

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

October 2, 2018 at 11:00 am mountain time

Minutes

Nate Owens, Jeff Adams, John Wullschleger, Martha Volkoff, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown, Joanne Grady, Stephen Phillips, Tammy Davis and Leah Elwell.

The first 60 minutes was spent on strategic discussion. The majority of regular Ex Comma agenda items were consolidated into the remaining 60 minutes.

- A) Discuss and review membership survey for strategic planning – Any additional comments should be sent to Elizabeth midnight October 2.
 - a. Step one is to firm up role for WRP and step two is to engage the membership; conducted with surveys at each step. Notify membership in the first survey that there are plans for engagement for the future.
 - b. Survey can be most useful if it is clear and has few objectives. People will be more responsive to that clearness. Drop #4 turn it into what is WRP doing well or not well? 17 and 18 need to be combined. Do you think WRP is adequately addressing a range of issues? 16 topics list should be very broad to not define the scope for the survey. Or alternatively keep it open so as not to assume those topics for all.
 - c. Some of the open ended questions will help Ex Comm see the value that WRP provides to them.
 - d. Coordinating the coordination is invisible to the membership, should we query on this/better illustrate this? If this is a priority to membership, then we need to build the capacity within a strategic plan. Do you think it is important for WRP to represent your state in other forums? This could lead to capacity issues.
 - e. Are some of the business procedure questions that will be discussed in the Ex Comm Tacoma meeting appropriate to ask in the survey too? Only if they affect the membership should they be added.
 - f. Add question who would you describe your participation/focus in WRP coastal/marine, inland issues or both
 - g. Either remove the purpose question or put it in the end? Understand what a member gets from WRP that they can apply to their work and what can they contribute to the WRP mission. If people are feeling WRP is not being effective, then it is the membership who can make is effective. How would you like to contribute? Can we ask this in a follow up survey?
 - h. Should “products” be defined?
 - i. Do you want more participation opportunities with the WRP? Save for step 2 survey.
 - j. Separate survey for leadership? Do we add more questions?
- B) Finalize the Ex Comm agenda for Tacoma discussion – Provide any comments to Leah asap. If none are received this is the final agenda.

- C) How is the 45 min used in the business meeting that touches on strategic planning? What are the key things that we want to tell the membership and learn from the membership? Start with mission/goals/purposes. But forward thinking should be the focus of a discussion. Touch on survey results.
- D) Approval of August minutes –Stephen Phillips made a motion to approve minutes and Jeff Adams, seconded. All approved. Motion passed.
- E) Legislation update – Stephen Philips
- a. Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) S.3201; A conference bill has been passed by the House; Senate adoption likely soon; Land and Water Conservation Fund could pose some dynamics to WRDA. The WRDA language mentions Columbia River Basin and adds the Upper Missouri River Basin, Upper Colorado Basin, South Platte Basin and AZ River Basin (which is an error and will be changed to Arkansas River Basin). Original legislation named 4 Columbia Basin States so to address as basins is a change. The bill also added more money. USACE Letter reports will likely have to be developed for each basin region, but should not be as time consuming as the original CRB Watercraft inspection/monitoring letter report, as some of the ground work is done.
 - b. FY19 Interior budget is not done yet, but the energy & water budget is and includes (once again) funding for WIT stations, monitoring and rapid response. Also included is \$1M for flowering rush but with no further direction but that it can only be used for control and not in “federal” waters. Folks will need to work on future language to resolve flowering rush language.
 - c. Budget is operating on an extension until after the election (December 7).
 - d. FAA bill is being watched; is it possible that the SARA seaplane bill could be added as an amendment?? PSMFC opposes SARA bill because of federal exemption over state law.
 - e. VIDA might come back after the election.
- F) Coordinating the coordination update
- a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger – Park Service put out funding call for FY19 funding for \$1M AIS containment/prevention/enforcement.
 - b. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – Dennis Zabaglo – Martha Volkoff
 - i. Tahoe hosted a WGA workshop where 50 attended and over 400 online; It was a good forum for discussion but no decisions were made. Martha and Dennis played active role in event. There are 3 additional workshops that are in the works that will take place before January 2019.
 - ii. Mussel Leadership Forum, January 29-30 in Denver, will be hosted by WGA. The first planning meeting took place last week. Purpose of the Forum is to raise the priority of QZ in state and federal agencies as well as to determine a collective path forward between state, federal, tribal partners. What do the next 10 years of QZ management look like and how do we do it collectively? The planning team: Lloyd Knight (ID), James Dominguez (NM), Nate Owens (UT), Allison Zach (NE) Erin Raney (AZ), Stephen Phillips (PSMFC), Elizabeth Brown (CO), Hilary Smith (DOI), John Wullschleger (NPS), Barak Shemia (USFWS), Bill Whitaker

