

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

November 9th, 2017 at 10:30 am mountain time

Stephen Phillips, Mark Sytsma, Martha Volkoff (observing), Jeff Adams, Tammy Davis, Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) FACA Committee review by DOI –All – Discussion on how and if to continue WRP business while under a “strategic pause” and being instructed by the ANSTF to not meet in person. Stephen made a motion to continue all other business (see note on delaying the membership election below), Dennis seconded. All in favor – motion passed. The panel coordinators recently discussed sending a letter to the ANSTF co-chairs outlines the impacts to panels when activities are restricted. Bob Wakeman, Great Lakes Panel chair, will draft a letter and circulate by mid-December. If unresolved by January does this become a major talking point for NISAW?
- B) Approval of July and August minutes - Leah Elwell – Dennis made a motion to approve both minutes. Stephen seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
- C) 2017 Election Discussion – Leah will query other panels to understand how they are doing business off paper. If there is nothing done one month from now and regardless of finalization of FACA review, Leah will circulate an electronic ballot.
- D) Election of Chair and Vice Chair Discussion. This will be postponed until December and will be discussed at that time.
- E) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger.
 - i. Scott Cameron is going to Lake Mead the end of November 29 to meet with Nevada Department of Wildlife and Lake Mead National Recreation Area staff to discuss watercraft inspection/decontamination. John may be at that meeting.
 - ii. The Western Governors Association sent a letter in September to Secretary of the Interior Zinke regarding mandatory inspections in the west. A National Park Service “regulation working group” will meet in November which will address the participation of NPS in the regional WID data sharing. Because they are not housing the data it is not an issue. Paperwork reduction act compliance is needed.
 - iii. There is a group of western NPS superintendents that are meeting regularly on AIS status of west.
 - b. WGA - On March 15-16 2018, WGA will be holding a Western Working Lands Forum. The goal of this event is to examine landscape level management in the West and tie together several different aspects of WGA’s initiatives, including invasive species, forest and rangeland management, and species conservation and ESA. On the day before the forum, March 14, WGA will hold in invasive species data workshop. The goal of this workshop is to get invasive species data management experts together to begin the development of the WGA Invasive Species Data Management and Exchange Protocols

described in the initiatives white paper March Workshop. Elizabeth will loop back in with Bill and continue dialog with him.

- c. WAFWA - no new information. Their next meeting is in January.
 - d. NISC – Tammy - Jamie Reaser came to AK for the statewide conference as keynote focus on Arctic issues. Action item is for the development of an AK strategic plan with arctic focus but includes whole state with contributions from NOAA/AK Fish and Game. NISC hosted a podcast yesterday discussing the federal partnerships white paper.
 - e. ISAC – At the end of September it was re-instated from FACA review. There were some changes to their general structure; now 16 members. Currently there are 4 openings, and there will be an announcement in Federal Registry by Nov 30. Composition is typically balanced geographically etc.
 - f. PNWER – Mark/Tammy- Mark circulated the AIS committee’s action plan progress. There was a call held a few weeks ago to talk Watercraft Inspection Training. There was a webinar related to Cameron’s visit to Mead.
 - g. Havasu Anchor Update – Havasu Marine Association – displayed at San Diego.
 - h. ABYC – The final technical information report is currently out for committee vote. Votes are due November 12, 2017 from committee members.
- F) Legislation update – Stephen Philips –
- a. Waiting on budget and anticipating Omnibus. BOR is slated to get over 4 million.
 - b. VIDA – not much movement in the last several months.
 - c. Another Lacey Act bill has been introduced by Gillibrand (NY) – the previous ruling of the Constrictor snakes versus Jewel may not have been considered in the drafting of this current bill, so will need to follow up.
- G) ANSTF
- a. Future meetings -spring 2018; WRP host discussion. Stephen suggested that the WRP not host the spring meeting as there is also a good possibility that the meeting would be held in DC anyway. All were in agreement.
 - b. Experts Database – update. Susan has requested information from the WRP to update their Experts Database. Leah will initiate the information request among WRP members.
- H) WRP Website update – Leah – no new information.
- I) Fiscal Update – Leah reported on current financial information following the meeting in San Diego. Income total for SD = \$26,785.34 total expenses \$18,207.89 so made a profit of Net income SD = \$8,577.45 (added to the savings account); in the savings account with a total balance of \$21,043.82. Additional expenses were paid by 3rd Parties –e.g. down payment, speaker travel, discount from AV Unlimited and printing – roughly \$3,000.
- J) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting – Leah
 - i. Debrief on 2017 Summit – Overall it was a positive meeting despite the last minute changes.
 - ii. Discussion on Summit 2018 – Bob Wiltshire shared thoughts regarding moving to a summit versus still holding an annual meeting. Elizabeth is worried that the

