

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Wednesday May 28th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown (chair), Beth Bear (vice-chair), John Wullschleger, Tom McMahon, Stephen Phillips and Leah Elwell (coordinator)

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah – Tom motion to approve, seconded John. All in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination –updates– Elizabeth – She will be going to the WGA annual meeting in July. Put discussions and dialog with WGA for June agenda. PNWER will meet in July and Stephen will attend.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen – WRDA passed \$40 million included, \$20 mil for Columbia River basin authorized to include watercraft inspection stations, however appropriation committees still must mark up energy and water bills. It is possible that money might be available this year, but unsure. This is a CORPs approved project and there are questions as to how this will be implemented throughout the Columbia River Basin. Where will they put that money? By beefing the inspection stations on the borders, or WIDS right on the reservoirs? Regardless, we will be communicating with the CORPs. There were changes to language that include adding “AIS” to “noxious aquatic plant growths”, and mandating assessments on federal AIS spending. Texas water transfer bill was passed by both sides, and it includes not only QZ but all AIS.
- D) Preliminary review of annual meeting agenda – Leah – The current draft meeting agenda for day one has been circulated and Ex Comm did not have any comments or significant changes at this time. Leah will bring back to the planning committee and begin to approach identified individuals to provide presentations. The majority of those identified are either members of the Panel or federal agency employees. So any potential travel costs will be minimal.
- E) ANSTF May Meeting review – Elizabeth – This was her 2nd ANSTF meeting. It seems that the WRP really dominated the agenda. The ANSTF is listening to the West and appears to be interested in meeting Western needs. In summary of other agenda items from the meeting:
 - a. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency just got their plan approved following a revision of their 4 year old plan. The format for the plan is now ANSTF preferred, and other states should be considering that.
 - b. Tom McMahon attended and assisted Elizabeth with the model legislative provisions and building consensus presentation.
 - c. Tom also assisted with QZAP, along with Dave Britton, USFWS (via phone) and John Wullschleger, NPS (via phone). Elizabeth presented the Lake Mead QZAP Grant presentation that Karen Vargas (NV) provided to her and a model legislative guidance/law update. It was received very well by the ANSTF in showing that the money is being well spent on these highly infested waters in the SW USA.
 - d. Elizabeth was joined by Dennis Zabaglo (TRPC) and Mary-Kate Woods WakeWorxs to present an update on the ballast filter development and implementation. The group also stressed the importance of having the manufacturers workshop for further testing

and certification of new marine technologies for the purpose of preventing AIS movement. Later in the meeting, the ANSTF discussed marine manufacture's (ABYC, NMMA) workshop style meeting planned regarding the ballast issue with boat industry.

- e. Wildlife Forever gave an update on SAH! remotely via video conference. A new steering committee/advisory board was created for SAH! per stipulations in their contract with the USFWS. The steering committee participants to be included are invited only; (Elizabeth was told by Wildlife Forever she could not participate). Joanne Grady has been selected to represent the West and the USFWS on the SAH! Steering Committee. Other members include Susan from Boat USA, Kim Bogenschutz IA, Doug Jensen MN Sea Grant, Pay Nye Anglers, Pat Conzemius Wildlife Forever, John Rathlesberger USFS, Kurt Begstrom editor of North American Angler magazine. The goal is to identify and develop logo and brand changes; including brand integrity, identify changes and develop guidelines for changes; and examine augmentation benefits to users.
- f. There was an update on the Federal Lands committee provided by Lori Williams. The committee was established in November 2012 following the Phoenix meeting. They now have an approved draft for agency review with general councils. Passed most agencies. Received lots of comments - most from DOI solicitors on 4-30-2014. They need to have conversations about the comments and can't release documents until they can get the LE, AG, Policy on the same page over next 2 months. They will share with ANSTF and NISC as soon as possible.

Final Work Products:

1. federal policy options addressing AIS movement on and off federal land, with recommendations on how to improve federal coordination and policies.
2. appendix document summarizing federal agencies roles and responsibilities
3. appendix document of actual laws and policies related to IS - summary of actual statutory authorities, which can be tricky....
4. checklist to address actions of AIS movement in terms of trailered boats or conveyances going on and off federal lands.

The 3 appendix support federal policy option paper. There is a huge variety of agencies with diverse responsibilities for all invasive species. After approval, ad hoc committee continues to work within agencies and between agencies to make policy or regulation changes to advance the issue in conjunction with the states.

- g. National Invasive Species Awareness Week planning committee will move forward with event and will get sponsors. NISC is moving forward with a new model for survivability – asking non-federal organizations to sponsor a day – need 5 days and 5 sponsors. They have formed a steering committee which will meeting in June. They are asking groups like NECIS, AFWA, WSSA and NAISMA one or more regional governors associations (WGA, MWGA), private industry etc to sponsor events. ANSTF/NISC will provide coordination and support. If people are interested they can volunteer for the steering committee.
- h. There was a lot of discussion about the AIS caucus and the 17 people on the caucus. How do we get our congressional delegates to participate in caucus.