(WGA), Samantha Simon (USDA), Jeremy Crossland (ACOE), Claudia Regan (WGA), Mike Ielmini (USFS), Dan Forster (NPS), Jolene Trujillo (USBR), Lila Walker (NPS) and Blaine Parker (PNW Tribes). Forum audience is State Agency Directors, Governor Staff, AGS, and subject matter experts. Put on your calendar and plan to attend as subject matter experts.

- c. WAFWA – January 2-7, 2019; Tucson; no plans for an AIS committee meeting, objective is for the AIS committee to meet at the summer meeting.
 - d. NISC - no new information
 - e. ISAC – no new information
 - f. PNWER – no new information
 - g. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15-18, 2018; Rochester MN – Elizabeth will be there to represent interagency and multi-agency approaches on a panel. Leah will be there to represent WRP on the “Panel of Panels”.
 - h. SOBA is redoing their AIS manual and policy related documents. WRP should pay attention to this process. Nate was at the SOBA conference last week and requested to be on the AIS committee that will be working on it.
 - i. Elizabeth requested that National Marine Manufacturers Association be added to the Coordinating the Coordination update list on the agenda.
- G) WRP Website update – Leah – No big changes. However, the USFWS Region 1 AIS Coordinator has been hired, Theresa Thom. She will work with Leah on website updates in the future.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah
 - b. 2019 Annual Meeting – Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks has submitted a proposal to host in Bozeman, MT and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has submitted proposal to host in Salt Lake City, UT. Both will give a short overview in Tacoma and a vote will take place there.
 - c. ANSTF Spring 2019 – Susan Pasko is inquiring if WRP would like to host the ANSTF Spring 2019 meeting. Recall that WRP as set to host a spring meeting in Tahoe and the ANSTF had to cancel. Is Dennis in Tahoe willing to host again? Dennis would support doing and will have discussion with this leadership to determine. It can be worthwhile to host ANSTF to showcase panel achievements and needs. Minimal financial obligations but potentially considerable staff time obligations to plan.
 - d. ANSTF next meeting is scheduled for December 12-13, 2018 in DC area. The pre-meeting for panels is likely on the 11th. Elizabeth and Dennis plan to attend.
 - e. Building Consensus Workgroups
 - i. Sampling Protocol and Lab Standards Committee
 - 1. Isopropyl – The following language will be placed into each of the final lab and field documents: “Avoid denatured ethanol -- For the moment, absolute ethanol is the preferred option but we are running an experiment to see if there are other acceptable options for sample preservation.”

