

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday October 9th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Dennis Zabaglo, Stephen Phillips, John Wulschleger, Beth Bear, Tom McMahon, Elizabeth Brown, Earl Chilton and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell. Beth Bear moved to approve with minor changes from Elizabeth. John Wulschleger seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- B) Vote Chair and Vice Chair 2014/2015 – Leah. With the recent election of Ex Comm members, the group now will elect a chair and vice chair for 2014-2015. Both Elizabeth Brown and Beth Bear would like to be considered for chair and vice chair positions, respectively. Stephen Phillips moved to have Elizabeth and Beth as the chair and vice. Dennis seconded. Elizabeth announced that she will miss some meetings and Spring ANSTF meeting due to maternity leave. All in favor. Motion carried.
- C) ANSTF– Leah and Elizabeth – Elizabeth –
 - a. Finalize recommendations – A final review of the *Ongoing Activities and Recommendations* for the ANSTF for submission for the ANSTF fall meeting took place. There was some further clarification on the joint recommendation regarding the USGS NAS database to include plants. Also, at Houston, it was suggested that the WRP include a recommendation to the ANSTF noting that they will be submitting a grant request to the 100th Meridian Initiative in 2015 for funding to be directly used to support panel operations. Elizabeth preferred not to include this as a recommendation. Stephen agreed. Elizabeth would like to write a letter to USFWS leaders recognizing that the WRP intends to submit a grant to the 100th Meridian as a short term way to address current panel needs with Ex Comm approval. Elizabeth moved to approve the current Ongoing Activities and Recommendation document. Beth seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Joanne supplied an email stating that perhaps a formal letter thanking appropriate USFWS management staff to note the significance of 100th Meridian funding to the panel could be an option, but also stressed that it should be included as a recommendation. Ex Comm agreed that their motion to approve the current document still stood despite this additional email information.
 - b. List of questions to ANSTF re: Sportfish Restoration funding – Leah – In Houston there was discussion from members on wanting better clarification of what Sportfish Restoration funds could be used for associated with AIS programs. A list of questions is to be provided to Craig Martin USFWS no later than two weeks prior to the ANSTF fall meeting in November. John - Who can answer that question (of appropriate use of funds)? USFWS. Earl – is the question cannot the funding be used specifically for boating access? They have used it to clear out vegetation at access points. Elizabeth – understands that the funding could be used to build wash stations, boat launch, media

education and outreach. But cannot specifically use it for inspection processes that involved enforcement. Earl - I think the question is can you use funding for enforcement, or inspectors? Leah suggested that a statement of appropriate applications from the USFWS needs to be sent rather than questions provided. Leah will extract exact language from Houston minutes to start the discussion and determine what next steps should be taken.

D) Coordinating the coordination – Elizabeth Brown.

- a. Just attended the State Organization of Boating Access (SOBA) meeting. They have been working on a boating manual which state boating coordinators started in 2010, includes clean boating and boating education. Glenn Dolphin is on the committee. They started an AIS committee in SOBA in 2010. They worked to clarify the funding issue associated with Sportfish Restoration and Boating Access funds. Planning to publish the manual at the end of the year. It seems duplicative in retrospect. The panel was given a chance to review. It is a good document and does not contradict the WRP work. Not sure of the broad use of the document. She gave a presentation on Building Consensus, model law, state comparisons, and WIT/WID training. SOBA recommended that WRP should be working closely with NASBLAW (boating law administrators; another nexus in the state agency arena), which possibly could be explored with Stephanie Showalter Otts/Priya Nanjapa. Elizabeth noted several other groups at the SOBA meeting that we do not have on the WRP list of national interested partners. She would like to send the blank cover letter to these groups. There is quite a bit of follow up. Boat USA just released their boating campaign with AIS (Clean Boating campaign). There were other federal agencies there as well. But not reaching the non-government groups.
- b. She has an initial meeting with North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) scheduled in November and when attending the ANSTF meeting in DC she will meet face to face with Reduce Risk from Invasive Species Coalition. Her boss presented Building Consensus information at the AFWA meeting recently. People really like the state comparison and gap analysis.

