

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday June 12th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, John Wulschleger, Bob McMahon, Elizabeth Brown (chair), Beth Bear, Joanne Grady.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell – will hold approval of the minutes because Elizabeth had additional edits that have not yet been circulated.
- B) Coordinating the coordination –updates– Elizabeth Brown; WGA held in CO yesterday and Elizabeth had permission to attend the AIS session. The conversation was primarily on cheat grass and not necessarily on AIS. The forum was interesting, but the turnout was minimal. She received an email from WGA executive director that they received the letter from the WRP Ex Comm and would like to set up a meeting for July. Because the WGA works primarily on a resolution basis, a majority of the decisions are not public. There are not ongoing AIS efforts. The new chair is the NV governor and the new vice chair is OR governor. We need to bring items of interest to them, and currently their main priorities are drought and fed/private landowners' relations. AIS is not their primary initiative. Are there actions that WGA that we could present to them in July? What do we want them to do? Stephen – who will be at the July meeting? Elizabeth - WGA policy folks and the Western Weed Coordinating Committee chair, and Elizabeth. Stephen - several issues could be brought to them; on/off federal lands, any interest in NISA reauthorization; Sandoval said did have interest in reauthorization. Elizabeth - Do we want to push adoption of the model law? Elizabeth – would like to send off the generic letter to the other groups identified as players in coordinating the coordination. Leah – will send the contact email for the coordinating the coordination groups identified to Elizabeth and she will send the letter. Leah – Understands that the North American AIS Management Association (NAISMA) is currently working on sampling standards associated with aquatics, is there a need to reach out to them on this topic? Elizabeth – NAISMA is also working on some broad international education brand for AIS that will lump SAH with don't move firewood etc; Elizabeth will connect them and discuss. WAFWA summer meeting in July in Texas and Elizabeth has been asked to go present the building consensus information. Her boss has been elected the new WAFWA chair. Can she get partial travel (i.e. airfare) to go? Are their specific asks at their level? Stephen – from their last meeting what were their AIS priorities? Elizabeth – joint meeting between the law enforcement/fisheries chief within WAFWA July Texas, San Antonio; were excited about the model law and QZ. Stephen - Could they pass a resolution to reauthorize NISA? Elizabeth – don't think they operate that way. Do we want to encourage adoption of the model law? AFWA has already backed it; we now need them to adopt the law. Ex Comm agreed that partial travel for Elizabeth may be used. Joanne Grady suggested that Or Sea Grant/Sam Chan may have some money to cover the travel this is linked with the building consensus grant he was awarded. Joanne- if for some reason not there is not grant money

available, then she made motion to support Elizabeth's travel from WRP funds, John Wullshleger seconded, all in favor.

- C) Legislation updates - Stephen Phillips – Watching WRDA. The House Appropriations Committee has put out the bill and we are waiting on the report language. Senate Appropriation Committee meets next week to mark up the 2015 energy and water bill. We will know more in the coming weeks. Best chance for the Quagga listing are the PLAQ act and also the Tahoe Act. At the ISAC meeting there is a new group in DC called Reduce Risk from Invasive Species Coalition this group is NEW (<http://www.rrisc.org/>). The director was at the ISAC meeting in May and reportedly is looking to get 100 house members on to the AIS Caucus. Stephen will be checking in to see if he has had any progress. There has been no new action on Lacy Act bill. The National Environmental Coalition on AIS has a bundling of bills and ideas (CRISP); and it includes the PLAQ act. There has been talk of a western AIS bill that touches on the usual priorities; and perhaps the House AIS Caucus could help lead the reauthorization of NISA. Elizabeth – anything we can do to get representation on the caucus? Stephen – need to check back with staffers to see when the Caucus is in terms of a next meeting.
- D) Bylaws review discussion– Leah – the reason the review of the Bylaws was initiated was related to the current list of membership categories, and namely that many of them are vacant. Elizabeth – after a recent review the bylaws still look good and do not have any major changes, and save Appendix A revisions for 2017. She is open to the suggestion of addressing those, but would like to focus on filling those empty spots in the meantime. Everyone agreed that there is nothing major. Leah provided list of membership open position – re-send opportunity to the list serv soon. Elizabeth - will Ex Comm members seek out individuals to fill, is there a strategy for each to take one and fill them. Stephen – if you know someone in those slots, let them know. We have a national aquaculture association why don't we solicit them, and try to direct recruit. Leah - Ex Comm election reminder and open slots – due August 1. Earl, Beth, Bob and John. Leah will send a separate email for the Ex Comm solicitation.
- E) Letter to Rocky Plains Fish Pathology and AFS – Elizabeth – RFPF is similar to WISCE in that there is no formal leadership, which makes it difficult to make contact with them. The individual is in UT. It seems that a singular letter to AFS rather than to the RFPF group would be an effective way to encourage them to work on the PCR standardizations. RFPF really want to move forward with this work and need assistance. They are looking for facilitation and technical writing, and AFS committee to take on that role. Elizabeth will keep Ex Comm posted on any progress.
- F) WRP Annual Meeting agenda – day 2/business meeting agenda – Leah - double check Tuesday need 25 person room for the Building Consensus/WISCE group to assemble. There were some other additional topics and time allotments suggested by Ex Comm. The next draft will reflect those. Annual Meeting travel requests – Leah – She will send out the request next week with a due date of 2 to 3 weeks. The Ex Comm will approve requests on the July Ex Comm call.
- G) Financial update – Leah – Currently the WRP has a balance of \$29,740 in the additional \$45,000. At the current rate of spending on the annual meeting and member travel the funds will be depleted in after the 2015 annual meeting. The Ex Comm made the separate \$40,000 request to USFWS for coordination services that ISAN fulfills.

