

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Monday, May 23 2016; 10 am MDT

Bob McMahon, Dennis Zabaglo, Joanne Grady, Mark Sytsma, Elizabeth Brown, Beth Bear, Stephen Phillips and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of April Minutes plus March Teleconference Minutes - Leah Elwell; Bob McMahon motioned to approved both April 2016 minutes with minor corrections and the March Teleconference minutes. Stephen seconded. All in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Elizabeth;
 - a. Per the request of the US Forest Service Region 2, Elizabeth emailed the states requesting information about Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination programs implemented by, or funded by, the USFS. The replies are being compiled and will be shared. Ultimately, the hope is to engage with the USFS in a similar western and national fashion (as we have done with National Park Service) to gain dedicated funding and national priority/direction for new WID containment programs at places like the newly infested Tonto National Forest in Arizona, and to continue previously USFS funded prevention programs, and get new prevention efforts going at high risk waters like those on the White River or San Juan National Forest in Colorado.
 - b. North American Lake Management Society meeting has begun conference planning. BOR retiree Chris Holdren is chairing the Invasive Species session.
 - c. Stephen, Lloyd knight (ID Dept of Agriculture) and Mike Cuff (Montana state legislator) will present on AIS to the Council of State Governments (West), Aug 23 in Boise.
 - d. Stephanie Showalter Otts (National Sea Grant Law Center) and Elizabeth may be presenting on a panel for Boat USA, at the North Association of State Boating Law Administrators meeting. If the session is accepted there will be other AIS professionals invited.
- C) Spring ANSTF 2017 meeting – There was discussion at the recent spring ANSTF meeting about 2017. There may be \$5K possible to host from USFWS. The meeting will be Task Force only, not to include WRP business. The first week of May is a challenging time for states; Susan Pasko suggested the ANSTF might be open to changing the date to the last week of April or mid April if WRP wanted to. Location is the big question mark. Denver and Lake Tahoe have been mentioned. Montana is the only place the ANSTF have been in the West in the past. The Pacific Northwest is another location that might be good, like Portland. ANSTF do not want to go to Lake Mead, or California. What does WRP want to do with this meeting; 1) showcase the best of west and places to protect; or 2) showcase the worst of west. AZ could also be another option like Lake Havasu. The location will need to be easy to access and provide a solid field trip. Dennis – would be willing to host the meeting in Tahoe. Joanne and Stephen agreed that Tahoe is good. HI and AK have come up but they seem unrealistic. Stephen motioned that the WRP host the 2017 Spring ANS Task Force meeting in Lake Tahoe; Joanne seconded. All in favor.

Motion carried. Dennis will need to look at the dates closely. If a field trip is to incorporate an inspection station visit then May 1 the inspection stations open. Stephen – what about compensating Leah for the planning? Joanne will look for some compensation feedback from USFWS on how this might look.

