

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, March 10, 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo, Joanne Grady, John Wullschleger, and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell – A vote will be held in April as there were not enough participants for a quorum.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. Dennis – Karen has put out an RFP to complete a state plan.
 - b. Elizabeth – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant for the PCR laboratory has come to an end. If BOR wants to have monitoring then the area offices will have to pay a service fee. This change could potentially decrease the surveillance work.
 - c. BOR region office taskforce composed of their regional management is being asked to determine how to implement programs in response to DOI's rapid response framework. Joanne – there are also conversations going on within USFWS as well.
 - d. Elizabeth – American Fisheries Society (AFS) blue book/certification for fish health laboratories has just completed their QAQC on those protocols. Would AFS expand certification to those labs that do not do fish health? Would they be willing to revisit for AIS protocols to be included? Who is the certification entity? Elizabeth is working to communicate with AFS.
 - e. Elizabeth – WAFWA is interested in connecting the state AIS coordinators with the leadership within agencies. Could they come to the WRP this fall to discuss? Summer WAFWA instead – too busy with inspection season? Elizabeth will circle back with Beth. When would be the best time to do this? Next BC meeting in the future? How does it get funded? Solicit feedback from AIS coordinators at the Building Consensus (BC) meeting. Stage three BC workshop could be model MOUs, see if that is even a next step to pursue.
 - f. Next week will be discussing the National Conservation Needs grant at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- C) Mid-Year Teleconference – March 16 – agenda distributed to the list serv.
- D) Annual Meeting 2017 – CA Wildlife Dept and CA State Lands Commission have submitted a proposal for San Diego for 2017 Fall WRP meeting.
- E) Spring ANSTF 2017 – Tahoe? Colorado? Further discussion both with Ex Comm and the membership will be needed. Leah is trying to gather more information from Susan Pasko on WRP obligations for the meeting.
- F) Coast Guard Auxiliary – role in AIS education/inspection –A discussion on whether WRP should elevate a request to request the Coast Guard Auxiliary to include AIS in their mission statement based on western member feedback. After discussion, group determined they would not elevate as a priority to pursue as a recommendation to the ANSTF. When they do boat safety

checks they are not always doing AIS education. The idea is if it was part of the mission it would be mandatory, but many of them do. Local issue not a national issue.

- G) NISAW debrief – hill visits – Dennis – Several western partners were in DC over National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Phillips, Vargas, McMahon, Zabaglo) sharing issues of the west; federal waters issue is still the priority. Reception hosted by Reducing the Risk of Invasive Species Coalition where some legislators did attend. There are changes within the leadership of the AIS Caucus. Over all, these hill visits have been successful and have helped secure state plan funding.
- H) WRP Coordination Contract – This year the contract for ISAN with the USFWS will expire (5 year agreement). The WRP still prioritizes coordination for the panel funding received. Joanne will provide ISAN with further instructions on contract renewal. Joanne also encouraged ISAN to submit a proposal could be greater than \$40K of panel funding to cover coordinator travel to WRP and ANSTF. This additional funding would be from 100th Meridian Initiative. The Ex Comm will vote on this and assemble a funding letter next month.
- I) QZAP call de-brief/post to WRP website – 20 plus people on the call to discuss QZAP funding prioritizations for the coming funding cycle. David Britton (USFWS) reviewed the historic funding allocations. There was a gap felt from some major players who were not on the call. Boots on the ground is still the priority over research. Not much has been spent to date on research; however some research needs as they related to management questions (e.g. veliger ballast survival) have been illuminated via updating UMPS. Lake Mead has committed to doing some veliger survivability in engines this summer. They are open to input on design of the study. Tom Woolf discussed needs to communicate with more commercial haulers and ways to incentivize industry use. USFWS is looking to move away from providing the full funding support, and look to other federal agencies in the future. QZAP should not be the catch all for financial support. David is requesting to put QZAP input on priorities information on the WRP site. Joanne – more appropriate to post the grant opportunity rather than priority input. Leah will circulate research priorities paper completed this past November by a variety of stakeholders. Elizabeth will call Dave and express that posting announcement is appropriate, but solicitation of priorities is not. Discussion on appropriate research as it relates to management needs.
- J) Inter-basin transfer – spring 2016 – Erika Jensen has requested feedback on inter-basin transfer as a possible session topic at the upcoming ANSTF May 2016 meeting. If there are appropriate western related topics or speakers on this issue, let Leah know.
- K) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee–The agenda development is on track. There are currently 4 major sessions – local issues, coastal, aquatic plants and invasive fish. Leah has submitted 2 corporate sponsor requests. Elizabeth mentioned that the company who is developing the app for database will do a sponsorship.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – April meeting will maintain same agenda will likely meet later this month to check in.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth –

1. Quagga Dee in conjunction with New Mexico Game and Fish is teaching a WIT III.
 2. Dee is doing WIT II trainings already this spring.
 3. Requests from agencies have been made for portions of the training manual or access to materials via westernais.org website (which is password protected) without taking the courses. Should these be password protected, does it incentivize those to take the class to have them password protected? Majority felt like sharing information did not have a downside.
 4. UMPS III is almost ready for release. A few minor edits and it will be distributed. The feedback from the boating industry was positive.
- ii. Legal - Joanne – Not much new information to share.
 - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – They have finished the update on the web boat notification form, and are hoping the mobile form will be ready on March 17th for testing. By the end of the month, mobile portion should be ready. In May they will be rolling it all out. There are a few outstanding items, but the majority of needs will be completed. She will be submitting a grant for continued tech support for future use. It is anticipated that refinement will occur and potentially folks will take and modify. Elizabeth needs individuals to help test forms.
 - iv. Outreach – Beth – next meeting TBD for March, whitewater rafting guides have been targeted as the initial audience for Community Based Social Marketing. The committee is walking through the framework that Bob Wiltshire provided.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski. Stephen, Mark Sytsma and Nicole have reviewed an initial draft of the biofouling white paper. After one more review we will distribute to the CC next week in advance of the workshop on March 30 in Sacramento.
 - d. Membership Committee– Leah – The committee will gather in April to discuss the bylaws and current membership slots. There have been a number of changes in voting membership; Texas voting member is Monica McGarrity with Texas Parks and Wildlife, North Dakota voting member is Jessica Howell, and Utah voting member is Nathan Owens.

L) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD – no information to share
- b. QZAP – no information to share
- c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – A call is scheduled for next week with steering committee only and contractor who has been working on the SAH website. Steering committee co-chairs (Doug Jensen, Elizabeth) with steering committee members (Brian Bonsack, Craig Martin, Don Maclean, Susan Pasko, and Jon Starincheck). Elizabeth would like to see the larger committee re-engaged.

- d. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis – They are finalizing the charge document. The committee will provide input into the American Boating and Yachting Council (ABYC) technical document. The committee would like to host another booth at IBEX and likely with USFWS support. Dennis will assemble the committee together for a call. Elizabeth – met with Christa who is writing the ABYC technical report, draft was to be circulated soon.

M) Announcements – ALL

Inter-basin transfer session at the ANSTF – St. George, Utah – Lake Powell pipeline transfer was suggested by John Wullschleger as an idea.