/MRBP Work Projects

Kevin sent the list that Susan compiled about WRP/MRBP joint work projects to Jerry Rasmussen. Jerry's responded that he would contact Kevin after the MRBP executive committee met in March.