

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

August 10th, 2017 at 10:30 am mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of June minutes - Leah Elwell. Jeff motioned to approve, Stephen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger. There will be a follow up call Aug 29th. From the NPS perspective he is following up with a few items from the Mussel Initiative document specifically NPS participation in the regional database. To date since the list of actions came out, there has not been any dialog out of DC.
 - b. WGA - has gone out to the states asking for work plans based on the spreadsheet from the Mussel Initiative document. Their next meeting is Dec 1-2 in Phoenix.
 - c. Columbia River Basin Team Meeting will be 28-29 November; the group will move forward with monitoring planning during that meeting. PSMFC have contractual obligations in place for monitoring efforts utilizing the funding from WRDDA.
 - d. WAFWA - no new information; AFWA (AIS Committee) call on August 1 for and talked about the ISAC white paper (state-federal agency collaboration), AFWA discussion of hiring a staff person to implement items from the white paper. The development of an Interstate commerce resolution is potential conversation for WAFWA.
 - e. NISC - no new information.
 - f. ISAC - Jamie Reaser indicated that ISAC is planning to have a December 2017 meeting.
 - g. PNWER – Just met in Portland in July. The AIS committee gave an award to the MT Rapid Response team. Many AIS partners from the west attended meeting. Next year summer meeting will be in Spokane.
 - h. Havasu Anchor Update – Havasu Marine Association – The anchor plates (noted Clean, Drain, Dry) are in production and will be shipped soon.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen Philips –
 - a. Congress WILD act has a good chance of passing. It contains a newer version of the Healthy Habitats Act, it does reference “aquatics” ;75% funding spend on the ground, no more 15% on education; no more 10% on overhead. Passed Senate and it is now in the House, but there are not many legislative days left to get it passed this year.
 - b. No dialog lately on VIDA, it is attached to the Coast Guard bill in the Senate. It is unknown if it will be amended with wanted compromise language that would benefit west coast states.
 - c. Appropriations – FY 18, FWS budget is higher than last year with part of it going to Tahoe programs, and commercial fishing for carp. USFWS not likely to see any budget increases in programs like state plans, or panels.

- d. FY 2017 WRRDA added funding for monitoring, and FY 2018 added specific language on Flowering Rush and rapid response.
 - e. BOR 2018 has \$4.3 million under Energy and Water for mussel related activities. Specifically funding can be used with partners to prevent spread of QZ including support for WID where appropriate.
 - f. Brandon Road Study was released this week which is the carp report for the Great Lakes and outlines various techniques for control.
- D) FACA Committee review by DOI –All – Pasko has reported that they will be informed by September 1. **The Ex Comm will talk on September 5th at 10:30 am Mountain to discuss if needed any last minute alterations to the meeting in San Diego.** Leah can draft concept prior to September 5th for the Ex Comm to consider.
- E) WRP Website update – Leah – FWS Region 1 is hosting the WRP website. Their IT staff was able to put analytics code on the website to give information on what pages get used, how long etc. The first report was provided. Website visitors hit the home page, meeting page, and documents pages primarily.
- F) Minutes from Annual Meeting – 2016 – Leah will finalize and send to the membership in late August for final approval in San Diego.
- G) Recommendations discussion – Dennis has sent a request to members for ideas for recommendations to the ANSTF, and specifically called out the committee chairs to discuss. Any recommendations should be send to Dennis by the end of the month. He will synthesize, so we can have a streamlined list at the meeting. This is an attempt to have a bit of thought prior to San Diego.
- H) ANSTF
- a. The Fall 2017 meeting is scheduled for November 14-16 in DC. Elizabeth will not be able to attend. The Ex Comm agreed that sending the coordinator would be best to have adequate western representation there. Leah will look at her travel calendar.
 - b. Spring 2018; WRP host options; Pasko is giving the WRP first right of refusal to host again. Unless there is a specific directive coming out of the FACA review that does not allow travel outside of DC. TRPA is host again in spring 2018. The Ex Comm will discuss again after September.
 - c. Review of draft report to Congress, and feedback on Outreach/Education - due 8/31; After GAO report there was a commitment to capture more information in a timely fashion. Jeff will add more detailed content, Leah will review and edit entire WRP section and then circulate to Ex Comm for review. More content on outreach on QZ could be added.
- I) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2017 Committee – Leah – The agenda is in great shape. The field trip is finalized. Registration numbers look good.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne
 - i. Sampling Protocol –

1. Phase 1 –plankton - report from Chair Karen Vargas – draft document is almost complete. Fall should be ready for review.
2. Phase 2 – substrate – report from Chair Erin Raney – she hopes to get a call scheduled prior to September.
 - ii. Lab Standards – report from Chair Steve Wells – no new information
 - iii. Legal – report from Stephanie Showalter Otts - no new information
 - iv. Reach –Tammy Davis; The BC communication plan will be discussed at the WISCE meeting in San Diego,
- c. Coastal Committee –Tammy; There is a plan is to have a CC meeting on the 12th of September in San Diego.
- d. Membership Committee – Leah; The Bylaws were approved by the membership. Leah has circulated announcement to recruit members. Please share and encourage folks to apply. There are 5 Ex Comm slots open for election – Elizabeth, Stephen, Joanne, Mark and vacancy left from Tom Woolf.
- e. Stakeholder Engagement at QZ Infested Waters – Tom Woolf – They have scheduled their first conference call.

J) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons

- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – no new information.
- b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne – no new information since last call.
- c. Economic Committee – John Wullschleger – no new information
- d. QZAP – Stephen; The awards have been announced; PSMFC received funding for continuing the WIT training with Dee, and will be revising a portion of the Don't Move a Mussel video.
- e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen –Soon there will be a call for dates; hoping to get it on the calendar next month.

K) Announcements – ALL

- a. Summer surveys (divers or microscopy) have not found evidence of mussels in Montana reservoirs.
- b. Doodle after San Diego for first Ex Comm call.