

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday February 20th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by Beth Bear (vice-chair), Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Bob McMahon, Tom McMahon, Joanne Grady, John Wullschleger, Stephen Phillips, Allison Begley and Leah Elwell (Coordinator).

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah. Tom made a motion to approve, all in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination - draft letters to PNWR/WGA – Elizabeth will send a draft to group and everyone will provide edits. Shoot for March 20 to send letters. Comments by March 10. In Building Consensus Committee call later today there will be discussion with committee members on how to bring these entities together with a possible summit to share accomplishments of this committee.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen – HR3994 (Healthy Habitats Bill; Bishop UT is the bill sponsor. *Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention and Management Act* (HR3994; <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3994>). The secretaries of Agriculture and Interior play a role. There are concerns on the prescriptive language for on the ground uses, and overhead. There are very specific uses for money, e.g. shall not use less than 75% in management on the ground, 5% net reduction of AIS populations annually, there is NEPA exclusion language which shows up in many House land resources bills. Currently the bill only has one co-sponsor. There may be an opportunity to amend items in the bill language to address needs of the AIS community, such as including inspection and decontamination of watercraft under the management definition as an option to “stop the spread” or other things that would make sense for AIS management for the states, such as providing authority to the Secretaries to prohibit the transportation of ANS off of federal land and waters. Elizabeth – John Cantlon (with Dupont and HHC) is looking for support from the aquatic community, the merit of the bill is good but the way that it is written is plant or weed based. There is an executive director with Healthy Habitats that would be most appropriate to work with, they are asking for an audience with AIS community but giving input at this stage is a bit late. We could provide them with an opportunity to address the Ex Comm? Some thoughts on additional bill language changes might be to: give the secretaries the authority to stop movement off federal lands, the language with stop the spread could possibly include boat inspections but the 75% requirement is very specific to purchasing equipment for control, purchase of pesticides, biocontrol, and manual removal. So it might be better to add a 5<sup>th</sup> bullet for boat inspections/decontamination. No one is going to be able to achieve a net reduction of 5% in QZ other other aquatic animals. This could potentially divert ANS funds towards species that can contribute to the net 5% reduction of invasive species populations on federal lands, and can be controlled by the methods outlined in the 75% budget line (chemical, biological, mechanical). The current language is not beneficial to the AIS community as is. Stephen - no hearing yet planned in Congress, as with many bills these days in the second half of this congressional cycle, there is a

slim chance that it will get to passage. We will keep a close eye on it. Elizabeth – maybe we should sit down with them to build a relationship, and figure out how we can help each other in the future. What is the forum for this? Stephen – pick some people to be on a call, and possibly have them at the WRP meeting.

Other legislation - WRDA still waiting for conference committee report to be released. There are rumors it includes AIS money; Great Lakes there is another carp bill; Corps report for the Great Lakes and cargo management is out; state of Washington has AIS legislation and they are trying to add funding for the legislation, including funding for a small grants AIS program; FWS and NPS have money in the FY2014 budget for Zebra/Quagga mussels. In the last couple of years, the USFWS funding has gone to a \$1M/annual grant program and \$1M/state management plans. Will ask Craig Martin if he has heard intent of NPS in FY2014 appropriation. It is possible that more money will go to Lake Powell this year because of the recent infestation. Powell has a management plan out for review right now. Tom McMahon will be meeting with some administrative people and legislative folks in DC next week. It is the last week for Susan Mangin with ANSTF.