D) Spring ANSTF 2016 meeting debrief – Elizabeth –

- a. Trans-basin water transfer discussion/round table. Lake Texoma and the Powell Pipeline; CO Big Thompson project and the ND pipeline were the western topics that she shared. There was limited time for discussion. There was not a resulting action item from the session. New technologies that may be used in the trans-basin transfer will continue the dialog.
- b. Reporting to the ANSTF from the Panel – new online form – long discussion with ample fiscal dialog. The Panels cannot get grants from the USFWS to supplement Panel expenses, as the legislative funding directive to the panels is clear. The reporting timeline: August request will be made and October deadline to submit. The next report will be 2 year period and subsequent will be annually. Providing a report to Congress every year was important. The Panels will report on their \$40K and not with other funding sources. Member states will report on the state plan grant funds only, not their entire AIS budget. The reporting system is project based and not program based. The Federal budgets are reporting on all of their AIS expenditures by project not by program. There are concerns as to how Federal agencies will get that done. There is double reporting from state grants/WRP and USFWS region reporting. For non-governmental organizations, the main organization would report but not individuals (e.g. AWFWA). For state plan fund reporting, if any other dollars are used to complement match that should be reported. Specific instructions on how to fill out the reporting form were requested.
- c. Tom Woolf presented on the Idaho inspection program and plea with eastern states to inform boaters and haulers to notify the western states. A direct positive result is that some of the eastern states will post the western rack card on their websites and encourage boaters to learn about western rules. Mississippi expressed interest in distributing the western rack cards. On another note, Elizabeth sent a watercraft movement form from Lake Mead to Virginia and they replied that they wanted to continue getting these notices. This is beneficial as the WID/Data sharing systems get implemented. It demonstrates desires for some eastern states to participate and help.
- d. Specific replies to WRP Recommendations –
 - i. Funding not much to report for response; USFWS did request an increase to \$47,000 in the President Budget which was not approved, and they will continue to ask for increase; QZAP funding for 2017 is available.
 - ii. Fed Lands Committee – they are going to be working on clarifying the authorities where there are questions; expect more information this fall.
 1. Joanne – the committee was to ask the ANSTF to “bless” the spreadsheet in the document. Elizabeth – this did not happen.

- iii. Communication/Cooperation – US Coast Guard was not at the ANSTF; NOAA acknowledged that more communication would be better; Susan agreed to follow up with Coastal Committee and USCG. Nicole Dobroski and Karen McDowell have both been in contact with Susan.
- iv. Biofouling Management Plan - The Coastal Committee will have to further define very specifically what they need to achieve their goals and make a more details request. The CC will need to provide this for the next ANSTF meeting. NOAA is interested in working on these tasks and Sam Chan was recognized for his efforts. New NOAA co-chair (Alexis Rudd). Stephen will dedicate some time for future thoughts with the Coastal Committee and what is realistic to accomplish. Hopes to be able to identify some funding for the committee to produce some good products.
 - 1. We must be cautious of submitting recommendations in the future for conceptual ideas without details of the request. These items are better documented in the 'ongoing work' section of the ANSTF report from the WRP.
- v. Arctic Update – this will be included as a presentation at the ANSTF fall 2016 meeting.
- e. Asian carp was the primary focus at the meeting.

E) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee– Beth; the agenda is getting close; keynote and opening speakers have been secured and sessions are being filled out. Online registration page will be announced soon. Workshops on Tuesday morning that week will be community based social marketing and eDNA overview. There will be a cap as to the number of participants for each workshop. The idea is to query the membership and then offer to other participants. Both workshop presenters would have expense of hotel, per diem and mileage. Leah has followed up with Istonish for a possible lunch sponsorship. There will be additional sponsors to follow up with.
 - i. WAFWA + Building Consensus – Elizabeth/Beth. Mark Fowden (WYGF, Fish Chief) has invited the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) to come to the WRP. The logical spot is Tuesday afternoon. There are several “asks” that could be presented; 1) drain plug removal would be something to pursue consistently across the west, 2) no vegetation on conveyances. Beth will get more details on WAFWA intentions. Should other non-state players be at that meeting? WRP needs more feedback on what WAFWA is anticipating with this gathering. Pryia Nanjapa (AFWA) would be a good person to have present.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – Thanks for all of the help with planning logistics and the workshop completion in April 19-20; the agenda covered a variety of topics including discussion on model regulation and specific protocol to achieve consistency. The workshop summary has been circulated to the planning team and a

due date was May 13th. Some that have not had a chance to comment requested additional time to do so. BC planning team will meet late June or early July.

