

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

July 18th, 2018 at 2:00 pm mountain time

Elizabeth Brown, Jeff Adams, Martha Volkoff, John Wullschleger, Nate Owens, Stephen Phillips, Dennis Zabaglo and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of May and June minutes; motion to approved both minutes Jeff, second Nate. All in favor, minutes approved.
- B) Legislation update – Stephen Philips
  - a. Legislation information and updates will be better organized on the westernais.org website for a one-stop shop for all the bills and maybe appropriations relevant to AIS.
  - b. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act was introduced into the Senate this week \$1.3 billion; may be used to manage and control invasive species
  - c. FY 2019 Appropriations are moving quicker than previous fiscal years. However, there are possibilities for a CR come October.
  - d. WRDA S2800; language of bill now includes “Upper Missouri River Basin and Columbia River Basin” whereas previously the language noted 4 CRB states; Sen. Barrasso (WY) is the chair of the energy committee who may affect changes to bill language.
  - e. Rep. Stefanik (NY)/Sen Gillibrand; the Fish and Wildlife Protection Act was just (re)introduced which addresses injurious wildlife; awaiting feedback how it may affect the previous Lacey Act court ruling on snakes.
  - f. VRDA – new ballast water bill discussion draft is circulating, has not been introduced
- C) Coordinating the coordination update
  - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger – continue to have monthly calls. NPS is making progress; completed lessons learn document and is making plans to receive similar funding in 2020. He gave a WAFWA update and CO Fish Council.
  - b. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – WGA leadership approved the QZ leadership forum to be held in Denver in late Jan/early Feb 2019. Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative had a kick off webinar, and workshops are announced. Panelists on the webinar talked about the data policy. Bill Whitacre (WGA), Hilary Smith (DOI) and Elizabeth continue to talk bi-weekly. Now trying to form the planning team. DOI requested that all of the invitations to participate on the planning team come from WGA. Governor’s advisory staff will be making choices as well.
  - c. WAFWA - July 12-17 Eugene, OR – Elizabeth Brown – Webinar was set up for the AIS committee meeting, 10 states participated and many called in. Dialog of WGA, WAFWA and WRP all working in similar topics was a focus of discussion.
  - d. NISC – update at Tacoma from NISC and ISAC; not at this time; They will hold a conference call soon.
  - e. ISAC – no information

- f. PNWER – Stephen – July 24-25, Spokane, WA – He will be going; Tammy may be going; Kate Wilson is co-chair. Next Tuesday is a Pike forum led by WA Invasive Species Council prior to PNWER meeting.
  - g. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15-18, Rochester MN;
  - h. eDNA – all; Ex Comm will review the key findings from the MT document and discuss what kind of leadership role could WRP take. Nate suggested WRP may reach out to non-WRP members to make sure those with a stake in it are involved, everyone has a seat at the table, determine what the research looks like and what do the results look like; (NOTE: WRP is frequently put in a position to take on roles, but what is best for the WRP). An eDNA committee would help identify the right players but not actually come up with the standards. At this time there is an Internal USGS round robin. What does the WRP want out of participating in eDNA? Is it a standard or accuracy? Or Communicating what manager’s needs are to researchers and what manager needs are to researchers? Forum for dialog is needed. What are the pieces that could be pursued and discussed in Tacoma? Get feedback from full membership in Tacoma and go from there. Determine who is interested in chairing or participating there.
- D) WRP Website update – Leah – FYI the website platform is becoming increasingly dinosaur and in the next year will have to be addressed if the site will migrate but stay with USFWS, or possibly the WRP takes on hosting the site themselves. To be continued.
- E) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah
    - i. Tuesday meeting – Ex Comm agenda; Leah has exhausted city meeting space and the Ex Comm meeting will be at the hotel; Elizabeth will reach out to James for a WISCE meeting interest. Leah will ask about meeting space at the hotel for Tuesday afternoon.
    - ii. Strategic planning session – Was the facilitation process at ANSTF is a good model to follow? If yes could we replicate some of it? Use the buckets from their strategic plan or may be more committee focused? WRP does not have a strategic plan; Thoughts for the agenda
      1. Don’t talk on QZ on first day.
      2. Day 1: Organizational topics, roles and responsibility; how we deal with grants, operational questions, rules of participation, side boards for ANSTF requests, etc. Do we have work products or coordinate? Discuss the use of volunteer committee with technical outputs for future projects.
      3. Day 2: topic oriented (QZ, Coastal); day 1 will help resolve decisions for day 2.
      4. Leah/Elizabeth will work on draft for August.
      5. Suggested Assigned reading for preparation– bylaws, NANCPA, ANSTF strategic plan, Oakland meeting document report.

6. Produce a document from this that could be created later to help guide the panel.
- b. Building Consensus Workgroups
    - i. Sampling Protocol – Elizabeth; next steps for finalization; minor comments came in from BOR, all entities have reviewed. Save and put final on it. Leah will post on WRP website. Can remove from the monthly Ex Comm agenda. In Tacoma can discuss if there is more work to be done if needed.
    - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells - Final report summarizing existing laboratory protocols for CPLM. No comparison of methods and no recommendations for specific method. Group agreed that they are finished for now but that a standard is needed. Many of the labs don't want a standard.
      1. Committee could reconvene in early 2019 with aim to develop list of minimum requirements or a checklist of acceptable methods for critical parameters (to be determined by the committee) as a guidance document.
      2. Finalize the current document; release Wells from chair duties but ask to stay on committee. In Tacoma will talk about developing a standard.
    - iii. Letter of response to Stephanie and Joanne's May email was finalized. Leah will distribute.
  - c. Coastal Committee –Jeff – They are determining if they will gather prior to Tacoma. No additional information to report.
  - d. Membership Committee – Leah
    - i. Ex Comm Elections 2018 – Dennis, Jeff, Tammy, John are all up for re-election.
    - ii. New AIS coordinator for HI has started. Leah will share with others.
  - e. Outreach Committee – report from Allison Zach; logo competition; Ex Comm agreed to simplify the document and send asap. Jeff suggested that designers might need more information about WRP to help inform their process to work. Members should work with their designers, encourage a visit to the website and include the one-pager with the call.
  - f. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth – protocols with comments on it were circulated; struggling with amphibious and non-amphibious planes difference in inspection protocols. There is tremendous variation in states that allow and not allow seaplanes. There is no peer-reviewed research on the risk. Send Elizabeth any thoughts. For the final protocols: a self-inspection for amphibious and WIT-based for non-amphibious, but will be up to states for implementation.
  - g. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Robert Walters – revising the decontamination specs most recently.
- F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no updates
  - b. Recreational Boating Committee and ABYC Technical Information Report – Dennis – TIR was approved and trying to get the technical committee back together this fall

- c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger (Leah to ask Susan if it still exists)
  - d. QZAP – Stephen – grant deadline has closed; is there an official committee for this anymore? Leah to get the full list from Susan of active committees.
- G) Announcements – ALL
- a. West Coast green crab database is moving forward with assistance of PSMFC.
  - b. Colorado found first flowering rush in Colorado River (tributary), and moved in for a swift eradication.