

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

August 15th, 2018 at 2:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

The majority of regular Ex Comma agenda items will be consolidated into first 60 minutes. The remaining 60 minutes will be spent in strategic discussion to help prepare for Tacoma.

- A) Approval of July minutes - Stephen moved to approve, second by Dennis. All in favor. Motion carried.
- B) Legislation update – Stephen Philips
 - a. WRDA: In the Senate bill there is a geographic expansion to the upper Missouri River basin and an increase in the authorization. It mentions the Columbia River Basin too but not the 4 CRB states.
 - b. Securing and Revitalizing Aviation Act – Senator Inhofe (OK) introduced this bill which preempts state and tribal law. We are opposing this bill.
 - c. Appropriation bills – We may see Interior and Energy and Water Appropriations bills passed before 9/30. USACE WRDA funding for the CRB is there, the USFWS funding is pretty flat funded and there is Bureau of Reclamation Quagga/Zebra mussel funding. In general funding for Quagga/Zebra mussels in the west budget looks good.
 - d. Recovering Americas Wildlife Act is in the House and recently introduced in the Senate. There is a goal to increase the bill sponsors, or possibly get attached to another bill if it is likely going to pass in this congress.
 - e. Lacey bill was introduced by Gillibrand.
 - f. Stephen is working up a legislative information table/webpage on westernais.org. He will keep information current and hopes to be done in the next several weeks.
- C) Coordinating the coordination update
 - a. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger; The federal entities continue to have monthly calls and he reports on NPS progress. Most recent discussion is to determine who is paying for what to minimize any duplication; and how to allocate the money wisely in future years. NPS is hoping to move forward to participate in the watercraft inspection database. However, some feedback internally suggested that it might be a cost burden.
 - b. WGA - Elizabeth Brown and Dennis Zabaglo; Biosecurity Initiative and workshop information have been circulated.
 - i. Workshops - A Tahoe workshop is set for September 17-18 some of the focus areas will be cross-boundary AIS management, multi-level risk communication; case study on California-Nevada programs for terrestrials tying into wildfire, technology and invasive species. The agendas are on the WGA website for all of the workshops.

- ii. WGA Q/Z summit January 28-30, 2019 in Denver. The target audience is state and federal decision makers.
 - iii. Incident Command Committee was formed a committee to work on the ICS structure for the west as directed by Interior Appropriations FY19 language. WGA is working with various western states or partners on this effort. Bill Whiteacre would like to soften final outcome into a report rather than a mandate of an ICS network. Stephen suggested that the potential heavy lift is the ESA consultations. If there is an infestation in waters with salmon or endangered species, it will require appropriate NEPA/ESA approvals. Walking through different scenarios would be helpful for preparation.
 - c. WAFWA – January 2-7, 2019; Tucson
 - d. NISC – no information
 - e. ISAC - no information
 - f. PNWER – Tammy Davis - Pike Forum took place prior to the start of PNWER meeting. There is interest in that body hosting an international coordinating committee on Northern Pike, and potentially pursuing a risk assessment which NW Power Planning Council wanted to put up funding for. The AIS working group meeting had the legislators/members of parliament were at the morning portion of the meeting and afternoon was updates from various programs. There was a panel on various Invasive Species Councils to learn what works etc. A small group to work on the action items for the coming year. Scott Cameron did not attend, but gave a keynote from his office. Next year the meeting in Saskatoon, SK.
 - g. UMISC/NAISMA – October 15-18, 2018; Rochester MN
 - h. eDNA – The next steps discussion will take place in Tacoma; eDNA clearinghouse web address was circulated last week. <https://edna.fisheries.org/>
 - i. Mid-West Fish and Wildlife Meeting (Jan 27-29) – Dreissenid Mussels: Advancements in control, detection, management, and biology. These dates overlap with the WGA Mussel Summit but the intended audiences are different.
- D) WRP Website update – Leah – no new information to report.
- E) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Annual Meeting 2018 – Leah; The team has largely finalized the agenda. Leah is putting final details together for the field trip logistics (bus dynamics); Istonish may sponsor a meal and Leah is in dialog with them. Allen is resolving the keynote. Leah suggested that a formal sponsor request to the states – feds – all WRP members would be still helpful for the fundraising. Leah will circulate the projected income/expenses for Tacoma.
 - i. Tuesday meeting – Ex Comm agenda – Elizabeth has been working with Leah to create a draft. Leah will circulate the draft later today.
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroups
 - i. Sampling Protocol and Lab Standards – Elizabeth; She will hold a call with committee members to finalize both documents on September 4 to resolve a discrepancy between the two document.

- c. Coastal Committee –Tammy – Chris Scianni, committee chair, reported that Jewels for HI wanted to do a BMP workshop but has determined that it will not be practical, rather they will draft BMP for biofouling and that will be circulated to the committee prior to the face to face committee meeting in Tacoma. Chris is interested in soliciting ideas from the committee for stakeholder groups to review the BMPs. The final product would be distributed to vessel operators and wants to partner with the outreach committee to develop the final product. A company has been working on in-water vessel cleaning, with a goal to have that final data public. They will meet October 23 at 1 pm in Tacoma.
 - d. Membership Committee – Leah
 - i. Ex Comm Elections 2018 – Dennis, Jeff, Tammy and John are up for re-election. Several people have made inquiries but no entries yet.
 - e. Outreach Committee – report from Allison Zach; No logo competition no inquiries for her, one to Leah. The Committee is going to solicit WRP members to submit field photos and IS management work to be shared on the westernais.org website. She asked if the Seaplane Committee had any outreach needs?
 - f. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination Committee – Elizabeth; The Committee held a call recently and some additional comments from the Seaplane Pilots Association were received on the draft inspection decontamination protocols. They plan to hold a call in September.
 - g. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – report from Elizabeth;
 - i. They are meeting regularly and their next step is to finalize recommendations for trailered decontamination unit. The committee was created to build leadership with folks on the ramp and folks doing decontaminations, and to connect them to the industry in the future.
 - ii. It was suggested by Ex Comm to keep the dialog flowing between the PSMFC Advance Decon Class and this committee. It is important to report on new things seen in the field etc. It will be important to connect all the dots. Nate Owens/Utah will be re-evaluating the decontamination protocols at Powell as the protocols are no longer adequate, e.g. adults in ballast tank. The question is “will the Decontamination Think Tank Committee look at the western protocols and where the changes will come from”?
 - iii. PSMFC with ISAN are in process of finalizing the decontamination demonstration video. In light of the new decontamination needs do adult mussels need to be added verbally? Or should it be a 2 min segment to address? Some of this dialog needs to happen at WISCE to give feedback on this project.
- F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Communications, Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – committee as not met
 - b. Prevention – committee not actively meeting
 - c. Research Committee
 - i. AIS Economic Analysis – John Wullschleger – committee has not met

- d. Ad-hoc Boating Committee – Dennis Zabaglo
 - i. ABYC Technical Information Report; The boat industry meeting will finish the report soon and then kick off a summit. September 19-20, Annapolis MD. How is industry responding to what management is doing regarding the new designs? Second day of the summit would be good to have AIS management folks present. Dennis will encourage participation.
- e. QZAP – Stephen; not a ANSTF committee

G) Announcements – ALL

- a. October 17 call – conflict – voted to not meet because will see each other a few days later.
- b. September 19 call – conflict - Ex Comm call will be rescheduled via doodle.
- c. Request for a combined agenda for the week in Tacoma to assist with travel requests.
- d. Tom Boos is now working for TRPA.
- e. eDNA letter from Montana Invasive Species Council sent to Elizabeth, and Leah; she will forward to the group.