- i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – Training is ongoing and will not make any changes until August.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne - Stephanie Showalter Otts (National Sea Grant Law Center) has updated the dropbox file for western AIS laws. SD and CA have new information on legislation (May 10th). No update from Stephanie regarding the draft model regulation progress.
 - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – NE, NV, NM and UT are all using, and Lake Tahoe is testing. Notification form is done and waiting testing. Regional help desk is operational. Will be submitting QZAP grant by 6/3 asking for support for several years.
 - iv. Outreach – Beth – The committee will meet later today.
- c. Coastal Committee – report from Chair Nicole Dobroski
- i. Port sampling for eDNA metabarcoding project – Researchers at Governors University have initiated minimal sampling across western ports with the assistance of AIS coordinators. More information on this project to come.
- d. Membership Committee – Leah;
- i. The committee will re-assemble in June for discussion on missing membership slots and possible bylaw revision.
 - ii. Alberta WRP voting member change – Kate Wilson has replaced Cindy Sawchuck
 - iii. Jolene Trujillo is the replacement for Bureau of Reclamation's Joe Divitorio's. There are two new members of the ANS Task Force. National Marine Manufacturers Association and National Aquaculture Association. There are more Ex officio members than federal members on ANSTF.

F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – At the Spring ANSTF meeting there was a demo of the new Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! website. Susan Pasko is trying to re-solicit the people that originally signed up to see if they are still interested.
- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis – Ad hoc committee is co-chaired by Joanne with him. Charge document is finalized. Many of the committee did participate in the American Boating and Yachting Council information technical report in-house meeting that was in Baltimore last week. 30 people were in attendance including Joanne, Elizabeth, Glen Dolphin, Gene Seagle, Adam Doll, and Dennis. Other representation was from the industry in manufacturing and components. They went through the comments and incorporated. Next draft will be released in coming months. Sub committees will address the background on AIS and AIS programs in the west on inspection/decontamination. That info will be due August 1st. Other subcommittee will provide information for owner's manuals this could be ready by July 1. ABYC will form a technical committee that will vote on issues and they have to have representation of no more than 1/3 from each area of interest. There will be another face to face on the

technical document prior to October. International Boat builders Exposition (IBEX) trade show is October in Tampa. There are plans for AIS folks to attend.

- c. Economic Committee – John – The group is still wrestling as to what they will address. They are leaning toward telling stories with an economic underpinning as opposed to doing a comprehensive look at the economics of invasives. Dennis – by taking that route it is more focused on the public; we need the legislative/policy side as well so there is better understanding and support of funding of efforts. John - We need to be able to communicate the results of invasions in terms of cost rather than loss of ecology/recreation. The USFWS economist will be participating with this committee and more discussion will take place before any steps are taken. Dennis – habitat loss could be a focus from a native wildlife perspective; might be more compelling or restoration. Mark – many studies on economic impact of aquatic weeds could be referred to. John - Many see something like the Pimentel paper if it was more up to date and more comprehensive. Look on westernais.org for some economic impact papers. If there are papers missing on the website let Stephen know.
 - d. QZAP – Stephen; Joanne – western regional coordinators will score the QZAP proposals the first part of June. 100th Meridian will have a 7/5 closing date. Joanne would like a heads up because she only has a week to process the requests. No news on the committee.
 - e. NISAW –Tom McMahon as needed; Stephen – Scott Cameron is leading the planning effort; going back and forth with breaking up events with including summer and other items. Agenda from last year will be followed with reception tradeshow. No dates have been set. Last week of February has been a good time.
- G) Legislative updates – Stephen – The House will be doing the Department of Interior mark up this week. There will likely be a new Water Resource Reform Development Act (WRRDA) bill this year which so far the Senate bill has included some technical tweaks to the geographic footprint of the Columbia River Basin watercraft inspection program. The FY 2017 Energy and Water appropriations bill (Senate) includes funding for monitoring (\$1 million). Several California/western drought bills include references/management for invasive species. Tahoe Restoration bill is in the WRRDA House bill. Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) – language for this act is currently included in HR4909 (a defense authorization act) which is being opposed by three west coast states. Allen Pleus (WA AIS coordinator) has been highly involved. Senate bill will likely not have the VIDA language included.
- H) Announcements – ALL