

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday August 14th, 2014; 10 AM MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Bob McMahon, Stephen Phillips, Tom McMahon, Earl Chilton, and Leah Elwell

Agenda

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes plus May - Leah Elwell. Bob McMahon mad a motion to approve both July and May minutes. Tom McMahon seconded. All in favor, none opposed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination – Elizabeth Brown
 - a. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting – Thank you to Sam Chan (Building Consensus Grant) for supporting Elizabeth’s travel to this meeting. It was a good meeting, and she gave a very long presentation. Several recognized that the Panel has come a long way with progress. They have given the Panel a big challenge asking for a comprehensive QZAP plan waterbody by waterbody approach and prevention zones, and change the way that we look at that problem. A *National Conservation Need* written last year by Beth and Elizabeth was not moved forward. They will submit again this year with more details. The states/WRP can write a waterbody-based plan, but if states do not have legal authority then will not be able to implement such a plan. The fish chiefs and directors will need to adopt the model law to be successful in this. There is a need for more work on that obtaining authority within states. The participant from NPS expressed interested in helping with the issue with respect to Mead and Powell. Wyoming was really pushing to see the region to change – hold the eastern line rather than waterbody specific. Also participants wanted feedback on how best to engage with the Pacific Northwest. A WAFWA goal is to hold a joint meeting with fisheries directors and enforcement directors within the agencies at their winter WAFWA meeting to improve that enforcement be taken seriously. Tom – any feeling when they will engage AIS coordinators? Elizabeth – She encouraged them to read the materials and discuss with their respective AIS coordinators and determine their needs. There are clear issues with chain of command, where the lead at WAFWA is not always in command or associated with AIS coordinators. Tom – There is a disconnect here in trying to convey the ideas from the AIS coordinators. Some answers may revolve around funding and input from the federal partners. Also with new participants at WAFWA meetings, this does not help us convey ideas either. Elizabeth – This is the first time that we have argued this collectively, whereas AZ (and others) has been doing this on their own. We need to try to do this together moving forward. It is a different world now. Stephen – He is involved in discussions on perimeter defense for the Pacific Northwest (PNWER also interested), and the hope is to develop/coordinate placement and timing of watercraft inspection stations. He expressed caution as this is a significant task if we expand it out to include the entire Western region. Elizabeth – Can you present the results of this discussion to the WISCE at Houston? None of this will work if we do not

have NV, CA and AZ. NV other many waters are worth protecting despite the infestation in Mead. Stephen – We keep going back and forth as to where to draw the line and funding is a problem. Policy paper on how this may be presented is in its early stages and we need agreement on roles and responsibilities from the state AIS program perspective before charging ahead. Elizabeth – Stephanie Showater-Ott (National Sea Grant Law Center) is assembling a comparison of all of the western laws within the model law provision. This will go to the directors/AFWA to illustrate what is needed to get your state up to the standard. This comparison makes it easier to see. We have an opportunity to provide specifics for what a law looks like, training will look like, and where stations are located. We may not get it all states to adopt this but some of them. We are making progress. Tom – Did you bring up that for the past 3 years, *National Conservation Need* has been submitted to research funding for implementation of state programs. This proposal came in 2nd nationally. Elizabeth – Others in WAFWA feel that the money is here, but rather it is just not being used in any sort of consistent fashion and that the current money could be used better, without years of analysis for funding. This looks at all of the money that is being spent on QZAP where currently every man (agency) is for himself.

- b. Western Governors Association meeting – Elizabeth attended and provided report. The WGA is challenging in that they are very open and receptive and want to talk with us. They want more concrete information than we can provide at this time. They work at a very high policy level, which we need in our action, but are somewhat disconnected in the reality from respective states. They want to talk invasive species, not terrestrial/aquatic. They want us integrating all IS programs. It is difficult to have that conversation with them. We need to get back with the WISCE group to get feedback on how they work with their weed and terrestrial programs, what are the gaps and needs. This is how policy makers talk about IS. They discussed the IS Caucus and did not see much value in it at this time. We have a lot of work to do in educating them to understand the AIS needs and issues. They need different asks than current ones WRP has developed.
 - c. Letter of introduction to overlap groups working on invasive species were sent earlier this summer. Elizabeth has started to get replies from letters – 4 replies out of 40 (e.g. NAISMA, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (www.rrisc.org), and others). In the process of discussing with their leadership regarding WRP talking points. Ex Comm thoughts on who from WRP should attend the call? Beth and Leah and Elizabeth or who? Stephen – You could include him if it is appropriate particularly with specific groups like PNWER. Leah will join call and take minutes as needed and directed. Elizabeth has also invited these entities to the annual meeting as well.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Right before congress ended for recess there was some legislative action on the Quagga mussel listing bill (Heller). The Dept of Interior did not like the purveyor exemption language; Representative Heller and USFWS staff are trying to come up with alternative language in reference to the permit system for movement of water between state lines (infested to infested waters). There are only a few legislative days left when they

