

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday February 12th, 2015; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Beth Bear, Joanne Grady, Bob Mc Mahon, Tom McMahon, Stephen Phillips, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown, John Wullschleger and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell. Stephen Phillips made a motion to pass the minutes from the previous call; Beth Bear seconded. All favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Elizabeth Brown – There have been a couple of events recently including the American Boat and Yacht Council workshop and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region webinar. WRP played an active role in both.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Bill 371 (Murkowski – AK)/ Bill 373 (Rubio – FL) would influence exemption of small watercraft discharge EPA ballast water regulation. There is concern on S. 373 from the west coast states and Great Lakes because it preempts current state regulations. The Northwest continues to look toward the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (2014) where \$20 Million was authorized for the US Army Corp budget for AIS activities. Whether these funds will be appropriated is unknown, but so far funding language has not appeared (FY 2016 USACE President’s budget, the House still needs to go through the budget process). There is no indication that Quagga listing bills (Heck, Heller, PLAQ Acts) from last congress will be re-introduced. It is uncertain if the final language in the next version of the Tahoe Restoration Act will include language on quagga listing. Oregon has introduced a bill that would make the purchase of boat/AIS permit voluntary (currently mandatory). Nebraska has introduced legislation to create a fee that would support AIS programs. South Dakota is discussing new regulations. The Regional ANS Panels recently held a conference call to discuss NISA reauthorization. The Panels are all on the same page with the budgetary shortfalls, and we are still early in the process as a congressional member needs to be identified that would want to introduce such a bill. Also, there is an assumption the “Healthy Habitats” (HH) bill (Bishop-UT) will be re-introduced in 2015. However the previously introduced bill was not aquatic centered. Reaching out to the Natural Resource Chair Bishop is suggested. Elizabeth –we want to ensure that a HH bill would not harm the AIS community should it move forward.
- D) ABYC Summit and Building Consensus Regulations Meeting Recap – Joanne Grady – She heard all good reports from the summit. The boating industry has a keen interest. She expressed thanks to the WRP members who participated in the event and gave presentations. The minutes from the meeting will be available soon and they will help guide next steps. Dennis was encouraged by meeting in general, despite some challenging break out session conversations. Some industry leaders offered to perform “action tests” to test the lifetime of the components based on what managers are utilizing. There were feelings expressed on confusion on the filtration products and how it should be incorporated. Steps need to be taken to work out the final utilization. Encouraged by the general support and willingness to work together. Joanne – in one of the sessions there was significant amount of discussion on outreach and education

rather than engineering dialog. Sounds like they need more information on this topic. Dennis – yes discussed how to incorporate language in the owner’s manuals etc, and the importance of hearing the message from regulation, boat manufacturers and Coast Guard – a unified front. Joanne – some AIS participants volunteered to contribute to manual content and we will need to check back on that. Stephen – the manufacturers discussed the need for website where they can they go to find AIS information. They need something simple with clean, drain dry. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will post a page for them but will need more information on exactly what they are looking for. The Building Consensus Regulations Meeting included the AIS professionals that were able to attend the ABYC Summit. The meeting was directed by Stephanie Showalter Ott (Sea Grant Law Center) and Pryia Nanjappa (AFWA). The meeting produced good conversation. The continued intent for this subcommittee is to pull together late summer/fall late 2015 for a Denver workshop-style meeting with AIS coordinators and AGs. There are still many policy related questions to address. The AIS coordinators have agreed on minimum standards, but not ideal standards or a range of standards. We will need to reach consensus on these before we move forward. Webinars or conference calls are likely between now and the next workshop. Stephanie is working on a policy issue spreadsheet.

- E) Finalize WRP 1 pager – Leah – The section on ballast filtration/boating industry needs new content. The document is close to wrap up. Leah will make final edits and supply to Ex Comm for finalization.
- F) ANSTF Spring Meeting – WRP issues to follow up on/rough sketch recommendations – Leah asked if there was any needed follow up on the discussion that took place at the fall 2014 ANSTF meeting regarding the “re-approval” of the QZAP document. Joanne – in general the date that was put in the plan was self-imposed by the WRP and there is no formal policy or rules for updating a management plan. Lower Colorado funding is still going to be budgeted and will be funded regardless of date on QZAP plan. Further there has been no new breaking science that would change the guidelines and priorities of the QZAP. Leah will attend the spring meeting instead of Elizabeth and Beth.
- G) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo – The planning committee is exploring getting keynote speakers that are high profile; two speakers the group would like to ask are Senator Heller and the SW USFWS Regional Director. The Ex Comm agreed that these speakers would be valuable and that invitations should be sent soon. Joanne will look into USFWS regional director. Leah will draft invitation letters to be sent by Elizabeth. The planning committee has also scheduled for a session on Lake Tahoe topics and is exploring the concept of managing species that have not turned out to cause ecological/economic harm.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – The Federal Land Managers document has not yet been completed but are still working to see that happen.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – We will need to get the workgroup back together. The manuals are all completed, and Dee is teaching from them this week. The manuals are in final formatting and then will be printed. Over the

