

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday June 11th, 2015; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, John Wullshleger, Dennis Zabaglo, Joanne Grady, Earl Chilton, Bob McMahon and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell - Joanne had one edit in May minutes EH add DID NOT ADDRESS. Leah will make change. Dennis motion to approve, Earl second. Approved. All member call minutes were motioned for approval by Stephen Phillips. Dennis Zabaglo seconded. All approved. Leah will distribute All Member Call to membership for approval.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update - WY fish chief, Mark Fouden, is now chairing the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) AIS working group and last year Elizabeth attended the meeting to represent WRP. WAFWA would again like someone from WRP to attend-the meeting is in Reno, July 19, 1-5 p.m. Also, WAFWA requested any agenda topics that WRP might like to discuss. Dennis offered to attend. One discussion item might be suggestions for reaching agency directors with relevancy of AIS. Via email the Ex Comm will develop a list of topics; Leah will follow up with Beth regarding Dennis attending.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips –Regarding the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act and the possibilities of that act including the listing of dreissenid mussels. Dennis – The 2014 version of the act included listing quagga as injurious. There were some initial concerns about utilities would be in violations, and an exemption was proposed. Then further edits were made for a narrow exemption. The narrow exemption is still cause for concern. In the 2015 version it is likely that the exemption and quagga listing will be pulled from the act. John – is the exemption is for quagga or dreissenids? Stephen – dreissenids. Another thought might be pursue the Protecting Lakes Against Quaggas (PLAQ) act or another avenue. This issue of listing on the Lacey Act has gotten complicated with the recent constrictor snake ruling and the (ARK) lawsuit. It is unknown if USFWS will challenge the recent ruling. Pet Industry insider thinks the ruling is very strong and appealing it would be difficult. Will the ruling affect other species listing like dreissenids, carp etc? The need to update the Lacey Act now is important. Joanne – USFWS solicitors are reviewing to see if there is enough to appeal. Stephen – These actions do show the intent of congress and keeps the issue visible. Discussion will be ongoing. Stephen – Water Resource Reform and Development Act - The House has identified \$4 million for USACorps budget for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination programs; Senate budget has identified funding but not identified a source. FY2017 we might see funds; Corps need to go through administrative process to release funding. Language for the Interior Budget not yet available; Waiting for Healthy Habitats/HR 1485 to be introduced in the Senate and for a hearing in the House. This is essentially a terrestrial weed bill that affects aquatics. Ballast water effort to put Vessel Incident Discharge Act (VIDA)(S. 373) as an amendment into the Dept. of Defense bill.
- D) Travel budget for annual meeting – Leah – Current balance is \$24,583 of available funds which must be expended by end of 2016. At this time Web Ex service are not slated for the Annual

Meeting. It would cost approximately \$49 service at a monthly fee for GoToMeeting. Ex Comm consensus on not providing WIFI in the meeting space as the expense was \$1000. Dennis does have GoToMeeting we could use and will explore if WRP could use if need be during the annual meeting. IT contractor of TRPA could be tapped into to assist in setting up technical aspects for GoToMeeting. Ex Comm was mixed on providing remote access for participants due to difficulty in interacting and often hearing discussion from the larger group. Dennis will follow up regarding GoToMeeting. The Ex Comm agreed that because the hotel provides a full breakfast, that the morning break will only be coffee/tea. A snack/beverage will be provided in the afternoon. Due to limited funds available, Ex Comm determined that a travel stipend of \$500 max will be offered to the members. Leah will send out the request for stipend proposals soon. The decisions will be approved on the July Ex Comm call. If anything additional surfaces regarding travel requests in the meantime Leah will alert the Ex Comm.

