

Executive Committee Conference Call

Executive Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Members Present: Susan Ellis, Scott Smith, John Chapman, Tina Proctor, Ted Grosholz, Linda Drees for Jim Athearn

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

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 12, 9:00 AM Pacific Time

1. Annual Meeting Planning

The EC reviewed the agenda for the meeting. We discussed the work plan for next year. Tina said there will be \$30,000 available for projects. The EC suggested that ideas for projects come from the membership, which will be compiled and then refined at the meeting. Tina said there is enough funding to cover the travel requests that she has received.

2. Follow up Sea Studios Proposal

Dave Aplin talked to Scott and Tina about his presentation to National Geographic. NG decided not to go with the WRP-WGA project because they do not want to be involved with a project that shapes legislation. NG and Vulcan studios will instead be creating a template for a national early detection and rapid response effort. They will create a training video as well as standard web-based reporting criteria. The project will be field tested in Chicago within a partnership of TNC and the Shedd Aquarium, among others.

As an aside, Dave mentioned that his staff was involved in contacting E-bay and asking them not to allow sales of any species on the Federal prohibited list. E-bay will create a filter and an e-mail will be sent back to anyone who tries to sell any prohibited species.

3. Western Governors' Association Resolution

The resolution passed and can be found on the WGA website: <http://www.westgov.org>. It is resolution number 04-12. Hopefully, there will be more of a clear focus than there has been in the past. One of the challenges will be to find federal funding to cover a staff person who had be the coordinator of the working group. Linda suggested that we contact USDA-APHIS. She also suggested that we have an item on our work plan to focus on getting funding for this WGA working group. The EC decided there should be a brainstorming group that could come up with suggestions for how the working group will be created. Susan, Scott, Linda, Tina and John will be the brainstormers. Tina will set up a call after Scott speaks directly with Paul Orbach, who is the acting director of the WGA.

4. Rapid Response Plan on Zebra Mussels in Columbia River

The group talked about the proposal received from Mike Fraidenburg to create a rapid response plan to zebra mussels in the Columbia River basin. The EC wants to make sure that the product is something the WRP can do. Several people were worried about general responses, knowing each situation is different.

Tina will call Stephen Phillips to find out when the money has to be obligated (NOTE: the answer is 12/31/04). Then she will send out a request for proposals to the e-mail reflector and ask for people to forward the request. The EC will review the proposals and pick a contractor. Susan will contact Mike Fraidenburg and tell him about our decision to solicit more proposals.

5. Proposal from Lars Anderson and Mark Sytsma

The EC reviewed the proposal from Lars Anderson and Mark Sytsma on the development of a case study on

a rapid response plan on possible plant invaders, in this case, water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and oxygen weed (*Lagarosiphon major*). Expert teams will be assembled and they will run through “pest alarm” exercises, based on likely pathways and suitable habitat. The evaluation phase will review the strengths, weakness and previously unrecognized limitations to successful rapid response actions. This review will critically weight what worked, what did not and identify corrective steps.

The funding request is for \$12,611 and the WRP had budgeted \$5,000 for this process. The EC supports this proposal and the discussion morphed into the next agenda item.

6. Discussion of Use of the Remaining Funds

The EC decided that we could transfer the \$5,000 which was to be dedicated to a workshop on WRP research priorities to the Anderson/Sytsma proposal. Mark said they could find the additional \$2,500 from the Western Plant Management Society (??? – I didn’t write down who they were going to request funds from). Therefore we will have enough money to fund this project with FY2004 funds.

Minutes prepared by Tina Proctor, WRP Panel Coordinator
bettina_proctor@fws.gov