

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday July 9th, 2015; 10 am MDT

Joanne Grady, Tom Mc Mahon, Bob McMahon, Beth Bear, Stephen Phillips, Dennis Zabaglo, Elizabeth Brown, John Wullschleger, and Leah Elwell.

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes – Bob moves to approve. Beth second. Approved.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) meeting is July 19th, and Dennis Zabaglo will attend representing the WRP. Greg Gerlich (USFWS, Joanne’s supervisor) will also be attending the WAFWA meeting, and CO River Fish Council and Fish Chief meetings will happen in conjunction with WAFWA. Gerlich will drive home some of the same topics as Dennis and encourage directors to allow AIS coordinator travel to attend meetings/workshops. Mark Fowden (WY Game and Fish) is the current chair. Elizabeth - Hillary Smith with DOI was in Denver to meet with Interior, CO Parks and Wildlife, and local BLM representatives and in Fort Collins to meet with National Park Service invasive species staff. Elizabeth shared a demo of an inspection, decontamination, and reviewed the CO program and WRP information. Smith also met with Joanne and Priya on Building Consensus. Smith is working on Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) framework, and has sent a request to the governors to appoint people at the state level to assist. CO Governor appointed Elizabeth. At Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) meeting in May there was an EDRR webinar. Many in the west are on the committee. Western Governors Association (WGA) had their annual meeting in Tahoe last week. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) lead met with policy advisor (Carlee Brown) of WGA to coordinate further in the west. Dennis will send their policy resolutions to the group. Joanne - Federal lands group actually met yesterday!!! In final process with the paper. They should have it ready for WRP Annual meeting in Tahoe. The document includes the summary table and the format is different.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Quagga mussel listing – Lake Tahoe Restoration Act attempted to include an exemption and this was unsuccessful. DC District Court ruling on constrictor snakes could change how the Lacey Act is implemented. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in the appropriations portion in the House amount is \$4 million, but the Senate has not yet defined amount. According to the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), rolling the funds out with appropriate implementation guidance will take some time and challenges, if the funding comes through. Interior/EPA bill put an additional \$1million into budget for state plans funding for 2016. This is in the House Interior bill, not senate; Healthy Habitats bill has one co-sponsor and no companion bill in senate. Some WRP members (OR, WA, CA) are opposed to the current “VIDA” (vessel incidental discharge act) language in the Coast Guard Authorization act.
- D) Travel budget for annual meeting – Leah – There were 8 requests for travel at \$500 each. Joanne will support travel for SD to attend and Stephen will support air travel for Leah and Mark

Sytsma. All in favor of the current travel budget. Leah will reach out to all with the information and travel policy requirements.

- E) Ex Comm election – Leah – Elizabeth, Stephen, Joanne and Tom are up for ex comm election. Elizabeth, Stephen and Joanne expressed interest in continuing and will submit letters of interest. Tom will be retiring in 2016 and therefore will not run for re-election.
- F) List serv reply- This past week there was a list serv thread that prompted a look at the current settings and potentially looking at the need for a unified response from Ex Comm for inappropriate discussion threads. There may be an opportunity to have a protocol in the future. Leah has clarified that the current settings for the list serv only allow persons with an email address on the list. If someone not on the list posts, then the message will not be sent successfully.
- G) Jackson Dates – Beth has looked at facilities for Jackson Hole fall 2016. Because of season events, rates and facilities are very tough in September. If WRP could look at October then rates and facility choices would be better. A discussion on federal travel limitations for this time of year determined that October could work for the week of October 3rd and 17th. Beth will look during those times. Leah will further clarify with other federal members if these dates would be problematic.
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo; The agenda is in good shape. We are primarily finalizing talk titles. However, there have been a few people contact Dennis or Leah recently offering to give a talk, including Dan Malloy, Melanie Okoro NOAA and Lake Havasu Marina Association. We will include these three with space permitting. To date, WRP has received sponsorships from NV Dept of Wildlife, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Mussel Dogs, Teton County Weed and Pest as well as in-kind from TRPA and Wyoming Game and Fish. The final portion is inviting keynote speakers Senator Heller, USFWS Southwest Regional Director and a tribal representative. Dennis is looking at those invitation letters.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady - The goal is to get the AIS coordinators back together for workshops to address sampling and other classification issues in the winter of 2015-2016. Also WRP will send representatives to the International Boatbuilding Exhibition conference this fall.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Stephen – UMPS revision is getting close. The focus is on the decontamination temperatures. On Monday, the current draft will be released for a 2 week review to AIS coordinators. After including those comments the document will be formatted and the review of the document will be expanded to the boat manufacturers.
 - ii. Legal - Leah – Stephanie Showalter Otts has initiated regional conference calls with AIS coordinators to begin work on the model regulation. The discussion has focused on the who, why, what, where and when of inspection. This information will help inform a framework for the regulation with will be presented at the WRP meeting in Tahoe.

- iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – Nothing new to report at this time.
 - iv. Regional Defense – Stephen – PNWER meeting will be Monday in Big Sky, MT. The regional defense report will be presented which includes key recommendations, and economic figures
 - c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – The Committee will be discussing marine invasive species planning, collecting information on rules and regulations for biofouling in the West coast and Canada. The committee will assemble in Tahoe for a couple of hours, and will sit down in December to create an outline.
 - d. Membership Committee– Leah - No news.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. QZAP – Stephen - No new news.
 - c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – Steering committee and full committee met this month. The priority is to get the protectyourwaters.net up and running. Joanne as asked about national messaging for the IBEX conference; The committee will meet next in September. Habitatitude has its own committee which is working to revitalize that campaign.
- J) Announcements – ALL – Red River found significant number of veligers in ND. Canada in late June has reported veligers as well. Recently, Kansas as well as Minnesota has reported new lakes with mussels.