

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday December 11th, 2014; 1 PM MDT

Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, Tom McMahon, Beth Bear, Dennis Zabaglo, Earl Chilton, Joanne Grady, John Wullschulger, Bob McMahon and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes and October - Leah Elwell. Stephen Phillips moves to approve both the October and November minutes, John Wullschleger seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.
- B) Coordinating the coordination
 - a. Reduce Risk from Invasive Species Coalition (R.R.I.S.C) – Elizabeth has sent additional information and a follow-up is scheduled.
 - b. AFS – Fish Health Lab Certification and QC Committee - Elizabeth - They have started meeting and drafting protocols. APHIS and USDA are participating and think the final certification will come from USDA. Labs will be able to opt-in or out to be a certified lab and will have to follow the *AFS Blue Book*. USDA will be required to QAQC and will apply to state/federal/private labs.
 - c. Report on PNWER Perimeter Defense Meeting – Stephen - on 11/21/2014 PNWER met in Seattle to discuss perimeter defense. There was state representation from NV, MT, WA, OR, ID and Canadian partners where they walked through what perimeter defense was. Lisa DeBruckere was hired to draft the meeting summary report. The ongoing Building Consensus(BC) work is an important part of this effort. There will be a follow-up webinar on this process 1/21/2015. This meeting was a good tool in educating the state legislators and provincial folks who now have a much better understanding of the issue. Leah will clarify who should be sent the January 21st webinar invite.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips. Earl asked regarding the omnibus bill is there much in there on invasives? Stephen –The bill is back with the FY 2014 amounts (note the “extra” 1 million does not show up in the omnibus). Carp issue will receive funds. The VGP exemption for small vessels did get passed. Joanne – is seeing \$5.5million for Asian Carp, \$2 million for QZ which is not changed from previous. Half of the QZ money goes to state plans to offset money that was previously allocated to state plans. Stephen- Some folks will go back to DC during NISAW for hill visits and increasing state AIS plan funding through ANSTF will be one of the priorities, especially for funding of watercraft inspection programs. We will also be paying attention to the AIS funding from the recent WRRDA legislation. It is unclear if the PLAQ act will be introduced; Rep. Bishop (UT) will be the new House Natural Resources Chair, so there is a possibility (good?) that “Healthy Habitats” legislation might be re-introduced next year. Elizabeth - Regional ANSTF panels are looking at reauthorization of NISA which is much needed legislation. Some of our issues could be dealt with in such a bill. All the panels agree that it is needed. Partners are holding conversations about commonalities across the nation, unique

needs of regions, and identifying the mechanisms to move forward with advocacy among partners to obtain national support.

- D) Letter to Assault Boats; status – Elizabeth – A letter has been drafted to send to Assault Boats, a small specialized boat company who may be one of many who may be unknowingly transporting invasives across the country. The letter informs them of invasives, cleaning and contact points within the west. If you have edits to the letter, then send to Leah; Joanne- should we let them know about the ABYC summit? Leah will do non-exhaustive query for other similar companies and send out information electronically.
- E) Finalize All Member Call date – Leah – This will be Feb 12th at 2 pm mountain time.
- F) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo; finalized the dates/location for September 2-4 at the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel. The planning committee is working on a keynote speaker, and has discussed possibly inviting Rep. Heller. He will be looking into local concessionaries to do on-water trip to look at past projects. The next call is January 7th 2pm. Karen Vargas with NDOW has pledged support with \$1K. Dennis will approach Tahoe Water Suppliers Association to support in some way. Bob McMahon would really like to see an AIS of Lake Tahoe session on the agenda.
 - i. Sponsor letters – Leah – provide suggestions to Leah because she should be sending letters to potential sponsors early in the New Year. American Casting (boat seal company) was suggested.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – The planning committee met last Thursday with the bulk of the next steps happening in the Legal Subcommittee who are tackling model regulation; the group is taking advantage of those coming to Vegas to the ABYC Summit. Stephanie sent out a survey to AIS coordinators to get feedback on the development of the model law, and this will help build the agenda for Building Consensus in Vegas. Next survey will be sent out in January and will be focused on model regulations. Acknowledging that not everyone can come to Vegas, participation in the surveys is important. The idea is to also plan another Denver-like meeting where we can bring legal-AIS coordinators together this spring. The planning team will meeting Dec 18th and requests that all the committee members provide subcommittee needs to be compiled to guide the subcommittees. Hopefully by Feb 12 All Member call, the subcommittees will have direction. ABYC summit takes place January 27-28 in Las Vegas. There is sufficient participation from AIS coordinators; however some participants will need an invitation/agenda letter to attend. Draft agenda will be distributed soon.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – The workgroup should have documents done by the end of the year and will be moving on to UPMS. Committee members updated all of the powerpoints for training. The idea is to finalize documents, Dee will conduct winter-spring 100th Meridian trainings with these new materials, then re-group in late summer and assess.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne

