

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

March 18th, 2019 at 2:30 pm mountain time

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Nate Owens, Erin Raney, Martha Volkoff, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of February minutes – **Dennis motioned to approve, Stephen seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.**
  
- B) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - a. NISAW 2019 – The week was different this year without the federal fair. ISAC held a meeting in conjunction. The primary talking points for staff visits were additional fund for panels and state plans, discussion about WRDA, including flowering rush control.
  - b. WRDA – We are waiting to hear about the house 2020 House appropriations bill for WRDA appropriations. It appears the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian states will have a more difficult time with needed non-federal match once the WRDA program expands to additional states.
  - c. It is not clear what the Bureau of Reclamation funding on AIS will look like this coming year and if they will continue funding similar to 2018.
  
- C) WRP Website – Leah – Region 1 FWS has been most recently hosting/editing the WRP website. The site eventually will become obsolete due to the platform and keeping up with changes in technology. Leah offered that ISAN could assume responsibility for a new current technology WRP website in 2019. She hopes that she could make that happen within the next 6 months. A new website would be simple. Stephen wanted to put a transfer agreement in place in the event that ISAN could not host for any reason in the future, as well as providing information on costs develop and maintain to ISAN. Others present supported the offer for ISAN to host/maintain.
  
- D) Coordinating the Coordination update
  - a. PNWER – Stephen Phillips - July 21-25 Saskatoon, SK
  - b. NMMA/ABYC – Dennis Zabaglo – no new information
  - c. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger – no new information
  - d. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – ZQM Forum may be rescheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October; 21<sup>st</sup> October
  - e. AFWA – Elizabeth Brown – March 4-8 Denver, CO – Elizabeth presented at the AIS Committee meeting on WRP, Building Consensus and QZAP.
  - f. WAFWA – Elizabeth Brown - July 11-16 Manhattan, KS – Elizabeth intends to present to the AIS Committee on WRP, Building Consensus and QZAP.
  - g. WISCE – Elizabeth Brown – no information provided
  - h. NAISMA – Sept 30-October 3, Saratoga, NY – WRP invited to participate on a “panel of panels”. They will include WRP remotely, Elizabeth or Leah will participate.

E) Upcoming WRP Meetings

- a. All Member Mid-Year Call – April 9<sup>th</sup> - Leah
  - i. Finalize teleconference agenda; Group agreed that instead of each committee chair talking for 5 minutes, they would submit bullet list of the few things they are each working on with links or documents etc. Leah would compile and circulate prior to the call. This would allow for participants to ask questions or give comments; Leah will send a reminder this week plus the agenda. Leah will reach out to the committee chairs.
- b. ANSTF - Spring ANSTF 2019 meeting/agenda – Dennis
  - i. Attendance and travel for coordinator/chair; The WRP portion of the agenda is on track with dreissenid portion, coastal portion. Leah sought feedback on attending based on the travel expenses and other WRP members that plan to attend. WRP has roughly \$10,000 in their savings account. Nate/Dennis felt having a good show of WRP leadership there would be good and encouraged Leah to attend.

F) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- a. 2019 Annual Meeting – Leah; The agenda team have been meeting regularly. Discussion on how/if the annual meeting could be provided remotely (e.g. go to meeting); Elizabeth would like to streamline costs and suggested more reliable skype, or zoom. Nate will ask about streaming (not over wifi). Solicit feedback from the WRP membership on the Mid-Year Teleconference for interest in remote participation. It might be possible to record and host later. Discussed possibility of ways to build some of the business meeting earlier into the agenda.
- b. Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin liaison; Martha stated that they will hold an April 3 meeting in California. The committee completed the profile. They have drafted the recreational vessel BMPS as a trifold brochure and are seeking feedback by the end of the month.
- c. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Elizabeth liaison; Robert is on paternity leave, but the committee continue to tackle their tasks. They will meet the first week of April and hope to finalize specifications for the on-demand hot water decontamination units.
- d. Membership and Communication Committee – John Wullschleger; no information.
- e. Outreach Committee – Chair Allison Zach; Elizabeth liaison; They met last week. The committee would like to coordinate future outreach webinars and hope to minimize any duplication between WRP committees/workgroups. Seeking ways to be of service within the members.

G) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- a. Building Consensus – Chair Joanne Grady; no information.
- b. eDNA Committee – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Nate liaison – They did their first webinar (three total), laid foundation of what eDNA is and technology does. Subsequent ones will be more applied and examine the management ramifications. The committee is looking to have entities to share past experiences with disparate results to give more guidance on how things could be improved. Past tests are considered a misapplication of eDNA, and there are question laboratory cleanliness, non-repeatable results, etc. They are putting together a white paper.

