

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

March 21th, 2018 at 2:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Tammy Davis, Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo, Martha Volkoff, and John Wullschleger.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of February minutes - Leah Elwell – John motioned to approve, Martha seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) NISAW Summary– Dennis Zabaglo –
  - a. Elizabeth shared the materials from the event with Ex Comm
  - b. Eight AIS managers went from the west to do hill visits and educated congressional delegation and key agency leadership on western AIS priorities. They met with over 30+ legislator’s staff. Also with met with Deputy Secretary of Water Policy and Budget – Scott Cameron and other Interior AIS staff to discuss managing dreissenids in the Lower Colorado River. Suggestions included funneling immediate funding to states for Colorado River containment programs, providing federal law enforcement to state AIS programs, leadership forum for discussion among DOI and WGA, and exploring a regional approach to dreissenid containment management as well.
    - i. There was considerable discussion in NISAW on assembling leadership for a higher level forum on dreissenid management in the west; WGA has offered to take the lead on this event alongside the DOI and WRP. Elizabeth was also able to have follow up discussion at the WGA event in Denver in March. See summary document sent to Ex Comm and item D below. The goal is still to get a signed MOU between WGA and DOI; and to do this in conjunction with the Invasive Species Data Initiative and as part of Governor Ige’s Invasive Species Initiative starting July 2018. Elizabeth will continue to work with Hilary Smith (DOI) and Bill Whiteacre (WGA).
  - c. Dennis has drafted a thank you letter to be sent to respective supervisors of those who participated in NISAW hill visits thanking for their service. Dennis moved to approve the letter pending final edits. Martha seconds. All in favor. Motion approved. Send comments ASAP to Elizabeth. Elizabeth will make suggested changes to the document and Leah will mail the final to participants.
- C) Legislation update
  - a. Stephen Philips via email –draft VIDA bill is circulating and there are “improvements” to it. Federal pre-emption is long standing concern.
  - b. Dennis - CASLC recently circulated ballast technical correction legislation
  - c. Martha - CA legislation introduced formalizing the Council and creating a rapid response plan, funding weed management areas and research areas \$20million.
- D) Coordinating the coordination update
  - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger –

- i. They continue to have regular calls and there has been “progress” on National Park Service items; NPS is holding a workshop early May to improve consistency on prevention and containment.
  - ii. Regulation working group has met several times and developing recommendations; hopeful for submitting on federal registration notice from OMB on information sharing/inspection data.
  - iii. The progress report from DOI was released. There most likely will not be another set of new actions; the previous actions highlight tasks that were either previously identified or underway within DOI which are necessary to further QZAP. Each action has a point person assigned to lead it and we requested this contact list be shared with the WRP.
  - iv. Part of the request at NISAW is the law enforcement responsibility for containment. Solicitor’s opinion memo from NPS released last month– Cameron suggested states need to request to NPS that they enforce state law and regulation. The other option is a Service-wide regulation to adopt state regulations or promulgate their own regulations (which appears unlikely). If a state request NPS enforcement of state rules, NPS can do that and it will streamline the process to get to enforcement on the ground immediately. See Elizabeth’s attachments.
  - v. Higher level forum for decision making and implementation – see notes above. This is a rapid timeline. Who should be included and what would that forum look like. Is it a workshop, conference or a panel discussion? What is the desired outcome of the forum – political awareness or a document-type product? We would still like to have a MOU signing ceremony with governors and DOI Secretary (which never took place in Whitefish) and can shoot to accomplish this for the December meeting. We want to include dialog about securing stable funding, adopting common legal authorities per model law/regulations BC, and what does the future management of QZ look like, etc. Elizabeth met with Hilary Smith (DOI) and Bill Whitacre (WGA) last week at the WGA event. QZ can be one of 4 workshops done by WGA in the next 6 months; If possible do before Dec 2018 because of governor turn-over etc. WRP has a unique opportunity to give feedback. WGA can be a conduit to reach higher level offices.
- b. WGA - Elizabeth attended the Data Workshop and Working Lands Forum and provided detailed notes from the 2-day event to WRP and WISCE.
  - i. Data Workshop – See Elizabeth’s notes. Elizabeth will represent WRP on a committee with NAISMA to make the data standard more compatible for aquatic species. WRP will adopt a policy or guidelines document in October which commits members to annual data reporting according to the NAISMA standards to USGS NAS, in accordance with WGA policy.