- D) All Member Call March 6<sup>th</sup> – finalize agenda - Leah – find out if Susan could give fiscal update; Tom there may not be a spot on the agenda at the NASBLA meeting for James Dominguez to address the group on behalf of WRP.
- E) Annual Meeting proposals for 2015 – Leah – Update and use the previous form and send out after All Member call. Deadline will be some time in July. Discussion on the practicality of requiring the meeting following an alternating form of inland/coastal. The group determined that the inland/coastal is good, but go with the most practical location. The WRP typically alternates the annual meeting between coastal and inland states, however monetary and logistical factors may affect where the meeting is held.  
Beth motion to delete, Stephen second, John, Bob apposed, Allison, Beth, Stephen, Joanne, Elizabeth, Tom in favor. Motion carries. John needs possible further discussion on coastal input. Joanne suggested that it might be appropriate to put language in bylaws on coastal/inland balance on the Executive Committee.
- F) Open member slots/Process for 2014 – Leah – Discussion on what to do about empty membership slots. Elizabeth if we have an empty spot we should try to fill it and hold an election annually. The 4-year election is actually a review of the membership categories rather than the election of filling those. Joanne – In developing the list of membership categories, the membership committee viewed the categories as areas that the WRP wants input and now we need to recruit. If we are able to find an industry or research need, then we do need to be able to do it outside of the 4-year interval. Does anyone feel that we should not fill membership slots annually if vacant? All agreed slots should be filled annually if vacant. Leah will solicit applications and vote at the annual meeting.
- G) Re-visit bylaws regarding election process etc.– Leah – The above membership items may need to be included in the Bylaws and a review of the Bylaws could take place between now and the annual meeting. Bylaws could be voted on at Houston. Leah will alert the membership on the March 6<sup>th</sup> call about membership and bylaws. Also will put notification in monthly emails. The Membership Committee could recruit members as well.

- H) SOBA review document – Leah - Will the WRP submit formal comments? Elizabeth - leave to the individual, include in the monthly email if we want to, email SOBA saying that it will be member input. Leah will send email.
- I) Report to Congress – Leah – Attended conference call about the process of the ANSTF submitted a report to Congress regarding the accomplishments of the ANSTF and the panels. The WRP will have to submit content to be included in the report likely by the end of March.
- J) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Leah – signed the contract with the Crowne Plaza Downtown. Is there a need to assist the Federal members to initiate a pre-meeting? Elizabeth - How active are the federal folks in the western region? Have there been WRP members in the Fed lands committee review as part of Building Consensus? If majority are up to speed then potentially feds could work collectively with the state coordinators in an afternoon pre-meeting. Joanne - many of the federal lands committee participants are held by a lead in Washington DC, and a lot of questions about regulations and authorities are being done by a suite of people in FWS, but may not have a lot of dialog in building into that process. Elizabeth – So update by their counterparts sounds more appropriate for a federal pre-meeting. SAH!/Wildlife Forever – may be appropriate to invite but may not give presentation time, if we could develop identified needs from the panel that might be something to put into the agenda. Joanne – Are you getting a letter back regarding the WRP addressed to the ANSTF regarding SAH!? Elizabeth - Yes. Joanne - Have you been formally informed that Joe Starinck (USFWS) and Wildlife Forever are working on logo guidelines and WRP asked to participate? Elizabeth - no. Joanne - Have you ever gotten a CD of products? Elizabeth - no. Stephen – we need to continue to pay attention to this process. Elizabeth – is going to do some follow up.
  - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – Denver II was last week with state coordinators and several legal observers. Thanks to all for last week’s work. It was a worthwhile 3 days. Fortunate to have the opportunity to have Sea Grant Law Center as part of this process, and comments on Model Law deadline is this Friday. There seems to be a great effort. The “magic website” (identified a need for a website for a variety of resources at the Denver II meeting) needs funds and will house standards for training etc. Federal Lands group meets on the 26<sup>th</sup> next. Elizabeth – helped with updates to training, and was taught by Dee Davis (PSMFC) this past week. The training manual will be out for review soon.
  - c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – Leah provided update – Committee has been developing an agenda for a proposed PNW regional Tunicates workshop to develop a strategic management plan. Sam Chan suggested that the WRP send a letter to each director of Sea Grant in the region and ask for support of the workshop. Does the Ex Comm agree that a letter should be sent to Sea Grant? Yes. Leah requested guidance on how much time she should put toward this workshop in assisting the committee? Ex Comm agreed that Leah should provide some assistance

with the Chair in helping Sonia pull it together, but the majority of time commitment should come from the committee.