- iii. Inreach - Tom
- iv. Outreach - Beth
- v. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – will be initiating in the New Year. Earl – how many states will be involved in data sharing? Elizabeth - NM, and CO in 2014; and adding UT for 2015). Once it is ready then any and all states and entities certified 100th Meridian are welcome to participate. Earl- is there a financial commitment to opting in? Elizabeth - Mobile app will be maintained by USFWS; and if you want to opt-in you have to have the hardware. John – at what point are we in determining what information will be collected? Elizabeth – that was determined in a previous Building Consensus meeting. John – is thinking about the privacy act issues. Elizabeth – no personal information is being collected, boat registration and license collected, no name address info. Some aspects are yet to be determined. John – thinking from the standpoint of Glen Canyon (really, all NPS units with ramps accommodating trailered boats), and for them to be able to utilize. Elizabeth – the notification form is what people want; something that is seamless and electronic. AZ and NV are the two states with notification forms which are similar. A check box and signature could be added for sharing personal info. Law enforcement could look up registration/license. The discussion is on including the notification document is the challenge. The inspection/decontamination portion is easy. Committee has not yet met. John – wants to be on this committee. Earl – will there be issues with how money is being spent with potential law enforcement engagement. Elizabeth – if we include the mussel boat notification form then yes – enforcement needs to be resolved. John – will this reside on a private contracted server? Elizabeth – yes, there might be a need for committee on the legal aspects to get over some of these hurdles.
- vi. Perimeter defense – Stephen – see above.
- c. Coastal Committee –
 - i. Chair Sonia Gorgula has moved to Australia and will be available online Tuesday – Friday; Her contract with HI Dept of Lands and Natural Resources is over at the end of March; there is possible continuation but it may transfer to another person in HI. She has discussed tacking on a 1 day event for the tunicates management plan effort to the Pacific Ballast Water Group meeting in April for Portland/Seattle with Stephen (who is the coordinator). Stephen – half day could be used for this during the meeting; need to have an executive planning session with AIS coordinators and others to figure out the larger event in the summer to outline what is next. The discussion is on tunicates planning versus larger marine AIS planning at an inter-jurisdictional scale. A first step may be to explore these issues with a smaller group of people, though nothing has been set in stone.
 - ii. Tunicates workshop final budget report. Leah has received the last reimbursement request this week. The budget file was provided. Only a small

amount of WRP funding is needed to cover the expenses approximately \$170.
Joanne – moves to approve budget and final WRP expenditure; Stephen – seconds. All in favor

- d. Membership Committee– Leah; still continuing to clarify with tribal members their level of interest; have not heard from ANSTF on associated vacant federal positions. No committee meeting planned. Are there items that need to be addressed at this time other than those previously mentioned? Stephen – if we do not get much response from latent members, then it may be good to discuss bringing interested and active members on.
- e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen – Sudeep Chandra is planning to submit a manuscript on his associated research in early January to an AIS open access journal. Ballast filtration will be talked about at the ABYC meeting in Vegas; hopefully Sudeep will be coming to that meeting.
- f. Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup – Elizabeth – no new update –What do we want this committee to do? Earl – at the beginning, the discussion was to form a 501c3; committee could have worked on it but did not pursue. Earl – maybe we don't need this workgroup; Stephen – no but we need to pursue sponsorships etc. Elizabeth – pursue these different legislative authorizations etc. as well. She recommends that the Ex Comm dissolve committee; Stephen – second. All in favor. Motion carries. Bob – I still want the Ex Comm to continue to discuss but does not need its committee. All members could be drumming up support.

G) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – Plan has tentatively been approved by the ANSTF pending public comment (Federal Register notice was announced today by Laura Norcutt)
- c. QZAP – Stephen –no new news
- d. Snakehead – John – Plan was previously approved by the ANSTF but may require a public comment period.
- e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD – Ex Comm agreed that the ANSTF is not currently working on this; therefore a monthly update will be removed from the WRP agenda until it is taken up again.
- f. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no new news
- g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne – no new news
- h. NISAW Planning Committee – Tom McMahon – Phil Andreozzi will be getting together next month to plan. NISAW is the week of February 22-27, 2015. The planning group is encouraging local activities; Some of the DC-based activities include congressional briefings, kids day, awards, and Teaming with Wildlife event. Earl – what kind of attendance from agencies is expected? Tom – this is something we work on and focus on the hill visits; executive branch visits are something to work on. Earl - getting Dept of Energy there would be good.

H) Announcements – ALL