

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

June 20th, 2018 at 2:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Zabaglo, Stephen Phillips, Joanne Grady, Nate Owens, John Wullschleger, Martha Volkoff and Jeff Adams.

Minutes

- A) Approval of May minutes - Leah Elwell; Last minute edits held the vote on these until July.
- B) Legislation update – Stephen Philips.
 - a. House WRDA bill has passed. This bill does not have watercraft inspection language. The Senate Bill S2800 America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 would add the Upper Missouri Basin (Omaha and north) to the watercraft inspection program. Appropriation amounts are currently \$1 million for monitoring, \$5 million for watercraft inspection and \$1 million for flowering rush control (Senate only). Regarding flowering rush, PSMFC is working with USACE and 3 states on work plans for flowering rush control (only) per the FY 2018 FR appropriation. A NEPA document is necessary for this project. We don’t see getting all the paperwork done and getting money on the ground until 2019.
 - b. Interior Appropriations currently look like they will be similar to last year. Tahoe is identified for funding same as last year. It is difficult to identify the “Safeguarding the West” funding in the BOR appropriations bill. The appropriations committee has directed Forest Service/USACE/Western Governors Association/DOI to work together on incident command system/rapid response specifically for invasive mussels in the west in consultation with the Western Governors Association.
- C) Coordinating the Coordination update
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – Joanne; Various agency partners continue to meet monthly. They are currently discussing what bureaus fund what.
 - b. WGA - Elizabeth Brown –
 - i. Forum: Next steps are for WGA to approve the a potential dreissenid forum. This should take place at their upcoming meeting in June. In the meantime, Bill Whitacre has been putting together a balanced planning committee; Hilary, Bill and Elizabeth will meet next month. WGA will invite individuals to the planning team, expectations are for full transparent communication among participants.
 - ii. Biosecurity Initiative: Moving forward with their Biosecurity Initiative and associated workshops that are flagged over the coming months.
 - iii. Data effort: Pam Fuller, Chuck Bargaron, BISON, TNC (and other relevant partners) are all connecting and discussing data resolution/duplication to create a standard. Goal is for this effort to culminate at NAISMA October 2018 meeting.
 - c. WAFWA - July 12-17, Eugene, OR – Reid Dewalt (Co Parks and Wildlife Assistant Director) is the chair of the AIS committee – their current agenda has the following items: WGA initiatives, Safeguarding the West, update on Columbia Basin Quagga/Zebra

regional strategy, Asian carp MRBP plan, nutria, NZMS discussion on level of concern, law enforcement in watercraft inspection programs, and educational messaging.

- d. NISC – no new information
- e. ISAC – no new information
- f. PNWER – Stephen – July 24-25, Spokane; He plans to attend. There will be a Northern Pike forum, and AIS committee meeting. Scott Cameron is on the agenda, and many colleagues from the west may attend.
- g. CRB Meeting – June – Their meeting included a monitoring forum (Tim Counihan, USGS is the monitoring committee lead), who are working on a risk assessment and have created subcommittees to address monitoring for the future. There was an interesting presentation on a QZAP funded project out of the Flathead Basin new DNA real-time technology. There was some interest among managers across the US on CD3 units.
- h. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15th
- i. eDNA use with dreissenids
 - i. Nate has had discussions within BOR in attempt to determine their role in the eDNA. He has reached out to several eDNA players across the west in terms of dreissenid mussels for how do we better coordinate/prioritize viable research, and a need to standardize the sample collection method. The USGS is planning to do internal round robin. NPS will be re-building their lab a Glen Canyon to process eDNA. There is an issue where research gets done and it has very little management application.
 - ii. Nate proposes a eDNA committee via WRP. Call for information and leadership should be a step for a committee formation. Coordinating and prioritize research needs. The committee (composed primarily state coordinators and lead researchers) would define the boundaries and its charge. A committee could identify the needs and research priorities with researchers.
 - iii. A survey to WRP membership that would help start generating some of the research priorities for eDNA, could review the April 2018 MT eDNA panel document to help drive the next steps.
 - iv. Stephen reminded of the past efforts that have been completed to date (mussel monitoring, PSMFC did survey work of labs, ISAC white paper, etc. Discussion on role of committee touched on; How will a committee contribute to helping WRP? How does the technology get used in management?
 - v. Possible future recommendation to the ANSTF grant funds that are used could be coordination with the local panel could provide technical input. Or some other mechanism to provide feedback on research proposal. Or possibly a committee generated white paper or document for eDNA needs and research priorities and the challenges and disconnect which could be used as a reference document for grant applications.
 - vi. Martha encouraged more education about eDNA for WRP members to have a more informed discussion moving forward. Many eDNA partners are looking to WRP to provide what the management eDNA needs might be. WRP does not

have the expertise on eDNA but we want to engage with researchers to make their work productive.

vii. Nate will write up what is next and circulate to determine next steps.

j. WDAFS – This topic will be on the July agenda for Tammy to discuss.

