

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday July 10th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attendees: Tom McMahon, John Wullschleger, Joanne Grady, Beth Bear, Stephen Phillips, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell – John Wullschleger made motion to accept the June minutes incorporating minor changes, Joanne seconds. All in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination –updates– Elizabeth Brown provided updates via email:
  - a. The coordinating the coordination letters went out to partners on the spreadsheet earlier this week.
  - b. Elizabeth is meeting with WGA and WWCC on Monday. Big push is for states to adopt model legislation (especially those with infested waters and no authority currently). The WWCC has a long list of wishes surrounding seed sources, biocontrol, coordinating BLM lands control, etc. Not sure if we will find overlap with terrestrial weed folks or not. She thinks that data sharing and data standardization might be best crossover, with education being second.
  - c. Elizabeth has called and emailed NAISMA regarding the development of an all-taxa national education and information campaign for invasives... and their initiative to set standards for AIS monitoring... and no one has called her back or emailed back to date.
  - d. Elizabeth is presenting at WAFWA – Model Law, Building Consensus, Data Sharing and Law Enforcement related to QZAP. Meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup> in Texas.
  - e. Elizabeth is presenting at SOBA – Model Law, Building Consensus, Data Sharing and Education/Information related to QZAP. Meeting is October 7-10 in Arkansas.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Quagga mussel listing bill (PLAQ Act) was introduced by Senate Heller June 26th, to date there has been no other co-sponsors. There are so few days left in this congress, time is running out for any legislative activity. Quagga bill uses the same listing language included in the Tahoe Restoration Act bill and includes exemption language for water conveyers. FY 2015 Appropriations process has crawled to a halt on energy and water issues in the senate, so the AIS appropriations link to WRRDA is stalled. In the Dept of Interior appropriations bill that came out earlier this week, includes a 10% administrative cap for spending. If you recall similarly this was in the proposed “Healthy Habitats bill” (HR 3994). It is positive that invasives are mentioned as a priority in Interior Appropriations bill. Yesterday there was a S 3994 hearing – and should be available as a video archive today. Lori Williams gave comments during the hearing. West coast state ballast water programs are watching S 2094 (introduced by Beigch (AK)) which would change ballast water regulations. There will likely be a hearing in a few weeks on S.2094.
- D) Letter to Rocky Plains Fish Pathology and AFS – Elizabeth – provided email update – no progress to date.

