

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday August 8, 2013; 10 AM MDT

**Attended by:** Beth Bear, Bob McMahon, Kevin Anderson, Stephen Phillips, Leah Elwell (Coordinator), and John Wullschleger.

## Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Kevin motioned to approve, Stephen seconds. All in favor.
- B) Ex Comm nominations – There are a total of 5 Ex Comm positions open for election. Several individuals have submitted statements and bios for consideration of Ex Comm. This information is due by August 19<sup>th</sup> to Leah. If there are those on Ex Comm that would be interested in serving encourage them to submit their nomination.
- C) Update on WAFWA meeting – save for another meeting as Elizabeth is not available to provide update.
- D) Annual Meeting – The meeting is coming together well. The field trip will be to Tualatin National Wildlife refuge with tour and discussions on nutria control, AIS material incorporation into local education efforts and Don't Let it Loose campaign. The QZAP prioritization exercise is coming together. Leah and Elizabeth have been discussing and goal is to review what has been accomplished to date and funded by QZAP, then look at the items that have not been addressed and prioritize these items during the Annual meeting. These will then be provided as a recommendation to the ANSTF. Leah provided the draft agenda for the business meeting – if Ex Comm members have other items to be included, please let Elizabeth or Leah know. Leah discussed the sponsorships for the meeting expenses. Smith-Root, Biosonics and FieldSync are all looking very positive for support of refreshments on both days and the field trip expenses. They will confirm very soon. PSU will support room costs and printing materials. The remaining AV and Webex may then be covered by Panel. Should review the need for WebEx as the date approaches. Leah requested that Earl provide some information to share on 2014 Texas annual meeting during the business portion of the Annual meeting.
- E) Member applications – Discussion on process for review of membership applications – Leah will assemble the full information and letters of recommendation from each applicant in electronic packet to all of the members to inform their election decision. Membership Committee will give initial review and make suggestions to Ex Comm. Many questions have come up in the last few weeks related to membership - mechanics of membership process how to accommodate interested persons who may not fit the membership slot categories, and tie votes. The process and categories still may need some refinement as the membership application process proceeds. Bob and Stephen suggested that we encourage non-member participation as these individuals still can reap the benefits of panel discussions and contribute to the panel. Bob suggested that the membership application be available in word.doc format.
- F) Member reports – Karen (vice-chair) sent out the request this week and she will compile these. Robyn has agreed to print for the Panel to have available at the meeting.

- G) Legislation update - The Dept of Interior FY 2014 appropriations bill includes figures in the low millions. NPS has ~2 million (for AIS for all parks); FWS has ~1 million likely to be directed toward Lake Mead needs; FY 2014 Energy and Natural Resources budget for the USACE/BOR has language from senate side including funds for Columbia River Basin/Lake Tahoe for Quagga Zebra mussels (House bill does not have Tahoe language); It is uncertain if a budget will even get passed this year, it might just be another continuing resolution. Lacey Act – Slaughter and Gillibrand bill is in play with continued opposition from the pet industry. QZ listing bill is currently in Judiciary Committee. AIS Caucus with Rep Thompson (CA) and Rep Dan Benishek (MI) as co-chair held a recent meeting where representatives from AIS community were present (Ted Thayer and Julie Regan (TRPA), Chris Dionigi (NISC) etc) – there are a lot of congressional staff that want to help with the QZ issue. The caucus will have a meeting in Sept/Oct and again will have representation from the AIS community there. Other legislation on the horizon: There is discussion of NISA re-authorization as it is outdated. Possible western bill that may include quagga mussels. Schumer rapid response grant bill for AIS that could be really helpful to states (but has not been introduced as far as we can tell).
- H) Google Group - The number of complaints of the “auto-reply” has been significant. Will announce to the membership the goal to transition to the Google Group in September.
- I) WRP Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2013– Leah Elwell - addressed above
  - b. AG Workshop Follow-Up – Leah- The meeting will be held next week Tues-Thursday in Denver. There are 14 AIS Coordinators attending and 9 AG/Law attending.
  - c. Coastal Group – Kevin Anderson – no new news to report. Still waiting for finding to support European green crab control efforts. The committee will serve an important purpose to field coastal issues as they arise regionally and maintain coordination among the partners. The group will continue meeting but infrequently and on developing issues. Sonia Gorgula (HI member) interested reciprocity on hull cleaning as an issue for the group.
  - d. Lab Protocols and Standards – Stephen Phillips – ANSTF at November 2013 meeting will have e-DNA session. It is still in the planning stages with Bill Bolen (EPA) as the lead and several WRP members participating (Phillips, Chilton, and Wullschleger).
  - e. Membership – Leah Elwell – Held conference call August 6. Committee is developing a goal/role document to help guide the committee. Committee will continue to meet infrequently to address membership needs. Committee requested to be part of the membership application review process and provide recommendations to Ex Comm, which Ex Comm members agreed would be appropriate.
  - f. Recreational Ballast Tank – Stephen Phillips – Research project is scheduled to begin in September 2013.
- J) ANSTF Update – The ANSTF is scheduled to have their fall meeting November 6/7 in DC. Potentially Elizabeth will be able to attend and represent WRP. SAH! Update from Wildlife Forever sent out an update on the program, Stephen will circulate to the group. There will be

All panels call will be next Monday August 12 to field input for the fall meeting. Leah will participate in the call.

K) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – Karen McDowell – no update
- b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger – no new update, there may be documents available at the fall meeting
- c. NZMS – Beth Bear – no new update with the exception of: she thought that someone would be hired to work on a revision of the management plan. She will check with Joanne Grady (USFWS) next week
- d. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – Some of the appropriation bill with quagga/zebra mussel language refers to QZAP (so it has withstood the test of time). Stephen will ask Susan Mangin (ANSTF Ex Sec) if it is appropriate to have a QZAP steering committee meeting as we have not had a call in several months. We also would like to hear an update on the QZAP grants from several years back. The WRP will bring priorities from the QZAP prioritization exercise from the Annual meeting to this working group.
- e. Recreational Guidelines – John Wullschleger – There were 8 comments from the federal register, most were positive. This document is virtually done.
- f. Snakehead – John Wullschleger – This is still in draft revision.
- g. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – Karen McDowell – no update

L) Announcements – ALL

John and Kevin are both on ad hoc group from NISC is leading a process to look at climate change and invasive species that came out of an ANSTF recommendation. By October, a subgroup will look at what is available for a platform to disseminate info on management tools that are available for regional managers in the face of climate change, look at gaps in information and research needs. This information should be in a draft by October.