

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday July 11, 2013; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown (Chair), Karen McDowell (ViceChair), Stephen Phillips, Kevin Anderson, Beth Bear, John Wullshleger, and Leah Elwell (Coordinator)

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - All approved. No Comments.
- B) Annual Meeting – online registration – Leah created registration page via Eventbrite.com. Leah will make the page live and give Ex Comm opportunity to review/test prior to publicizing registration.
- C) Bylaws - next steps for completion – vote electronically by 22th – Addressing late comments received by Allen Pleus – The following will be changed in the current final Bylaws document: page 5 last sentence change to 2/3 in panel removal; page 5 remove a maximum number of (nine members); page 8 necessary quorum for making decision shall be at least half of the voting members or alternate members, remove present. Leah will send out new email to the membership describing changes and informing that everyone must re-vote. Leah will create a new survey page to capture the re-votes.
- D) New member application – finalize – Karen made a motion to approve the final version of the membership application, Kevin seconded. All in agreement. As soon as the Bylaws are approved, the membership application will be distributed to current members, list serve, encourage others to distribute, and placed on the WRP website.
- E) Travel Approval Annual Meeting – There were approximately \$7,000 in travel requests. Beth made a motion to approve. Stephen seconded. All approved. Discussion – anticipating additional expenses if needed for speakers and possible last minute member requests. These requests will be considered on a case by case base. Leah will send new travel requests as they come in.
- F) Legislation update – Stephen – There has been considerable discussion on the Lacey Act bills (Gilbrand/Slaughter). There is some opposition from tropical fish groups and pet industry. Many conservation groups like it and natural resource agencies may be contacted for support. Water Resources Development Act is going through the appropriation process. There have been ongoing discussion on the sequestration and if it is not fixed there could be furloughs and other budget cuts that could affect WRP Panel funding. A bill sponsored by Schumer (NY) would provide states funding to apply for emergency funding for early detection and rapid response. Rep. Mike Thompson (CA) co-chairing leading the “new” AIS Caucus in the House. Thompson’s staff, Mike Sousa is assisting.
- G) ANSTF - June Webinar – Elizabeth provided update from the WRP and the WRP recommendations. The most significant point of discussion is strategy to deal with funding for the future. Elizabeth suggested possibly better communication with AFWA/WAFWA could help create funding support, and Leah suggested providing ANSTF with list of volunteer hours from Ex Comm and committee work to compare to funding provided by ANSTF. Elizabeth plans to

attend fall ANSTF meeting. Currently the Recreation/Water gardening guidelines comment period is open. They can be found in the federal register.

H) Google Group trial – Still considering a move over to using Google Groups for the list serve. Will continue to use to see if the group likes the Google group instead.

I) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting– Leah Elwell – Meeting planning is on target. There are still some speakers to be secured and the field trip to be finalized. Leah reached out to James Ballard (Coordinator for the Gulf Coast Panel) to discuss combining the two panels for the 2014 meeting. It looks favorable and Leah will discuss with Ballard again after the Portland meeting.
- b. AG Workshop Follow-Up – Elizabeth – The planning committee is meeting weekly.
- c. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson – No new news. Still waiting for funding decision for green crab funding/monitoring. A new WA science policy workshop on Japanese eel grass is in development. Eel grass is classified as a weed and widely distributed on the coast with regional implications. The workshop would address best approach for the species.
- d. Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips – No new information; NISC/ISAC meeting scheduled for November 2013 where it may be addressed for next steps.
- e. Membership – Leah Elwell – No new news
- f. Recreational Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – Study was delayed until fall 2013 to address concerns about design of filtration unit due to flow. These have been addressed, and the approximate start date is September.

J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell – No new information
- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – There is a smaller group working on the plan.
- c. NZMS – Beth Bear – No new information
- d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – No calls in the past several months. USFWS has released the lower CO funding and the awards will be announced soon.
- e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger – The document is currently out for public comment and can be found in the federal register.
- f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – There should be a new draft plan out very soon.
- g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell – No new information

K) Announcements – ALL

L) Stephen will have a report at the end of the season of the numbers of intercepted vehicles compared to last year.