

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

July 13th, 2017 at 10:30 am mountain time

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Jeff Adams, Dennis Zabaglo, Tammy Davis, John Wullschleger, Mark Systema and Leah Elwell.

Agenda

- A) Approval of June Minutes - Leah Elwell; Stephen motioned to approve, and Tammy seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update:
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger will provide more information on the August call.
 - b. Columbia River Basin Meeting – Stephen Philips.
 - i. Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget of DOI discussed the DOI Invasive Mussel Initiative for an hour plus other items at the CRB meeting. There was some discussion on funding.
 - ii. If we do not hear things in the next few weeks via John or Joanne, the Ex Comm should send a letter to Scott et al. to encourage next steps to ensure that things don't lose momentum. Budget information might influence any actions that would require additional funding.
 - c. Mississippi River Basin Panel Meeting – July 18-19 – via Joanne Grady – The panel is meeting under the umbrella of MICRA along with the Missouri River Basin Team to be organized by Iowa's Kim Bogenschutz. They will meet in Omaha.
 - d. WAFWA Summer Meeting – July 6-11 in Vail CO – Tammy provided overview of agenda topics; Stephanie gave an update on model regulations, Joanne update on plug and plant state regulations, CO update on WID data sharing system, seaplane regulations in Colorado, long term sustainable funding for AIS programs, and YY genetics for fish control. Tammy will meet with her director later this week and will share any relevant information.
 - e. CO River Fish and Wildlife Council (CO, WY, UT, AZ, NM, NV, CA) John gave a give recap on DOI Mussel Initiative.
 - f. NISC – June meeting was cancelled
 - g. ISAC – Update from Bob Wiltshire; NISC given approval to re-start ISAC effective Sept 1. 2/3 of the current members are scheduled to term limit out in September. Members have been asked if they would accept an extension until Dec 31. Extensions have not yet been approved by Secretary of the Interior, or White House. ISAC is planning a December meeting.
 - h. PNWER – Portland in July. Agenda topics include: MT response to mussels and strategies for forming a “firewall” for Columbia River Basin, Jamie Reaser (NISC) reporting on the

DOI Mussel Initiative, Tim Counihan (USGS) reporting on his research monitoring for mussels, updates on Canadian federal funding, Alberta and BC passport system to protect the border, invasive fish threats and impacts (pike in MT).

- i. Havasu Anchor Update – update from Havasu Marine Association – They are awaiting funding of a QZAP proposal. If successful they will move forward with production of plaques for the Slide Anchors. Leah was able to review the final language that will be printed (Clean, Drain, Dry, and WRP are included).
 - j. ABYC AIS Technical Information Report Committee – Dennis Zabaglo; Met in the end of June. AIS participants included Gene Seagle, Adam Doll, Dennis, Elizabeth Brown and Glen Dolphin along with members from the industry. A work session as well as a field trip to CO WID facility took place.
 - i. Technical information report is intended to inform the industry and provide possible ideas for the industry to engage. The document should be completed by end of the year.
 - ii. The power washer industry association leadership attended. The group explored the value of better understanding power washer specifications. Some companies are looking at ways to ease engine decontamination with quick connect lines.
 - iii. An AIS Standard for the boat industry was discussed, not there yet with this group or the industry but there is interest. Standards for decontamination units were discussed.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen Philips
- a. Appropriation bills are in process right now. Report language for Energy and Water Report notes \$5million for WID in Columbia River Basin, as well as other E&W report language on AIS.
 - b. At this time it looks like the FWS in the House budget has only a 2.5 % cut.
 - c. Vessel Incident Discharge Act was attached to the USCG authorization bill which went to the senate floor where still sits without a vote is. Allen Pleus will update as it moves.
 - d. Healthy Habitats language has been added to WILD Act. NEPA exclusion language has been removed, took away the 5% reduction of population species. If it becomes a reality, we will likely see a detailed discussion by federal agencies on how to implement the bills “%” requirements and how it affects AIS.
- D) FACA Committee review by DOI – All – Leah provided additional information regarding financial liability to the WRP should the meeting have to cancel. Many Ex Comm members have had conversations that suggest the FACA review will indeed be completed by September 1 and will not affect the WRP. Leah continues to move forward with planning for San Diego and working as usual.
- E) WRP Website update – Leah will request a web site analytics report from Linda Beck for the August call. This will show information about how and who is using the site.
- F) WRP Financials – savings account balance is \$12,562.35
- G) Fall Recommendations – Dennis suggested that there be a better method to guide this discussion at the meeting. One thought is Ex Comm could query members prior to the meeting

and share the ideas at the meeting. Tammy agrees that prior query would be good. Dennis will reach out to membership and committee chairs for ideas. Ex Comm will discuss next month.

- H) Annual Meeting Minutes – Jackson – Leah circulated the minutes for Ex Comm to review. Ex Comm will provide Leah with comments by middle of next week. Leah will circulate to the entire membership for review prior to San Diego where they will be approved.

- I) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2017 Committee – Leah – The agenda is almost complete. Leah has solicited a number of business sponsorships. The expense/income estimates were shared.
 - b. Building Consensus Committee – Joanne – Leah and Lisa were tasked with developing a “Communication Strategy” for building consensus which has been circulated to the BC steering committee for discussion. The steering committee will meet some time in August.
 - i. Sampling Protocol
 - 1. Phase I – veliger plankton tows – report from Chair Karen Vargas – no new information
 - 2. Phase II – Substrate – Kami Silverwood was chair of this effort but has handed over to Erin Raney the new AIS Coordinator for AZ Game and Fish.
 - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – no new information
 - iii. Legal – report from Stephanie Showalter Otts - Stephanie updated the plant and plug regulation changes that occurred over the past year and circulated for discussion at the WAFWA meeting in June.
 - iv. Reach – Tammy Davis – no new information due to focus on contributing to DOI Invasive Mussel Initiative.
 - c. Coastal Committee – report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – Tammy – no new information.
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah; Leah circulated the bylaws for review by the membership. There were few substantive comments but a few clarifications mainly related to process of voting. Leah will circulate a final document next week to the membership for their electronic vote to approve.
 - e. Stakeholder Engagement at QZ Infested Waters Committee – Tom Woolf – no new information

- J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Education and Outreach
 - i. Report from Elizabeth: New website has launched: www.stopaquaticinvasives.org. Phase 2 is underway which is the media library. USFWS has secured the contract and funding for this. Depending on DOI outcomes, the committee may be engaging the WRP in an evaluation of current educational efforts to design a more consistent implementation for mussels and boaters in the West.

- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne – no information to report
 - c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – no information to report
 - d. QZAP – Stephen; from Barak Shemia, USFWS Region 2 regarding funding cycle, the review team has met and made recommendations and now we are waiting on final approval before announcing awards.
 - e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen – no information to report.
- K) Announcements – Elizabeth will be on maternity leave from Colorado Parks and Wildlife until November 1.