- ii. Working Lands Forum; attended by invasive species and ESA leads from federal agencies, governor's staff, influential landowners, large technology firms (e.g. google etc.), agricultural industry, larger NGOs
    - iii. Biosecurity Team – The WGA Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative is underway. The committee had their first meeting last month and will continue throughout the length of the initiative (typically three years).
    - iv. Western Risk Assessment – WGA published the Top 50 List of Invasive Species. Eurasian watermilfoil tops the list for aquatics with zebra and quagga mussel in second place. This is on the WGA website and was emailed to WRP membership. The Invasive Species Initiative will focus on species mentioned in this top 50 list.
  - c. WAFWA - June 12-17 Eugene, OR; discuss on WRP April meeting if there are agenda items to share with their AIS committee meeting
  - d. NISC - Publication "Protecting what matters: Stories of success"; <https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/protecting-what-matters-stories-success>
  - e. ISAC - Feb 27-March 1 DC (<https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/invasive-species-advisory-committee-meeting-2018>)
  - f. PNWER – Stephen – July Spokane
  - g. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15<sup>th</sup> - Leah was invited to serve on a "Panel of Panels". The group agreed that Leah will represent the panel. No travel costs will be uncured by the panel to attend.
  - h. eDNA monitoring state efforts – Martha Volkoff – Montana Invasive Species Council is conducting a science panel on eDNA and management. It will take place April 17-18 in Flathead area. Participants are either researchers/scientists or managers. Key questions developed by the Council will be explored.
  - i. AFS – Alaska – May 21-25th Tammy - 19 abstracts have been submitted so far to the AIS session; very pike-centric
- E) WRP Website update – Leah – USFWS R1 providing hosting and posting services for the WRP website. Most recently staff there has posted WRP Tacoma information.
- F) ANSTF – Leah and Elizabeth
- a. Meeting June 12-14 Silver Springs – Elizabeth will attend
  - b. Activity report was submitted last month by Leah. Followed the previous report model and included activities linked to the \$40K received by the panel.
  - c. Karen McDowell suggested that the ANSTF fall meeting could be held with the WRP Tacoma meeting. The group determined that this suggestion did not fit well with current planning for the WRP meeting. Also, it is not clear if hotel could accommodate the additional needs as the WRP has already signed a contract.
- G) WRP Mid-Year Teleconference – The final agenda was reviewed. Leah will circulate next week. Dennis and Elizabeth will explore using *Gotomeeting* instead of the conference call line.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah

