

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Wednesday February 13th, 2013; 10 AM

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown – Chair, Karen McDowell – Vice Chair, Leah Elwell – Coordinator, Bob McMahon, Beth Bear, John Wullschelger, Earl Chilton, Bob Wiltshire

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes – Leah – Bob McMahon made a motion to approve; all in favor
- B) Discussion and update on contract with ISAN –Bob Wiltshire – Six months completed on the contract to provide coordination service to the Panel; there are two sets of money that ISAN administers - 1) 45K for the 3 year transition which is fully committed and no request for payment have been made, as soon as there is activity ISAN will provide financial update; 2) 50K for ISAN to provide coordination services, contract states this is reimbursement program, to date ISAN has drawn on this quarterly and expended half of the funds.
  - a. Contract fulfillment: The 50K is allocated for salaries, travel, communication, supplies and overhead. ISAN views the contract to provide a level of service to the panel as salaried employee rather than hourly. There has been a continuing increase in requests for Leah as the Coordinator to attend/moderate/present at meetings. ISAN is not concerned about the time to attend in these situations (i.e. salary cost) but the travel costs are not finite; If at any time ISAN will submit to an evaluation of performance.
  - b. Contract moving forward: Karen suggested in future could create a contract for salary only and there might be a separate travel budget; Karen suggested ISAN and Ex Comm must determine how our future contract approval will work in coordination with USFWS' Joanne Grady as the contract administrator. Elizabeth has planned to talk with Joanne at the end of Feb. New staffing cycle is expected to go in place July 1. Clarify possible scenarios of: contract amendment and modify the scope of work, determine number of times contract can extend and Ex Comm approval.
  - c. Future financial support for the Panel including coordination: There is uncertainty about what if any funding will come to the Panel from the USFWS. In a worst case scenario the Panel could tap into the 45k and cut back until there is a clear understanding of the projected funds for the future. Discussion on exploring other funding possibilities from foundations or other sources, Leah will clarify with Susan Mangin and determine approval of using outside funding and understand limitations. She will research possible scenarios if acceptable including discussion with other panels. Discussion on the possibility of the Panel to restructure to open avenues for funding support.
- C) Coordinator Monthly Update – Participated in ANSTF All Panel call, WRP annual meeting planning call, AG call, Membership call; Significant correspondence for a variety of needs; New Mexico has hired James Dominguez as their state coordinator and a new replacement at USBR for Joe Divitorrio is Diane Weigmann; Leah was invite to WDAFS meeting to serve as a moderator on a special session on invasive mollusks, Discussion on Leah's participation at such

events - Elizabeth supports enabling the coordinator to be the public face of the Panel, there is benefit to having the same person to represent, or in some cases the ex comm. Ex Comm agreed that Leah should attend the WDAFS if travel is covered (with the exception of per diem). In general as invitations such as these if the request is appropriate and travel is covered, Ex Comm agrees that it is valuable to have WRP represented.

