

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday April 11, 2013; 10 AM MST

Elizabeth Brown (Chair) Karen McDowell (Vice), Leah Elwell, Kevin Anderson, and Stephen Phillips

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes – Leah – Not enough members present, hold approval until the next Ex Comm call.
- B) Coordinator Monthly Update– Leah – During the past month, actively facilitating several committees, including the membership committee to finalize the Bylaw revision process, membership applications, and development of the Annual Meeting agenda. Continually updating membership documents and corresponding with members/other interests as needed. The budget for the \$45,000 currently has only had expenses of Elizabeth and Tom McMahon travel expenses drawn upon it.
- C) Coordination Contract with ISAN decision – Joanne relayed to Leah that the current **draft** amount of panel funding from the USFWS is \$46,250. Leah will prepare a document to look at numbers with more information in hand before a decision is made as to how to allocate spending potential panel funds. This will be provided asap and discussed at May meeting.
- D) ANSTF Deadlines/Needs –Finalize Recommendations for Spring ANSTF – Leah will draft up the recommendations for review by the Ex Comm to be submitted asap to the ANSTF.
 - a. QZAP funding
 - b. SAH! Follow-up comment – Statement that the Panel is interested and concerned, and want a follow-up at the fall meeting.
 - c. Panel funding – new vehicles – There are two aspects of this recommendation – requesting more funding and also finding new ways for panels to solicit funding (minimizing the current restrictions) Stephen remarked that the Great Lakes Panel has expressed concern over panel funding amount as well and encouraged a conversation among the GLP as well as reaching out to the other panels to collectively recommend increased funding to execute the work of the panels. Stephen encouraged that there be a reprioritization of the funding, and to set the ground work and communicate with the other panels. Elizabeth stated that more information would be helpful in understanding who creates the restrictions on how panels can solicit funding, who regulates them. Is it possible to request documentation on these restrictions? Discussion with other panels to formulate recommendation together. In meantime, WRP will include this as a recommendation.
 - d. Coastal monitoring program – Kevin stated the need for a regional coastal monitoring program specific to invasive species associated with Japanese tsunami debris stemmed from conversations. This idea stemmed from a conversation with the Washington Invasive Species Council. States respond to large debris and easily identify and manage associated nonnative species. However, states don't respond to smaller tsunami debris – much of which carries nonnative species. These unmanaged species could become an

invasion problem. States don't have the capacity to conduct monitoring along their shorelines, whereas federal agencies do and can bring stakeholders together to design and carry out a regional monitoring program. The Ex Comm determined that this would not be submitted at this time to the ANSTF as a recommendation but would be tabled for further panel discussion, as it is a regional priority.

- E) Discuss/begin agenda of Annual Meeting business meeting – Elizabeth and Leah began the agenda. If there are other items to include, notify Elizabeth or Leah. Discussion by all agreed that the revised Bylaws, which contain membership category revisions, must be approved prior to the Annual Meeting to allow for the membership vote to take place in Portland. Therefore the Bylaws must be in a finalized form by May; provided to members in June with 30 days to review; all member conference call to field any concerns/discussion/changes; incorporate changes and send out for final approval in July; July-August membership applications solicited and received by end of August. Discussion on how best to do the Ex Comm vote should take place on the next call.
- F) Recap on All Member call – All in approval of the survey and Leah will send out survey immediately. All agreed that the call was worthy and should be repeated.
- G) Update on Healthy Habitats; quagga component – Elizabeth; Bob Wiltshire sent out an announcement to the list serve providing more information and encouraging state coordinators to reach out to their governors. No action by the WRP is needed but awareness that the effort is out there. Unless there is some way to do something as a whole it is up to the states to advocate for funding in their states.
- H) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell – The committee has been actively working on the agenda and it is in good shape and close to begin soliciting for speakers. The draft agenda should be coming to the Ex Comm soon. Currently the meeting space contract includes costs associated with the pre-state and federal meetings. It was agreed that because these are not Panel business that these pre-meeting should look for alternative meeting space to reduce costs. Leah will contact Robyn to make those changes to the contract.
 - b. AG Workshop Follow-Up – Elizabeth – On May 16th there will be a DC-based meeting to make up for the one cancelled in DC during NISAW, participants can join via WebEx to the May conference. The group is currently working on definitions for terms, and actively seeking suggestions for a new name for the group; which should address where this effort/committee fits into the big picture, possibly a name could be “Legal Affairs Committee”.
 - c. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson – A) The 8th International Marine Bioinvasions conference Aug 20-22 at University of British Columbia, hosted by UBC PICES/NOAA/Canadian AIS Network, seeking abstract submissions by May 10th. Conference is about the science of managing, predicting marine invasive species. More information at: <http://www.icmb.info/> B) EPA National Estuary Program funding to protect and restore Puget Sound will likely provide about \$100,000 to actively monitor

for deleterious European green crab in US waters along the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Georgia. EPA expects to make their award to the state on July 1, 2013 and the agreement for the monitoring could be in place by October/November. The future of this type of funding is uncertain.

- d. Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips/Elizabeth – BOR is proposing to post their dreissenid PCR data on SharePoint; this will be discussed with WISCE group today. Next steps at ISAC will be to pursue a scientific editorial piece which includes a call for a PCR certification process. The editorial would be submitted to a fisheries or another science journal.
 - e. Membership – Leah Elwell – The committee is reviewing the Bylaws and will be sent back to Ex Comm asap. Additionally, the membership application has been discussed and should be finalized soon. At the next meeting will discuss the membership categories to be included in the Bylaws.
 - f. Recreational Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – The project is on target, no new changes to report.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell – No developments.
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger
 - c. NZMS – Beth Bear
 - d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – Until we get the next finalized budget, it is unknown about funding levels. The assumption is there will be changes, and it is uncertain (including the funding for Lake Mead).
 - e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger
 - f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger
 - g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell – No developments.
- J) Announcements – ALL
- ANSTF may plan to have a short conference call in lieu of the cancellation of the spring meeting.