

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

May 13th, 2019 at 2:30 pm mountain time

Attended by: Martha Volkoff, Joanne Grady, Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger, Erin Raney, Dennis Zabaglo, Nate Owens, Leah Elwell and Mason Parker.

Minutes

- A) Approval of April minutes – **Stephen made a motion to approve. Dennis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- B) Legislative update – Stephen Philips
 - a. House appropriations hearings are coming up this week. Two appropriation mark ups; Department of Interior (FWS, USGS, BOR) and Energy and Water (Corps of Engineers) which will be the first look at WRDA. There might be as much as \$50 million for the west.
 - b. Recovering Americas Wildlife Act is about to be introduced. This bill would provide a significant amount for fish and wildlife agencies.
 - c. S. 47 John D Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act was signed into law 3/12/19. It includes some of the “Healthy Habitats” legislative language with spending guidance as follows: 75% on the ground, 15% for education and 10% overhead). DOI is putting together a multi-department work team to guide next steps.

- C) Panel Business – Elizabeth Brown
 - a. QZAP Status Report – Elizabeth presented this report to the ANSTF last week. The progress was appreciated and recognized by all.
 - b. QZAP 2.0 – Discussion on next steps for QZAP. Sentiment among Ex Comm is to maintain focus on the west as it has been. Acknowledged that some of the topics are national in scope. Possible ways to move forward
 - i. Revise/update the current QZAP document
 - ii. New ANSTF approved national QZ management plan
 - iii. Model after the Asian Carp – national strategy and basin frameworks

No decision was made at the ANSTF, but there is no expectation that the west would lead a national plan. Other regions were sensitive to the funding issue and did not want to detract from the west receiving funding. What is the expectation of the ANSTF for WRP? Is WRP supposed to be an implementation arm or advising? What benefit would 2.0 to have for the WRP? Three ways to go from here: update QZAP, national management QZAP, or Phoenix plan is good geography of plan. The process to make a decision to move forward is not clear from an ANSTF perspective. The original QZAP was requested by Congress, it was a line item with a deliverable. Improved prioritization and a more unified approach would be the intention with a revision. Common set of priorities, opportunities for other organizations to provide direction. There are concerns about how a national plan could affect priorities. Downside on national plan

is timing, and would look different from current document – does that meet the needs of the West? East/West priorities are going to be very different. Follow up is to have WRP determine direction and discuss with Susan (and potentially co-chairs). Does ANSTF have veto power over a WRP decision or not? WRP to make a recommendation to ANSTF and they would take into consideration – they would make the final decision. WRP does a lot of activity without getting ANSTF approval. WRP could write a priorities document for 2019; and put them under the original action items. Could a congressional request an update? If ANSTF wants to do something federal members would do the work and panels would contribute. QZAP is a unique document from a western request and different effort. Elizabeth to draft response that will be circulated to Ex Comm. All agreed that WRP wants to update and keep in the west. Elizabeth, Leah and Susan will have a call to discuss the response. The new needs identified in the status report document can be incorporated and be a place to start; she will circulate and others can start adding, get members to give input; inclusion of wide group is needed. On next call will nail down the process.

- c. WRP Website –Nate, Erin and John said they would help with feedback on content. Domain name – wrp.org? theWestistheBest.org? Leah will draft a release/transfer agreement with ISAN.
- d. Spring ANSTF 2019 meeting –The biggest outcome was the approval of the strategic plan; FACA clarifications regarding panel voting, roles and responsibilities was discussed and not resolved (ANSTF co-chairs indicated they would be sorting this out); panel funding was increased to \$46,000. Many observed a crisis of identity for the ANSTF – what is their role and how to interact with the panels.

D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- a. 2019 Annual Meeting – Leah – Discussion on how best to fit in the many committee meetings during the week. Possible suggestions: fixed block of time for each committee allow them to do advanced planning; Ex Comm at the end of a meeting where a post meeting with new Ex Comm could be good (1 hour); Field trip and workshop concurrent on Friday am. Lunch-time meetings? The Ex Comm was requested by Tom W to send a letter of invitation to CSKT tribe to present and welcome at the meeting. Leah will draft and circulate.
- b. Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin liaison – Coastal committee was well represented at the ANSTF and did wonderful presentations.
- c. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Elizabeth liaison; Advanced decon training with NM is next week. Regional database release was yesterday and those adjustments were coordinated with the committee.
- d. Membership and Communication Committee – John Wullschleger – The interested folks on the committee would like to move forward but have provided minimal feedback. The group will meet in the next month. Joanne should be added to the list.
- e. Outreach Committee – Chair Allison Zach; Elizabeth liaison - met late April.

E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- a. Building Consensus – Chair Joanne Grady – FWS just approved a change in scope of work with NSGLC workshop around the model MOU, due to new legislative changes, and AFWA changes, it did not seem like a pressing need. NSGLC will now look at suite of 22 jurisdictions in the lower Colorado River regarding authorities and roles.
 - b. eDNA Committee – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Nate liaison - Adam circulated the research questions that were sent out to WISCE to all eDNA working group members for who to best answer those questions (scientist, researchers etc.). This has been compiled. An eDNA management decision flow chart is in development. Second webinar to be scheduled in the fall.
 - c. Lab Committee (*no report – on hold until winter research completed*)
 - d. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Chair Elizabeth Brown; Stephen stated that there are states in the CRB that have been working with the seaplane people. The WA SPA are using the revised video that removed reference to chlorine, wanted to know if they could use SAH! Logo, encouraged to contact Craig Martin.
 - e. Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures Committee – Chair Beth Bear; Nate liaison – No new updates, next call is May/June.
- F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – no updates until the bylaws and scope of work are completed; and it is resolved who can serve on committees – **on hold**. Direction they appear to be going is to have generic standing committees.
- a. Communications, Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
 - b. Prevention
 - c. Research Committee
 - i. AIS Economic Analysis – John Wullschleger
 - d. Ad-hoc Boating Committee – Dennis Zabaglo – no conversations lately; Elizabeth and Nate have been asked to participate on a ballast tank committee with the Watersports Industry Association. Outside of ANSTF – USFWS is supporting ABYC outreach on the TIR.
- G) Coordinating the Coordination update
- a. PNWER – Stephen Phillips - July 21-25 Saskatoon, SK – The invasive species session will be 7/22.
 - b. NMMA/ABYC – Dennis Zabaglo – no new information
 - c. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger – NPS \$1 million is going out the door for FY19; FY20/21 project proposals are due May 15th. DOI funding group is discussing how to chip in to areas of mutual interest and regional priority.
 - d. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – ZQM Forum is rescheduled for August 27/28; invites will be going out soon. Agenda is in development
 - e. AFWA – Elizabeth Brown - no update since the North American
 - f. WAFWA – Elizabeth Brown - July 11-16 Manhattan, KS – the WRP will be on the agenda to discuss QZAP next steps
 - g. WISCE – Elizabeth Brown – continue to meet monthly
 - h. WSIA – Elizabeth Brown – re-scheduled meeting; congressional fly-in on boating soon; This group is manufacturers of ballast boats who are seeing boat closures and they want to find ways to make it work. Elizabeth shared the chemicals paper, but really R&D needs to start exploring

options. However, new changes should be validated somehow. On the policy side WRP needs to be really pushing that conversation among western partners for validating all kinds of solution. Need to create pathways for that validation.

H) Announcements – none