

## Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call MEETING MINUTES

Thursday March 14, 2014; 10 AM MST

A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah - Minutes approved unanimously (with one typo change "mad to made")

B) Coordinator Monthly Update– Leah; Budget update - \$360 spent on SLC meeting travel for Chair. Current balance is \$44,600. Time is being spent on regular panel business (correspondences, updates, etc) and coordinating working groups for annual meeting and membership. Only 2 people came to membership committee's first meeting. This committee is important because they are tasked with completion of the Bylaws and the membership list renewal in Portland. We will try to gain more participation.

C) Discussion of WRP travel reimbursement policy/form – Leah; Group reviewed proposed document and form together. Decided we would pay for 1 checked bag. Use federal per diem rates. No receipts for food. Use federal gas rates. Insert language that exceptions to the rule must be approved by the ExComm in advance. Receipts needed for all non-food expenses. Add in times for travel. Leah will update and provide for approval and review again.

D) ANFSTF Deadlines/Needs –Recommendations for spring ANSTF meeting. This will mirror the fall 2012 recommendations and will be discussed more in April. Leah will check with Kevin to see if there are any coastal committee recommendations. Inland recommendations will focus on QZAP funding and the listing of QM in Lacey Act.

E) Report on “\$1M toward Implementation of Mandatory Operational Inspection and Decontamination” Feb Meeting– Elizabeth, Stephen, Larry; Meeting went well. Utah did a great job hosting. Group ranked QZAP priorities. Agreement that western database is needed and Dave Britton is convening another workgroup for the development and implementation. Broad support for expanding WIDT training and training more trainers. NV brought a proposal for state staff to do inspections and decontamination at Lake Mead on boats moored more than 5 days. AZ brought proposal for decontamination stations at Lake Havasu. USFWS will solicit these and other proposals and will rank them and award funding. We are expecting the RFP any day now.

F) Update on hill visits from the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>. NISAW was cancelled due to sequester. The AG workshop was cancelled due to snow. The group was able to make many meetings with members of Congress and their staff. The focus was on QZAP and State Plan funding, containment at infested federal waters and listing of Quagga mussels.

G) Finalization of All Members Call agenda – March 21, 2013 at 2pm MST; The call will be 90-120 minutes pending participation. Elizabeth will run the call and Leah will take notes/minutes. We are asking all committee Chairs to give a committee update from September 2012-Present. We will not have ANSTF committee updates, except for QZAP (Stephen). Elizabeth will ask Dave

Britton to speak about the proposed WID database. We need to provide brief updates on panel funding, NISAW & SLC QZAP meeting. We will introduce the travel policy in relation to Oregon. Members can have time to speak 3-5 minutes if they request it in advance. There will be time for Q&A following each topic or update. Leah will send out a post-meeting evaluation survey monkey.

H) Sequestration update/implications - Panel funding for the future is in jeopardy. Many federal meetings cancelled and most federal staff can't travel. Don't know if the May ANSTF meeting will occur or not. States are having severe impacts to boat inspection staff funding and sampling funding that has historically come in the forms of federal grants. This could have major impacts on the ground this summer.

I) Discuss/begin agenda of Annual Meeting business meeting section - Elizabeth and Leah will work on this and we can discuss as a group in April.

J) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell - Going well. We are working on finalizing the agenda. We will spend time in April discussing the membership meeting agenda.
- b. AG Workshop Follow-Up – Beth Bear - no update. Discussion occurred about duplication of efforts regarding activities (e.g. naming and classification standards) between this group, WRP, WISCE. Need more communication between groups. Need States buy-in so that standards are implemented consistently on the ground once they are agreed to.
- c. Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips - UNVR is starting work April 1 at Mead.
- d. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson - Absent.
- e. Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips - The ISAC meeting was cancelled due to sequester. Next step is to find out how BOR spent the QZAP funding. Do we now have certified samples to test labs with? Mark Frischer's QZAP write-up is forthcoming also.
- f. Membership – Leah Elwell - see coordinator update above. Need participation!!!!

K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons - No updates on any committees.

L) Other Announcements - a) Larry Dalton is retiring June 1st. - ExComm position will remain vacant until Portland meeting. b) Earl is hiring 2 Invasive Species Biologists/technicians for Austin and East Texas and will distribute job ads to WRP. c) All member call March 21, 2013 at 2pm MST. All ExComm members should be on the call please. d) Next ExComm meeting is April 11, 2013. Normal time and number. Larry and Bob will not be in attendance.