

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

January 14th, 2019 at 10:00 am mountain time

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, Erin Raney, Glenn Dolphin, Dennis Zabaglo, Martha Volkoff and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of December minutes – Stephen made a motion to approve, Erin seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- B) Monthly Ex Comm call – Dennis has an outstanding conflict with Mondays moving forward. On the February call the group will resolve for the annual schedule. In the meantime, Leah will doodle for a February call.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen Philips
 - a. A bill seeks to add lionfish as injurious wildlife.
 - b. One of the tasks of PSMFC is to follow Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs), which are not really AIS, but on the west coast they affect valuable fisheries. HAB re-authorization act was passed in late December. Another bill is in the new Congress.
 - c. Government shut down – there is nothing indicating that the government will re-open this week. Graham floated a temporary partial re-opening government idea; BOR, Bonneville Power and USACE are all open. It is hoped that the government will re-opened well before last week of February.
 - d. In December, VIDA was passed; and quagga mussels were listed as injurious wildlife.
 - e. The US House passed a budget bill, but the Senate has not considered the bill as of yet.
- D) Discussion on draft Policy on Letters of Support – Stephen provided draft language. No significant comments. The information should be housed in the WRP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document (to be completed in 2019). It was noted that we should also include the situations in which the Executive Committee would draft and send a letter per past scenarios.
- E) Select date for Mid-Year Teleconference – the date of April 9th 2 pm was selected. Leah will check with all committee chairs for any major conflicts. April 10th is the backup date.
- F) Financial Update – Leah provides some basic information on the WRP financial situation.
 - Current balance of the savings account: \$10, 148.55
 - Final expenses of Tacoma 2018: \$7,261.90 (many expenses of Tacoma were direct billed i.e. AV, room rental, lunch and are not reflected in this number).
 - o \$5,826 in cash sponsorships received
 - o \$13,463.39 in directly paid expenses (i.e. AV, room rental, lunch)
 - o Total expenses related to Tacoma = \$20,725.29
 - Two 2018 ANSTF trips for Elizabeth total expense = \$3,643.81The take home from these numbers is that the meeting is supported by sponsors!
- G) Coordinating the coordination update

- a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger (absent due to Government shut down as of Dec 21) – no new news; before shut down they were finalizing the updates to safeguarding the west document.
- b. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – The WGA Invasive Mussel Summit January 30-31 was cancelled due to lack of registration from state, federal and tribal for participation, and government shut down. The WGA planning committee met last week and talked about tagging it to a fall WGA meeting; also the North American in March could be a good fit. The sentiment is that spring is too soon. No confirmation/finalization for a new date. WISCE is meeting in Denver despite the cancellation and goal is to keep working on what they started related to QZAP, basin team strategies, WID etc. The current draft of the QZAP and BC summary documents will be circulated to states by Elizabeth soon. Then in February, Ex Comm to discuss, followed by feedback from full membership and finalize at the March Ex Comm meeting.
- c. WAFWA – January 2-7, 2019, Tucson (*there were no committee meetings*) – At their meeting in January they had a CO River Fish Chiefs meeting where a letter was developed. This letter was to NPS to thank them for leadership in LNMRA, Glen Canyon, Currecanti NRA but also for a request to provide AIS program support at those locations. WAFWA Summer meeting is July 11-16, Manhattan KS. At that meeting, it will be important to show a unified front on QZAP etc. from a state perspective, as it is a good opportunity to elevate the desired outcomes to state fish chiefs and directors.
- d. PNWER – Stephen Phillips – Meeting in July 21-25 Saskatoon, SK.
- e. NMMA/ABYC – Dennis Zabaglo – No new information since the September meeting where ABYC finalized the technical information report. ABYC did receive some funds to take the report on a “road show” to promote to boat industry. Not sure of the status of those funds in terms of award. NMMA is going to be doing a series of videos on AIS related to the TIR.
- f. Annual Letter to CTC partners and updates to the list – Elizabeth Brown – This was previously the duty of the Chair and Coordinator, and in October, the Ex Comm transferred this responsibility to the membership committee. John took over the membership committee and this activity was deferred to the committee, but due to the shutdown, we wanted to move forward to make sure that the contacts were made in January. Elizabeth drafted a letter which is on the google drive for editing. The list of contacts was updated by several Ex Comm members last month. Can we get the letter out by the end of January? Or do we wait for John to come back from shutdown to fill this next step? All agreed that Elizabeth/Leah will circulate the letter to Ex Comm for comments this week, and then Ex Comm will vote on letter next week via email. Elizabeth/Leah will send letter out by end of January.

H) ANSTF

- a. ANSTF December Meeting highlights – Elizabeth/Dennis – The meeting was really focused on the strategic planning and not many presentations were given. They worked through small groups with facilitators, and at the close went into committee mode

because there was more work on the strategic plan to be discussed. Content was to be given back to the ANSTF by the end of January, but the shutdown is affecting progress. All Panel meeting was the day before, and all panels determined that they would like to do this before every meeting (including spring 2019 in Tahoe) to find things that are common to all of the panels and then brought to the ANSTF. US FWS has funding designated to do a nationwide evaluation of SAH and Habitatatititude effectiveness and behavior change.

