

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday November 13th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

John Wullschleger, Bob McMahon, Beth Bear, Dennis Zabaglo, Joanne Grady, Elizabeth Brown, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell – held the approval of the October minutes until December call.
- B) ANSTF–Elizabeth attended the ANSTF meeting the previous week. The following are highlights from the 2 day meeting, plus the All Panel meeting held the afternoon before.
  - a. Report to Congress **due 11-21-2014** –ANSTF level discussion on how does this get approved by OMB and actually get to congress. Elizabeth circulated a Word document to Ex Comm, **give comments to Elizabeth** and she will compile. It is difficult to decipher the inclusion of ANSTF related activities versus non-ANSTF associated activities. John – (from NPS) has included items that might not have been under ANSTF related. Not sure what the correct thing is. Not a budget report, it is an amalgamated activities report. Elizabeth – made suggestions to Susan Pasko to explain this within the summary. Joanne – some of the guidance that has been received in the past year, there are some cases that we would want to include a lot of effort , but in this situation this should be viewed as activities that are insufficient. Elizabeth – might be good to visit further with Craig Martin. Difficult to know what to include. Leah – suggested Joanne review information on USFWS as it appears to not have enough USFWS content in the overall document.
  - b. NISAW Award Nominations due 12-5-2014 - Send an email to Elizabeth by the end of next week if you have nominations.

The award categories include:

    - i. Outstanding Invasive Species Leadership Award
    - ii. Outstanding Invasive Species Volunteer Award
    - iii. Outstanding Achievement in Invasive Species Outreach and Education
    - iv. Lifetime Invasive Species Achievement Award

The Award Selection Process and Time-frame is:

    - **December 5: Nominations due to Award Committee chair.**
    - December 12: Awards Committee Chair provides nominations to Committee for review.
    - January 5: NISAW Awards Committee selects award recipients.
    - January 19: Award Committee invites award recipients to awards reception to receive presentation of award.
    - February 24: Award presented by NISAW Chair at the National Invasive Species Awareness Week reception.
  - c. NISA Reauthorization Committee – discussed this topic at the All Panel meeting. Recognizing that as a panel we cannot lobby, or as individual organizations some can

and some cannot either. Some are interested in pursuing. There have been 4 previous proposals to renew it. The last time was in 2007 by the Great Lakes Panel. The last time it was passed by Congress was done through a committee of panel members with independent members and independent organizations lobbying. Why have the latest proposals failed – because it has been singular in its push. A committee was formed this November. Erika Jensen (with the GL Commission/Panel) has volunteered to set up first meeting with Michele Tremblay (NE Panel). Anyone in the west that has the ability and wants to participate can. Next steps are to identify very concretely what the west would hope to gain with the reauthorization. We need to have very specific asks -exactly how much money and for what. The hope is that during the NISAW week Hill visits, we will have a 1 pager that is consistent across the board. Send Elizabeth **by November 28<sup>th</sup>** – 3 to 5 bullets with specific language or considerations. Along the same lines, exploration of a new tax that would create a pot of money for AIS that would model the Sportfish Restoration funds got very positive feedback. Could this be built into the new bill that would create the new tax on pet, imports etc to create a trust fund? Dennis will serve on the committee for NISA re-authorization.

- d. ANS Hotline (1-877-STOP-ANS) – USFWS want to eliminate this because it does not get used much and is an expense. Joanne - Don Mclean is in the process of polling the states. It never went through the blessing of OMB for collecting information from the public, and we are in a grey zone. On the USGS NAS there is a place to fill in information for a new sighting. Bob – the hotline is run through his contract through Region 2 USFWS, last month there was a total of 27 minutes associated with the hotline. Joanne will check in with Don to see where they are.
- e. Federal Legal Review Update – This is the federal effort, led by NISC, which is parallel to state Building Consensus effort. The DOI federal solicitor told them not to release the report back in May, since that time they hoped they would address all of those concerns by the fall ANSTF. With Lori Williams (NISC) retiring this did not take place. A new DOI liaison Hillary Smith will be taking that project on, or it is possible that Lori will be contracted to complete this. Hopefully by the May ANSTF meeting it will be complete.
- f. Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund within WSFR Act – there were several questions that were submitted by WRP (see below), *Christy Vigfusson, National boating access program, National Coastal Grants and CVA* the head of the grant program reported on how the program works. There are 2 sources of funds: (1) Wildlife access program, and (2) Sportfish restoration and boating trust fund. Inputs include: Excise tax, import duties, fuels tax, and interest. Outputs: Commissions and SFBP Council, Multi state conservation, Boating infrastructure grants, CVA, Coastal Wetlands, Outreach and communications (up to 15% of SFR can be spent on education), Recreational boating safety, and 2 others. Recreational boating access program - Mission: Provide facilities that create or add public access for recreational boating; 15% of SFR = \$48.46 million in FY14 with 25% match. AIS – can be used for boat decontamination stations and inspection stations with no Law Enforcement (LE). Law enforcement is not allowed to be used for SFR. Must code time so it is clear what are recreational boat inspections or