- E) WRP Annual Meeting agenda – review day 2/business meeting agenda – Review of version 2 of the agenda incorporating suggestions and timing for items. Will retain flexibility to include USFWS Craig Martin if he wants to address the panel on day 2. The Ex Comm will review agenda again in August.
- F) Annual Meeting travel requests review – Leah – summarized the travel requests which reflected more than \$17,000 in requests from 16 members. This is more than double the requests from last year, both in amount and people requesting. Beth Bear - concerned and looking at the numbers, and how can we continue to pay for these travel requests? After this meeting will not have any money left to support Panel expenses. John – how many members will not come to the annual meeting without this travel support? Beth – we need a system for ranking and approving travel requests. If we approve all the travel then we will not have a meeting in 2015. John – participation and funding seem to be in direct conflict. Stephen – suggests that for 2014 WRP provide partial support, perhaps prioritizing travel for Ex Comm members, those on the agenda, and/or role in the meeting, and then look at partial support for others. Beth – we need a system of capping the amount total. But more alarming is that we have no income coming in. We are at a point where we need to make choices. Stephen – we need to make travel support decisions fairly soon, possibly we need to offer airfare only and full support for Ex Comm and committee chairs. So maybe we cap it at \$553 (price for 4 nights in meeting hotel). Joanne - Reminder regarding the \$29,700 budget balance which expires in 2016 and must be fully expended at this time. It will be difficult to duplicate the original funding given to panel in 2012 if it is used for travel. Beth – does this need to be an elevated discussion on budget at the annual meeting? Are there any ways for the panel bring in income? Leah – has invoiced interested individuals to support annual meeting and tunicates workshop. Joanne – encourages the group to look at parsing out the remaining \$29,700. WRP does not have an annual travel fund and are working off one time money. If we were to do that math – 9,600 for 3 years. That leaves very little left for travel this year. Stephen - Make sure members know they need to budget and get appropriate permissions for travel to the WRP annual meeting. And be clear that in the future that a model with supported WRP travel will not continue so find a way to participate. Joanne – could divide what is left remaining 3 years. Some of the members may be lost in participation without full support. However, we have to draw the line somewhere. Stephen - States need to make WRP meeting a priority. Beth - At some point then the states need to make a decision that the policy on state travel restrictions makes participation in this and other meetings impossible. Stephen – Leah needs to communicate with those that requested to amend their travel request and do this quickly. Ex Comm will be making cuts regardless. Then determine what the cut will be and hold it at \$553 (for example) and supporting requested Ex Comm/Coordinator travel. Reinforce that we are under a new spending plan, these days may be gone.
- G) Election reminders – statements of interest and applications for Ex Comm and open member slots are due August 31. There have been no applications for open member slots to date. 2 current Ex Comm members have submitted statements of interest to date.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee—Leah – Nearly all of the speakers are confirmed. Many sponsors solicitation have been sent out, with few replies. Leah will be making direct calls to a number of individuals to garner support. Hoping that Elizabeth could do states follow up? A discussion on trying to get members to provide a registration or membership ensued. The WRP cannot require a registration for the annual meeting. If presented with an invoice then many would be able to pay. Joanne – we have been on this discussion for 3 years and we still don't have an answer.
  - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – Had a conference call last week. WISCE call on Aug 19<sup>th</sup> to begin more dialog on outreach as individuals and if we need a common outreach effort within the region. Building Consensus will meet on Tuesday of annual meeting week to approve the WIT training manual. Half of that Building Consensus day will be continued discussion on outreach and where we need to go. Legal folks are still looking at comparing model legislative provisions among the western states. Federal lands committee report is still in the solicitor's office.
  - c. Coastal Committee –Leah - no new committee meetings; the tunicates workshop planning is in good shape and will take place on August 6-7 in Seattle. Sonia will provide an update on the workshop at the annual meeting. Leah has been working on sponsor paperwork for the workshop; Leah provided a budget for the workshop that outlined her travel and potential slack that the WRP could support should other grants not provide.
  - d. Membership Committee– Leah – no news
  - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen; an aftermarket kit is being put on boats which is good news. Joanne – somewhat related mentioned that they are still working with the ABYC folks for the other boat manufacturers meeting. They are looking at some winter dates and locations for this meeting. Elizabeth via email: The WakeWorX letter went out last week. Elizabeth met with MaryKate again yesterday. MaryKate is working with dealers and OEMs to get them in stores. She was in CO for two days and then to Tahoe, NV and CA.
  - f. “Fiscal Sustainability” workgroup – Elizabeth – no update
  - g. WIDT Workgroup – Stephen – Elizabeth has outlined a workplan to accomplish the updates and additions to the training manuals. Progress is in good shape..... we will know more today following their committee call.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – Leah contacted Susan Pasko, NOAA for update – she provided this: John Darling (EPA) is chairing the Ballast Committee. John has provided updates at the last few ANSTF meetings in regards to the Ballast Water Workshop Report ( Developing a Comprehensive Long-Term Research Strategy to Support Determination of Protective Ballast Water Discharge Standards, his updates should be in the meeting minutes. I believe the committee is still working on the final edits to this report, although you may wish to contact John for additional detail.
  - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – further revisions are with ANSTF

- c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – There will be a QZAP implementation call likely in August, continuing this committee will be discussed; Joanne – FYI – the USFWS Region 2 grant window closes on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the western region USFWS AIS coordinators will meet on the am of 16<sup>th</sup> to review proposals
  - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – The final document is up on the ANSTF site
  - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Leah contacted Susan Pasko, NOAA for an update- she provided this: I have been the chair of the Strategic Action Plan committee. The 2013 - 2017 Plan was approved at the Spring 2012 ANSTF meeting. An ad-hoc committee was formed shortly after to develop on Operation Plan for the ANSTF, which led to the development of the Activity Matrix that was been distributed several times to members and panels to review and updating. The information in the matrix is for internal ANSTF only and is used to track progress on the Strategic Plan. The Matrix was last sent out earlier this year, along with a request for members and panels to highlight any specific activities they would like to include in the upcoming ANSTF Report to Congress.
  - f. Education and Outreach - Beth Bear – no new news.
  - g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady – no new news, has still not met or had any phone calls. Press releases have come out announcing the committee.
- J) Announcements – ALL – Next call August 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am