

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday July 14th 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Joanne Grady, John Wullschleger, Beth Bear, Elizabeth Brown, Mark Sytsma and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of June minutes - Leah Elwell; Stephen made a motion to approve the June minutes, and Joanne seconded. All in favor - motion passed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Elizabeth.
 - a. Farm Bill committee – 2019 funding discussion on how to direct toward aquatic invasive species.
 - b. Western Governors Association renewed their “combatting invasive species” Policy- <http://www.westgov.org/policies/303-wildlife/1212-combating-invasive-species>.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen
 - a. State plan funding has been increased in the FY 2017 House/EPA Appropriations budget which passed the House on 7/14. \$3.7 million is the proposed amount for state plans. However, there is no offset in a flat budget, so as far as we know the state funding increase would be made up with other existing USFWS AIS funds, such as panels or AIS staff or?
 - b. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Blue Ribbon Panel legislation was introduced this past week. It does not contain AIS language, but as conservation bill may cover AIS.
 - c. Vessel Incident Discharge Act – Allen Pleus is still leading effort.
 - d. Water Resource Reform Development Act includes language for Corps to allow spending outside of the Columbia River Basin. It also includes funding for Tahoe AIS program. Additionally, there was funding for monitoring included in the energy and water FY 2012 appropriations bill for section 1039 of WRDA. It is not clear what the geographic scope of monitoring funds would be.
 - e. New Lacey Act bill (S. 3278) has been released, and expect the text next week.
- D) Annual meeting travel request decisions – Leah provided a spreadsheet of all the requests which totaled roughly \$7,000. There was discussion of meeting expenses (such as AV, refreshments and other meeting expenses) and the sponsorships received to date. Based on projections for expenses, the Ex Comm determined that all member travel requests would be capped at no more than \$500. Joanne motioned to approve the requests based on the cap with the exception of full travel support for WRP Chair and WRP Coordinator, Beth seconded – all in favor. Motion passed.
- E) Membership election update – Leah – There are 5 Ex Comm slots that are up for election this fall – Bear, Chilton, McMahon, Wullschleger, Zabaglo. Zabaglo will run for re-election. All other slots are open. There are 7 other membership categories that are vacant.
- F) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee – Beth – The agenda is in good shape. Once it was distributed a month ago, several people requested a slot to give a presentation. The committee is reviewing requests to add 1 more presentation. The field trip is set.
 - i. WAFWA + Building Consensus– Elizabeth/Beth –
 - 1. Elizabeth, Beth, Leah, Joanne, Mark Fowden (WAFWA AIS committee chair) and Doug (CO Fish Chief) held a call this week to discuss meetings between WAFWA and WRP. Joanne and Leah will attend the WAFWA meeting in Cody, WY July 22 to present information on WRP, Building Consensus and at least one item that WRP would like supported by WAFWA members. The priority item brought up during the April BC meeting was bilge plug removal. Stephen will cover Leah’s mileage to get to Cody.
 - 2. The AIS coordinators and Building Consensus partners will have dialog between now and October to get agreement on the rest of the items of priority and discuss those in October. After July 22, we will have clarity of who of WAFWA may attend WRP and what that agenda on October 18th might look like.
 - ii. Sponsorship updates – WRP has secured sponsorships from Bionovelus, Specialty Devices, Istonish, MT FWP, American Casting, and Teton County Weed and Pest.
- b. Annual Meeting 2017 San Diego – Leah – CA Fish and Wildlife Dept staff did research on venues for the Fall 2017 meeting. Leah has explored this information and is looking at specific properties. She will compile recommendations for Ex Comm to review. The next step will be to secure a contract with a hotel. San Diego is a popular location for meetings, already there are limitations about dates and locations because of city-wide meetings.
- c. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – The planning team will meet on July 15. The summary document from the April workshop is posted on the westernais.org site. She is hopeful that Priya Nanjapa (AFWA) will be coming for the October pre-meeting in Jackson.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – Training is ongoing.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne – There will be more information after the Friday call.
 - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – Development and testing is ongoing. Nevada is using the new watercraft movement notification form. The regional help desk is fully operational.
 - iv. Outreach – Beth – Gail Wallin (BC AIS Council) gave presentation to the committee recently. The committee is now struggling with what the end product will be for the committee. Are there other aspects that the WRP would like the committee to work on? Stephen would like to add Beth to the other simultaneous outreach discussion that is tapping into watercraft haulers.

- v. Additional subcommittees from April – The following were created during the April workshop; Sampling Protocol (Karen Vargas), Inreach (Tammy Davis) and Lab Standards (Elizabeth).
- d. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski
 - i. The committee has been working with Erin Grey from Cornell University on water sampling for her eDNA research. As a result of working with CC members, she is now getting water samples from 8 west coast ports. She also said the contact with CC members has led to potential spin-off collaborations, so all in all, a good connection related to the CC.
 - ii. The biofouling white paper is temporarily on hold. The funding ran out for Lisa to work on it, and it still needs some further refinement. They are reviewing in-house at State Lands Commission now, and Nicole will set up a telcon with CC members in the near future to discuss. A draft will then be shared more broadly. Next steps are going to require more funding.
 - iii. An effort has been initiated by various entities in AK to identify and rank invasive marine species in the Bering Sea and Aleutians area. Aaron Poe with USFWS is the lead. Stay tuned for more information here.
- e. Membership Committee – Leah –The committee met in June. There was discussion on the vacant membership slots as well as the absent members. The group discussed drafting a letter to encourage active participation. Leah has drafted a letter and it is in review by the committee. It was suggested that using a more western regional approach to make contact might be explored as the “top-down” solicitation to participate in the WRP has been largely ineffective. The committee also discussed possible revisions to portions of the bylaws that related to participation, removal, and entities petitioning to join the WRP. The committee will work on these changes over the next year as the bylaw revision would next be considered for approval in 2017.

G) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne – No new news from the larger committee; participation by members (Gene, Dennis, Glenn) on specific subcommittees with tasks have been active to prepare for the next ABYC draft document. This subcommittee will meet in October.
- c. Economic Committee – John – The committee is initiating their next conference call.
- d. QZAP – Stephen – Expect to hear funding decisions shortly from D. Britton (USFWS)
- e. NISAW –The planning team is trying to finalize the date for first part of February 2017.

H) Announcements – ALL