- E) List Serv Update – Leah – The WRP list serv has been transferred to the UGA list serv. The new address is wrp@listserv.uga.edu. There were only a few errors or dead emails that occurred in the transfer. Leah will dissolve the old list serv.
- F) Membership changes – Tom Woolf assigned as alternative voting member for Idaho.
- G) Election clarification – Leah – The WRP bylaws state “ At each Panel Meeting in an odd numbered year, the Panel shall elect five members and at each Panel Meeting in an even numbered year, the Panel shall elect four members to serve as the Panel's Executive Committee. All Voting Members shall be eligible for nomination to the Executive Committee. The Panel shall elect a new Executive Committee member whenever a sitting member resigns, is removed, or ends his or her term of service as a Panel member for any of the reasons described in “**Member Term of Service**”.” This year is an odd year – and 4 people are up for election. If we are tracking the current year and people up for election, it is not an issue. But until we have another resignation it will remain out of sync with Bylaw language.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo – Reno USFWS field office connection in getting their support for regional director to speak and attend. Invite letter for Heller for keynote has been sent. Field trip will include boat ride. Dennis suggested that he can provide information to attendees on free parking at the hotel.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady; Need to pull the steering committee together for the Tahoe agenda. Stephanie Showalter Otts is submitting proposal for a 2017 meeting. WRP will provide a letter of support for National Sea Grant Law Center (NSGLC) proposal. Leah will send letter to Stephanie today. Model regulations will be the focus at Tahoe. AIS coordinators still have items that need consensus in an additional workshop Jan/Feb 2016; possibly occur concurrently with legal writing team. To address the regulation piece, Stephanie will conduct conference calls and webinars over the summer and have a framework for Tahoe. American Boating and Yachting Council (ABYC)/National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) invite to WRP for the International Boatbuilding Exhibition and Conference (IBEX) in September in KY; invited Gene Seagle (NPS) as the speaker. SAH! materials could be available for the

booth and others could supply items. ABYC have pitched a QZAP funding proposal for technical review. This review/committee effort will need to include some AIS folks. Dennis agreed to serve.

- i. WIDT Workgroup – Stephen – Working on UMPS III; Leah is addressing changes with feedback from the committee. The next draft will be released to AIS coordinators/Ex Comm soon. A draft will be available at the Annual Meeting. Then through the ABYC the boating community will be approached for review/comments. We will upgrade the document layout.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne
 - iii. Inreach - Tom
 - iv. Outreach – Beth
 - v. Data Sharing –The CO Parks and Wildlife staff that is covering some duties for Elizabeth provided information to Leah via email. They are working to wrap up a draft scope of work for the application. Once I complete that I will send that out to our data committee for review. At that point I will also provide access to our current mobile application to the members of the committee so those that are not currently using it can have an opportunity to check out the framework and how we are implementing this in Colorado so they can provide some feedback on what changes will be necessary to make this work on a more regional level.
 - vi. Regional Defense – Stephen – Lisa has been working on this via Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) to go through a planning process with NW states and others, WY, UT, NV. A draft document has been developed and will be released soon. There will be prioritized recommendations for effective strategies in the document. Also night time stations, prioritization of where to put stations is included. Also there is an interactive GIS database for inspection information. Interceptions information will start to be interactive. The idea to take the app and the web-based GIS and work together. PNWER meeting is in July in Big Sky.
- c. Coastal Committee – report from Chair Nicole Dobroski –Moving toward developing a biofouling management plan for the region. In April the committee had a 3 hour session to address what would go in the plan. Marine biofouling is the focus. All states would explore their rules and regulations; who is in charge of the ocean. Some funding has been found to create an outline for the plan. In Tahoe, the committee will be discussing the plan further; prior to will have a conference call. International Maritime Oceans has identified biofouling as issue.
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah – no new issues.
- l) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. QZAP –Joanne USFWS QZAP proposals have been received and are being reviewed internally by USFWS. John – ANSTF approved the QZAP plan for another 5 years.

- c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
 - d. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne – remove from future agendas; has not seen any more activity on the trademark issue from WF.
- J) Announcements – ALL –Dennis went to the ANSTF and TRPA was approved for recommendation as member and waiting for official invite.
- K) Next call July 9th.