

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday August 13th, 2015; 10 am MDT

Minutes

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Tom McMahon, Beth Bear, Dennis Zabaglo, John Wullschleger, Stephen Phillips, Joanne Grady and Leah Elwell.

- A) Approval of previous call Minutes - Leah Elwell; Stephen Phillips motion to approve, Elizabeth seconds. All in favor none opposed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update – Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in July – Elizabeth distributed the minutes to the group. Dennis attended to give an update on the Building Consensus (BC) and other additional comments from the Ex Comm. He highlighted agency support for staff to travel and participate in BC efforts; as well as support for decontamination of watercraft at federal water bodies. This initiated discussion among participants. National Park Service (NPS), Mark Sturm, wanted to initiate further discussion among NPS and regional AIS managers. WRP will provide updates as available to WAFWA subcommittee on AIS. In September, NPS will hold an AIS working group call. South Dakota gave an update on their program and how they incorporated BC components. South Dakota is also building a case history on impacts to fisheries and economic impacts from AIS.
- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Congress is on break. QZ mussel listing legislation is “inactive”. It is likely that there will be a Continuing Resolution for the upcoming federal budget. Healthy Habitats legislation has prompted some regional discussions and different states have endorsed the bill (e.g. NM and CO). Vessel Incident Discharge Act (S. 373) is an AIS related bill that has a chance of passing. In Tahoe, may use this face to face time to begin talking about NISAW 2016 and what the western group will do in terms of priority issues.
- D) Annual meeting 2016 questions – Beth – Can we look at the Week of October 10th – Columbus Day holiday for federal conflict. It is not clear if there will be a full day work session on that Tuesday which would mean travel on a federal holiday. Query with federal members and Building Consensus planning committee.
- E) ANSTF upcoming attendance – Leah – Dennis is going to be there to represent TRPA but could represent WRP if needed. Leah will report back in September if she is able to travel to represent.
- F) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
 - a. Annual Meeting 2015 Committee– Dennis Zabaglo; Final agenda review of speakers, topics and time. Two new sponsors have expressed an interest in supporting the meeting, EBT Companies and Royce Industries. Ex Comm discussed an author wanting to distribute their book to all registered attendees with registration packet. The group agreed that the author should purchase a sponsor table to distribute their book. We are still awaiting confirmation of keynote speakers. Registration numbers look good. Leah will close registration on Wednesday prior to the meeting to inform participants on the field trip waiting list that they can attend or not.

- b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady; International Boatbuilders Exposition (IBEX) booth planning is underway for the September event. The IBEX presentation on AIS will be given by Gene Seagle. He will include invitation to attend WIT trainings and UMPS III will be available soon. If those on the phone have display stuff let Joanne know. The outreach committee has a call this afternoon. Sportfish Boating and Council will be meeting in Montana this fall. Brian Bonsack USFWS has put Joanne on the agenda to present on Building Consensus.
 - i. WIDT Workgroup – Leah – UMPSIII has been under revision and the previous 2 weeks has been out for review by AIS managers of the west. The next step is to seek review by boat industry. A discussion to take place at Tahoe on this and other aspects of the UMPS revision.
 - ii. Legal - Joanne – Stephanie Showalter Otts with Sea Grant Law Center has been conducting smaller regional calls with state AIS coordinators in the beginning stages of developing the model regulations. This information will be summarized and presented at the upcoming Building Consensus work session at Lake Tahoe.
 - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – A grant arrived in March and then work was initiated. No formal committee meeting has taken place. The personal information portion of the app. is the challenging portion of this. John – Commented on the federal privacy act which creates a system of records and how that information is stored and used. Elizabeth is querying for other data sharing needs and the roll out for next season. Some entities have been testing it; NM has used it for 2 seasons, and UT has used it this season. There has been work to date with NV and AZ on the notification portion. States with infested waters need to be initiated in the use and also the app is largely a reflection of their parameters. Who will use it for what and if it will be changeable?
 - iv. Regional Defense – Stephen – The document “Advancing a Regional Defense Against Dreissenid Mussels in the Pacific Northwest” is out and can be found <http://www.westernais.org/articles-and-issue-papers> . Mark Sytsma, the Pacific Northwest Economic Regional AIS committee co-chair, will discuss the topic at WRP.
- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – The committee will assemble on Sept. 1 to address next steps on the effort to develop a regional marine biofouling management document. PSMFC has identified funding to help lead the effort. Lisa DeBruyckere has compiled a 60 page document on regulations for the affected states. In December the committee will develop the outline which is focused on biofouling, however there is more opportunity on management in coastal topics.
- d. Membership Committee – Leah - no report. So far there have been no applications for any of the currently vacant membership positions.

G) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD

- b. QZAP – Stephen – The committee will hold a conference call in the Fall, if necessary. Joanne put out the doodle poll for the winter BC meeting about putting the QZAP funding meeting together with the BC winter meeting. If we do Feb 2-3 in Denver, then the QZAP meeting could be Feb 4th. A parking lot with research needs developed in the BC portion could be shared on that Thursday.
 - c. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – Committee coordinator, Benny (USFWS IE branch), is helping move the revision of the protectyourwaters.net website forward. The goal is to get the committee together for a meeting in the near future. Joe Starinck, USFWS, has also been engaged on web comments.
- H) Announcements – ALL - Tom – Jordan Nielson, the AIS coordinator for Utah, is leaving his post and will be working for Trout Unlimited.