

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday November 12, 2015; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo, Bob McMahon, Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger, Joanne Grady, Mark Sytsma, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell; John motioned to approve the minutes pending one correction by Joanne. Dennis seconded. All in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Elizabeth had some dialog with North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) about Play Clean Go and WRP will move forward with previous Ex Comm discussion to let go any further participation unless NAISMA responses differently. Their education committee is full and steering committee is full. In the future if spots open up they will let us know. North American Lake Management Society conference for 2016 will be held in the west and will have an AIS session. Rocky Plains Fish Pathology group, have elected not to include AIS in their lab QC standard because it is not part of the AFS Blue Book. Colorado is unique in that their animal health lab is doing AIS identification. CO fish pathologist is interested in developing protocols which could be shared. Stephen – we have been discussing this issue for 5 plus years. It will take resources if the WRP wants to pursue and revisit; what is the status of the sterilized veliger samples that can go to other labs? This is going to have to be an effort that WRP does and find some other allies. The trouble is that what are we going to do if a lab comes back non-compliant? We will need some resources to pursue this at any level. Mark Sytsma – is it DNA or veliger that is of interest? Elizabeth – Both plus details such as preservation in lab, lab contamination, and sample preparation. Mark– Portland State University has QC standards for the lab for microscopy. Elizabeth – we could start with the microscopy, one immediate need would be required image results to include measurements as a standard. Do we bring this over to the BC steering committee? CO pathologist is happy to work with WRP and consult with other labs. Start with Vicki Milano (CO), Stacy Schmidt (MT), Jim Snider (CA fisheries pathologist), and Mark Systema (PSU). Joanne – do we plea with AFS? Elizabeth – we could but she understands their perspective. Systema – first step look at QC protocols for microscopy from each. He could get a student on this possibly. He will investigate. Elizabeth – will revisit next month with Ex Comm.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Senate version of the Healthy Habitats bill was introduced. There have been several requests from agencies heads wanting to know AIS staff impressions on the bill. In general the AIS community is not supportive of this bill. Vessel Incident Discharge Act (VIDA) may come up as a rider (amendment) of the FY 2016 ongoing budget negotiations. The vessel general permit court ruling against the EPA has resulted in some “ammo” for VIDA supporters. Omnibus Budget – The FY 2016 budget needs to be completed by December 11<sup>th</sup>. If this does not happens, the budget would not include increased funding amounts for state ANSTF AIS plans in the Interior bill as the USFWS had increased the state plan money in the President’s budget. It would be better for the Omnibus to pass rather

than a Continuing Resolution. An omnibus means that the extra money in the Water Resource and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) for watercraft inspection stations in the PNW could also come to pass. There has been some positive reception from the US Army Corps related to the WRRDA/PNW bill actions. WRDDA also has monitoring authorizations, so this may be a source in the future of much needed quagga/zebra monitoring funds.

- D) ANSTF debrief and highlights – Leah – provided additional review of the agenda and WRP recommendations provided to the ANSTF (see attached notes).
- E) Clean Drain Dry next steps – At the ANSTF meeting unfortunately it was viewed as a legal issue, instead of a leadership role in mediating actions among Wildlife Forever (WF) and other partners. Representatives of the panel shared WRP concerns. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) may be getting the trademark from WF, but there is also the possibility WF is looking at other 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to hold it. For AFWA to hold the trademark is precedent setting as they do not hold any trademarks. Pryia Nanjapa, AFWA, is working to assemble information. There is no option to protest but any entity who is currently using it can apply to cancel the trademark; under the supplemental register for the next 5 years anyone who has used CCD prior to 2012 can apply to cancel it. If there was another company using the words inappropriately then the AFWA could look at enforcement of the trademark in a transparent way. It would allow WRP to participate. John – not sure many of WRP members are in a position to make that decision to file to cancel the trademark. Elizabeth – feels our interests are being represented well by AFWA. John – The goal is to have it available to everyone and maybe AFWA is a good place for it to reside. Dialog is critical. WRP has sent that message. Elizabeth will continue to follow up with WF moving forward to ensure that dialog continues.
- F) NISA reauthorization – During the pre-meeting to the ANSTF, all panels assembled to discuss NISA reauthorization. There were suggestions provided by Hilary Moffett from US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. During discussion, it was suggested reauthorization could happen on another bill as a rider. Concerning funding, just because funding amounts in the bill were allocated at a certain amount does not mean that this is the ceiling. Other panels wanted to coordinate on a flyer that could be provided on Hill visits. One side would be national in scope and the other with regional/state specificity. Hilary suggested focusing on encouraging participation on the House AIS Caucus. Leah will connect other panel leads with western interests to coordinate on a flyer.
- G) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee– Beth – Greg Conover ask about attending the next WRP meeting to keep communication lines open among panels. WRP has secured a location and the contract is signed for Snow King for October 19-21, 2016. Leah will send out a save the date soon to the WRP list serv.
  - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady - Next planning call is Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Denver meeting Feb 2-3, 2016.
    - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – Met in October and decided would not meet until after the Feb BC meeting. Updating the training manuals with minor changes. The training team with Dee Davis and Kami Silverwood worked with

