

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee Monthly Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Participants: Elizabeth Brown, Tom McMahon, Joanne Grady, Karen McDowell, Bob McMahon, Kevin Anderson, Stephen Phillips, Larry Dalton, John Wullschleger, Diane Cooper

Items discussed:

1) QZAP Update –Stephen Phillips

Couple of different groups – larger NISAW group and then the QZAP group. Capitol Hill briefing (Wednesday) for QZAP/Asian carp at Capitol Hill Visitors Center. Need member of Congress to write Dear Colleague letter (Ted Thayer) and logistics (Stephen). Group includes Steve, Ted Thayer, Amy Ferriter, Karen Vargas, Tom McMahon, Jason Goeckler, Wendy Brown (WA Invasive Species Council). Will do Capitol Hill visits with representatives. Working on message/content.

Travel support (airfare) for Amy Ferriter to attend meeting approved by ExCom.

2) Letter Requesting WRP Seat on Pacific NFHAP Board– Kevin Anderson

Comments on letter to Kevin by January 19th. He'll send update to Karen for signature.

3) Ballast Tank Letter – Elizabeth

Letter was signed off/finalized in December. Ted Thayer drafting a press release letter. Also requested volunteers for committee, haven't met yet. Will have update for next meeting. Letter details/plan to come.

4) John Chapman isopod issue – Karen/Joanne

Updated group on communications from John Chapman. WRP funded someone at Portland State University on this species a few years. Stephen saw these things in the mud shrimp while fishing this year. Kevin says coastal committee can discuss; he'll discuss this with John. Joanne to forward emails to Kevin. Diane also suggested we use the regional and national rapid response plans when we need to.

5) WRP Coordinator – Joanne Grady

Discussed the limited information FWS has about funding. Committee will be meeting Thursday, Jan. 26th at 1 pm.

6) Pyramid Lake Fisheries Brochure review – Bob McMahon

Bob will get his comments out to ExCom by Jan 18th. Joanne will contact Nancy Vucinich tomorrow and send her the comments by the 23rd.

7) Use of WRP logo – Karen

After conversation about logo, the announcement for the upcoming mussel workshops had WRP logo as letterhead. We need to draft a paragraph regarding use of the WRP logo on brochures, webpages, etc. Permission to use logo needs to come from ExCom.

8) Threats to the West Brochure – Karen

Its moving forward. SFEP has contract with graphic designer and is looking for printing quotes. Do we need to have quotes from GPO? Karen will send specifications to FWS if we do have to get GPO quote.

9) Annual meeting – Larry Dalton

Conference call with team at 2 pm MT. Larry and Joanne looking at hotels today between calls. Should have great update for next month's ExCom. Usually the local folks get to direct a portion of the meeting to local issues, which is why we alternate coastal/inland.

We'll need to clarify what kind of participation folks can have via distance and clarify that our policies reflect that.

10) ANSTF Update – Karen McDowell

Panels conference call with Susan Mangin and Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Panel. Michelle Tremblay would be willing to process WRP funds with 10% overhead. This is an option we could pursue for having fiscal processing done by them. We should look into it as we know more.

Conference call Jan. 20th with panel coordinators to discuss agenda for May ANSTF meeting in Annapolis.

Strategic Plan is in editing mode.

Where's WRP recommendation to ANSTF? When will letter come out? What can WRP do?

11) ANSTF Awards Committee – Elizabeth Brown

Call for award nominations is out. Nominations should be in by Jan. 26th. Will be a panel to decide who wins. Pilot awards in Leadership, volunteer, outreach and education to be awarded at the NISAW meeting. Each category has 2 awards, one for terrestrial and one for aquatic. Encourage the members and ExCom to submit names individually.

Joanne to resend to the membership highlighting the deadline.

12) AIS Workshops for Assistant Attorneys General - Joanne Grady

Joanne will follow through with Stephanie Showalter-Oats of Sea Grant program

13) 2011 Minutes

Have David post the draft meeting notes on the WRP webpage and send note to membership with deadline for comments to be in by Feb 1st.

14) Committee Updates

Coastal Committee

Coastal committee – next meeting on January 19th at 9 a.m. Discuss regional issues. Setup workshop to cover responses to new invasions. Jeff Adams, WA Sea Grant to lead discussion. Robyn Draheim and Paul Heimowitz working on web meeting for tunicates.

Other Items

Colorado Parks and Wildlife – The merger implementation plan is out and the Invasive Species Program has been eliminated, but an ANS Program remains. Public comment period ends on January 16th.

Next Call: Thursday, February 15, 2012 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central