- i. Currently the NE Panel offers a voluntary registration fee (anonymous) as part of their meeting. Using Eventbrite registration, the fiscal agent would accept fee, it would not be required. Suggested value minimum set at \$50. Tammy moved for the WRP to provide an opportunity to membership/participants to offer a voluntary registration fee for the annual meeting. Dennis seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.
  - ii. All other aspects agenda, sponsor solicitation and other details are in progress and going smoothly.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Elizabeth
  - i. Sampling Protocol:
    - 1. Phase 1 –plankton - Chair Martha Volkoff will distribute a draft this week to the workgroup for finalization.
    - 2. Phase 2 – substrate –Chair Erin Raney reported that the group is on version 3 of our Shoreline and Substrate Monitoring draft. She anticipates that with a few more sessions and will be pretty close to done. Scheduling our next call soon
  - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells - No major updates for Lab Standards. He has been working the report to get draft out to committee for review late March. Report is basically tables identifying key parameters to address.
  - iii. Legal – report from Stephanie Showalter Otts -She gave at the Department of Interior on March 9, including Scott Cameron and several other political folks. Her presentation focused on sharing information about the Building Consensus initiative, the model legal framework, and how our work might inform/enhance federal efforts. Timeline is to have the MOU done by December 2018.
  - iv. Reach –Tammy Davis – Requested that another person to take over on this effort due to her primary work constraints. Is it possible that WGA could play a role here? She will get the communication plan into a sharable format that perhaps WGA could help in implementing.
- c. Coastal Committee –Tammy – The committee met on March 8 (telcon);
  - i. updating the distribution list of the committee
  - ii. Started discussions on crafting a guiding mission for the committee and brainstorming for short and long-term goals/projects. Or maybe just to come up with recommendations to the ANSTF? Continue those discussions at next meeting.
  - iii. next meeting on April 12, begin acting on our two Action Items from the Biofouling White Paper we produced last year:
    - 1. Developing a regional model framework for regulating in-water cleaning of commercial and passenger vessels.
    - 2. Developing regional Best Management Practices for currently un-regulated (for biofouling) vessels: recreational vessels, commercial

- fishing vessels, and mobile marine infrastructure (e.g., dredges, construction barges, mobile drilling rigs).
    - 3. Planning for a workshop later in the year to gather stakeholder input (Jules Kuo from Hawaii secured a small grant to help fund this). Idea is to have a deliverable to be shared with vector-based management.
  - d. Membership Committee – Leah - no action
  - e. Outreach – Allison Zach – Elizabeth and Allison and Leah met to discuss committee role and actions in general. Allison has drafted a charter and released a call for volunteers. The first meeting will be next month to identify tasks.
  - f. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth – Committee met on March 7.
    - i. Not getting into implementation and laws regulations; rather how to inspect, decontaminate, training minimum standards, and QA/QC. Stick to the protocol!
    - ii. round robin for each agency for what is going on, MT is looking at quickly having some type of self-inspection; identified what has been done in the past – videos, brief UPMS guidance and some stuff from the seaplane association,
    - iii. working on taking the WID protocols and all documents and trying to create a seaplane inspection document that the committee to finalize into protocol; template for state seaplane information; anatomy of seaplanes;
    - iv. With seaplane protocols there is a big difference; working with the pilots rather than the industry (manufacturers and dealers). The committee is looking to identify industry partners in this as well; currently they are many individuals in the seaplane community that are good partners locally and are points of contact;
    - v. Next steps have a joint meeting with them to understand their needs.
  - g. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Robert Walters. First meeting March 21.
    - i. Elected to develop a google group and team drive to increase communications and collaboration among decontamination professionals.
    - ii. Drafted desired specifications for trailered decontamination units.
    - iii. Meeting monthly with the immediate goal of drafting specifications for various styles of decontamination units.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - no action from this committee
  - b. Recreational Boating Committee and ABYC Technical Information Report – Dennis – same status from the last call; the TIR is in final stages with the next step the potential development of a standard? Likely related to temperature tolerance etc.
  - c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger - no action from this committee
  - d. QZAP – no information shared
- J) Announcements – ALL

- a. Advanced Decontamination training in April 25-26 at Navajo Reservoir, New Mexico with 6 trainers. 2 days of decontaminating complex watercraft!
- b. State Plan Funding – likely to be \$2 million allocations this year; but may drop back down? There has been talk that ANSTF would not be reviewing/approving revised plans, but only new plans would be approved. Martha was going to reach out to DC and confirm.
- c. Missouri River Basin Team of the Mississippi River Basin Panel just assembled for their Asian carp meeting. WRP's whole eastern border states/members (9) are engaged in this effort. They have published a strategic plan and are working on implementation focused on the Missouri River Basin. This is a model for other western basins to do prevention/containment/EDRR planning for Asian carp. There is funding tied to the basin's management plan for carp. WRP needs to be aware of this effort and support member states that are engaged here as best we can.