Should Adam join us for the next call? Or if Ex Comm can get on their next call. A future with science backed informed decisions. A process is needed to help move the committee forward.

- c. Lab Committee (*no report – on hold until winter research completed*) – Elizabeth reached out to BOR folks that are working some key research pieces to this effort to determine if they could share information on April call. Will need to discuss if the protocol needs to be changed based on that work. Elizabeth will follow up.
  - d. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Chair Elizabeth Brown; USGS created an app for seaplane operators to direct access USGS database, and they were connected with the ANSTF expert’s database. She will get committee back together to figure out the next steps (possible event, workshop, what is the priority?). There will be an aquatic aviation webinar facilitated by the outreach committee. Is there a need for 1-day workshop with aviators? Do we create a seaplane pilots training? Nate applauded the efforts to date and suggested that after the webinar will be done. No priority among those present to allocate time and money for a seaplane workshop (similar to what we did with boat industry). We should continue to reach out to not lose the contacts made, and keep people in the loop. Put Seaplane Pilots Association on the CTC list. People do not want to do seaplane inspection on the Annual Meeting field trip. Could approach them for a sponsorship?
  - e. Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures Committee – Chair Beth Bear; Nate liaison – They are using the national wildlife coordinating groups manual as a foundation and will be adapting a more practical on the ground manual. Each volunteer is taking on different components; flow chart for decision making is in the works, updating some of the BMPS, rough species ID tool for field. The committee will have a meeting in April.
- H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – All the subgroups are trying to finish up their strategic plan assignments and to be presented in Tahoe. It remains to be seen how the implementation of the strategic plan will take place if WRP members have to increase their participation to assist.
- a. Communications, Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
  - b. Prevention
  - c. Research Committee
    - i. AIS Economic Analysis – John Wullschleger
  - d. Ad-hoc Boating Committee – Dennis Zabaglo
- I) Panel Business – Elizabeth Brown
- a. USFWS coordination grant submission – Susan Pasko circulated the grant paperwork which is due 4/22. There is a current 4-year agreement with ISAN for coordination, this annual submission is an amendment to that agreement. Leah will submit paperwork. **Elizabeth motioned to continue to have ISAN coordinate, and ISAN submit the paperwork. Stephen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**
  - b. UMPS chemical supplement report next steps – Leah and Stephen completed this document in spring 2018 and seeking next step to get further reach on main elements. One possibility would be to outreach to WAFWA. First WRP could approve/endorse document, then share with WAFWA with the intent of getting a WAFWA resolution on no chemicals. It could be a WRP

policy that declares that managers are running stations, and will not use chemicals in their programs. Nate suggested to present to the larger WRP for approval/discuss possibly on the mid-year teleconference. **Nate motioned to present to the WRP membership for endorsement with the goal to take to WAFWA for resolution. Erin seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.**

- c. Building Consensus Summary Report – Discussion on how to communicate the BC timeline in a final document. Purpose of this was to document the agreements among the participants outside of the legal framework. Several looked at the document as a resource for states and for others want to look back on what was agreed to. The document should be more factual decision information and less story telling. There will be one more comment period for final revisions. Ex Comm approved schedule to approve in April so that the document will be finalized to present at the May ANSTF meeting.
- d. QZAP Status Report – Some of the comments have criticized that it is too narrow and state-centric; some mention maybe a summary page from each federal agency and what they have done should be added. Comments back by March 25. There will likely be one more comment period with similar goal of April Ex Comm approval and presentation to ANSTF in May.
- e. QZAP 2.0 – Discussion on possible next steps for a new document. A new report could invigorate funding. WRP will get feedback at ANSTF at the May meeting and July WAFWA meeting. Alternatively, could a WRP work plan help re-direct the energy and better benefit WRP?
- f. Standard Operating Procedures – People will take a look on the Team Drive and discuss in April.
- g. Committee/Workgroup Profiles – People will take a look on the Team Drive and discuss in April.
- h. Panel Annual Work Plan – not discussed
- i. Meeting Sponsor Letter - Group agreed that the letter and sponsor information looked good and could be sent. It was agreed that at the annual meeting sponsors should be offered a short amount of time to give their pitch.
- j. CTC Partner Letter – Elizabeth and Leah will finalize who will send to whom and distribute ASAP.

J) Announcements – ALL