

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday June 13, 2013; 10 AM MST

Attending: Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Karen Mc Dowell (Vice-Chair), Larry Dalton, Stephen Phillips, Leah Elwell (Coordinator), Kevin Anderson, John Wullshleger, Bob McMahon, and Earl Chilton

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes – All in favor
- B) Coordinator Monthly Update – Assisted in completing draft Bylaws; participating in planning of the Denver AG/Coordinator workshop, next steps Portland meeting; held tribal membership call to receive feedback about Tribal membership and improving for the future; reached out to EPA liaisons for suggestions on Tribal contact that may be interested in AIS; usual correspondence with members updates to membership contacts - new UT coordinator; Jordan Neilson, and made contact for Alberta, Cindy Sawchuk.
- C) Coordination Contract with ISAN – revision of letter to USFWS based on actual funding – currently \$40K. Leah will revised the letter and provide to Elizabeth. Additional funding will be requested from 100th Meridian funding to support Leah for Denver AG workshop planning and facilitation
- D) Annual Meeting – discussion of business meeting agenda – Annual Meeting 2014 agenda item: discussion will be on TX location (**Houston**, Dallas), if Panel combines with Gulf Panel, Leah will reach out to James Ballard to gage possibility of joint meeting, will need to have a bit more information provided at the meeting in terms of meeting costs, Earl thinks that they could come up with \$7K to support meeting. Member election agenda item: provide ballots in member packet and distribute before start of business meeting, possibly separate member election and ex com election within the agenda.
QZAP prioritization next steps - use Britton's materials as much as possible, provide QZAP prior to the meeting and inform of the prioritization exercise, Kevin- suggest that determine criteria by which to prioritize and then go through prioritization, Bob – allow for discussion, then have paper sheets listing priorities and could have participants prioritize/rank using sticky notes, allows it to be more interactive, could include in meeting packet the titles of the priorities that will be discussed.
- E) Bylaws - next steps for completion – July 1 10 am MST conference call if necessary, once the final version is created will be provided to the members and an electronic vote will be offered via survey monkey
- F) Travel requests and Travel Policy approval- Travel requests only one so far for annual meeting – All in favor of revised version of the Travel Policy.
- G) New member applications – Clarify who the membership application is intended for, include the list of member categories and several minor editorial suggestion; all will be incorporated and Leah will send back for email approval. Once the membership categories are approved as part of the Bylaws, this will begin the membership application period. The application will be posted

to the website, an email to all of the members that will need to reapply, and send to the membership in an email encouraging others to share with other interested people.

- H) Legislation update – Stephen – S. 1153 A bill to establish an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and spread etc. was introduced by Sen. Gillibrand on 6/12. The house bill HR 996 introduced back in March by Slaughter. Not sure of the survivability of these bills. Water Resource Development Act will have some money for monitoring, inspections stations, and vulnerability studies at hydroelectric projects, there are earmarks within this bill which is problematic with current ban on earmarks. S. 802 Sensible Environmental Protection Act – the bill clarifies the Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters. Healthy Habitats bill in drafting stage.
- I) WAFWA – AIS Working Group – July 21 Nebraska Meeting – Elizabeth was informed that the upcoming WAFWA meeting will be discussing the WRP and seeking ways to work together and improve communication. If we are able to have an audience or improved relationship with this group, it would be positive for influencing AIS at a higher level in each state agency. Bob/Stephen feel it is important for Elizabeth to go. WRP should encourage WAFWA to send Chair of committee to WRP meeting; stress that the diversity of what the Panel does and represents. Elizabeth will work with Tom McMahon and send agenda material back to Ex Comm. All approve plane ticket for Elizabeth to attend (funding for ticket will be drawn from additional funding).
- J) ANSTF June Webinar – Elizabeth will provide general update, which will include Denver meeting, recommendations, budget and bring up that WRP may not meet every year. Leah will find out if the entire membership can participate and then send an email asap.
- K) On previous call discussed issues with the management of the ListServ. Leah communicated with D Britton who suggested creating a WRP Google Groups. Leah will create this and do a practice run with Ex Comm before we switch over.
- L) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell – Things are on track and moderators are tasked with finding speakers. Draft agenda will be post to the web etc.
 - b. Denver Workshop Follow-Up – Elizabeth; There is confusion about the meeting which is a workshop of two groups AG/enforcement and state coordinators. The topics for Coordinators are to come to majority rule on water classification, decontamination, inspection standards, seals and reciprocity etc as a foundation to how coordinators do their jobs. The other part of the meeting will consist of AG/enforcement who will draft regulatory legislative and rulemaking language based on action items on Phoenix meeting. The entire workshop will be an active work session. Workshop is August 13-15 2013 hosted at Denver UWFWS building with accommodations at the Hampton Inn. There is some funding for travel from Sea Grant.
 - c. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson – Not much has happened with committee. There are efforts to buy green crab traps for a monitoring program. There is likely to be \$100K monitoring in Puget Sound for green crabs. The WA legislature created a WA Coastal

Marine Advisory Council which may be a place to communicate issues on AIS relative to WA and regional entities; the council will be effective by the end of July. Sonia Gorgula marine AIS coordinator from HI wants to host a meeting in the fall to talk about hull cleaning issues reciprocity issues for the Coastal Committee members.

- d. Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips – No new information.
 - e. Membership – Leah Elwell – There has been a general lack of participation, possibly after the work on bylaws is done then the actual membership participation will improve. Leah will check back in with the original people who volunteered for the committee.
 - f. Recreational Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – The research is scheduled to begin fall 2013.
- M) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell – Will have an update on the 17th ANSTF webinar.
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – A smaller group is currently working on the management plan
 - c. NZMS – Beth Bear – No information available
 - d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – No information available
 - e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger – No information available
 - f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – The Plan close to finalization
 - g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell – No information available
- N) Announcements – ALL
- Possibly June 28th last day for Larry Dalton.
- Bob McMahan- Zebra mussels are trending downhill in some waters in TX; where their numbers are fewer than in 2011. Alternatively in Ray Roberts Reservoir, the mussel population is exploding. These trends are being followed.