return from recess, so passing legislation is difficult. The Tahoe Restoration Act (significant funding for TRPA) may run into the same issues with exemption language from the Dept of Interior, so the USFWS/Heller discussions mentioned above are important. The Lacey Act bill (Gillibrand/Slaughter) has had some activity with hearings. Ballast Water bill (VIDA, Beigch, AK) had a hearing recently, and concerns were raised, included reconfiguring ballast water regulations as it may harm western coastal states current law/programs. Healthy Habitats bill held a hearing where Lori Williams of NISC received numerous questions by Representative Bishop. Appropriations for 2015 – for the Dept Interior. Looks like there is an additional \$1M for Q/Z. The bill also contains a 10% cap on administration which is new. At this time it is not clear if there will be a continuing resolution (CR) or an omnibus for FY 2015 appropriations bills. Earl – Does it look like Lori is in danger of losing her job? Stephen – Don't think so. The issue with NISC and ISAC is that some politicians don't understand how these advisory committees work; Lori is very good.

D) Letter to Rocky Plains Fish Pathology (RMFP) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) – Elizabeth – She has drafted a letter to address support for the development of standardized molecular techniques. Chris Wilson is the lead of the RFPF (which functions similarly to WISCE as interest group with informal members) and has continued to bring the issue forward to AFS. She will be talking with Chris. Fish pathologists are amending protocols for AIS in the AFS Blue Book, but we still need QAQC standards. The discussion is how to implement standards that are occurring in state labs. Some exist for whirling disease and chytrid, and it would be good for it to include QZ. They are looking to AFS fish health section to facilitate this effort, similar to what we are trying to do with building consensus. WRP role is trying to encourage AFS to take on and that this would benefit a broader section of who they represent. The hitch if they do take it on is that they would like someone from the Panel to participate and form a more diverse group for input. Hoping that someone with greater expertise and time to do this besides Elizabeth will come forward. The letter will be sent after Elizabeth meets with Chris next week. Others can send comments to be incorporated. Bob – Could the person be WRP or someone we recommend? Elizabeth – yes WRP. Bob – in working closely with John Wood at Pisces Molecular, he would be a great asset but not a WRP member. Elizabeth - Think about who this could be and who understands our perspective. Stephen Phillips made a motion to send the letter following Elizabeth's discussion with Chris Wilson (RMFP). Tom McMahon seconded the motion. All in favor.

E) WRP Annual Meeting

- a. Finalize business meeting agenda – Discussed including an update from the three stakeholders managing Lake Powell (AZ, UT and Glen Canyon NRA) during Day 2 of the annual meeting. There was consensus that the directors of each agency will be asked to give the presentation, however this presentation can/will potentially be made by the AIS or ecology manager. Sudeep Chandra will be asked to present on the ballast water filtration research if possible and MaryKate with SuperSac's. Leah and Elizabeth will follow up with speakers.
- b. WebEx needed? Consensus that if it is possible to have WebEx during Day 2 of the meeting then - Yes if easy, free and broadcast to members only. Leah will follow up with

James Ballard, Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on AIS who would be organizing the WebEx.

- c. Travel award updates – Leah contacted everyone who had submitted a travel request with the Ex Comm determined individual cap of \$553 per request. Some retracted their travel request. Two individuals will not be able to attend despite providing this stipend. The current travel requests are now approximately \$5724. Stephen moved to approve this travel plan budget; Earl Chilton seconded this current version. All approved travel plan budget.
 - d. Sponsors – To date one business Hydro Tek has provided \$500 in support of the annual meeting. Leah has others who are considering sponsorships including MaryKate with SuperSac'r
 - e. Field trip – Earl has planned for 3 air boats on Lake Shelton with biologist to discuss and field questions. Also on Brays Bayou he plans to set nets the night before on and then explore what is in the nets.
- F) Election reminders – Leah – Drop dead date for Ex Comm and general open member slots is August 31.
- G) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Earl Chilton/Leah – covered information above.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady – provided as an update via email.
 - i. Planning team meets at 3 pm Thursday. There is a call scheduled by the WISCE group for 08/19 which will be used by the Building Consensus group largely to begin the dialogue on collective outreach (need to clarify time and duration). Elizabeth has drafted agendas both for this call and for the meeting scheduled to occur the Tuesday before WRP in Houston. That meeting will cover both continued discussion of the outreach topic and the WIT training manuals. Group needs to figure out where/when NSGLC will update state AIS coordinators on model law comparison updates.
 - ii. Joanne provided brief update via webinar to the Sport Fish Boating and Partnership Council meeting on the Building Consensus efforts.
 - iii. Elizabeth provided update on Building Consensus efforts at WAFWA meeting (on agenda separately). OSU provided some travel funding support through the FWS grant to support these efforts.
 - iv. Environmental Law Institute and NISC are co-hosting a webinar on Clean, Drain & Dry which will feature Stephanie Showalter-Ott of NSGLC, Elizabeth, Brian Goodwin of ABYC, Bob Wiltshire of ISAN, and Gabe Jabbour, a marina owner in MN. The webinar is Aug 18th, 2-4 pm EDT.
 - v. ABYC is still planning to host a boat design summit. The proposed date has changed to ~Jan 27-28 and the location has changed to Las Vegas and/or Lake Mead (TBD). They're working on conversations with some of the marina owners so location may be in part determined by interest/donation from marinas and/or manufacturers. FWS committed \$20K of 100th Meridian funding to

