

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Beth Bear, Bob McMahon, Joanne Grady, Stephen Phillips and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah; Bob makes a motion to approve, Beth seconds. All in favor.
- B) ANSTF Fall meeting report – Elizabeth – She attended the ANSTF meeting in DC which went very well; educational experience for her being first meeting. First was the All Panels Meeting - Overarching observation –panels are uncoordinated, structured differently, but many commonalities; Doug Jensen (MN Seagrant) starting with praises for SAH!, major topic though was funding; FWS hopes to have \$40K for panels in 2014, NOAA is trying to apply resources to Gulf Panel under the Oceans Plan, Elizabeth inquired if any panel with ocean interest could be able to access; NISAW reauthorization was discussed and within this could influence other federal agencies to contribute; Stephen – for NOAA (Forest Service and others), based on their history of funding AIS outside of Seagrant, we will need to request for support; Elizabeth – this is an infrastructure/money problem, because panel funding and state plan funding are part of FWS money not ANSTF budget or panel budget; it was suggested that of the 43 states with approved plans, each state gave a portion of the state plan money. Stephen - In forward budget years in their strategic planning will need to get more from the administration in the budget, in the long-term we do not want to see the states get dinged for a short-term fix. Elizabeth – recommended they talk to each state before they re-allocate state plan funding; there was a discussion of the need for an online national database for education and online products, mentioned PSU has this, but seems that Wildlife Forever will be the clearinghouse in the future, others stated that it should be hosted on the FWS site or ANSTF site. FWS will look into hosting content. Panel structure and differences are interesting – everyone has a coordinator with the exception of Mid-Atlantic; all others except WRP has some sort of lobbying and financial backing of a commission or NGO, it helps them survive but also creates false realities; Gulf panel did not have meeting or submit recommendations due to shut down. All the panels will share information on how panels operate to help the panels to try to figure out how to combat the fiscal issue. There are many opportunities to collaborate with other panels.
- ANSTF Meeting – Tom McMahon was there and provided good support. Elizabeth provided several updates. The Green Boat discussion – Gabe Jabbour (boat manufacturer and runs 4 marinas on infested lake), Larry Meddock (Water Sports Industry Association), Brian Goodwin (American Boat and Yacht Council) - ideas to improve boat, sees ANS as a new way to manufacture boat to extend to boating opportunities. ANTSF cannot create a committee to explore this with industry, but vice versa could occur. Asked that Elizabeth join this committee from the Panel. Hope Stephen and Ted can participate too. Dave Dickerson (lobbyist National Marine Manufacturers Association) was present for the discussion; he stated that there are fiscal attachments to green boat accomplishments. NMMA's objective is to help set standards.

So we (including WRP) need to determine the specifications that we want accomplished on (e.g. ballast tank has to drain to 99%); ABYC primarily work on boat safety rather than this new realm and NMMA will publish and sets standard for the industry. In December will map out moving forward. All positive but a very big task. Stephen – after ANSTF Larry Meddock and Ted corresponded regarding ballast filtration results that were developed in TN; Larry and the developer are watching the national developments with some concern, including property right issues; not sure how the ballast filtration effort connects with larger national issue and NMMA; The results of the ballast filtration are good and complete, the project will be protected (patent, royalties); next steps are to test case of how it will be integrated, all of the technical documentation of rolling it out, who will endorse it, protocols and standards to retrofit, and ensuring it is functioning properly and not been tampered with. That process will have to begin and then determine how it relates to the national effort; each state has own authorities internally and will have to determine how these boats will be treated at inspection stations, (e.g. a new section that shows the unit, or a service log). The roll out is a big deal and will involve industry coming up with the technical documentation; maybe smaller roll out to part of CA first. Elizabeth – there are two pathways that we need to keep separate, developing the process for what we are doing for technologies that do not exist yet in terms of outboards etc, need to be thoughtful in how we engage and do not lose momentum.

QZAP update – Dave Britton, and John Wullschleger provided updates; Elizabeth made clear that the QZAP plan is still accurate, valid and there is still a need to allocate money.

Lionfish – plan will be approved soon, in review process ready for Spring 2014.

Biocontrol – bottom line is money is going away and projects are being finalized with dwindling money.

Recreational guidelines – completed and released soon. Education plan is good.

No NISAW in 2014; planning on 2015 with in between years focusing on local hometown events in the summer showing legislators and others the impacts in their town.

e-DNA – session Bill Boylen (EPA)– the amount of work that the USFWS is doing on this is amazing \$4.5 mil/year in east ; Whitney Lab in Wisconsin (GL Restoration funds, and Great Lake Carp funds)\$8mil facility lab (for carp only) has set standards/protocols and trying to get others to follow their QA/QC and applies for all species. We need to find a way to utilize those standards, set up way to get with the lab managers and others so it can be utilized for the dreissenid effort. Stephen – connect dots for federal agencies so that they all have same standards/protocols. It is incumbent on the federal agencies that they work off of the same menu. All of the powerpoints from this session will be posted on ANSTF website.

