

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Wednesday October 30, 2013; 12 PM MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Beth Bear, Allison Begley, Joanne Grady, Earl Chilton, Stephen Phillips, Tom McMahon, and John Wullschleger.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah; August 2013 call: Beth makes motion to approve, and Tom seconds. All in favor.
- B) Set times for All member calls and Ex Comm calls – Leah; Schedule for Ex Comm call is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10 am mountain time. Group determined that they would now hold their monthly call on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10 am mountain, 11 am central, 9 am pacific. Nov 21 will be the next call. Selected a date for the All Member call - March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am mountain for one hour.
- C) Ex Comm chair and vice election. Elizabeth would like to continue as chair and Beth would like to serve as the vice. Allison makes motion to elect both nominations and Joanne seconds. All in favor.
- D) Finalize ANSTF Recommendations and letter – Leah; The documents were finalized and provided to Susan Mangin.
- E) Discussion on presentation of QZAP prioritization and SAH!, and other recommendation dialog to ANSTF – Elizabeth; She is doing multiple presentations, needs feedback on QZAP and SAH!. **SAH! Wildlife Forever (WF) discussion**, Joanne – Several Task Force leaders are highly supportive, so be aware of this dynamic; Leah – try to focus on the program rather than the contractor; John – WF needs to address consistency in brand recognition; Joanne – Robyn Drahiem stated that the western states agreed to the logo and now the outside agency has changed the logo, clarification on what is available for free; Beth – you used to be able to download logo and it was a free product, clarification on where their focus is before support continues; Tom – western states are still supporting program, many partners have spent a lot of money including logo, are we to expect to continue to have that available?; Stephen – there will be a need for formalized oversight if they are going to continue to receive funds and be a national brand, at a minimum SAH! needs to be on the ANSTF agenda at every meeting, clarification on if they are going to be receiving funds; Joanne – recall there was not an opportunity for input in the contract transition; Elizabeth – the reason that CO used SAH! was to create continuity, are the eastern states changing to the new logo? Joanne – request to continue to use the original logo as it is on millions of outreach pieces and resolve website issues; Earl – many campaigns within one brand; Joanne – who is the federal point of contact if you need to talk to the person providing funds?; Beth – the WF logo on all the new materials or does the WF now always go with SAH! logo?; Joanne – where is the free to the community service that was originally there?; Elizabeth – requested some graphics and was told that could not use because they were owned by MN. **QZAP** – Elizabeth what would you like to see presented/not – Stephen – depending on how much time, things have not really changed much

since the original QZAP in terms of priority, the highest priority and rankings, and what people think, essentially QZAP has withstood the test of time. The graphs from the survey are great. The results from the survey match up with advocacy that has been presented. The question of do we need to re-do QZAP is not supported based on what we have seen. Earl – will provide a list of higher priority species for biocontrol research to background/inquiry on the biocontrol research. Elizabeth will provide an update back to the Ex Comm on the ANSTF meeting during next Ex Comm call.