- d. Lab Protocols and Standards Workgroup– Stephen Phillips – No new information to share, and the current issue is when is the next time that ISAC is going to meet and the subcommittee might discuss this topic. Stephen cannot attend. He has taken it as far he can take it. All of us must continue to follow issue. Is there someone that wants to take this on? At this point we need some new person to address the issue. He suggested either disband the group or get a new leader and not sure who person should be. Bob – suggested that the person should be one who is involved in this type of work. Elizabeth suggested that possibly through the regional aquatic animal health lab might be a way to stay integrated and make regional protocol a standard. The blue book is being updated, CO is intimately involved, they do QZ PCR and microcopy; and has MT has microscopy lab. Maybe engage with this group of state fish and game aquatic health – get MT, PSU and other known state folks and when they publish and put something out for comment. Really not a lot for us to do at this moment, so getting state participants might be a good option. Allison – would support idea. Joanne – would they be looking at the QAQC protocols for Asian carp from several labs could be used as model? Allison and Elizabeth will try to get our lab folks to connect and meet. Keep it as a standing topic on the agenda but dissolve workgroup. Joanne – are we still waiting on outcomes from the Texas meeting that discussed this? No. Stephen – the community is waiting for a lead on how to move forward. If these things come up the agenda committee needs to consider carefully.
- e. Membership Committee– Leah Elwell – Committee has not met since December 2013. Leah awaiting replies from ANSTF regarding federal membership slots that are vacant. The committee could address some of the membership items discussed earlier in the agenda.
- f. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips – Talked about the results and next steps in Denver last week. Wakeworks LLC, Dennis from Tahoe and others will be in CO talking to watercraft manufacturers and will go forward with this product. The information to date looks like it works well. He has talked with some of AIS coordinators asking the question of: if boat comes from Mead, that is clean drain dry and has filtration unit on it, do you still want to flush the ballast tank – maybe? The company is moving forward with manufacturing. Seems that support will come from states rather than WRP. The conversation shifted to a discussion on general thoughts on including the WRP logo on a variety of efforts, but not on the recreational ballast tank product. Elizabeth - Colorado will approach by writing it into the manual and develop procedures and flowcharts for how it will be applied on the ramp. Building Consensus is a committee of WRP but the bigger partnership is part of the WRP. It is our logo that is going on the documents, similar with the training manual. Include the logos of the WRP, 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian, PSMFC, FWS, and CO says that the product is one from the regional partners and regional efforts. Is everyone okay with that? Stephen - Include BPA too. Stephen thinks we could add WRP. Important for future dialog with ANSTF and QZAP

etc. Joanne – Building Consensus asks to use the logo on regional training and other docs, Allison seconds, all in favor.

- g. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Leah – Committee met in January and reviewed a briefing paper assembled by Leah on obtaining non-profit status for a new entity that aids with fiscal responsibilities. The committee has several questions but recommended that the Ex Comm consider moving forward with creating an entity with non-profit status. The questions of interest from the committee included 1) if there as a conflict of interest of federal members serving on the non-profit board. This is not a problem, more information here in the federal register - <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/03/06/2013-05243/government-employees-serving-in-official-capacity-in-nonprofit-organizations-sector-unit-investment>. 2) should the non-profit BOD mirror the Ex Com? Ideally they should differ but some overlap might be helpful. Also there will be a filing fee for the IRS. Money may have to be generated by the states or other entities that are interested in the non-profit. The Ex Comm will review briefing paper and discuss next steps during the March Ex Comm call.
- K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
  - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – no new news
  - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips - QZAP meeting next week – They will discuss direction in the coming years and stay tuned
  - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – Leah will make sure membership have it and formally check back in with ANSTF on comment status. Include in the monthly email.
  - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
  - f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear – Is now on the working group; no new news.
- L) Announcements – All - Glen Canyon/ Powell Management plan draft comment period open until March 7<sup>th</sup>. Leah will add to WRP update; Leah – will send Susan Mangin happy retirement card from Panel.