support the summit. R6 is also holding \$10K for some invitational travel for state AIS coordinators (to be completed by our HQ staff). AFWA may also still have some funding for invitational travel for some AFWA representation.

- vi. NSGLC has completed a draft report on how existing state laws in all 50 states compare to the model legislative provisions (model law). More states (31) had some legal authorities than they predicted they'd find. They found that 19 states have no statutory or regulatory provisions relevant to WID programs. The state-by-state comparisons are currently still undergoing review.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula – The Coastal Committee held the invasive tunicates workshop in Seattle last week. There were approximately 25 attendees. Both background biological presentations and management information was shared. Breakout groups to explore a variety of topics took place. A report from the workshop has been assembled and is out for review by the participants. The workshop participants agreed that they wanted to scope the possibility of developing a regional management plan for tunicates and/or hull fouling. Pacific States Marine Fisheries was suggested as an entity that could help with this process. Stephen suggested that Sonia email him directly to discuss. If Ex Comm wants to provide any input or advisory capacity in the report, or any next steps is welcome. Leah will email the draft report to Ex Comm as an FYI.
- d. Membership Committee– Leah - No new committee meetings. Leah will be following up with the ANSTF who were looking into absentee federal members and assisting in identifying the appropriate contacts.
- e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen – no new information to share.
- f. Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup – Elizabeth – no progress – There will be information shared at the annual meeting and discussion
- g. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – She had hoped to go through 2 draft revisions before the Houston meeting, but it is not possible. Round one review has been completed and UPMS is being worked on. Comments were due back yesterday. All comments have been positive, one from NV is not. Another comment that we may need more time to generalize things even further. All comments are valuable. We want the training materials to be applicable across a broad spectrum. We are collating all comments into a usable format. Committee is meeting 27th of August to review comments. Goal is to send out to WISCE team to review for 1 week prior to Houston. Will have an opportunity to review and see all the comments. The goal is to deal with the low hanging fruit in September with major final issues and potentially adopting them in Texas pending on what is agreed up on changing. UMPS will not be ready for TX. Stephen has broken them into parts for committee to tackle and will share with group. There have been conversations to get the training piece incorporated into the magic website with Lisa DeBruyckere's help. Elizabeth is pleased with the progress to date by the committee. This effort all comes back to the opt in/opt out. This is an option; they can be modified to fit their program. The NPS is involved with the comments, even

though it is a state driven thing. Then we can branch out on some of these other arms, start training, start data collection etc. She is collecting education/outreach materials from the state coordinators to discuss at the next WISCE call.

- H) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – ANSTF Fall meeting will be 4th and 5-6th in November. Spring meeting is typically hosted by regional panel. The perception is that the spring meeting will also be in DC, but desire to get back to regional. Next scheduled to host was the panel the Gulf, Karen McDowell made a push to leap frog to host in AK. Is there a desire to host in the west or are we ok to wait for 2017. Consensus from Ex Comm is to wait until 2017 for the WRP to host a potential ANSTF Spring meeting.
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger. No report.
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips – No new news. Waiting to hear back from Laura Norcutt to schedule a call.
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger. No report.
 - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD – remove; Elizabeth - Recall we contributed to Report to Congress with template, Susan Pasko has been developing the template and has not submitted a report to date. At the Nov ANSTF meeting the template will be approved, everything we provided is now out of date. Stephen – however this information is for a specific time period.
 - f. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no update, but this committee will try to meet prior to ANSTF Fall meeting. There is disagreement of who should be on the workgroup and this is being worked out.
 - g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady - Wildlife Forever did not receive FWS funding from either the R6 or R2 RFPs. They sent a message to the SAH advisory task force indicating that due to a lack of federal funding they would be laying off staff. This task force/advisory committee meets for the first time on 08/20; meeting is largely introductory in nature to allow participants to meet each other.
- I) Announcements – ALL
- a. Leah – Because the WRP and ISAN are in a new fiscal year contract for coordinator services, Leah encouraged Ex Comm to provide any feedback on the performance of ISAN, or Leah in fulfilling this contract.