

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday May 9, 2013; 10 AM MST

Attended: Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Karen McDowell (Vice), Leah Elwell (Coordinator), Bob McMahon, Earl Chilton, Kevin Anderson, John Wullshleger , and Stephen Phillips.

Minutes

- A) Ex Comm acknowledges the contribution and service that Larry Dalton has brought to the WRP and to Utah. Following his retirement June 1, 2013 his Ex Comm position will remain vacant until the election at the WRP Annual Meeting in Portland.
- B) Approval of Previous Call Minutes – Leah – March 2013 and April 2013 Ex Comm minutes both approved unanimously; All Member March 2013 Call minutes approved unanimously.
- C) Coordinator Monthly Update– Leah, sent the Final Recommendations for Spring ANSTF to Susan Mangin; Attended Western Division American Fisheries Society meeting and moderated a panel discussion on dressenid mussels in the west, panel was well received; has been experiencing difficulties with managing the list serv, interested in exploring alternative management for the list serv, McMahon suggested reaching out to Dave Britton as manager of the 100th Meridian list serv. Other options would likely include funding.
- D) Coordination Contract with ISAN decision, draft letter for intent – Elwell provided a document that outlined approximate expenditures over the past several years – including past expenses for annual meeting and member travel. Currently the draft support that the USFWS will likely provide to the Panel this year will be \$46,250. How best to allocate that quantity was discussed, including adjusting amounts spent on coordination services, travel reimbursement to members. McMahon stated that the Panel should determine a plan to help the Panel, perhaps holding the face-to-face meeting every other year to save on expenses should be proposed; Chilton suggested pursuing the idea of creating a “Friends of the Panel” (501c3) to allow funding to be acquired by the Panel either by donation/membership/registration etc, several support this idea and suggest a discussion with the entire membership. The group agreed to maintain the coordinator salary as is and recognize that travel requests will be limited. Roughly, the funding from the USFWS will break down as follows: \$3,622 for travel; \$34,500 salary; \$1,200 for supplies and communication; \$6,928 for overhead. During the June 2013 ANSTF webinar, Elizabeth will express the dire financial state that the Panel is facing. Elizabeth will draft a letter of intent for Panel funding and supply to Joanne Grady by May 17.
- E) ANFSTF Webinar for Spring meeting - June 17 1-4pm EST
- F) Discussion of agenda for Annual Meeting – The business meeting, general agenda, and QZAP prioritization were discussed. All were in agreement that the current agenda was well-developed. There is still inadequate time for business meeting discussions and a QZAP prioritization discussion. There was consensus on cutting the session “Regional Messaging” to accommodate more time for business and discussion. We may explore ideas of asking individuals from the Regional Messaging session if they would do a poster that could be in the foyer. The “meet a regional partner” time slot should involve a conversation about how we can

work together/action items that could result as a partnership, and how to integrate our efforts as the main focus. Elizabeth stressed the value of working with regional partners and possibly to begin meeting with these regional AIS groups more regularly and increase the level of regional participation where we have gaps; “QZAP Prioritization” session needs to have a defined structure and a leader. Elizabeth suggested that she, Leah together with Dave Britton could lead this– with the goal of going through a ranking process, final product of recommendations that is supplied to ANSTF, meeting participants should be prepared prior to the meeting with a review of QZAP; Elwell will return to Annual Meeting planning committee with approval from the Ex Comm and suggestions, as well as reinforcing that there is limited or no travel support for speakers until request is reviewed and approved by Ex Comm.

- G) Bylaws next steps for completion including membership categories– There are two areas of uncertainty. The first is meaningful participation by Tribes, and the second is with Other Interest Members. These areas will require further discussion before they are finalized. Work session with Ex Comm and Membership Committee to finalize the Bylaws and membership categories – First week of June 4th at 10 MST. Leah will provide a clean draft of Bylaws and the latest version of membership categories.
- H) Travel request solicitation to membership/query participation in webex -Leah will draft a travel request that will be distributed to members to help gage the possible travel expense needs. This will be sent out to the members within the next 2 weeks. During next Ex Comm call Travel Policy must be approved.
- I) Legislation update – The Panel is unable to provide direct support for any legislation, but can provide information to members who may individually support legislation if appropriate. Leah will include legislation in the WRP update and will also link to PSCMFC website that posts current information about relevant legislation. There are several pieces of legislation concerning AIS circulating: HR 1823 Protecting Lakes Against Quaggas Act of 2013, HR 996 Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act; legislation not yet introduced: Healthy Habitats, and Water Resource Development Act which contains QZ language and watercraft inspection, and Rapid Response fund bill with assistance from NFWF and ISAC .
- J) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a) Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell – discussion above on current agenda
 - b) AG Workshop Follow-Up – Elizabeth – no significant items to report
 - c) Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson –
 - i. Sam Chan with OR Sea Grant is requesting a letter of support from the Coastal Committee. The support letter is for a proposal which would develop a scientific framework for risk assessment on JTD specific species that are high risk, environments that are likely to be affected, rapid responses, and a biological information system. There was a discussion on the appropriateness of letters of support from committees for projects. It was suggested that Kevin reach out to individual committee members providing them with information to provide a letter of support at their discretion.
 - ii. There may be \$100,000 available for European Green Crab monitoring in the Straits of the Juan de Fuca. However, there has been some management conflict

on how best to use the funding; the decision has not been reached yet if funding will be available.

- d) Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips – no significant items to report
 - e) Membership – Leah Elwell – Discussion above on Bylaws and membership categories
 - f) Recreational Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – The project has started but is dependent on a high enough density of veligers. Stephen will be corresponding with Sudeep Chandra the lead researcher on the project.
- K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – no significant updates to report
- a) Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell
 - b) Lionfish – John Wullschleger
 - c) NZMS – Beth Bear
 - d) QZAP – Stephen Phillips
 - e) Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger
 - f) Snakehead – John Wullschleger
 - g) Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell
- L) Announcements – ALL