

**Western Regional Panel
Executive Committee Minutes**
Thursday, January 22, 2004

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Members Present: Tina Proctor, Jim Athearn, John Chapman, Susan Ellis, Nate Decoretz, Ted Grosholz, Scott Smith, Mark Sytsma

Members Absent: Blaine Parker, Al Van Vooren, Dwight Williamson

1. Election of WRP Chair

The EC elected Susan Ellis to be the WRP Chair for 2004. Vice Chair is Al Van Vooren . Susan and Al will serve until the next election in January 2005.

2. WRP Meeting Dates

The EC discussed preferable meeting dates for the 2005 annual meeting. Members were reluctant to change the dates from the usual 2nd week in September because it works for people who have finished their field seasons and it is before hunting season. The first week in September is also an option although it is before Labor Day. Tina will call Marilyn Leland and ask her to check with hotels about when we can get government rates. Tina will set up a conference call for the meeting planning committee which currently consists of Marilyn Leland, Denny Lassuy, Bob Piorkowski, Scott Smith, Susan Ellis, Adelheid Herrmann, Mark Sytsma, Lisa Ka'aihue and Tina Proctor. (Note: Call is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 11 at 3:30 pm MT)

3. Review of Proposals

National Lake Management Society - \$5,000.

At the WRP meeting in La Jolla, the members approved \$5,000 to sponsor a meeting on the west coast regarding Spartina. A meeting has already been planned for late fall in the Bay area, so the EC felt it wasn't necessary to plan a separate one. Mark submitted a proposal that the WRP use the funds to co-sponsor the NALMS annual meeting November 3-5 in Victoria, BC. There will be several sessions on invasive freshwater plants and animals. Several members agreed that this is an important organization to build links to. The NALMS representative on the WRP is Tom Conry. Mark reminded everyone that NALMS has state chapters in seven WRP states and two provinces. They publish technical and popular journals. Expected attendance at the 2005 meeting is 500 people.

The EC approved \$5,000 to co-sponsor the NALMS meeting.

On-line ANS Education and Outreach Database - \$2,500

Mark submitted a proposal for funds to publish on-line the ANS Education and Outreach database being developed by the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs. Currently the database covers the Western US but eventually Mark will like to get the ANS Task Force involved and expand coverage to the whole US. They have 120 items so far. The database will either have .pdf files or links to sites where people can order materials.

The EC approved \$2,500 to publish the ANS Education and Outreach Database on-line.

Canada/US Cooperation - \$5,000

The EC received a proposal from Kevin Anderson and Pat Lim for using the \$5,000 to sponsor Canadian scientist to attend ANS meeting in the US. EC discussion was about receiving a product for this money, such as the development of a plan for better Canadian-US cooperation around ANS issues. Mark will call Kevin and Pat to discuss. Tina will invite them to participate in the next EC conference call. Mark suggested discussing border crossing education. Tina suggested that we get input from Wendy Ralley as well.

Mexico/US Cooperation - \$5,000

The EC reviewed a proposal from John Chapman to fund the production of a multi-authored manuscript to review nonindigenous aquatic species of common concern between Mexico and the US. The paper would be presented at one meeting in Mexico (to be determined) and at the Marine Bioinvasions meeting in the US in 2004. The EC discussed the proposal and decided that a better budget was needed with specific tasks and a timeline. John agreed to get back to the EC with the information.

Research Priorities - \$5,000

There was considerable discussion about how to tackle the creation of a WRP research priorities list. One suggestion was to hold meetings at separate venues during the year, such as NALMS, the Spartina meeting, and the Western Plan Management Society. Mark commented that each researcher has priorities that relate to what they are interested in and they don't necessarily respond to a list of priorities. They like to come up with their own ideas. Susan suggested that the State members could come up with ideas from the ANS plans which would be more general.

The discussion was tabled. Tina will find out how other Regional Panels are making their own research priority lists.

4. Committees

At the WRP meeting in La Jolla, the members decided to have one standing committee, the Work Plan committee, whose charge would be to develop the annual work plan and present it to the membership at the next annual meeting. The Inland and Coastal committees were dissolved. Ad Hoc committees will be developed as necessary. Ted and Mark agreed to be co-chairs of the Work Plan Committee and would like another person to be involved. Tina will send out an e-mail message asking for people to volunteer. Scott thanked the former co-chairs, Mike Stone, Blaine Parker, Nate Dechoretz, Ted Grosholz and John Chapman for their work.

5. Letter to Western Governors' Association

Scott and Tina wrote a letter to the Western Governors' Association which will go out next week requesting that due to zebra mussels having been found in Kansas in August 2003 that the WGA partner with the WRP to support States to take actions to prevent new infestations. The letter was e-mailed to the EC for their review before it goes out. The letter will be signed by Scott as Project Coordinator since he is no longer Chair.

6. Missouri River Basin Panel Meeting - Report from Mike Stone

Mike Stone represented the WRP at the Missouri River Basin Panel Meeting in New Orleans, January 8-9. His report is attached and incorporated as part of the Minutes.

7. Member Slot Open - Inland-At Large

Since Mark is now the representative on the WRP from Oregon, his former slot, Inland-At Large is available. The EC discussed possible members and then asked Tina to send an e-mail requested nominations.

Minutes prepared by Tina Proctor, WRP Panel Coordinator
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