2. The lab committee will continue to dialogue this winter and will report out at the mid-year call in April 2019. The BOR will lead a research project this winter which will include members of the lab committee. The focus will be on comparing the effectiveness of preservation and buffering methods to determine the appropriate BMP recommendation for both field and lab documents.
 3. The field sampling committee has completed their task and no longer needs to meet at this point. There may be a need to regroup in conjunction with the lab committee in 2019 following the conclusion of research on preservation and buffering agents.
 4. The group discussed the desire to have science drive decision making for minimum frequency and quantity of sampling events. However, this is largely dependent on internal risk assessment and resource allocations for implementation. Therefore, it is not recommended by this committee to move that dialogue forward within WRP or WISCE to determine a minimum frequency and quantity. Rather, each manager will have to determine that for themselves based on internal resources and priorities.
 5. eDNA was discussed and the group felt that the WRP does have a role to play in facilitating dialogue on eDNA. Recommendation is to form a unique committee with numerous members of the field and lab committees, along with Adam USGS, and to engage with National eDNA Group led by Richard Lance which includes many Asian carp eDNA scientists and those from other fields. The goal of this committee would be to determine experimental design and minimum standardized protocols for field collection and lab procedures related to eDNA for zebra and quagga mussels. The committee would operate in alignment with Montana symposium recommendations and should be plugged in to research efforts on this topic. Lab participants may be able to contribute to conducting the experiments, and resource managers can contribute to sample collections. This should be discussed at the WRP annual meeting and begin shortly thereafter. Dialog mirrored what has taken place in Ex Com. Note: MT Invasive Species Council did send a letter to WRP Ex Comm regarding eDNA and potential next steps involving WRP. WRP plans to reply in the future to this letter.
- f. Coastal Committee –Tammy Davis and Jeff Adams – The committee plans to assemble Tuesday pm in Tacoma; Chair Chris Scianni is hoping to have draft BMPs biofouling standards out to the committee prior to Tacoma meeting. The goal is to get feedback and then suggestions from vessel users who could implement the BMPS on how practical and feasible they are. The final BMPS will capture all this feedback and the document will be finalized with the outreach committee. Chris and Jewls with HI are involved in-water and capture technology working with several entities in the alliance

for coastal technologies. Goal is to provide independent evaluation of the technologies and to verify the usefulness of the protocols to be published and used by all.

- g. Membership Committee – Leah
 - i. Ex Comm Elections 2018. Leah circulated the election packet. There are 4 slots open. Six people have submitted letters of interest. The election will take place in Tacoma.
 - h. Outreach Committee – report from Allison Zach; They have created a web area (on westernais.org) that is capturing images and other outreach tools to share. The committee is managing the logo competition. There have been 2 separate submissions with 6 total graphics. Committee is to provide recommendations on logos to the Ex Comm by the end of the week. It was suggested that the final vote (to be done in Tacoma) to include the original logo.
 - i. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth – October meeting will be planned. Comments on the decontamination document have been received from the industry.
 - j. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Chair Robert Walters – They held a meeting recently on the final standard specs. It is important to connect the on the ground group decontaminators with the boat industry to ensure that industry understands needs and decontaminators understand limitations. Final decon spec was completed and CO attempted to utilize. However, it revealed inadequacies and did not accomplish what was needed. The decontamination world is moving into a realm of water heaters but really we may need to go back to the drawing board. What does the ideal decon station look like? At the recent ABYC meeting, there were suggestions to lower temperatures to 120 for ballast tanks and pumps decrease and increase the exposure time.
- l) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Communications, Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - no new information
 - b. Prevention – no new information
 - c. Research Committee – no new information
 - i. AIS Economic Analysis – John Wullschleger
 - d. Ad-hoc Boating Committee – Dennis Zabaglo
 - i. ABYC Technical Information Report – professional technical committee met in September and the report is complete. It is available to the boat industry free of charge.
 - ii. AIS Summit (part II) in September was attended by industry and AIS experts (Glenn Dolphin, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown, Nate Owens, and Dee Davis) The Summit re-stimulating the enthusiasm from the previous one in Vegas. Industry shared concerns that bilge pumps are sensitive to the higher temperatures and that 120 degrees has negative impact on them. The industry response at the summit was really look at different materials for them in the future. No major next steps identified. Dennis flagged for industry that engines

need to run in order to run the ballast pumps; this is a challenge when there are areas with limited water supply or potential equipment damage. Members of industry were expressing desire to make more progress in a quicker time frame.

iii. ABYC 2019 Standards Week & Annual Meeting January 7-11, 2019, Seattle; the TIR will be discussed that week and will possibly look at incorporating individual standards dissected. Standards will be more temperature tolerance and material selection rather than AIS specific.

e. QZAP (not a ANSTF committee) – Stephen – Elizabeth beyond the QZAP 2.0, we really need to start working on a score card, where are we at with each one of the actions. We are going to have to do a status check.

J) Announcements – ALL