decontaminations; and what is LE; and show proof that LE is charged to a different pot of cash. Same is true of commercial vessels. SFR can only be used on recreational watercraft. Inspectors checking both must code time appropriately and prove LE time or time spent on commercial watercraft are paid out of a different pot of money.

Example 1 - NV – three phases 2012-2015 – education and outreach (must be for boaters only), voluntary inspections, decontamination stations... 2015 will do improvements for more permanent stations

Example 2 - NV – LMNRA – 2015 - WID stations and roving stations at 27 lakes and reservoirs in NV

Example 3 – OR, ID, WA - \$200,000 – coordinated outreach and WIDS in the Columbia River Basin

### **WRP Questions Sport Fish Restoration Funding and AIS Programs**

1) What types of activities can funding be used for (e.g. inspection stations, particular personnel at inspection stations)? For example, if an entity is using Sportfish Restoration funds to support an inspection station as part of routine procedures, and during an inspection staff finds an organism and there happens to be law enforcement there. Does it change anything? Can you use these funds at an inspection if there may be law enforcement present? **Recommendation to be worked with the Regional office and this can be worked out. The WSFR funding can be used for the inspections and LE paid out of a different pot. Funds can also be pro-rated.**

2) Can funding be used for water body access inspections and roadside inspections? If not for roadside inspections, how are these two inspection types defined? **Yes, Can be used for roadsides. However, it can only be used for recreational boating and not for commercial vessels. If inspecting commercial vessels, must charge that time to another source.**

WRP members are advised for states to work with regional USFWS office to work out details. You can overcome a lot of these issues; just very good tracking is needed. Leah will distribute this information directly all members.

- g. QZAP Recommendation to extend timeline/deadline for Plan – when QZAP was passed in 2010 an ANSTF committee was created with several WRP members. At the last QZAP conference call there was a concern raised and debate on the deadline. QZAP has a 5 year timeline that expires in 2015 February. A concern was raised to have the deadline extended, not a concern under a Continuing Resolution, but with a new Congress we are asking to fund an expired plan. In Portland we did the survey review and made the decision that the priorities are not different and no rewrite was needed. Britton has initiated an ad-hoc steering committee to guide the money. John – WRP wrote the plan for ANSTF, there was funding in at one point, but the current language, does not even reference. Elizabeth - The committee decided in recent discussion when Elizabeth reported at ANSTF that they would ask them for a 5 year extension. Dave, John, Tom and Elizabeth all presented on aspects of QZAP. EPA did not think that the timeline should be extended, and wanted an extensive review. NOAA also agreed. Bottom line –

this should have been submitted prior to ANSTF meeting as a recommendation. This needs to be a formal recommendation from the WRP for May. Anyone involved in QZAP implementation should be involved in the committee and report summary on all things QZAP. David will be having the QZAP implementation meeting in February. Joanne – why is it to be considered a formal expiration plan? State plans are not under the same scrutiny. I do not see anything coming out of DC saying there is a rule here. Elizabeth – there is no formal expiration within the document. And also the plan states clearly that it is not intended to be a budget request but it is stated that it is a 5 year plan. John – it does not make sense to have 2 different groups of people working/coordinating on this. Maybe Dave needs to visit with Ex Secretary to work it out. Now we are getting together with all of the partners to see how of the funding is spent. Karen McDowell's (ANSTF QZAP committee member) concern is that she did not want it to drop off the radar of the task force. However the WRP reports on it every meeting and includes it as a WRP recommendation. John – agrees with some form of formal organization to make it clear that we are actively doing something with the money. Elizabeth – we have to follow up in some way, and that recommendation needs some thoughtfulness. The plan has a 5 year life, but does it matter? How much effort do we need to extend this? We have a variety of materials that could inform (Power point, survey from Portland, a 2 page ex summary on the front of it, building consensus information, partnerships that have been built). Leah – can one of the existing QZAP committees help assemble the document for spring time? Joanne – do you have an outline? No. John can help and trying to determine what the format is needed for justification. Who are we selling the idea of who we are re-approving this for? ANSTF? It is not hard to show that there have been benefits outside of the lack of funding. It is an easy sell but what are we trying to produce. Elizabeth - End goal is we are trying to get a letter from the ANSTF that the deadline is extended. John – we are in the business of managing dreissenid for the long term. Leah – questions the process for the management plan “expirations”. Elizabeth - Unfortunately the people that drove the expiration are not involved. Now we have an ANSTF deadline. Put on the December Ex Comm call and talk with Dave Britton and Laura Norcutt again and see what we think about it in a month. Joanne – similarly the carp people reexamined goals but there is no move underfoot to revise that plan. John – is this something that should be discussed with Craig, on what the value of this is? Elizabeth - QZAP committee needs to get back together to discuss. Part of the problem is we don't have an ANSTF Ex Sec. Schedule a meeting soon before a report and letter are developed to sort out what is necessary.

