

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday June 9th 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: John Wullschleger, Stephen Phillips, Joanne Grady, Mark Sytsma, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown and Leah Elwell

Minutes

- A) Approval of May minutes - Leah Elwell; Joanne motioned to approve incorporating last minute minor suggestions, John seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – no specific updates this month.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen
 - a. Rubio is sponsoring a VIDA (Vessel Incidental Discharge Act) amendment to the S.2943 the Senate companion to the HR 4909 National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. The VIDA language is opposed by three west coast states, several Great Lakes states and environmental groups, and the White House. The shipping industry supports VIDA.
 - b. NY Congresswoman Stefanik recently introduced a stamp bill to combat AIS.
 - c. There are several drought related bills that have non-native predator fish removal language within bills – smelt and other Delta fisheries are in peril.
 - d. Interior appropriations – We are hoping that there will continue to be \$2 million for state plans however the report language not out on the Interior bill.
 - e. Water Resource Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) – on the senate side 2016 act under section 1059 specifies that funding could be used outside of the Columbia River Basin. Looking to include clarifying language where funding can be used (WY, NV or where?).
- D) WRP Annual Meeting 2017 – poll results and next steps – San Diego was selected by the overwhelming majority of members. Ex Comm recommended that dates of mid-September; and avoid the last week of Sept/first of October. Leah will begin planning with California team ASAP.
- E) Membership announcement – Ex Comm and vacant positions – There are several membership positions that are vacant as well as 5 Ex Comm positions that will be up for re-election. Leah will announce and encourage participation in June via the list serv.
- F) Annual meeting travel requests –The WRP current balance is \$14,153.45 (USFWS contract remaining) plus \$4,501.93 (savings). Mark suggested that sponsorships could be solicited from the plant industry. Several thousand will be reserved for upcoming ANSTF meeting travel for the WRP chair. The cap on member travel to the WRP Annual Meeting is dependent on the number of requests received. Requests should be modest and partial. Anticipate the maximum would be close to \$2500. All in agreement that the 3 travel needs of WRP Coordinator and workshop presenters will be supported and additional travel support will be considered. Joanne moved to support those 3. Stephen seconded. Mark says to add keynote travel support should the keynote request it. All in favor. Leah has secured a \$200 donation from American Casting

and \$1000 from Teton County Weed and Pest. She has solicited from several partners as well with no replies yet. Istonish the technology company working with Elizabeth on the data app has expressed an interest in being a major sponsor.

- G) Website future – Leah alerted the Ex Comm that DOI web platform has been upgraded and in the future this may affect the WRP website.

- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee– Leah – At this time the agenda is set and there is no space for additional talks. In order to secure the local bus service in Jackson, the renter is required to invite local officials to join in the field trip to secure the rate quoted. Ex Comm does not see an issue in this requirement for WRP. A discussion on appropriate maximum and minimum participants for the October 18th workshop determined that the numbers were acceptable.
 - i. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies + WRP/Building Consensus– Elizabeth/Beth - Joanne learned from Mark Fowden at a recent fish chiefs meeting that WAFWA is interested in the “Top 3 issues” for the fish chiefs to be advocating for within WAFWA. We still need clarification on WAFWA agenda (what will be included and achieved). There are a number of mechanical needs that still must be determined. Potential “top 3 issues” may be boat plug removal, aquatic plant focus and mandatory dry time for infested boats. Elizabeth stated that WAFWA participants will need presentations on background as there is inconsistent knowledge base among agency leadership.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady - The Denver III workshop summary is being circulated to the state folks for their feedback with comments due June 22nd to Leah.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – Training is ongoing successfully, and this committee will regroup in August to recap the season.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne – Stephanie circulated a recently finalized MOU among 5 western Canadian provinces to work collaboratively on AIS. Joanne is reviewing a grant package to fund stage 3 of Building Consensus for model collaboration.
 - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – Regional data app will be testing in about 2 weeks. More customization has been built that we never thought possible. She is eager to get people using it. She is wondering if the app is so customizable then where is the standard? Example - High risk boats; states can choose which ones to include; they will vary among managing entities (some may use 20 options, others may use 5 options). The app meets a variety of legal authorities and protocols. Joanne - Some boundaries will be needed for the federal partners to utilize and fund and it will be based on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of product. John suggested that perhaps eventually all 20 options will converge.
 - iv. Outreach – Elizabeth – It has been challenging to get the committee assembled however the next call will be June 28th at 10am. The committee is still looking at

whitewater guides as a target audience; Gail Wallin with British Columbia will present on the next call. Stephen – inspection rack card is under revision with comments by June 17th and then it will be sent out to the larger group for approval.

- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – Several researchers from Governors University have reached out to the committee to participate in a molecular monitoring port study. They are able to include a limited number of samples, so the final participation is not known. Stephen also added that the committee met in March to discuss the progress of a biofouling marine planning document. Lisa DeBruckere, Nicole and Stephen will meet and report out on the next steps for that planning document.
 - d. Membership Committee– Leah – The committee will meet on June 29 at 1 pm to discuss bylaws, vacant membership slots and other relevant membership items. Include Mark in email reminder to participate.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – ANSTF has confirmed the membership list of the committee and they plan to meet the first week of July. The chair will present the new website to the committee and assign different people to develop content.
 - b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne – no real update from last month. Several from the committee will attend and have a booth at the International Boat Builders Exposition in October. Booth confirmation at the event needs to take place. Joanne will be working to confirm that. She is also looking into a list of who provided edits on the American Boating and Yachting Council technical document to be sure that it has been adequately circulated for input. Some voices have not been heard.
 - c. Economic Committee – John – The committee has not met since the last Ex Comm call.
 - d. QZAP – Stephen – There has been no committee dialog.
 - e. NISAW – Stephen – The committee has not met in June; nothing significant to report. Dennis and Kim with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency were added to the group for more western participation. There is a push to hold the event the last week of February similar to previous years. Western lobby group will assemble after the dates are confirmed. The trade fair/reception will likely be part of the event agenda again and there is a discussion of a staff briefing.
- J) Announcements – ALL – John has been looking into including National Park Service in the region to use the inspection database which requires exploring the privacy and paperwork reduction act. An NPS information collection person is exploring this. Joanne would like to talk with John and David Britton. They are hoping that OMB could approve combined use from NPS and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- K) Mark will explore sponsorship with plant industry and reach out Toni Pennington. Leah will provide sponsor letter to Mark