

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday March 20, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attendees: Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Bob McMahon, Joanne Grady, Tom McMahon, Allison Begley, Earl Chilton, and Leah Elwell.

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah – Bob McMahon moves to accept the minutes, and Earl Chilton seconds. All in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination – finalize letters to PNWR/WGA; – Elizabeth – The Ex Comm has reviewed and the letters look good. Matt Morrison with PNWER or other appropriate leadership should be the recipient of the PNWER letter, contact the organization with the expectation that we will work with committee. Elizabeth met Katie Kalinowski of WGA, she will be meeting with her. The letters will be sent via paper mail – Leah and Elizabeth will discuss off line who will send.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen – No new topics to bring up. Tom – may try to attend the ANSTF and get some other items addressed in DC.
- D) Bylaws review – Leah will distribute to the membership in April with any revisions back to her in suggested 30 days.
- E) Finalize Report to Congress – Leah this report is to be submitted to the ANSTF by the end of March. Elizabeth suggested that we may have to lean on the other members with history for activities from years past. Leah will contact several members for assistance on information. Elizabeth noted that it is easier to document panel achievements but if you start to include activities that the WRP has helped to accomplish the report becomes long. Joanne – has other emails requesting a report from FWS AIS coordinators was assigned a report on species management plans, and state accomplishments. Leah will request assistance from Kevin Anderson, Bob McMahon, Stephen Phillips, and Karen McDowell.
- F) Finalize ANSTF Spring Recommendations – Leah – Elizabeth suggested adding that the ANSTF discuss further creation of the suggested committee related to boat manufacturers if there has been any headway; there was an MOU with the pet industry so why not with boat industry.
- G) Discuss the date of April Ex Comm call – reschedule due to multiple conflicts– re-doodle. Allison should she have someone in her place while on maternity leave beginning sometime in late May for 12 weeks. For the next April Ex Comm call will need as close to 100% participation to discuss the fiscal sustainability.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Leah has developed a letter to send to sponsors; Ex Comm will review and provide input on this letter. The intention with the sponsorships is to limit what we raise to what we will spend during the annual meeting. Bob – volunteered to be on the planning committee and needs to be placed on the email list. The planning committee has come up with many topics that they would like discussed

or reported on. Leah assembled a survey monkey to help the group rank and prioritize the many topics. Leah has created a Eventbrite website page again for online registration of the meeting.

- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – AFWA did approve the model law in March, and it is now being referring to as a “state legislative provision”; reported to AFWA last week; Jen Lam send a survey to participants to the Denver II workshop in February, Lisa sent out a draft document summarizing the results to the planning committee, unsure of when it will go to the larger group. Elizabeth did another WIT trainer training and did well. PSMFC did another class as well – there are questions now as to who issues certificates, and tracks peoples certifications; Stephen and Lisa and Elizabeth – have begun discussing the “magic website” which will house shared information and other common resources; upcoming materials will be coming out in the next month. Once out and being used there will be feedback and changes; Joanne will doodle and get the group back together.
 - c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – The Coastal Committee is moving forward with planning a tunicates workshop. The date is looking like early August 2014 and in Seattle. There is a small planning group working specifically on the workshop; including input from National NOAA with Peg Brady. The agenda, logistics and speakers are in discussion. The regional Sea Grant directors have been solicited for support for the workshop to defray costs. Some Sea Grant directors have pledged support.
 - d. Lab Protocols and Standards Workgroup– Stephen Phillips; this workgroup will be moved out of the regular agenda and will be covered as needed in the future.
 - e. Membership Committee– Leah Elwell – No new significant news to report.
 - f. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips – No new significant news to report.
 - g. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Leah; Many Ex Comm members are not on the line to discuss the next steps on the review of the briefing paper. This will be held until the April call.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – No new information
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – No new information
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – No new information
 - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
 - f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear – No new information
- J) Announcements – ALL