

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

December 19th, 2017 at 10:30:00 am mountain time

Attended by; Martha Volkoff, Nate Owens, Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo, Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of October minutes - Leah Elwell – will hold until January call.
- B) – This includes the membership election and the Executive Committee election. Leah will draft a ballot and circulate in the New Year.
- C) Election of Chair and Vice Chair Discussion – This will take place on the January Ex Comm call.
- D) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. Havasu Anchor Update – Havasu Marine Association – The final product has been circulated. This update can be taken off the agenda.
 - b. eDNA monitoring state efforts – This dialog was most recently picked up in San Diego at the WISCE meeting and stems from the suspect hits from eDNA and translating those to management actions. eDNA is “experimental” and needs to be pulled out of the management discussion. The states want to work up a policy document to guide those decisions; there is a need for a consensus drive protocol or common goal for management. Politics of this needs to be settled. How can we figure out the best way to utilize this tool in the face of making management decisions? How do states manage these responses? Tom Woolf circulated a fact sheet. This began as a WISCE effort, but may need to expand to the full WRP. Martha Volkoff will lead this. She will send out a call to all the states and pulling expertise from geneticists. In the end, the document may be brought to WAFWA.
 - c. Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council meeting 1/4/2018 – Elizabeth sought feedback from the group as to what to share with these council participants. The Council is asking the WRP what if anything do we need help with. Suggestions from the discussion; tap them on the ANSTF FACA review issue?; update of lower Colorado River containment meetings with Havasu and Mead; Share NSGLC Stephanie’s legislative comparison; need additional ways to achieve reciprocity in the UT/AZ management efforts or this will continue to fall short.
 - d. Havasu and Lake Mead Meetings – two weeks ago there were multi-partner (state and federal) meetings to discuss further containment at these waterbodies. This is linked to the DOI Mussel Initiative.
- E) Legislation update – Stephen Philips –
 - a. There has been some action on VIDA. The Senate Commerce Committee is trying to fast track the USCG authorization act with the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S.1129). Additional Information proved by Allen Pleus via email: *This will a) removes state authority to protect unique waters under any state or CWA authority; b) does not provide authority to assess vessel fees to support enforcement of even federal*

requirements; c) goes beyond permanent EPA sVGP moratorium to exempt fishing vessels and commercial vessels < 79 feet from any federal or state requirements for all 35 incidental discharges – including biofouling and numerous water pollutants, i) The EPA report (EPA 833-R-10-005, August 2010) found that fishing/small commercial vessels can pose a significant local environmental risk, ii) Current state and federal regulatory authorities are sufficient to protect the environment from small vessel risks.

- b. A new small vessel general permit (sVGP) bill has been dropped by Sen. Cantwell to address the changes that would occur to the Vessel General Permit (VGP).
 - c. Jan 19th budget deadline; looks like the Interior stuff is fine.
- F) WRP Website update – Leah – At this time the WRP webmaster was Linda Beck, however she has been out on extended leave. It is unclear when she will return. Leah has been working with Linda’s boss to see if minor updates can be made by another staff person in the interim.
- G) ANSTF
- a. FACA committee review by DOI – no new news.
 - b. Experts Database – update – Leah just submitted WRP related changes after receiving feedback from WRP members.
- H) Advanced decontamination training. Dee Davis hosted an Advanced Decontamination Training in Nov 2017. The gathering of people resulted in a “think tank” on decontamination where partners could share and learn in a common environment. Elizabeth suggested that the Ex Comm re-instate the WID committee to help formalize this need evaluation and information sharing among the professionals on the ramps that are leading these field efforts in the West.
- a. All in favor so Leah will add as a formal vote item for January call.
 - b. Elizabeth will work with Dee to formalize an advanced decontamination course for incorporation into WIT and will seek feedback from WISCE.
- I) Canada/Alberta risk assessment for marine manufacturers –There is some need to do some outreach on this topic. Alberta recently did a risk to have manufacturers share what their protocol was to prepare their boat prior to shipment. Can Martina help work on this?
- J) Seaplanes – There is interest for WRP to create a committee to work on seaplanes. In CO, seaplane interest groups and legislators are asking for standardized and accepted inspection and decontamination protocols. Other states, such as NM and MT, are also starting seaplane inspections or being pursued to do so. WA, OR and Lake Tahoe have struggled with this in the past. Lake Powell had the first seaplane violate inspection protocol in 2017. This is an issue that WRP could provide leadership on. The new committee would look at the risk seaplanes pose of moving mussels and other ANS (perhaps making recommendations for research needs in this arena), and come up with a step by step inspection and decontamination process similarly to watercraft with a recommendation on certification and training requirements.
- a. All in favor so Leah will add as a formal vote item for January call.
 - b. Something else to note: the old don’t move a mussel movie talks about bleach and seaplanes. Stephen will work on updating/removing that language from the movie.
- K) Havasu Management Plan – There is dialog increasing to create a Havasu Management Plan but it is unclear what the next steps are.

L) Columbia River Basin Team Meeting met in November. There was a lengthy discussion on monitoring for the Basin. They have formed a specific committee, chaired by Tim Counihan, which will address some of the science and management related to monitoring. They cover monitoring at every meeting, but never have formalized a committee on the topic.

M) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah – After discussion on locations that were provided, Leah will summarize the top choices and circulate the information for electronic vote by the Ex Comm. Having the meeting in October was fine but avoid Columbus Day week if possible. Leah will reach out to hotels and discuss locations again with Allen.
 - i. Discussion on Summit will be saved for January call.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Discussion on a future meeting. UT has agreed to host the next BC workshop if need be. Karen Vargas also offered NDOW to host in Reno too. It looks like next fall, maybe December 2018 would be good timing for that next workshop. A good organization structure of all the current efforts and outputs will be needed to “maximize success” (possibly use a flow chart).
 - i. Discussion on Monitoring Final Outcomes –Once all of the monitoring parts are completed a summary piece that combines all the information and is a BMP document will be needed.
 - ii. Sampling Protocol –
 1. Phase 1 –plankton - report from Chair Karen Vargas; almost complete. The torch to be passed to Martha Volkoff.
 2. Phase 2 – substrate – report from Chair Erin Raney. Still primarily in the early phases of assembling this group.
 - iii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – no new information.
 - iv. Legal – report from Stephanie Showalter Otts. A Model Law comparison report was recently released by Stephanie.
 - v. Reach –Tammy Davis. There is some more discussion needed on what the next appropriate steps are for this need and how best to use the “Communications Plan” that was drafted earlier this year.
- c. Coastal Committee –Tammy – covered in legislative. Nicole Dobroski the current committee chair is seeking a successor.
- d. Membership Committee – Leah - no new news.
- e. Outreach – Allison Zach volunteered in San Diego – Hold a discussion on roles, goals etc for the January call.
- f. Stakeholder Engagement at QZ Infested Waters – report from Chair Tom Woolf. Need to circle back with Tom to understand this committee next steps.

N) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – No new information.

- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne
- c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger

- d. QZAP – Stephen
- e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen

O) Announcements – ALL