

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, February 11, 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Beth Bear, Elizabeth Bear, Dennis Zabaglo, Mark Sytsma and Leah Elwell.

## Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell – Beth motioned to approve the minutes with minor edits and, Stephen seconded. All approved.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update - Elizabeth
  - a. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – There seems to be some disconnect among the fish chiefs and AIS coordinators and the WAFWA AIS Committee want to help with that. Could we use the state meeting the day before WRP or WAFWA biannual AIS committee meeting to have a joint meeting to talk about broad range of AIS topics and Building Consensus items? Or a “Phoenix” type meeting with AIS Coord, Fish Chiefs, LEs could be another option. WRP will have cooperative management pieces after the April Building Consensus meeting.
  - b. Western Governors Association –Katie Kalinowski the AIS contact at WGA has left and they are not filling that position. They will be sharing AIS duties among two staff. What does this suggest about AIS as a priority item for WGA?
  - c. Microscopy protocol coordination? – No progress yet and perhaps need to get someone else to follow up. May need to visit with American Fisheries Society (AFS) folks to get feedback on how to pursue standardized microscopy protocols for dreissneids among western partners.
  - d. Western Division AFS Symposia – Reno March 21-24 – Karen Vargas has taken the lead on organizing this symposium. Could the microscopy dialog take place at that meeting? They have solicited for abstracts and many papers have come in. At this time the AIS symposium will be scheduled for Thursday am of the weeklong meeting.
  - e. Continental Dialog on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases – This is a forest pest group going down the road of expanding into other taxa and trying to work with others in the invasive species community. Looking for input on how they can coordinate with us. They are looking to have a conversation from a policy stand point rather than an education one.
  - f. Reducing Risk of Invasive Species Coalition – conference call this week; looking at the Farm Bill for potential funding sources for AIS programmatic support.
  - g. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; National Conservation Needs (NCN) – Priya Nanjapa sent out a draft NCN; In the past western partners have submitted a NCN. March 16th next meeting discussing their draft NCN, Bill Hyatt submitted one based on recreational boating and AIS to protect waters.
  - h. North American Lake Management Society, International Conference in Denver 2017 and will do an entire day on AIS. Within the next 3-4 months the planners will be working on the agenda.

- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Presidents budget is out; The FWS now has 46K that is directed to approved plan funding. Water Resource Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). The Pacific Northwest will eventually get \$4 million from US Army Corps for new watercraft inspection stations within the Columbia River basin only. They are looking at doing a technical correction in WRDDA to expand the geographic footprint of the funding. PSMFC/NWPCC/PNWER/States and US Army Corps are holding conference calls communicating about implementation guidance of WRRDA. Hoping the money is released this summer. The House Natural Resources Committee had a hearing on Bay Delta legislation. At the hearing there was discussion on striped bass as a significant predator on salmonids. This discussion links to a drought relief bill on predator fish control. Vessel Incident Discharge Act. There is an energy- related bill where language may be added as an amendment to VIDA. No word on Healthy Habitats. Tahoe Restoration bill is also in play. Senate Tahoe bill passed committee, hoping it will go to the full senate before session ends. A team of western partners are going back to DC at the end of the month. Priorities are 1) minimize the spread of AIS from federal land management agencies, 2) AIS plan support, and 3) WRDDA technical revision.
- D) Mid-Year Teleconference Agenda – March 16 at 2 pm mountain. Agenda was finalized.
- E) Annual Meeting 2017 – No proposals have been received to date for 2017. WA has submitted a proposal for 2018 and cannot commit to doing prior to 2018.
- F) ANSTF report matrix new format; comments due by Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - Susan Pasko distributed a draft PDF of a reporting form. There are still some questions as to the use of the reporting form as it now combines financial reporting as well as activity reporting. Leah will visit with Pasko directly for more feedback.
- G) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee– Beth – Field trip is getting close to set; The planning committee is looking at Tuesday from 8-12 pm for continuing education and then states could meet in the afternoon; social marketing and eDNA are topics that have been suggested for possible continuing education. The draft agenda so far includes a local Greater Yellowstone Area session and invasive/non-native fish session. Dennis asked to send list of topics. Could be circulated to group prior to all member call for feedback.
  - b. Building Consensus Workgroup –February workshop was cancelled due to snow and the group has rescheduled for April 19 & 20.
    - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – They have updated the decontamination section of the training manual. Dee Davis will teach the first WIT 3 for New Mexico in March. UMPS III is close to completion. The document is currently with several members of the boating industry for their input. We are optimistic in getting this out as soon. This is a living document!
    - ii. Legal - Joanne – no report
    - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – She is currently working on finalizing the system. Off water inspection is completed, and the boater movement form will now have personal information as per feedback from the majority of those who will use it. Long term ongoing financial support is a concern moving forward. There will be

a need to submit another QAZP grant to support the app moving forward. By early March they hope to have people to start testing the final.

- iv. Regional Defense – Stephen – State AIS coordinators received an email to get information to feed into the database for 2016 inspection station locations and 2015 interceptions/inspections.
- v. Outreach – Beth – Call next week; call last month was poorly attended. They decided to narrow down the scope of work to look at whitewater guides in the perspective of social marketing and what motivates etc. Stephen - Tom Woolf had specific mid-western states wanting to know about AIS laws. There is a need to create web pages that could be specific to different user groups for legal or other AIS information. Stephen has talked Lisa to sketch this out.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – The committee will meet in conjunction with the Pacific Ballast Water work group in Sacramento March 29 and 30. They will continue discussion on the biofouling management draft white paper. Good attendance is expected.
- d. Membership Committee– Leah – The committee just met this week to discuss encouraging Ex Comm participation, overall membership participation and the other membership slots which have been vacant for many years. The group will review the bylaws and current membership slots and reconvene in April with possible next steps.

#### H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
- b. QZAP – Stephen – Stephen will address with Susan Pasko if the unofficial committee will continue. Britton will reschedule the QZAP prioritization meeting to a webinar.
- c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no movement on this committee; USFWS is working with a contractor on the SAH website.
- d. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis – The committee met at the end of January for their first call. They will be drafting the charge document to direct the group. Some items of focus – info exchange with boating industry; expand the membership (Joanne Grady, Glenn Dolphin, Gene Seagle). Will meet again in March. Possible online library is being discussed. Could Dennis have the citations for mussel mortality?
- e. NISAW – Hill visits are scheduled for western partners as mentioned above.

#### I) Announcements – ALL -