E) Stephen – perimeter defense – There was a Columbia River Basin Team meeting last week. The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) held a call and there is a webinar at 12 today. Also PNWER held a call, all discussing the idea of perimeter defense. On November 21 PNWER is holding a meeting in Seattle to examine further the idea of perimeter defense (at least for Pacific Northwest). They do have funding to write up the results of the meeting and eventually a “plan”. PSMFC will soon be surveying the states on 2015 interception and station location plans for 2015. We know that in the NW, we have the programs in place but we have some implementation issues and the night traffic issue still needs to be addressed. There may be a push for UT and CO to go roadside inspection; UT is planning on more roadside coverage in 2015. NV is now thinking about going roadside inspection in 2016. There is a lot of good stuff going on. We will be paying close attention to the WRDA (Corps of Engineers) funding for WIS. Funding could be recommended to be best allocated in specific ways as a means for this larger effort. Stephen suggested that Elizabeth should come to the November meeting. Elizabeth – may be able to go with her boss. To help have the discussion of *How do we do this best?*

- F) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips. Quagga listing bill: USFWS did not want a broad exception on this. It is doubtful that other invasive species related bills (e.g. Healthy Habitats or Lacy Act) would be addressed during the lame duck session. Dennis – regarding the Tahoe Restoration Act, it is still in committee, Stephen – suggests that there may be a Continuing Resolution for 2015. What about 2015 NISAW? Some of us will go back to Congress and will discuss priorities. Still uncertain as to the future possibility of a NISA re-authorization, but it is being discussed. If this happens it would be a tremendous amount of work and big opportunity.
- G) National Invasive Species Awareness Week awards discussion – Elizabeth –Views the awards as an opportunity to highlight several individuals throughout the west. NISAW Awards Committee has not yet met. Would like WRP to send several nominations from the western US to get recognition. In the mean time think about whom you might nominate for the following: Education/Outreach, Lifetime achievement, Leadership and another. Elizabeth and Larry have each received one in the past.
- H) WRP Annual Meeting 2014 - Leah
 - a. Budget - All of the expenses have not yet been received by members who received travel support. Once all of these have been received then a final budget report will be provided. At this time there have been about \$2,500 in travel requests and \$3,500 in hotel/meeting expenses.
 - b. Debrief – Review of results from the Exit Survey. No real surprises. Overall Ex Comm and survey takers were pleased with the meeting. Information from the survey will be used to help inform the 2015 Meeting.
- I) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo. Elizabeth mentioned that Karen Vargas wants to be included on the steering committee. The steering committee will meet sometime in November. Leah and Dennis are discussing facilities.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Elizabeth- The steering committee needs to get together to make some decisions as to where committee will go. Each subcommittee needs a mission and chair for each and an Ex Comm liaison. We did get a lot of volunteers for the new subcommittees, and people are anxious to get to work.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup - Elizabeth
 - ii. Legal - Joanne
 - iii. Inreach – Tom
 - iv. Outreach - Beth
 - v. Data Sharing - Elizabeth
 - vi. Perimeter defense -Stephen
 - c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – Leah – Sonia let the group know that as of January 2015 she will be stepping down as committee chair and will move to Australia. Leah will visit with Sonia to identify a new chair. Stephen – suggested new elected WRP member California State Lands Commission, Invasives Program as a chair. Know that PSMFC will help too. Leah – will have a finalized budget from the Tunicates Workshop soon.

- d. Membership Committee– Leah – no new committee news. Stephen – Rick Edwards Shoshone Paiute (Duck Valley) has expressed interest in the WRP. They have some increased interest in invasive species with the tribal Wildhorse Reservoir (NV) getting a positive PCR hit (QZ). Leah will reach out to current listed inland tribal member Clint Folden who has not participated in the last 3 years with the WRP to see if they are still interested in the WRP.
 - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen – No new news.
 - f. Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup – Elizabeth – No new news.
- J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – close to completion
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – A conference call has been scheduled by Laura Norcutt.
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – close to completion
 - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
 - f. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - Laura Norcutt, Don MacLean and Craig Martin were kind enough to draft a charter for the group, which Elizabeth and Dog Jensen edited. They have a call next week to finalize this. All volunteers will then be reached out to including Beth, and others. Set the first committee meeting for after the ANSTF meeting. John – Did he volunteer? If not he would like to.
 - g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady – No report
- K) Announcements – ALL
- L) Earl – They have found zebra mussels in Lake Waco and this time is different we know who brought them in and they were issued tickets. Locals are going attempt to suppress with tarps. Tickets were issued for transporting AIS, possession and not being registered for activity. Person was doing contract work with a barge brought from positive water.
- M) Elizabeth – South Dakota found veligers in Angostura Reservoir and KS announced another lake.
- N) Leah – At HACCP training this week worked with Region 6 USFWS dive team member. While there are some cleaning protocols available, there is limited information. Elizabeth volunteered to provide her protocol for Leah to forward on to the Dive Team.