

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

February 21st, 2018 at 2pm am mountain time

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, Martha Volkoff, Tammy Davis, Nate Owens, Joanne Grady, Jeff Adams and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of January minutes - Leah Elwell. Motion to approve minutes by Stephen, seconded by Jeff. All in favor; approved.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – Joanne –
 - i. A DOI report that was accomplished with 2017 funding is under review;
 - ii. Hilary Smith will be coming to Denver for the WGA meeting in March and hoping to meeting with AIS leadership in the west in the Denver area. Hilary is coordinating the WGA's Biosecurity Information survey (BISI) from the DOI.
 - iii. Zach Gamble is new DOI political appointee in Denver office, interested in getting to know the players and has direct contact with Secretary Zinke. He may attend CRB or WRP meetings?
 - iv. Stephanie Showalter Otts will give a briefing to DOI Bureau leads and deputies on March 9th on legal pieces of BC and how they could be used for lower Colorado Containment.
 - v. Elizabeth touched based and communicated to Hilary Smith some of the discussion from the WRP Ex Comm role in CO basin containment. Capacity (staffing, budget etc.); and authority are factors for WRP involvement. The WRP has developed the tools and recommendations are WRP expertise. Regional watershed containment versus waterbody containment is on the table for discussion. Is WRP Ex Comm supportive of spending time and money for developing regional containment or should it go too bolstering waterbody containment? Nate – supportive of exploring regional effort, what resources are needed for regional effort, would this effort receive overall funding from QZAP? If regional approach, it would be state run and then federal partners may feel shunted. Moving to roadside inspections helps address primitive launches or other areas where boats are not getting captured, and does a better job of prevention. How would this logistically come together – lower CO summit with AG, coordinators, chiefs etc.? Who has the authority to do what and how to plan? The “customer service” transition for boaters will be a hurdle. Two pathways – funnel money to current programs or create a long-term strategy or combination of both. Higher level meeting with WAFWA, WGA, DOI is needed.
 - vi. NPS authority to regulate AIS memo was released last week. They do not have clear authority to inspect at exit, but they can enforce state regulations/laws when states request that action from them.

- b. WGA - BISI survey is being filled out by Interior; Ex Comm decided WRP should not fill out as an organization but should encourage members to participate, next meeting is in June in Rapid City. Elizabeth will attend the workshop in March to address invasive species data management representing the WRP.
 - c. WAFWA – next meeting July Eugene, OR.
 - d. NISC - no meeting
 - e. ISAC - public forum will be held at NISAW, can submit comments even if not attending
 - f. PNWER – next meeting July Spokane. Stephen likely to attend.
 - g. eDNA monitoring state efforts – Martha – Montana IS Council is assembling a panel to discuss eDNA. Multiple experts will be attending. Perspective from people nationally. Review the state of the science for early detection, identify challenges with field and lab aspects, and identify information that could be address gaps and challenges input to management agencies. Targeted for mid-April.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen Philips –
- a. Presidential budget there is a reduction in state plan funding. BOR increase for dreissenids.
 - b. During NISAW will be requesting more funding for WRP and state plans if it does not negatively affect FWS budget. Visiting team of western partners will meet with Scott Cameron, Aurelia Skipwith, and Hilary Smith in DC.
 - c. Blue Ribbon Panel (AFWA) - Recovering Americas Wildlife Act, will provide more funding for fish and game agencies and could open more doors for AIS funding.
 - d. There has not been a new WRDA bill introduced yet this year.
 - e. VIDA there has not been much activity lately.
- D) WRP Website update – Leah – She has identified staff to work with in Regional 1 to do updates.
- E) ANSTF – likely a summer meeting at the end of June for 3 full days.
- F) Canada/Alberta risk assessment for marine manufacturers – Tanya Rushcall was contacted. Alberta plans to conduct this in the next month and will get back to WRP.
- G) WRP Mid-Year Teleconference – April 10 2 pm mountain – The Ex Comm will finalize agenda on next call; Leah will draft.
- H) Committee Power Hour/Brain Boost – Elizabeth proposed a special call for the Ex Comm to focus work on committee goals, roles and objectives. Also to discuss how best to utilize volunteer power; spend an hour at another time and help guide committees. Leah will Doodle for March.
- I) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah
 - i. Update on hotel and agenda. Leah has finalized the contract with Hotel Murano in Tacoma for the third week in October. The agenda team has meet once already.
 - ii. Solicit for 2019 proposals – The Ex Comm will put on the tele-conference agenda; Leah will announce and encourage proposals prior to the annual meeting. A vote will take place in Tacoma.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup

- i. Sampling Protocol –
 - 1. Phase 1 – plankton - report from Chair Martha Volkoff – pending distribution of document for final review and substantial edits have been taken.
 - 2. Phase 2 – substrate – report from Chair Erin Raney – held another call; a final document with the plankton phase will be completed.
 - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – no new information; see if we can get the materials to date and get assistance to complete.
 - iii. Legal – report from Stephanie Showalter Otts - She is currently working on the MOU, the final phase.
 - iv. Reach –Tammy Davis – At this time this effort is on the back burner.
 - c. Coastal Committee –Tammy – Chris Scianni is the new chair.
 - i. There will be a March 8th call, face to face Ballast Water April 12th, goal is to tackle 2 of the action plan items for regulating in-water cleaning.
 - ii. Jules Kuo, HI Bureau Lands and Natural Resources, has secured funding to host a workshop to develop BMPS for biofouling recreational and commercial fishing boats, and marine infrastructure
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah – no activity
 - e. Outreach Committee – report from Chair Allison Zach – Elizabeth/Leah assisted Allison to help define goals and actions for the committee. Allison initiated committee late February.
 - f. Stakeholder Engagement at QZ Infested Waters – no activity. When the committee last met the idea was to create a toolkit for marinas at infested waters to communicate with haulers, and make working with WID world streamlined. Table this committee as it has rolled into the Lower Colorado containment/prevention dialog.
 - g. Seaplanes Committee – interim chair Elizabeth – There has been a lot of discussion on issue both from state agencies and seaplane interest groups. The seaplane interest groups have been in contact with many WRP members, and Stephen will commit to website information when the time comes. The Ex Comm will draft letter from Committee to other interest groups (industry, users, etc.) to participate in the committee. March 7th is first committee meeting.
 - h. WID Committee – report from Chair Robert Walters; have had volunteers and invitees they have confirmed participation; first meeting scheduled; working on decontamination specifications. Regional online training is almost complete. Some improvements to the training webpages. Governance committee for the regional data collection system is next month – current users will attend. South Dakota is a new user of the WID database.
- J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – has not met
 - b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne – There were comments from ABYC technical information report that were unexpected, it did not get approved; there

will be a webinar to review the comments received and resolve and it will go back out for another 30 day comment period and then approved

- c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – has not met
- d. QZAP – Stephen - NOFOS, Interior has a new directive to review all grants in any amount. The budget hopefully will be approved in March; but it is unclear on the timing and availability of funds for QZAP.
- e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen – A team of western partners will attend and conduct hill visits.

K) Announcements – ALL