D) WRP Website update – Leah – no new information to share

E) ANSTF – Elizabeth – ANSTF held their first meeting since 2016 in DC last week.

- a. National Aquaculture group did a forum on the Lacey Act would be willing to do for a future WRP meeting if we would want that.
- b. WRP recommended that the highest priorities of 100th Meridian Initiative be funded. What are the highest priority items for the 100th Meridian Initiative and who determines these? WRP needs to be more thoughtful about making recommendations to advocate for select region USFWS budgets. The WRP needs to think about how the WRP presents itself on future support of federal regional funding.
- c. Ballast water Coastal Committee recommendation response: Coast Guard continues to not share data with western states. The last request was denied, and currently in a legal process and the ANSTF could not get involved due to that FOIA. Not the ANSTF role to mediate between a WRP and federal agency. Coast Guard individual at the ANSTF meeting was willing to discuss with Coastal Committee and put in writing why the Coast Guard has not shared data.
- d. Habitatitude is hoping to re-launch within the month.
- e. ANSTF Strategic planning took 2 days where they worked in break-out groups and started by looking at the previous plans and then developed new goals and objectives. ANSTF will be formulating a committee to finalize a draft strategic plan. Hoping that they will clarify the roles and responsibilities of the ANSTF. Bodes well for a more active ANSTF going forward.
- f. ANSTF will come back for a meeting in December.
- g. The last WRP strategic planning session was in Oakland. Ex Comm could discuss how the ANSTF strategic plan/discussion might fit in for the WRP strategic plan for the future.

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

- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah
 - i. Tuesday meeting – The Ex Comm meeting is slated for Monday/Tuesday and will develop that agenda on another call. Leah has been exploring meeting space for that with options potentially at nearby county library, and UW Tacoma. Jeff Adams has UW affiliation and may be able to arrange space there. There is space at Hotel Murano for a fee. Stephen mentioned that room rental could be covered by PSMFC, if needed.
 - ii. 2019 Proposals. So far no submission but it is possible that Montana and Utah may submit.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroups

- i. Sampling Protocol – Elizabeth – did not get any comments on the protocol document after circulation. Unless there are objections then the document could be considered final.
- ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – He has circulated to the committee a draft document for review. He is hoping to have a final out the last week of July.
- iii. Legal – response to Stephanie and Joanne – Stephanie Showater-Otts and Joanne sent a letter to the Ex Comm in May with their intent to remove the legal subcommittee from participation in WRP Building Consensus. There was a discussion on Monday where it was agreed that a letter of response would be sent. Discussion on the fate of the subcommittee continued including dissolving the legal subcommittee and WRP creating a new committee that would serve as a liaison, advisory role, non-decision making role to ensure that a process moving forward will provide benefits to implementing states who would use those products. Dennis suggested a motion to dissolve the Building Consensus legal subcommittee, but all other committees/products are to be retained. Also a letter of response to Stephanie and Joanne has been drafted and will go out to the Ex Comm shortly for approval. Dennis suggested that the vote to approve the response letter is not extended to Joanne due to a conflict of interest. The Ex Comm agreed that they would like to continue the discussion of the Ex Comm’s form, function and priorities in Tacoma. This will help better define WRP process that is agreed upon by all to ensure that products being worked on or developed capture census-built priorities. Martha motioned to dissolve legal framework subcommittee of the WRP, John seconded. Elizabeth wanted to amend to “but not dissolve BC in the West”. Discussion ensued. Elizabeth withdrew amendment and motion stood. All in favor – none opposed. Dennis made a motion to draft letter of response to be sent to all but Joanne (Dennis will reach directly out to Joanne). Martha seconded. All in favor, none opposed. A new legal committee with a developing vision will be discussed/created during next Ex Comm meeting.
- iv. Reach –Tammy Davis (tabled for discussion in Tacoma)
- c. Coastal Committee – see information in ANSTF update.
- d. Membership Committee – Leah
 - i. Ex Comm Elections 2018. There are several Ex Comm members that are currently up for election: Dennis Zabaglio, Jeff Adams, Tammy Davis, and John Wullschleger.
- e. Outreach – report from Allison Zach; Leah circulated a next steps document for a logo completion to the Ex Comm. It was suggested at the Outreach Committee take the lead on following through with the logo competition project. Leah will share that document with Allison with instructions to move forward
- f. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth – will hold another call in July.

- g. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Robert Walters – Draft specs have been circulated within the committee for finalization. Next Thursday the 28th is the next meeting.

- G) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth - no new information
 - b. Recreational Boating Committee and ABYC Technical Information Report – Elizabeth reported that the document will go for approval the last week of July and expect completion. Brian Goodwin intends to regroup the committee in the fall to talk about next steps. That committee is looking for a new chair as Susan Shingledecker of Boat US is stepping down.
 - c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – no new information
 - d. QZAP – Stephen – The current grant closed the first week of June and proposals are under review. WRP is hoping to focus on QZAP 2.0.

- H) Announcements – ALL
- I) Next Ex Comm meeting – July 18 at 2 pm mountain.