- i. WRP Recommendations – only 2 panels gave recommendations, so most of the recommendations are coming from WRP (we gave 8). In the future, WRP needs to be very thoughtful about what the WRP is submitting. The recommendation to support SAH! was addressed with suggestions that SAH! (Wildlife Forever) should submit requests for funding to the ~\$1Million allocated to QZAP needs. In discussion the USFWS stated that if they are funding QZAP and Asian Carp then there is insufficient money to fund SAH! and other items. So it is important to make thoughtful recommendations because the ANSTF is replying with WRP needed to find a way to support priorities. Some funding for biocontrol was reinstated – Specific to this recommendation in the future these kinds of requests should be directed at the agency not the FWS/ANSTF. There was a whole session on “Green Boats” and workshop in the planning stages with Joanne. There will be more information soon on this. USFWS is putting up \$10K for the national conference on AIS resistant boats, and asking others to support the meeting, FS and others may? Not sure when the meeting will take place, Gabe Jabbour from MN offered to host.
 - j. The recommendation to have assistance in filling the federal vacancies spurred conversation on holes within other panels as well. WRP will have a new NOAA person to serve on the panel, and we will connect with this person. The good news is they are listening to us but we need to refine our requests.
- F) Comments for NISC pathway management plan (6/30) and climate change plan (7/31) – Elizabeth – Typically WRP did not submit comments as a panel, Leah will include in monthly update. Give comments directly to Stas at NISC.
- G) Bylaws review – Leah – Remind Ex Comm to provide comments to wrap up by June/July.
- H) QZAP Funding Update – Elizabeth – On May 1 in Phoenix a group of interested participants gathered (most of the people on this call) to discuss QZAP funding priorities. Basically did a similar QZ prioritization as in the Feb 2013/Salt Lake meeting. Dave Britton will be putting out a RFP for the approx. \$1 million, the priority from the participants is containment in the western US and decontamination. Updates were given from a variety of states, marinas, etc. There was a good conversation about Lake Powell and how National Park Service funding and QZAP funding will support these priorities.
- I) PCR/Lab certification support letter – Elizabeth – The Rocky Plains state fish health pathologists are working on AIS standardization for microscopy and eDNA, and have been working with the Asian carp folks. WRP should encourage what they are doing. Recently learned that the states have limited resources to prioritize this effort and the American Fisheries Society (AFS) who often collaborate with these standardizations is not prioritizing this either. Elizabeth proposed that the WRP send a letter to Rocky Mountain Pathology health section and AFS and encourage them to continue their work. All agreed that a letter will be sent.
- J) Future Ex Comm meeting day/time – all – 2nd Thursday of each month at 10 am Mountain time!
- K) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Earl Chilton – Bob Wiltshire suggested that the verbal member reports be included in the agenda at the meeting. Beth Bear followed up and

sent an email to all of the members – the results were 13 people replied with 11 wanting to give verbal report. Leah will look at securing funding to try to have a working lunch where these reports could take place. The reports will be limited to 3 minutes in time and moderated. We will need to have a head count.

- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – The steering committee met last week and discussed next steps on a webinar on August 19th from 10-12 mountain for the State AIS coordinators WISCE on education; and possibility of a larger meeting next winter and the AIS coordinators to gather for a full day of discussion prior to the fall 2014 WRP annual meeting. The committee still needs to get back together to clarify the ideas.
 - c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – Currently in the planning stages for an invasive tunicates workshop for August 6-7, 2014 in Seattle. Also the committee is discussing future priorities with the goal of creating a list for prioritization. Discussions are ongoing - there was talk of species risk assessments, vector risk assessments, and more efforts devoted to control.
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah Elwell – Not much activity here. One of the recommendations to the ANSTF this spring was to address vacant federal member slots which are being addressed.
 - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen Phillips – WakeWorXs has been reaching out to numerous boat manufactures with positive feedback. Nothing additional to add at this time.
 - f. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Elizabeth – Leah provided a statement that defines the Invasive Species Action Network as the fiscal manager of the WRP. This will be made available for any entity that may be providing funds to the panel via ISAN. Elizabeth had suggested in earlier conversation that a document be created that clearly states that WRP will utilize a fiscal manager. Cross check the bylaws to clarify if this is stated here or if another document should be drafted to clearly define the use of a fiscal manager by the WPR. This would be an internal document.
 - g. WIT Committee – Elizabeth – Next week will be getting together with Ashley Watters, Dee Davis, Ben Smith and Kamie Silverwood and review what is currently being taught. Others have volunteered to be on the committee including Dominic from CA, Beth Bear, Glenn Dolphin and James Dominguez. The goal is to have something that could be shared, have a conference call 3rd week of June and formalize the committee. The committee wants to work closely with the State coordinators and review materials. The committee will serve as the sounding board to make training/content/etc. more universal and gatekeepers to improve. There are 3 documents to address– UPMS3, WIT trainers, trainers manual. The goal is to have a 2nd draft ready for Houston in September as group review.
- L) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – another round of comments, unsure if discussed at ANSTF, closing in but not positive, comments due 6/8 to James Ballard -

- c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – Many were in Phoenix first of May. Now that Susan Mangin has retired, it is time to connect with Laura Norcutt USFWS and determine any next steps.
- d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger - In process of finalizing.
- e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
- f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear/Elizabeth –Elizabeth was selected as co-chair of the committee with Doug Jensen (Laura Norcutt was co-chair but she is now acting ANSTF Executive Secretary so cannot chair). Doug and Elizabeth need to get committee list figured out and then schedule a meeting for August or September.
- g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady will serve on the committee.

M) Announcements – ALL