- h. SAH! – Wildlife Forever (WF) terminated agreement with USFWS on October 9<sup>th</sup> since they were unfunded by USFWS. They are no longer the operational lead for the SAH! campaign. It was a bit of a surprise. WF will still work on SAH and believe in campaign and willing to work with anyone who is going to pay their own way. USFWS has accepted the termination, and made the commitment through the Outreach and Education Committee to regain control. Aquatic Branch of USFWS has a communication and partnerships group to help the committee to redesign the website and make all

materials developed under the WF agreement and maintain that content. WF is a member of the Outreach and Education committee. Is there still an SAH advisory committee? Joanne – it has not been disbanded, but has had only had one call and one email. Elizabeth - There is a problem with the current brand augmentation and its inclusion into billboards due to the STOP sign. Don Mclean – will be coming up with a process and procedure for any brand augmentation. Original logo usage should be fine.

- i. Habitattitude – David Hoskins and Marshall Myers, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) have been working for quite some time to revamp the Habitattitude website and campaign, which is not consistent with the USFWS guidelines that were released last year. They have a standing MOU from 2009 with targets for water gardening and aquariums. PIJAC was given funding in 2009 that was never spent or found. New work will use all positive messaging. “Select the right pet, do right by your pet and your environment.” Expanding coverage to reptiles, drafting information for pet sellers and owners, new section for educators, an Advisory Committee which includes Sam Chan, and John Wullschleger. How does this nexus with the education committee? Not sure.
  - j. ABYC Workshop Announced – invitations went out this week. Register this week if you intend to go.
  - k. Listing of quagga mussels – takeaway is that if we really want it listed in the Lacey Act, we keep getting hung up on the water distribution exemption. No one has officially petitioned the USFWS to list quagga mussels. John – has this always been the procedure? Elizabeth – Craig put together a great presentation. Part of this was a list of everything that has been listed since 1900. Only two were congressional listings the rest were through a petition for all of them. Joanne –for some because they had advocates in the aquaculture industry. Elizabeth - Need to think about this in terms of formally asking them. Elizabeth/Joanne - WAFWA, AFWA AIS committee or states and fisheries commission should be the one to submit.
- C) Coordinating the coordination – Elizabeth met Scott Cameron of Reducing Risk of Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC). He has been in DC for 35 years and worked for the USFWS AIS and endangered species programs, OMB, and senators etc. In March 2014 started this non-profit. Connect the private sector with government to provide non-regulatory solutions to the problem. Having a conference this winter to make the connection between AIS and endangered species with congressional staffers (grouse and cheat grass). Does not have AIS projects, and likes what the WRP is doing. He had a conversation with the American Sportfish Association Government Relations Committee to expand a new tax about 6 months ago. He is supportive of putting governors in charge. He was impressed on the BC effort. He will be at the American Legislative Council to present with the BC effort. Do we need state legislators to propose this? Our big ask was to get AFAW, WAFWA, and WGA to adopt legislation without much traction. He may be able to help and would like to participate in the NISA reauthorization committee effort. He does a 3 day workshop (or 3 hour) on funding streams and appropriations, offered to do this possibly at a WRP annual meeting or building consensus meeting.

