

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

May 22, 2018 at 12:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: John Wullschleger, Nate Owens, Elizabeth Brown, Joanne Grady, Dennis Zabaglo, Stephen Phillips, Martha Volkoff and Jeff Adams.

## Agenda

- A) Approval of April minutes - Leah Elwell; Jeff motion to approved; Nate seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Legislation update – Stephen Philips –
  - a. Appropriations – final mark up for EPA and Interior appropriation’s bill will take place after Memorial Day.
  - b. WRRDA – new language in the Senate Bill S.2800 would re-authorize/increase funding, add the Upper Missouri to the Columbia Basin for the cost-share watercraft inspection and monitoring program (so far the bill does not mention Arkansas or Platte at this time).
  - c. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – has seen some increase in co-signers. The Recovering American’s Wildlife Act (HR 4647) introduced by reps Debbie Dingell (D – MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) in late 2017, would provide \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding to state fish and wildlife agencies. The funding would largely go toward conserving and monitoring state-identified at-risk species (species of greatest conservation need). The dedicated funds would come from revenue generated by oil, gas and onshore mineral royalties currently collected by the federal government at about \$7 billion - \$12 billion annually.
  - d. VIDA – most recent VIDA attempt, amended to a Coast Guard bill, did not pass the Senate (failed cloture vote). Have not heard if supporters will try again.
- C) Coordinating the Coordination update
  - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger –
    - i. NPS held a workshop in Denver that gathered many of the parks that are receiving prevention/containment funds, and some that do not have a programs. During the workshop they assembled a communication plan and agreed upon a SOP for prevention/containment programs (e.g. WID certified, and minimum standards for parks without funding). There is \$1 M in new funding and are developing a spending plan for a AIS strategy that will be completed over the summer.
    - ii. There is a “who is funding what where” dialog between NPS, USFWS and BOR. There is some confusion about what BOR is going to support especially in consideration of QZAP grant development proposals; Some items that have been in the past funded by USFWS are potentially to be funded by NPS/BOR. Likely BOR will support some partially-funded QZAP projects (i.e. fully fund the balance of the WID database).

- iii. BOR spend plan was released a few weeks ago; Bill Whitacre (WGA) shared with the governor's offices about 3 weeks ago but it has not trickled down yet. BOR is internally discussing if there might be another avenue to share the information.
    - iv. No new information on the developments at Havasu since the late fall meeting there.
  - b. WGA – Elizabeth – There was a conference call with Bill/Hilary and western partners to hear feedback on the WGA's white paper proposal. Bill captured those comments on the white paper and sent to be approved; if approved (decision by late June/early July) then there will be call for assembling a planning team. State people will need governor approval to participate. WGA finalized their data policy and there are ongoing discussions via NAISMA for data standards. The primary players, USGS, EDDMaps, TNC, are in discussion for next steps on these standards.
  - c. WAFWA - June 12-17 Eugene, OR; call for agenda topics is out right now; all the states submit reports to WAFWA. Elizabeth suggested that the WRP submit similar information that is provided to the ANSTF on WRP activities as informational. Nate suggested a better approach may be to provide information when making an ask? Group determined possibly at their winter meeting could provide information/ask.
  - d. NISC – Jamie Reaser was just in Tahoe last week for a summit challenge sponsored by Conservation X Labs. The idea is to come up with numerous strategies to solve challenges based in water. So some money may be coming that will focus on aquatic plant control research.
  - e. ISAC – no new information
  - f. PNWER –July 24-25 Spokane; Stephen may attend. Mark Sytsma (PSU) and Kate Wilson (MTDNRC) will be there. There are two sessions the first is directed at legislators, the second will be more work session. On the 24<sup>th</sup> is a Northern Pike Forum. If more information is needed Kate Wilson is the contact for PNWER, Justin Bush for the pike forum.
  - g. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15<sup>th</sup>; Leah will attend and represent WRP on the “Panel of Panels” (all ANSTF panels will profile their work). Elizabeth was also asked to be on another panel.
  - h. eDNA – Nate mentioned that BOR and USGS are coordinating partially with input from Tom Woolf on next steps. There may be an opportunity for the WRP to encourage a round robin for eDNA labs.
- D) NISAW thank you letter – sent to participants on 5/8/2018
- E) Lake Havasu request for letter of support for their QZAP anchor grant. Lake Havasu Marine Association requested a letter of support for their QZAP grant to continue the anchor project that started last year. In the specific case of QZAP funds, as many Ex Comm member organizations are grant fund recipients and one Ex Comm member is on the grant review committee within the USFWS, it does not seem appropriate due to the obvious conflicts of interest for this grant source. Martha motioned not to write a support letter in light of potential conflict of interest. Elizabeth second. All in favor. Note: Joanne participated in the discussion but recused herself from this vote.