documents and found all the improvements beneficial. They are trying to mitigate the two types of students from novel to very experienced. It has been suggested to potentially bringing back 1 day training and look at beginner, and advanced geared classes. WIT 3 will be in the spring 2016. It already has a waiting list for WIT 3 with none of the participants as state coordinators. Elizabeth has a list of what to talk to the WISCE group about and she will poll in Dec/Jan to tee up needs for the February meeting.

- ii. Legal - Joanne – The first meeting led by Stephanie Showalter Otts took place this week with the writing team to address the model regulations. Stephanie just sent out the most recent western compilation of laws.
- iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – Almost done with agency specific webinars to familiarize and field questions about the form. Trying to get NV and AZ on the same notification form despite having different processes. They have been receptive. UT and SD are interested and have explored the potential to use. Folks that we have not talked to are the mussel-negative states and provinces, and negative national parks. By the end of November all the webinars will be done. Elizabeth is meeting with contractor to get coding to meet the March 1 deadline for the project. Looking at a mid April release or May 1 at the latest. December WISCE will need to have a dedicated call on sampling, data, training and other topics.
- iv. Regional Defense – Stephen – Will start collecting the 2015 Watercraft interceptions data for input into GIS. This will be used for future station location planning. Canadian partners will hold a meeting in December similar to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region “preventing an invasive “-style meeting on mussel prevention leadership.
- v. Outreach – Beth – Joanne requested to have something on the magic website for presentations related to BC, slides could be shared and maintain some consistency in the professional forum when different individuals are presenting on the topic. Stephen – do you want to have it password protected? The committee will be putting together a research list of what has taken place. The committee has honed in on Community Based Social Marketing and non-motorized users as the objective for the coming year. They will work on getting to know that user group and define that group across the west. Maybe Bob or Leah can review at some point. Other priority objectives included the Coast Guard Auxiliary and also getting into the classroom. The committee wants something tangible in the next year. Outreach was discussed; not really an active committee at this time but it could fall under the outreach scope of work. The outreach committee recognized that the need for internal education for leadership is important. Possibly putting leadership in charge of the Outreach Committee could address this need. Joanne – what kind of things do we need to assemble to market what is happening in the Building Consensus process to the

decision makers? Elizabeth suggested that the committees could ask for help with process from ISAN.

- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski –
    - i. They have over 85 documents on the CC shared drive on the science and management of biofouling. Quite the collection – with many thanks to Robyn Draheim for organizing and providing the bulk of the documents.
    - ii. Stephen Phillips has been organizing the logistics for the Coastal Committee Workshop to discuss the regional marine biofouling management planning. The workshop will be held on December 9 in Vancouver, WA at the Heathman Lodge from 8 am – 5 pm. We currently have 20 registered participants. A draft agenda for the workshop will be sent out this week.
    - iii. The document “A review of international, federal, state, and provincial regulatory roles and responsibilities relating to aquatic marine invasive species on the west coast” (written by Lisa DeBruckere) was distributed to the full WRP for review last month. We received comments from NOAA, and the plan was updated and is now on the westernais website.
  - d. Membership Committee– Leah - plans to pull the committee together in January.
- H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
  - b. QZAP – Stephen – In February they will have a funding prioritization meeting immediately following the 2016 Building Consensus meeting.
  - c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth –no news to report
  - d. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis is giving a presentation to Nation Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) compliance standards committee in December. Dennis will lead the charge for the newly formed ANSTF Boating Committee. At the ANSTF meeting, the following volunteered for this committee: Joanne Grady, Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program), Michele Tremblay (NE AIS Panel), and Mark Lewdowski. They will be seeking other members for the committee.
- I) Announcements – ALL – Mark - Quagga Zebra (QZ) Mussel research priorities group met the first week of November to discuss among leading QZ researchers. The idea is this will help update the QZAP research priorities; draft report will be available soon. Plenty of comment opportunities available.
- J) Tahoe exploring the research question of “Asian Clams as precursor to QZ”.