panel gets lost in a summit. Why do we need federal dollars to hold a WRP annual meeting if we can privately fund a summit? We did it this year as an emergency but shouldn't do it continuously. If it is not a WRP event then we cannot use Leah to plan it. We do not want a perception that we don't need federal money. It was suggested to hold dual meetings in conjunction with other partners (i.e. WAFWA, NALMS, WAPMS). There is some time to think about this change in general. A name change to summit could open it up participation to others that are not WRP members and broader participation could help the momentum to continue.

- iii. First proposal information for Seattle 2018. The expenses in Seattle are significant. The per diem is \$244 and food and beverage minimums plus room rental/AV are expenses. Neighboring Bellevue looks more reasonable. There might be some options in Tacoma. Or do we look outside the great Seattle Area to the eastern part of the state; Walla Walla. Other suggestions from the group; Olympia (only one large hotel there that could host WRP), U District in Seattle; Telarus, Bremerton; Spokane, Vancouver, Skamania Lodge. Leah will assemble possibilities for review by the Ex Comm in December.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup –No meeting is yet on the calendar. Phoenix 2 has been suggested.
 - i. Sampling Protocol –
 1. Phase 1 –plankton - report from Chair Karen Vargas – She is finalizing the document which includes several common sample “preservation” protocols and using terms such as “check with your laboratory and follow their procedures”. Many of the major lab do not agree on preservation. She will assemble similar information for sampling equipment decontamination; several common procedures rather than one set of procedures.
 - ii. Phase 2 – substrate – report from Chair Erin Raney – She is reviewing survey responses she distributed to WISCE members about current shoreline and substrate efforts. She is targeting to have a bare bones outline of a document sent out to the subcommittee by mid-November, so that we can schedule another call prior to CRB meeting. She will be reporting this information to Columbia River Basin meeting participants.
 - iii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – The committee has been quiet during the summer season. The final product will be table identifying key parameters and listing the options that different labs use to address said parameters. He is planning on calling in to the CRB meeting.
 - iv. Legal – no report
 - v. Reach –Tammy Davis; the discussion at the San Diego meeting was met with the knowledge that there is still lack of consensus on a variety of issues. She has checked in with several people and feedback suggests that “just because we talk about an idea does not mean consensus”. She will continue to do follow up.

- c. Coastal Committee –Tammy; nothing to report
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah; on stand by for conducting the membership election.
 - e. Outreach – Discussion on chair etc. The Ex Comm agreed that an Education committee would be helpful. Allison Zach has agreed to chair but will need some guidance (roles, goals). Chat with Allison first to understand if she has any recommended actions.
 - f. Stakeholder Engagement at QZ Infested Waters – report from Chair Tom Woolf – The committee has met once to discuss objectives for this committee. Further discussion on barriers, solutions and needs to move forward.
- K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - no news
 - b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne; ABYC Technical Information Report has a review deadline of November 13. The goal is to complete by end of the year.
 - c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – no news
 - d. QZAP – Stephen – no news
 - e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen. Last week of February/First week of March several western partners are going to participate in NISAW. RRISC is coordinating the full event and following agenda with the federal fair, webinar, and other events possible. There might be a possible ISAC meeting?
- L) Announcements – ALL