- D) Progress/Next Steps on Oakland Facilitation notes— Elizabeth –The majority of the goals identified in Oakland have been accomplished, and now is a good time to look forward. Likely our number one action is secure funding for future panel activities. Elizabeth suggesting using the ANSTF annual report for the Ex Comm to forecast and look forward for the upcoming year, use the same annual report as a format for what we want to do for the next 9 months and key issues and accomplishments, they may not change, but it may help us use an evaluation of accomplishing actions. This would be a planning tool for the Panel rather than we have to do for ANSTF. Karen suggested at the annual meeting to talk about the panel and discuss with entire membership of where the Panel should go, what are things that we want to focus on. Elizabeth and Leah will draft up a forecast document. Kevin Anderson had several good suggestions in an email. Once we have more details on funding possibilities Ex Comm will discuss further.
- E) ANSTF Deadlines/Needs – Annual report submitted in early February; e- DNA session at Spring ANSTF meeting is in development and Earl Chilton, Stephen Philips and John Wullshleger will participate in the planning of this session to provide representation of concerns from the western region; recommendations to the ANSTF due the first week of April to supply for the ANSTF Spring Meeting the second week of May. Tentative recommendations are 1) Funding and implementation for QZAP, 2) coastal issues based on suggestions from coastal committee. During the next Ex Comm call these will be discussed. Email any recommendations for next call. Leah will draft up update and recommendations
- F) NISAW –possible Panel interests that should be conveyed on the Hill – The focus is getting quagga added to the Lacey act list, strategy is to list the genus not the family due to some mussels that are native in the same family. Ted Thayer is putting together a briefing paper together and is leading the set up. Working on setting up meeting with appropriate legislators, pushing funding for QZAP, close eye on Healthy Habitats legislation, and if there are other things then speak up.
- G) Western states inspection brochure – post on the WRP site – Ex Comm agreed it should be posted online.
- H) Interaction with panel members via panel calls – A WRP member suggested finding a way to allow members participate in throughout the year. Suggested that we hold an all members call or invite members to join some of the regular calls; Offer a call at 6-month cycle to gauge interest; Possibly the end of March – Leah will send a doodle to Ex Comm. March 21, 22, 25 or 28. Possible agenda items to cover on this call would be discussion on ANSTF recommendations, updates from all of the committees or workgroups.
- I) Noted that since Elizabeth is chair of the WRP and involved with Quagga/Zebra it was important for her to participate/travel to Feb 20 meeting in Salt Lake City to discuss the possible 1M allocation of funds to the west on QZ related work with a focus on Lake Mead– Ex Comm

supports her to attending and will pay for the plane ticket.

J) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell; Monthly call held on Jan 31 - There are proposal requests that are out to the identified session leaders for RFP; the RFPs are due the end of Feb. Ex comm will pull together the business meeting and facilitated discussion agenda.
- b. AG Workshop Follow-Up – Beth Bear – A conference call on Jan 31 to discuss progress on the action items from the August meeting.
- c. Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – No new information.
- d. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson - The committee hasn't met since December 2012 and I haven't scheduled another meeting for February – no issues pending. The WA Department of Fish and Wildlife is reviewing options for funding European green crab monitoring in Puget Sound. One option includes using trained volunteers from the Northwest Straits Commission to carry out the program. Not sure when they will have an answer.
- e. Lab Protocols and Standards –Elizabeth, from Colorado's perspective,- the issue of standards is dead in the water; there is the possibility that something positive comes out of e-DNA session at May 2013 ANSTF, there are other species where protocols are being developed for milfoil, NZMS etc; Issue is reaching the core problem - the link to the management with positive DNA hit and no animal which consequently triggers a management response. There is a need to connect the science to better management. Colorado BOR will have validation tests next month. Bob McMahon - Weak signals in unlikely situations might be linked to boater movement leaving behind DNA only. DNA can be moved with consumed fish/birds etc. It would be helpful for standard language on suspect lake that can be used among states (i.e. suspect lake vs infected lake).
- f. Membership – Leah Elwell – Held first meeting on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion on current membership slots which will need to continue to clarify for next member voting at the annual meeting. Committee is charged with creating a robust membership application and recommendations on membership sections of the new Bylaws section. The committee is committed to deadlines to complete these tasks to have the application and bylaws ready prior to the annual meeting.

K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell – No new information
- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger– No new information
- c. NZMS – Beth Bear – No new information
- d. QZAP – Karen McDowell – Held a conference call end of Jan, no new changes, agreed to have another call in 2 months, people thought it was good to keep in touch.
- e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger– No new information
- f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger– No new information

- g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell– No new information
  
- L) Announcements – John Wullschleger – The Park Service Deputy Director has introduced a prospective package that would allow a fee increase for Quagga-Zebra prevention activities; should this be approved then individual park Superintendents would have the discretion to propose a fee increase for a particular park and each park would have to go through a public process to make any changes.