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

- a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Earl Chilton/Leah – Sponsor letters have been sent out to a number of individual businesses for support of the annual meeting. Only a few people have replied. Leah will be sending out member solicitations for supporting the annual meeting next week. The planning committee is working on the agenda and is on track. Just met and will be inviting the few speakers that are not already attending or members.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – She is working to get the planning committee together. We have a 2 hour phone block to address outreach on the WISCE. At the annual meeting, would like to plan for a full day Tuesday (September 16th) half of it will be WIDT and other half about coordinated education in the west.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula; Leah delivered report - 23 attendees are confirmed for the meeting. Sonia contacted participants on 06/10 to finalize the invitee list. Formal invites to attendees and speakers will go out this week. Leah requested that WRP pay for coordinator travel and ISAN fiscal management overhead. Stephen agreed that WRP should pay for the travel and that Coastal committee needs support. Leah will provide budget break down for tunicates workshop needs. Elizabeth made a motion to send Leah, Beth seconded and all in favor. Ex Comm will vote in July for additional support workshop.
- d. Membership Committee– Leah – awaiting ANSTF communication; would like to get volunteers to review the membership list after the Houston meeting
- e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen; Elizabeth - endorsement discussion with WakeWorx and others. The filter – her understanding 3 OEM manufactures to sign on to include in all 2015 boats, will not be automatically included it will be listed as an option for boat owner to include, Joanne - will it be an upcharge? Yes; they have created aftermarket kits as well and boat owners can get it retrofitted. WakeWorx is doing a good job on promoting. Elizabeth met with them last week and trying to decide how to incorporate into training procedure, and how inspectors accept it. They have postcards and other avenues to promote. July 1 is when the manufacturers launch their new line. Expect to see some marketing media, it is all very secretive. We will want to be conscience as the whole basis as being an entrepreneur is that there will be a variety of other entities replicating the product but this also introduces ideas of how from an agency standpoint can we endorse/accept other products etc. John – seems that there may have to be a certification process; Stephen – similar to PCR lab discussion, yes a certification of product. Many of us do not endorse product, an old model of center for invasive species technology is you bring in your technology and it gets tested, so it is difficult and requires funding. John – if there is no perceived benefit to the boat owner then these products will not succeed. Elizabeth – we will need specifications to understand the effectiveness of any product. We really need to have the boating conference with American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) – they can set the standard and make sure that they can meet the standard. Stephen – then this should be a goal from the conference. Elizabeth – last week had emergency

call to address request from WakeWorx to use WRP for endorsement, Ex Comm agreed that would not and could not provide logo. But is there some other way to show that WRP is supportive, is there something to put in the packet in convincing manufacturers to use product? Elizabeth drafted a letter to attempt to this without doing product endorsement. Joanne – could still put in a quote on website. Stephen – the letter is good and they need something like this so others understand the connection. Elizabeth - Any edits? Joanne – minor will send directly to her.

- f. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Elizabeth – next steps –would like to pull a discussion together; will doodle that group.
 - g. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth- had a productive week with Dee Davis (contractor PSMFC), Kami Silverwood (AZ), Ashlee Watters (NPS) and Ben (NPS) who are all teaching the training. She also went to Havasu in April to experience the class and went through line by line the student and trainer manual to make them universal for any entity across the country. Also had UMPS discussion and how to reorganize this as a backup for protocols and training. Beth Bear, James Dominiguez and Dominik Norton and need person from the Pacific Northwest also to join the effort. Glenn Dolphin was suggested. Elizabeth to pull a committee meeting together – will review what the 4 of them put together (which is all along what the Building Consensus agreed to) . AIS coordinators will review. The committee will review comments from state coordinators and documents the justification. When they gather in Houston hope to have a final student/trainer/UMPS. Also put together a tentative trainers schedule and other logistics to run by the committee.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – no new news; Elizabeth – approved at May ANSTF meeting; now will have to go through public review
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – Laura Norcutt will be setting up a QZAP implementation meeting; how does this workgroup fit with the additional groups/discussions on meeting to implement any finding that is available? Stephen recommends that the group may consider dissolving as numerous other groups have popped up in recent years that serve the same role.
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger - no new news, virtually done – Elizabeth – at May ANSTF Laura presented, totally approved.
 - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
 - f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear – still not heard from the chair. Elizabeth is the co-chair with Doug Jensen. She recently talked to Laura Norcutt and Doug Jensen about when the first call would be; Jensen replied with a recommended membership list of representation for the committee. Laura has refined that list further with the list of volunteers. Joanne – suggested that should reply with typically the ANSTF Executive Secretary would advise who should serve on the committee. The committee chair does not dictate who is on the committee, and the ANSTF provides recommendation for who

will serve. Elizabeth – has repeated that Beth is the Western volunteer slot. Each panel should be able to provide volunteer to serve on the committee.

- g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady – has seen the draft press release from WF that will be sending out next week about the committee, and is highly concerned that she is the only representative west of the Mississippi that serves on the committee. If they intend to run via majority there may be inadequate input from the western perspective. Elizabeth – how do we benefit from WF somehow a profitable relationship for the west?
- J) Announcements – ALL
- a. Bob McMahon - Lake Bridgeport on the Trinity River system is positive for adult zebra mussels, and this has not yet been announced via Texas Parks and Wildlife press release. They have been getting DNA for a couple years now and just finding the adults. Fourth confirmed adult populations in Texas. Water fluctuations may have regulation assistance.
 - b. Joanne – Do we know how we are going to fill Allison’s slot? Vacant until September or we do an ad hoc election in the meantime. Everyone is in agreement to wait until September to vote.
 - c. Federal register mentioned that the recreational guidelines approved.