

WRP Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2005

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

Members Absent: Susan Ellis, John Wullschleger

Next Conference Call: Thursday, December 8

1. Choosing Projects to Fund

The EC discussed the responses from the 4 principal investigators on the questions that were sent to them by Karen McDowell. With a total of \$44,400 available, the EC decided to fund.

1. Inventory of Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Outreach Materials, Dr. Mark Sytsma and Robyn Draheim, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University, Oregon.
Total: \$11,623.00 Matching from PSU: \$12,712
2. Assessment of the Potential for Zebra Mussel Invasion of Waters in the Western U.S. via Saltatory Dispersal and Evolution of Increased Thermal Tolerance, Dr. Robert McMahon, The University of Texas at Arlington.
Total: \$18,580.00 + overhead Request 15% overhead, instead of 48%
3. Invasive Ecosystem Engineers in the Salt Marshes of Southern California, USA, and Northern Baja California, Mexico, Dr. Jeffrey Crooks, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Imperial Beach, California.
Total: \$11,410.00 Matching: \$6,726.00

If we can get 15% overhead from UTA, then the total will be \$44,400.00.

Kevin will write a letter to Mark Sytsma and Robyn Draheim about their grant award. Tina will contact the U. of Texas at Arlington to see if they can reduce the overhead from 48% to 15%. Then Kevin will notify Jeff Crooks about the amount available for the first year of his project.

2. NOAA Seat Grant RFP

Blake Feist, the NOAA representative on the WRP led a committee to write a 500-character paragraph to NOAA Sea Grant to give them the WRP funding priorities which are relevant to NOAA's mission. Other people on the committee

are: Scott Smith, Bob McMahon, Eileen Ryce, Lynn Schlueter and Kevin Anderson. The EC reviewed the paragraph and asked Kevin to ask Blake to make changes to clarify the first sentence. One more change was made to change the word "cover" to "could extend over." The RFP will be sent out next spring with \$3-4 million available. Projects will require a 50% match. The final paragraph will be added to these Minutes.

3. Creation of Committees

Kevin and Eileen presented the attached proposal to the EC regarding the work of possible WRP committees and how to involve more people in the work of the WRP. The EC discussed the proposal and were supportive of the ideas. Kevin and Eileen will write an e-mail to the WRP members to ask them to identify the top priorities for the Western Region, including all states and provinces west of the 100th Meridian as well as Guam, Hawaii, and Alaska. After the priorities are identified, a second e-mail will ask about whether a work group (committee) should be formed and whether they are interested in participating.

4. National Fish Habitat Initiative

Larry Riley suggested that the WRP might consider being a partner in the National Fish Habitat Initiative. This is a state-led initiative with federal partners to rehabilitate, protect and develop better aquatic habitats in the U.S. Tina will provide more information about the Initiative before we make a decision.

5. Next meeting

There was a discussion of the next WRP annual meeting scheduled for Portland, OR. Many members don't like to meet the week of Labor Day. The EC decided to meet on September 13-14 with the 15th as a field trip. Robyn said she would call to see if we could get rooms at the Portland University Plaza.

6. TNC

Robyn will get contact information about Mandy Tu from The Nature Conservancy who is interested in being the TNC representative on the WRP. She will forward the information to Tina.