- F) WRP Website update – Leah – no new information
- G) ANSTF – June 12-14 Silver Spring, MD. Elizabeth, Dennis, and John will be there representing the West. Laura Magill the new AIS coordinator from NV will be there to present NV management plan for approval. The ANSTF has not met since 2016. This meeting will have a different format focused on a strategic discussion for the future (break-out groups and focused discussions will take place). Nate suggested that the process used at this meeting may be something to mirror for the WRP strategic discussion in October.
  
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah
    - i. Voluntary registration fee/registration methods; Leah has set up registration in Eventbrite. It will read as Donation “voluntary registration fee” and if desired any dollar amount can be put in. Joanne asked if there had been adequate follow up to determine if collecting donations was allowed. Dennis clarified that the NE Panel has been collecting voluntary donations for several years to support their meetings. Money will be collected by ISAN, as fiscal manager and language on the Eventbrite site states it as such.
    - ii. Review agenda – Elizabeth suggested that covering Nutria might be of interest to the larger membership. There will be a committee update on seaplanes. A logo competition was brought up on the WRP mid-year teleconference and several people have asked about it. Elizabeth suggested the WRP do a call for logos. Then all submission could be viewed at Tacoma and voted on. A prize could be provided to the designer. The idea would be for WRP members to submit. Leah will write up this concept/logistics and share with Ex Comm prior to moving forward on this.
    - iii. Tuesday meetings – Ex Comm strategic meeting: Elizabeth proposed to meet for full day to discuss further planning, functioning as a team and looking forward, Martha suggested could some of the prep work occur prior to and maybe not take up the full day; Joanne suggested Ex Comm could meet on Monday pm and Tuesday am, need to walk away feeling like the majority of the work is done. This would leave Tuesday pm for other meetings (WISCE, federal partners, Coastal Committee, WID Think Tank). Ex Comm agreed that this would work. Ex Comm will flesh out agenda in June. WISCE could maybe meet after hours (one topic of interest is the data discussion).
  - b. Annual Meeting 2019 – WRP is actively soliciting proposal to host; No proposals have been received yet. Utah is considering submitting one.
  - c. Building Consensus Workgroups -
    - i. Sampling Protocol – Elizabeth; The document is done and ready for final review by the committee members, state coordinators, Ex Comm, Stephanie Showwater-Otts, Sam Chan and Pryia Nanjappa.
    - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – A draft was sent last week to the committee for review.

- iii. Legal – Joanne reported that Stephanie would be sending a letter to the Ex Comm informing that Stephanie and Joanne are pulling the legal project out from the WRP umbrella. Joanne noted that other FWS-funded projects benefiting WRP members are not under the WRP umbrella. The MOU project is funded by the USFWS. Stephanie will still be working in partnership with WRP, but needs to move to a more comfortable space to complete the project. The letter will be sent by Stephanie soon.
    - iv. Reach –This topic is tabled for WRP strategic discussion in Tacoma.
  - d. Coastal Committee –Jeff – There is a movement to create a European Green Crab database region-wide. The committee is actively developing speakers for a coastal session in Tacoma.
  - e. Membership Committee – Leah - no news
  - f. Outreach – report from Allison Zach
    - i. The committee discussed logo development no one with in house capabilities has stepped up. She thinks a new logo is needed and funding could be prioritized for it.
    - ii. Stephen has agreed to put WRP AIS outreach materials on the following site: <https://westernais.smugmug.com/>. The outreach committee will look over the site and see what materials they think we need to beef up and ask WRP membership to submit existing resources for posting on the site.
  - g. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth provided a draft protocol for seaplane inspection and decontamination to the committee last week. The committee will review and discuss further. The goal is to complete this summer.
  - h. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Robert Walters – This committee is finalizing the spec sheets for mobile and non-mobile decontamination units.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no new information
  - b. Recreational Boating Committee and ABYC Technical Information Report – Joanne stated that there is potential for a FWS grant for ABYC to market the technical report with the hope that this help get to a standard. Continued partnership would be part of this grant support as well.
  - c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – no new information
  - d. QZAP – Deadline June 3. If entities have previously have not submitted, they are encouraged to do so because there is additional BOR/NPS funding out there.
- J) Announcements – ALL
  - a. Nate - Veliger viability after decontamination of ballast tanks study to be done next month at Glen Canyon in cooperation with Tom Woolf (MT). Nate will be sending proposed study design to Ex Comm for validation/feedback.
  - b. USFWS Region 6 Funding opportunity closes the end of June.