- b. Spring ANSTF 2019 meeting – WRP to host at Tahoe – Dennis will host; the strategic pause cancelled the last meeting. The WRP is the host in the rotation; TRPA leadership is supportive of hosting again. Week of May 7th is the scheduled week for meeting. May 6th travel, May 7 all panel meeting, May 8 half day of WRP presentations and field trip, May 9 ANSTF, May 10 half day ANSTF and travel. Likely to go to the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel. WRP will need feedback from Susan/ANSTF soon to move forward with hotel and agenda. USFWS will sign contract with hotel. Ex Comm will discuss agenda in February.

- I) Status Update on BOR request – Elizabeth – *No expected news until Spring*

- J) WRP Website update and discussion on future website – Leah – shut down is affecting rate of updates and additions to the website. Stay tuned and thanks for your patience.

- K) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. 2019 Annual Meeting – Leah – the committee met last week. Locations have been explored and Leah shared a spreadsheet of the options to date. Missoula Holiday Inn is rising to the top for a venue. The committee pitched a great field trip based out of Missoula. There are several other meetings that the group did not want to conflict with including American Fisheries Society (Sept 29-Oct 3), NAISMA (Sept 30 – October 3). Leah will dig deeper into final dates and possible contracts and loop back with Ex Comm soon.
 - b. Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin liaison – no new information
 - c. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Elizabeth liaison – January 15 will have their next call; on-demand hot water system will be discussed. The committee wants to formalize the standards and potentially route through the ABYC TIC and the ANSTF Recreational Boating Committee for comments.
 - d. Membership and Communication Committee – John Wullschleger – no news – government shut down.
 - e. Outreach Committee – Chair Allison Zach; Elizabeth liaison – Their last call was on 12/6 where they spend the majority of the time talking about QZAP status update on education portions and BC outreach portions. The committee also discussed WRP Document Design standards – like cover pages, powerpoints, the full suite for branding with the new logo. If there is design expertise they want your help.

- L) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Building Consensus – Chair Joanne Grady (absent due to shut down) – The Model MOU was circulated by Stephanie Showalter Otts and the next version of the legislative gap analysis is done. Both are posted on the westernais.org website
 - b. eDNA Committee – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Nate liaison (provided by email). The workgroup held a call in December and discussed various goals and then prioritized them:
 - i. webinar will be the first priority to effectively set the stage for the next steps; webinar will focus on the topic of eDNA, what it is, the state of the science, and how it could potentially be used in the Dreissenid world; John Higley will be leading the first webinar in February and is putting together a group to provide input on appropriate webinar content
 - ii. other priorities to follow: white paper on eDNA and what it means for managers and researchers; list of current eDNA research projects with reference to future research needs; development of standard lab and field protocols (group determined that this is a long-term goal that may or may not be realistic, but will likely focus on BMPs)
 - iii. next call scheduled for 1/16, but may not occur due to government shutdown
 - c. Lab Committee (*no report – on hold until winter research completed*)
 - d. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Chair Elizabeth – A webinar was to be scheduled in conjunction with seaplane partners, no date on that yet.
 - e. Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures Committee – Chair Beth Bear; Nate liaison (provided via email). The first call was on December 17th. Agreed to goal of drafting a training manual for inspection/decontamination protocols, along with an online training program for fire-fighting personnel; would look to have this as something states/agencies/contractors could voluntarily adopt
 - i. Nate will be emailing the WRP listserv this week to query states on what fire equipment protocols currently exist and are being used
 - ii. identified that one important step will be a survey that will attempt to reach fire-fighting personnel and determine who is aware of current protocols and what the best way would be to make them aware of this new training manual once it is produced
 - iii. Doodle poll out for next call in late January/early February
- M) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – ANSTF sees groups like the WRP, and other panels, that we get a lot done via committee, we need to funnel the work to the committees to get the work done. There are only so many bodies and time to go around. If panels dig into the ANSTF's work, then the panel loses work productivity. Do we harmonize the committees between ANSTF and the panels? Then the chairs can report on information up and down etc. ANSTF is struggling with that –the ANSTF members are really federal and non-profit people that don't necessarily have capacity to work on the committees. Needs to resolve; are the committees limited to members or any one with expertise? Some panels don't have capacity or committees so that model would not fit very well. When you look at the strategic plan

implementation the question is how and who will do it? There will be a webinar before the spring meeting to crosswalk the bylaws between panels. Everyone wants the ANSTF meeting to be more work based than presentations.

- a. Communications, Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
 - b. Prevention (committee currently inactive)
 - c. Research Committee (committee currently inactive)
 - i. AIS Economic Analysis – John Wullschleger (committee currently inactive)
 - d. Ad-hoc Boating Committee – Dennis Zabaglo
- N) Announcements – ALL
- O) Leah will Doodle for the first week of February to hold the next Ex Comm call due to conflicts.