course of teaching this year, Dee will track items that need to be revisited or changed. Revisions will occur at the end of the summer. In April, Dee will pilot a trainer's class with Utah/Jordan Neilson's staff who have been trainers. Elizabeth has done 2 as well in Colorado and will be doing one in March that includes western states including NM, SD, and NE. The next step is to move on to UMPS III. ISAN is assisting with a new draft. The goal is to get a draft to Elizabeth prior to her leave. Because of the ABYC meeting and questions, we are not going to charge ahead until WISCE and WIDT team have a clear understanding about what is going in the document. Watercraft industry may have input for us, but AIS community also has input.

- ii. Legal - Joanne- see update from BC Regulations discussion above.
 - iii. Inreach – Tom – stay tuned as the steering committee develops goals and objectives for this subcommittee.
 - iv. Outreach – Beth - stay tuned as the steering committee develops goals and objectives for this subcommittee.
 - v. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – This committee could not start this process until the WID work was done. She has had a good discussion with Jordan Neilson (UT) to discuss aspects of data, and she is getting the technical person set up. There will be a committee meeting (from those who volunteered in Houston) to go over specifications. Jordan made a lot of suggestions that are state specific, and will need additional feedback for their inclusion. Notification forms are built, no personal information is included and they are also building in the Mussel MastR protocol too. The form will need to continue to be developed and tested. Robert Walter on Elizabeth's staff will be her proxy on data collection while she is on leave April-June.
 - vi. Perimeter/Regional defense – Stephen – With assistance from Lisa DeBruyckere and Gail Wallin, there was a Seattle meeting in November 2014 hosted by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWR), and a January 21th webinar to capture the variety of coordination efforts going on. PNWR has been active in the state and provincial capitals. They want to figure out how to fund some of the concepts of regional defense; including gaps like night inspection. They have been in contact the Western Governors Association to see if the WRRDA money might be a source for that. PNWR will be looking at some type of plan/recommendation document that would include defining how possible funding to be allocated and used for regional defense, contingency planning and monitoring. The WRP committee was created prior to PNWR's activities, and Stephen has his feet in both camps and will keep everyone posted.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula - will have complete report later today on the WRP All Member Call at 2 pm.
 - d. Membership Committee– Leah - no new news.
 - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen and Elizabeth - Mussel MastR – won the innovation award this week at the Miami International Boat Show. Including

how to address the Mussel MastR filter is now to be included in 100th Meridian training, but we will need to continue Building Consensus conversations as to how to use it. As well as, the parallel of getting industry approval stamp. Stephen – protocols for addressing boats with the filtration system will come down to each state. Elizabeth – or waterbody. In Houston, the AIS coordinators were polled “if the boat did not have adult mussels on it, would they accept a boat with the filtration?” The answers had a lot of diversity. This might be addressed in a WISCE call. Stephen – for high risk watercraft, even with the filter, the watercraft will likely still need a decontamination. Elizabeth – Full decontamination will still happen if there are mussels. Stephen – generally speaking we can say it will be helpful in the inspection process. Elizabeth - Mary Kate of Wake Works and Jordan came in December to Denver. Stephen – Dennis are you going through the same thinking? Dennis – if it comes from Mead or Powell it will get decontaminated at Lake Tahoe. Comments from retrofit will be provided to the group. Elizabeth – in retrofit did they decon the tanks prior to the installation? Dennis – good question, he will clarify.

H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – almost ready for public release
 - c. QZAP – Stephen - no additional comments from above information as it related to QZAP.
 - d. Snakehead – John - almost ready for public release
 - e. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - Doug Jensen will be setting up a booth at NISAW. No committee meeting to date. Joanne – Richard Christian in the Communication Branch USFW will be updating the protectyourwaters.net website. They will be looking at content and looking for input from the ANSTF committee. This is an opportunity to provide recommendations/input from the west. If there is some way to get information from regional efforts to see links and information. Everything that was developed by Wildlife Forever (WF) needs to be put on the website.
 - f. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne. Leah - Needs to be better defined as to the status of the committee from the ANSTF. Is the committee dissolved? Joanne – the letter from the WF stepping down they stated that the committee was now more important than ever. Leah –will remove this topic from further agendas unless instructed otherwise.
 - g. NISAW Planning Committee – Tom McMahon –the agenda is on the website; people doing hill visits concurrently, highlight on the agenda are the awards and the AFWA reception. Many webinars are insect or plant oriented.
- I) Announcements – ALL – Bob McMahon– expressed deep appreciation for the nomination for the award of Lifetime Achievement. He will be at the NISAW Award ceremony.
- J) Reminder – All Member Call later today at 2pm Mountain Time. Note different call in number
- a. 1-209-255-1000 passcode:770367# for USA
 - b. 1-559-670-1000 passcode:770367# for Canada