- D) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Stephen attending ISAC meeting and not available to provide update. First week of December will get together to talk about NISA/hill visits. Let Stephen know if you will be attending.
- E) Letter to Assault Boats (via James Dominguez) – Elizabeth – James contacted Elizabeth with a concern for this particular boat manufacture who builds and tests boats in Lake Superior and then delivers them to customers across the USA. There is an opportunity to educate this and other small specialized boat manufactures. However, these specialized boats (for fire, police, and responder rescue) need a whole new decontamination protocol due to the hoses, other tanks and additional water movement. Cynthia Tait with USFS would be good to tap into due to knowledge on fire operations decontamination. Leah – are there other boat manufacturers to contact as well. Elizabeth – this is a good question for partners at NMMA, topic to push onto Brian Goodwin but at a phase two we may need to address this. Joanne - make sure Assault is invited to ABYC conference this winter. Elizabeth – will draft a letter to make aware of training etc and prevention in letter. Bob – knows another company that builds these, and many small specialty companies around the US are doing this.
- F) WRP Annual Meeting 2014/Tunicates Workshop - Leah
  - a. Budget reports – still waiting on two reimbursement requests. Once these are finalized then will provide the final information.
  - b. Minutes from Houston – have finalized Day 2 minutes and will distribute with Day 1 minutes once received from GSARP.
- G) Website additions – Leah –plans to post recent products from committees including Tunicates Workshop summary, Model Law document, State Comparisons document. Elizabeth suggested including a link to magic website on homepage, and training manuals once completed.
- H) Schedule Upcoming Calls
  - a. Reschedule December 11 Ex Comm meeting to the 1:00 PM MT - YES
  - b. Set all member call date – mid March – Leah will send a doodle to look for dates in February and early March.
- I) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo – Discussed the best choice for the meeting. The group agreed that the first week (beginning on August 31) is first choice, third week (beginning on September 14<sup>th</sup>) is second choice for the Annual Meeting. Will finalize with a few Ex Comm members, and hope to secure the facility contract soon. The Planning Committee met last week to begin discussion on the agenda. This was focused on a keynote speaker and other topics. Leah will continue to solicit input on agenda topics.
  - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – The next call is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>; the steering committee will give guidance to subcommittees next steps. Leah inquired recently with Sam Chan boater survey analysis. He has received some additional survey information from states, but did not state that he would request broadly from the WRP listserv. Bob is currently focused on getting Texas to get the data to him for entry into the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Boater Survey database.

- 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
    - i. Chair update – Sonia plans to work until April, remotely, after this point the committee will need a new chair.
    - ii. Tunicates scoping document – will be initiating with PSMFC to undertake this work soon
    - iii. Committee plans to meet before year’s end
    - iv. Sonia hosted a recent presentation with NZ colleague on hull fouling and in-water cleaning, and there is a possibility of a regional protocol that will be developed in collaboration with NZ efforts.
    - v. Commercial port monitoring. Sonia connected with researcher Erin Grey at a Great Lakes region university with grant. WRP coastal members will be sending a sample from ports for marine invasives. One in 2015 and then 4 years later.
  - d. Membership Committee– Leah – has been connecting with specific WRP tribal members on their intent to be involved with the WRP. Still waiting to hear back from Laura Norcutt on filling empty federal member positions.
  - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Elizabeth – no new news, might consider the need for this workgroup after the January ABYC workshop. Centurion put a new ad campaign to encourage boat owners to buy it. WIT committee is working on procedure to work on decontamination for boats with these. Dennis – had a local shop that has become a WakeWorXs distributor, and they retrofitted a boat with the product. Dennis met with the facility and had an open discussion on installation and list of issues that could be improved upon for installers, and putting together the final list. He will provide the update once completed.
  - f. Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup – Elizabeth - no new news
- J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
  - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – apparently public comment was not made on some of these plans, and provisions are being made to do that. Stay tuned.
  - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips (see above)
  - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger
  - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
  - f. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – The committee has finalized the charter and working to engage membership. Beth is participating and thinking that the SAH! Advisory Committee may be rolled into this committee. John would like to be involved. We have an outreach and inreach committee and trying to think how to get the

maximum out to of the western and national group without duplication. Should the volunteers be on the national committee or just the chairs etc. Is the BC the implementation group? Is the national group the strategy? This will need to be discussed further at some date.

- g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne
- h. NISAW Planning Committee – Tom McMahon – Feb 22-28<sup>th</sup> are the dates of event. Tom is on the congressional briefing team with Scott Cameron from RRISC, with 7 other committees/teams. Phil Andreozzi with NISC coordinating with Lori Williams gone.

K) Announcements – ALL