- F) Annual Meeting – debrief, reimbursements, minutes review and survey results – Leah; impressions from Ex Comm members – Elizabeth felt Portland meeting was good but not best, good diversity in presentations; Beth – suggests to put all the talks together rather than separate with the business meeting etc, the process in choosing the next annual meeting needs to be more controlled; Joanne – great, able to pull QZ into other avenues and learn about other things; Allison – diversity good, and format good; Leah - to date have provided approx \$4 thousand for travel awaiting 2 people to submit, have also paid \$2 thousand in meeting expense directly related to the meeting space and AV. The other sponsors (Portland State University, Smith-Root and FieldSync) all contributed to the refreshments. When all expenses have been paid Leah will provide a detailed report to the Ex Comm. The minutes from the Annual meeting have been provided if you can please review and have comments back to Leah by Nov 22. Then this will be provided to entire membership for review and comment. Portland Exit Survey results – question 6 related to agenda is helpful for considering the “meet regional partner” for next time. Question 11 – last 2 weeks of September preferred dates for 2014. 3<sup>rd</sup> Week is preference. Beth - Good to not have the state reports verbally; Joanne – agreed that there are windows for open comment; Elizabeth – ensuring that we provide adequate food is essential; Earl – does the field trip have to be at the end of the meeting?; John – field trip first is a good ice breaker; Elizabeth – capitalize on AG/Building Consensus efforts with timing to take advantage of members/partners being at the Annual Meeting; Leah - an area of improvement that the members and Ex Comm could benefit from is to spend more time developing the recommendations, or gaining more consensus on them as a larger group; Elizabeth – taking recommendations to the membership for discussion is new so to refine as a group has not happened previously, but could improve for next year; Beth – guidance would be good for the group in providing input on recommendations; Elizabeth – guidance will be written on the process.
- G) Legislation update - Stephen. Water Resource Development Act passed out of the house by wide margin, some AIS components of bill 1) calls for GAO study to estimate the impacts of AIS, spending versus threat, 2) Asian carp amendment that was approved for better coordination in the Great Lakes, 3) the section on aquatic weed funding has been expanded to include “AIS” on Senate side funding for monitoring and contingency planning in the Columbia River basin is included. Next step is the bill goes to conference which could be in November or next year. Protecting Lakes Against Quaggas Act is not really moving. Related to that Quagga mussel listing/Lacey Act, Slaughter/Gillibrand bill does not look like it will pass as there is push back from pet industry. Emergency listing is something that maybe could be attached to another piece of legislation? The problem is there are so few pieces of legislation going through; it is

hard to find a place to attach it to. Schumer Emergency Response Fund: the legislation has not been introduced. There may be potential through the House AIS Caucus of introducing some sort of AIS bill, members are paying attention to potential western bill maybe into 2014. This is a bipartisan issue. Earl – has heard discussion on earmarks may be returning? Stephen – that would be welcome. Healthy Habitats Bill – dramatic re-write from earlier versions; Elizabeth – specifically in the current bill are requirement for federal entities to reduce species populations 5% annually, and there are issues with NEPA and ESA. In a meeting with Colorado weed supervisors, John Cantlon (DuPont and HH lead) told group that the bill would pass. Earl – at AFWA meeting, bill looked promising in the house but not senate. A lot of opposition on the bill because it takes federal money and gives it to the states.

- H) Strategy for coordinating the coordination - Elizabeth (e.g. letter to entities, meeting of the chairs and other ideas, create WRP talking points and one-pager, and tag line with terrestrial entities). The issue of trying to coordinate the AIS effort in the region has come up at so many meetings, so pulled together a table. Limited groups to ones that have several state overlays. How do we intersect with all of these groups? Do we have everyone that we think wants to play in this game? Please review and let Elizabeth know. Consider providing some education and information for these groups so they know they can come to us. One idea was to have all of the chairs or president in a room to have some sort of introduction. Allison – valuable to capture this and reach out to the groups; Stephen – One of the bigger players at this point is the Western Governors Association. Suggest WRP focus on the active ones, and make sure they are invited to our meetings. There are many of these groups especially in the NW, and would be good to find ways to collaborate and plug them in where they do best; Joanne – consider email or letter informing them of WRP, if interested would love to hear from them; Stephen – At the Annual Meeting depending on who comes could have a sit down with some of these folks, and set aside agenda time to discuss coordination; Elizabeth – will touch base with WGA, and Leah and Elizabeth will work on letter to approve by Ex Comm; Tom mentioned a group to include NASBLAW – National Administration of State Boating Law Administrators.
- I) Protocol sampling consistency - Beth – Wants to better understand what each state is doing for sampling i.e. number of plankton tows. Suggested that this information be gathered and collated? Who should do that? Beth is willing to send out the request and gather information; Elizabeth – would be helpful to move the AG group forward; Joanne – this would be great for timing and could be discussed at WRP.
- J) WID Data collection update – Elizabeth – For those at WISCE meeting there was conversation on WID collection and sharing. WISCE group is continuing to push forward. Dave Britton is working with the FieldSync database collection systems and did conduct the lower CO meeting, Park Service and others are open to testing the system. CO will test over the winter, and also putting together a background doc and a scope of work. WISCE participants will not share everything and highest priority information only will be shared; agreed on specific data points to be shared would include: watercraft leaving water body that is positive for AIS and that have been there for the last 60 days. Must determine if folks that do not use FieldSync, do they need new systems or can adapt what they are currently using to share? Concerns about furlough again don't want data to be housed with federal entity, so the details are being discussed (e.g. who

owns the contract). Joanne – Did Dave think that we were clear for the plan with the privacy concerns that were previously brought up? John – privacy concerns versus legal requirements. Goal is to share data by March/April may next year.

K) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Leah Elwell – dates/location/joint; Houston Second week of September, still pursue the Gulf Coast Panel joint meeting idea. Leah will set up a time to touch base with Earl on next steps for planning.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – There is a subgroup that is working on the definitions for programs and model law, trying to schedule another meeting with AIS coordinators for Feb 2014; Federal lands component is behind but is scheduled to meet in November; Joanne and Sam Chan (OR Sea Grant) will meet to discuss and update the action plan goals and dates. Elizabeth – survey of the coordinators (14 completed the survey) week of Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 82% wanted to go to back to Denver. Would prefer to have 3 days with noon start and end. Everyone said they would attend. Half said they would need travel support.
- c. Coastal Committee – representative TBD; because both Kevin Anderson and Karen McDowell are no longer on Ex Comm and Stephen is committed to a variety of efforts; Sonia Gorgula (Hawaii AIS contact) will be new committee chair. Leah - how would you like to have committee participation - infrequent join call from Sonia, Leah join coastal calls, Sonia briefs Leah? Ex Comm would like Committee to provide monthly written report and if an issue needs to be elevated will give time to Sonia on the agenda.
- d. Lab Protocols and Standards Workgroup– Stephen Phillips – At ANSTF will be talking some about the issue. It is problematic that ISAC has not met in 1.5 years to help address this issue as this is where the issue has been housed the last 2 years. There will be an ISAC EDRR committee call early next year so will have to determine where we are at that point.
- e. Membership Committee– Leah Elwell; have not met since summer, if there are specific items the Ex Comm would like pursued by the committee, such as the election process etc. Leah will continue to report.
- f. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips – The unit has been tested by Sudeep Chandra and waiting for completed research report. Results so far sound promising.
- g. “Sustainability” workgroup – Diane Cooper, Beth Bear, Karen McDowell, Allison Begley, John Wullshleger, Joanne Grady, Bob Wiltshire, Jeff Adams, Elizabeth Brown and Kevin Anderson. This group of people volunteered at the annual meeting. How do you want this group to move forward with action/discussion? Leah will initiate the next steps with email.

L) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD

- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – still in progress with a smaller group, not sure if there will be a next iteration, will be on the ANSTF agenda in November.
  - c. NZMS – Joanne Grady – do not have specific funding for this species, does not appear to be money forthcoming in future budgets, for now it has been tabled to address a re-write of the NZMS Management Plan. The small amount of funding that might have been available went to Christine Moffitt for research associated with species and hatchery managers. It was possibly to be addressed by another USFWS region, but this fell through. Looking for input to prioritize and it seems that there are other topics that Joanne/USFWS should focus on. Most people who really wanted to see it updated are the research folk, and less so from the management folks. Perspective from USFWS AIS branch in headquarters- is there a real need to update the plan when there is not much of a cry for it? Biologically we have not seen the problem progress.
  - d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – Covered in discussion above.
  - e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger – Have been completed.
  - f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – fairly close with completing a management plan
  - g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
- M) Announcements – ALL –Leah regarding the listserv - will begin transitioning to the Google groups in coming weeks; process is not as simple as uploading an email list – there are invite only! Plaque for Karen and Kevin. Elizabeth would like to get them a thank you plaque – all in favor. Next meeting Nov 21 at 10am
- N) Lake Winnipeg update – Allison – QZ were discovered there in the past 2 weeks. To date adults have been found in several locations. Intensive sampling will be done this week and working on assessing the damage, Montana has offered identification assistance, and Renata Claudi reached out to offer assistance. The visibility in the lake is poor.
- O) Joanne - At ANSTF if any boating groups are there can Elizabeth visit with them about the AG effort. Opening dialog with boating community etc.