SAH! – felt that many support this effort in contrast to WRP sentiment. Doug Jensen with MN Seagrant very vocal on campaign, there is a lot of misinformation and by the time we got the recommendations there was not much to say. Three of the panels had SAH! recommendations; the short story is - USFWS owns the trademark brand that cannot be sold, Joe Starinchak is still the lead and contract manager. The contract was a 5 year agreement for brand modernization with Wildlife Forever (WF); nothing in contract for web changes. One time allocation of \$50K, money is gone, WF are asking for more money, still under contract, but if no money is put back in the management will revert back to Joe. There is a shared sentiment of questioning brand

effectiveness. Long partner list presented by WF that they are working with. All the Great Lakes, TN, eastern work – all being paid for is by separate partners not USFWS. Regional campaigns can be paid for if interested in working directly with WF. Elizabeth – expressed that WRP wants national usage; WF did not understand that the west used it; all that has been developed under USFWS contract is available, Elizabeth will get a CD from WF and distribute; do not have to use WF logo on it. Scheduled a meeting with WF and Joe, and make it a WebEx to explain what everyone wants and to get everyone on the same page; this will be a joint Ex Com/WISCE meeting to do this. December 17th from 10 am to noon (mountain). WF is frustrated that they cannot change the brand; but they did brand augmentation and modernization. Apparently the fly fishing brand was developed for New Zealand not the US. WF wants to put all sorts of other vector images into the brand.

Spring ANSTF 2014 meeting will be May 6-8 in Arlington. Generally – ANSTF really does listen to us! The WRP is being heard which is good. Follow-up items that we need to work on – Leah/Elizabeth.

In all panel meeting – there used to be monthly meetings to talk about legislation and policy direction with panel principles. This will start up again in January 2014 focusing on NISAW re-authorization. Stephen – reauthorization will be staunchly pro-west where we can be stronger together, we can become stronger through partnerships. State plan money is something we can all buy off on.

- C) Annual Meeting 2013–reimbursements and payments– Leah – A total of \$9,278.60 has been spent on 2013 annual meeting expenses with a portion taken care of by sponsors. Leah provided complete breakdown. Stephen suggested sponsor for next annual meeting (Low pH solution dreissenid chemical has office in TX); Discuss idea of tradeshow with planning committee with the idea being those that could support the meeting.
- D) Legislation update - Stephen – WRDA is currently in conference – there is \$30M for Columbia River basin, it would be new program money; there is a focus on Baucus (MT) to nationalize Colombia River Basin line, do have a lobbyist engaged on this other changes in language as being positive; cost benefits analysis; may be contacting some WRP partners with state level congressional contact. MTDES law for small commercial watercraft exemption will expire on December 19th; it is unlikely exemption will go away in December but may mean that other regulations will have to be followed; Continuing Resolution indecision means delay in federal support money; Healthy Habitats legislation has not been introduced yet.
- E) List serv update – Leah – has had technical issues with the move to googlegroups namely many federal people and others are blocked from participating. Explored ideas and have 4 things for consideration: 1) The grandfather of list-serv (L-soft) they host at \$\$ and coordinator manages, 2) ISAN hosts at \$ and coordinator manages, 3) Another entity like a university, hosts for free they would manage, 4) do nothing and continue to use waterboards.ca. Elizabeth requested that Leah provide more detail of the costs and report back to Ex Comm.
- F) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Leah Elwell – met with Chilton, hoping to get a call scheduled in December with planning committee and include the Gulf panel as well.

- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – since last month federal agencies met continuing to move forward on roles and responsibilities of agencies; a congressional service report on laws and budgets was recently released and several things in the CRS report are inaccurate as there was not an opportunity to comment; Deadline of Dec 4th for agencies to submit information on roles and responsibilities. Potential that may not quite get to the Phoenix action plan need of similar regulations among agencies, instead this may end up being a focus on what the regulations are and how are currently interpreted. We have a meeting for state involved folks – planning for next workshop style meeting (Denver II) with some of the legal folks; working on updating the action plan.
- c. Coastal Committee – written report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – Leah - no report, no new business, scheduled to meet in January. Sonia is currently out of the office awaiting work visa approval. Elizabeth - Sonia put together a great report for ANSTF. Recommendation of the tunicates workshop; not much discussion but Peg Brady/NOAA said will sponsor and help organize, NE panel wants to do together. Schedule a call to discuss goals and flesh it out.
- d. Lab Protocols and Standards Workgroup– Stephen Phillips – Coordinate with what the federal agencies are doing back east matches up with western coordinators are doing, and ISAC paper; Elizabeth and others will discuss further. ISAC will be meeting in March 2014 by that time we may be able to run an associated action item.
- e. Membership Committee– Leah Elwell – possibly will hold a call in December
- f. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips – Update above
- g. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Leah – hoping to schedule the first call in December

G) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger
- c. NZMS – Joanne Grady – Remove from list; ANSTF has formally tabled this
- d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips
- e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger – Remove from list – communication plan i.e. implementation strategy to use, could turn out to be an annual meeting topic, implementing will fall to the states.
- f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger
- g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD

H) Announcements – ALL

Elizabeth - New WGA representative in charge of the AIS has contact to share. Elizabeth will meet next week.

Elizabeth - Electronic data collection update – WISCE call in Jan will be with Field Sync to go over the technical side of how we share data.

Elizabeth – At the All Panels meeting in DC Susan Mangin did request feedback as to how the ANSTF Secretary could better assist the panels.